



ALA Washington Newsletter

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- Attachments: (1) Committee Lists - House Ways and Means, & Senate Finance
 (2) Status of Legislation Chart dated June 14, 1985

Appropriations, FY 1985 - Supplemental for Literacy

The full amount authorized for the Library Services and Construction Act title VI Library Literacy Programs -- \$5 million -- was approved June 13 by the Senate Appropriations Committee as part of a fiscal 1985 general supplemental funding bill (HR 2577, S. Rept. 99-82). Senate floor action on the supplemental is expected shortly, with a House-Senate conference to follow quickly. Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Lowell Weicker (R-CT) offered the LSCA VI amendment, and full committee Chair Mark Hatfield (R-OR) enthusiastically accepted it.

ACTION NEEDED: This will be the first funding for the new LSCA VI enacted last fall (PL 98-480). The new title would provide discretionary grants directly to state and public libraries for literacy projects. However, the House-passed HR 2577 contains no LSCA funds. It is important to hold the Senate committee action in House-Senate conference. Key conferees on this issue will be Senators Hatfield and Weicker and House Appropriations Committee Chair Jamie Whitten (D-MS) and ranking minority member Silvio Conte (R-MA), and L-HHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee Chair William Natcher (D-KY). It is especially important to urge Natcher, Conte, and Whitten to accept the Senate's \$5 million for LSCA VI literacy programs. See the March 19 ALA Washington Newsletter for lists of other members of the Appropriations Committees.

Congressional Budget

House-Senate conferees on S.Con.Res. 32, the congressional budget resolution for FY 1986, began work June 11. The budget functions which include library and postal funding had not yet been decided on at this writing, and were expected to come up about the middle of the week of June 17. It is not clear whether conferees will finish before Congress recesses for the week of July 1.

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Tax Reform

President's Proposal. President Reagan launched his tax reform proposal with a televised address May 29. Details were released May 30 as a 461-page document. "The President's Tax Proposals to the Congress for Fairness, Growth, and Simplicity", which has been sent to depository libraries and is available for \$18 from SuDocs, GPO, Washington, D.C. 20402, Stock No. 048-000-00373-7.

While tax simplification is a laudable aim, the library community will want to look carefully at the provisions in this major overhaul of the tax code. For instance, tax deductions would be retained for charitable contributions by itemizers, but ended for nonitemizers. Lowered tax rates may reduce the incentive for some itemizers to give. Also, the number of taxpayers who do not itemize is expected to increase under the proposal, thus increasing the number who have no tax incentive to give.

It appears that the provision with the most potential impact on publicly funded libraries would be ending the deductions for state and local taxes. Currently individuals who itemize deductions on federal income tax forms can deduct amounts paid to state and local governments for property, income and sales taxes. Elimination of this deduction would result in about a \$39 billion increase in federal taxes for itemizers, and may result in pressure from taxpayers to reduce state and local taxes.

SALT-D. Concerned that the potential loss of state and local tax deductibility (being called SALT-D) would cause a substantial curtailment in state and local services, particularly education, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Augustus Hawkins (D-CA) and ranking minority member James Jeffords (R-VT) hosted a national SALT-D meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 13. Others who participated included Rep. Bill Ford (D-MI), Sens. Paul Simon (D-IL) and David Durenberger (R-MN), economists, and local and state education officials.

The main economic argument against the state and local tax deductions used by the Treasury Department is that these taxes are voluntary costs incurred by residents of each locality to provide services to themselves. By making these costs deductible, the current federal income tax law unfairly and inefficiently subsidizes those who voluntarily choose to provide themselves with more of these services, some of which could be provided by the private sector.

However, not all states have equal need for various services, and not all have equal sources of revenue such as natural resources. In the case of education and library services, the benefits cut across local and state jurisdictions and are spread across the country. Not all segments of the population would be able to afford adequate education and library services from the private sector, yet it is clearly in the nation's interest that all citizens be educated and informed.

It is estimated that taxpayers would demand that about half of the tax increase resulting from a loss of SALT-D be offset by lowering state and local taxes. Education receives 94 percent of its funding from these two levels and would bear 42 percent of the \$39 billion loss. Loss per pupil would impact all states consistently, with 32 states losing between 15-18 percent of their per pupil expenditures.

ALA was one of 20 education organizations cosponsoring the meeting because of the potential impact on publicly funded libraries. In 1982, 87 percent of public library funding came from local and state taxes, according to National Center for Education Statistics data. Many of the oldest and largest library collections, and many of the richest in terms of depth, are in so-called high-tax states of the northeast and midwest which would be affected the most, but from which all library users benefit through interlibrary loan and other forms of cooperation.

Although the "losers" under the proposal to end SALT-D would at first glance seem to be higher income individuals in high-tax states, in reality, those who would lose the most would be those most dependent on public services such as public schools and postsecondary institutions and public libraries.

ACTION NEEDED: Hearings are in progress on the Administration's tax reform proposal. Tax measures traditionally begin in the House Ways and Means Committee, then move to the Senate Finance Committee. Library supporters concerned about ending SALT-D or other specific provisions of the President's proposal should contact members of these two committees, listed on the attachment to this newsletter.

OPM Director Withdraws Nomination

At a Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearing June 6, Donald Devine withdrew his nomination for a second term as Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. His first four-year term expired March 25, and he worked temporarily as executive assistant to Acting Director Loretta Cornelius until the two clashed over his authority. Unknown to her, he had signed a "delegation of authority" order giving him director's powers. She testified to the Senate committee June 5 that Devine had asked her to say she knew about the delegation of power all along. Devine defended his actions but said he knew he did not have the votes to receive committee approval.

Government Printing Office

Sen. Charles Mathias (R-MD) chaired a hearing on June 12 of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee on the nomination of Ralph E. Kennickell to be U.S. Public Printer. The hearing was recessed pending an investigation of discrepancies in personnel forms submitted by Mr. Kennickell for government employment.

Eileen Cooke, Director of the Washington Office, submitted a letter for the hearing record on behalf of ALA. She urged the new Public Printer to strongly and vigorously support the Depository Library Program and pointed out three other areas of current concern: the cleanup of the Government Printing Office computerized cataloging tapes, the participation of GPO in cooperative cataloging projects working towards standard bibliographic control of government information, and the increased use by GPO of permanent durable paper when it prints documents.

In May, ALA sent letters to Rep. Vic Fazio (D-CA) and Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), chairs, respectively, of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, supporting the GPO FY 1986 budget request of \$28,868,000 to carry out the various programs of the Superintendent of Documents.

JCP Forum on Depository Libraries & Electronic Publications

The Joint Committee on Printing will hold a public forum on June 26 at 2:00 p.m., in Room 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building on whether government publications in electronic format should be provided to federal depository libraries. The open meeting is intended to let concerned parties comment on a December 1984 report to JCP, and to solicit suggestions for possible pilot projects. Traditionally, information provided through depository libraries has been in paper and microform. However, as more and more federal information is being produced and accessed electronically, depository libraries and their users are anxious to receive some information in electronic format.

The Ad Hoc Committee established by JCP to evaluate the feasibility and desirability of providing access to certain government information in electronic format to depository libraries recommended in its report that "the Joint Committee on Printing and the Superintendent of Documents initiate a pilot program in which depository libraries will receive Federal information in electronic form and provide it to the general public free of charge." JCP is considering the establishment of several pilot projects to provide sufficient information to Congress so that an informed decision can be made about the viability and cost effectiveness of providing information electronically to libraries. The Ad Hoc Committee's report, "Provision of Federal Government Publications in Electronic Format to Depository Libraries," is available for \$5.50 from the SuDocs, GPO, Washington, D.C. 20402, Stock No. 052-070-05970-2.

Federal Information Management

Responses are overwhelmingly negative to the Office of Management and Budget's proposed circular on Management of Federal Information Resources published in the March 15 Federal Register (see May 29 and April 3 ALA Washington Newsletters). While there are a few defenders among the 283 comments filed for public review in the OMB library, most are highly critical of the proposal. Of the comments received as of May 23, 161 were from the library and university community, 81 from other members of the public, and 41 from federal agencies. The June 12 edition of the Bureau of National Affairs Daily Report for Executives contains a summary of the responses in its Regulatory and Legal Analysis section (pp. C-1-C-7) which quotes many of the comments OMB received from the library community. Government documents librarians especially are to be congratulated for their articulate letters contending that the proposed policy will make a great deal of government information less accessible and more costly.

Douglas Ginsberg, OMB Administrator for Information and Regulatory Affairs, is scheduled to speak at the Legislation Committee's Information Update at 2 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency Hotel's Regency Ballroom A on Saturday, July 6. The House Government Operations Subcommittee on Manpower and Housing, chaired by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), plans a hearing on the proposed circular on July 17.

DATA ACTION NEEDED: Particularly valuable in the comments to OMB on the proposed circular were the examples given of government publications no longer available yet still needed for the reasons given, and the examples of how much government information costs once it has been turned over to the private sector for dissemination. The ALA Washington Office is collecting such examples and would appreciate receiving additional ones on an ongoing basis.

"Becoming a Nation of Readers"

"Becoming a Nation of Readers: The Report of the Commission on Reading" is now available from the Center for the Study of Reading at the University of Illinois. The National Academy of Education's Commission on Reading produced the report under contract from the Education Department's National Institute of Education. Because it focuses on developing good reading skills and habits early in the learning process, the report will be of special interest to school, children's, and young adult librarians.

Recommendations include: parents should read to preschool children and informally teach them about reading and writing; parents should support school-aged children's continued growth as readers; children should spend more time in independent reading; and schools should maintain well-stocked and managed libraries.

The Commission observes on page 3: "The world is moving into a technological-information age in which full participation in education, science, business, industry, and the professions requires increasing levels of literacy." Linking reading achievement to independent reading, the report notes:

Children who are avid readers come from homes in which reading is encouraged....They come from homes that have books, subscriptions to children's magazines, and in which both adults and children have library cards. Public and school libraries are especially important for children from poor homes. One study found that the amount of reading children from poor homes did and their gains in reading achievement over the summer were related to the distance they lived from a public library.

Analyses of schools that have been successful in promoting independent reading suggest that one of the keys is ready access to books. However, fully 15 percent of the nation's schools do not have libraries. In most of the remaining schools, the collections are small, averaging just over 13 volumes per student. In 1978, schools that did have libraries were adding less than a book a year per student, which does not even keep up with loss and wear. According to a 1984 evaluation, "the collections of the school library...are in increasing jeopardy; inventories have been shrinking, and what remains is bordering on the obsolete." (p. 78, footnotes omitted)

The report can be ordered by sending a check for \$4.50 made out to "University of Illinois-BNR" to Becoming a Nation of Readers, P.O. Box 2774, Station A, Champaign, IL 61820-8774.

Copyright

The Library of Congress Copyright Office is requesting public comment by July 15 on the deposit requirements for machine-readable databases including revisions and derivative works based upon previously registered databases (June 10 Federal Register, pp. 24240-41). The Copyright Office also welcomes views on the use of special relief provisions to ease the registration deposit requirements for databases. Ten copies of written comments should be sent to: Office of General Counsel, James Madison Memorial Building, Room 407, First and Independence Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540. For further information: Dorothy Schrader, General Counsel, U.S. Copyright Office (202/287-8380).

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99th Congress, 1st Session

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STATUS OF LEGISLATION OF
INTEREST TO LIBRARIANS

99th Congress, 1st Session

Convened January 3, 1985

Chart Date: June 14, 1985

	HOUSE					SENATE					FINAL ACTION		
	Introduced	Hearings	Reported by Subcommittee	Committee Report No.	Floor Action	Introduced	Hearings	Reported by Subcommittee	Committee Report No.	Floor Action	Conference Report	Final Passage	Public Law
Arts & Humanities Endowments Ext.	HR 2245	X		97		S 1264							
Civil Rights Restoration Act	HR 700		X			S 272, 431							
Congressional Budget Resolution	HConRes 152	X		133	X	SConRes 32	X		15				
Economic Equity Act	HR 2472					S 1169							
Fairness Doctrine						S 1038							
Florence Agreement Protocol						S 1274							
Freedom of Information Act Amendments	HR 1882					S 150		X					
Higher Education Act Extension		X											
Information Policy Institute or Com.	HR 744					S 786							
LSCA Technical Amendments	HR 1997			98	X								
Medical Library Assistance Act Extension	HR 2409			158									
National School Library Month	HJRes 154					SJRes 52			none	X			
NIE Reauthorization	HR 2246												
Pay Equity	HR 27, 375	X				S 5, 519							
Presidential Libraries	HR 1349	X	X	125	X	S 1047							
Public Lending Right Study Commission						S 658							
Tax Reform (major Congr. proposals)	HR 800, 2222	X				S 325, 409							
Taxation - Manuscript Donations	HR 1657												
Taxation - Thor (inventory)	HR 2055												
WHCLIS II	HJRes 244					SJRes 112							
<u>Appropriations</u>													
Supplemental, FY 1985	HR 2577		X	142	X	HR 2577			82				

For bills, reports & laws write: House & Senate Doc. Rms., U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515 & 20510, respectively.