



ALA Washington Newsletter

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Attachments: 1) Resolution on U.S. National Commission for UNESCO
2) Status of Legislation Chart dated August 2, 1985

Congressional Budget

Just before adjourning for its August recess, Congress gave final approval August 1 to a budget compromise -- 309 to 119 in the House, and 67 to 32 in the Senate. The compromise package was characterized by several budget conferees as "the best we could do" and "better than no budget," reflecting a weariness after weeks of conflicting signals from the White House and abortive attempts to reach agreement. The version finally approved is H. Rept. 99-249, the conference report (in this case, actually a further amendment) to S.Con.Res. 32, the first concurrent budget resolution for FY 1986.

Library Programs. As far as can be determined, the budget assumes federal library programs would continue at FY '85 levels. For Function 500, education, (including libraries), training, employment and social services, \$31.55 billion is provided, compared with the House-passed \$32.05 billion and the Senate-passed \$30.10 billion. The only education program for which reconciliation, or changes in authorizing language, is required is Guaranteed Student Loans. However, about \$400 million in unspecified savings is assumed for Function 500.

Postal. The budget assumes a funding level of \$748 million for postal revenue forgone for free mail for the blind and preferred rates. This is high enough to be a rejection of the Administration's cross subsidy proposal for the time being, and a favorable compromise between the House-passed \$871 million and the Senate-passed \$100 million. However, the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee will be required to reconcile or make changes in laws to achieve the required savings. The authorizing committees must

report these changes back to the budget committees by September 27, after which the budget committees will put together an omnibus reconciliation bill.

Revenue Sharing. The general revenue sharing program is assumed to continue at \$4.6 billion in FY '86, and then be eliminated in FY '87.

Medicare & Social Security. The budget assumes that changes would be made to bring state and local employees into the Medicare system effective January 1, 1986, and to bring all new state and local employees after January 1, 1986 into the Social Security system. These provisions were not in the House or Senate-passed resolutions, but were part of the final compromise. The Medicare provision is included in a deficit reduction bill (HR 3128, H. Rept. 99-241) just ordered reported July 31 by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Appropriations, FY 1986

Library Programs. L-HHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittees have not yet made funding recommendations. See the ACTION NEEDED item below.

Postal. By a vote of 249-172, the House passed July 30 HR 3036, the FY 1986 Treasury-Postal Service Appropriations bill, with \$922 million for postal revenue forgone. House Post Office and Civil Service Committee Chairman Bill Ford (D-MI) raised a point of order against language in the bill restricting eligibility for the 2nd class in-county rate, and the restriction was dropped after Ford promised his committee would consider eligibility questions during reconciliation deliberations.

Ford also quoted a U.S. Postal Service estimate that \$921,993,000 with no eligibility restrictions would keep nonprofit and preferred rates at current levels until January 17, 1986 when they would move to Step 15 on the phased rate schedule. A 2-lb. 4th class library rate book package would go up 11 percent from the current 54¢ to 60¢.

Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-MN) offered an amendment to reduce all discretionary items in HR 3036 by 2.65 percent. This amendment was further amended by Rep. Ronald Coleman (D-TX) to exempt a few agencies from the cut, including the Postal Service, and approved 288-133.

On July 31 the Senate Appropriations Committee ordered its version of HR 3036 reported after adopting an amendment by Sen. Quentin Burdick (D-ND) to increase revenue forgone from the subcommittee recommendation of \$100 million to \$801 million. The bill will go to the floor after the Senate returns from recess on September 9.

THANKS NEEDED. The vote on the Burdick amendment in the Senate Appropriations Committee was 17-9. Letters of thanks would be appropriate from constituents of those who voted for it: Senators Burdick, Laxalt (R-NV), Cochran (R-MS), Andrews (R-ND), D'Amato (R-NY), Specter (R-PA), Stennis (D-MS), Byrd (D-WV), Inouye (D-HI), Hollings (D-SC), Chiles (D-FL), Johnston (D-LA), Leahy (D-VT), Sasser (D-TN), DeConcini (D-AZ), Bumpers (D-AR), and Harkin (R-IA).

NARA & NHPRC. HR 3036 as passed by the House also included \$103,513,000 for the National Archives and Records Administration, including \$4 million for grant programs of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. These amounts would be reduced 2.65 percent by the Frenzel across-the-board cut.

LC. The Senate passed July 31 the FY 1986 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, HR 2942, providing \$220,723,000 for the Library of Congress, compared to \$216,597,000 in the House-passed version, but still below LC's request of \$253,129,000. Restorations of House cuts include \$1,100,000 for preservation of library materials, \$563,000 for automated systems support, \$500,000 for renovation-connected relocation expenses, \$400,000 for an inventory of the collections, and \$193,000 for space rental.

"Playboy" in Braille. No mention was made in the Senate Appropriations Committee report (S. Rept. 99-111) on HR 2942 or on the Senate floor of the House action July 18 in cutting \$103,000 to prohibit LC from reproducing and distributing Playboy in braille (see July 23 newsletter). However, the Senate did not restore the funds, leaving the House cut and the intent behind it intact.

House Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Vic Fazio (D-CA) expressed his regret at the House action in censoring reading material for the blind in two statements in the Congressional Record on July 29, pp. H6452-53, and on July 31, pp. E3670-71. On July 31 Fazio inserted statements by the American Council of the Blind and the counsel to Playboy Magazine, and articles from the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

Govt. Docs. The Senate-passed version of HR 2942 provides \$22,981,000 for GPO's Superintendent of Documents, plus \$3 million to be derived from the revolving fund, thus arriving at a total of \$25,981,000, the same amount as in the House-passed bill. The Senate increased the Joint Committee on Printing budget from the House-passed \$910,000 to \$935,000, but agreed with the House in specifying that no funds are to be provided for a publications distribution specialist.

NEH & NEA. On July 31 the House passed HR 3011, the FY 1986 Interior Department and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, by 270-143. Debate on the Arts and Humanities Endowments centered on the issue of Arts Endowment support of "pornography" as defined by Rep. Richard Armey (R-TX), and attempts by Armey and others to cut the NEA and NEH funding levels in the bill.

Sensing that some of these cuts would be successful and wishing to prevent more serious damage, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Sidney Yates (D-IL) agreed to compromise amendments which resulted in freezing the Endowments at FY '85 levels. The House-passed HR 3011 would provide \$139,478,000, the current level of funding, for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and \$166,660,000, the current level plus \$3 million earmarked for National Public Radio, for the National Endowment for the Arts.

ACTION NEEDED: Library supporters concerned about any of these funding items passed by the House and awaiting action by the Senate in September should get in touch during the recess with the appropriate Senate Appropriations Committee members (see list on March 19 newsletter). Library supporters interested in funding for federal library grant programs and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science are urged to contact House and Senate L-HHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee members (also on March 19 newsletter). Considering the barely adequate congressional budget assumptions and the cuts in other funding bills, funding for LSCA and other programs may continue at current levels only with considerable constituent pressure. Funding for the new LSCA VI Library Literacy Programs, dropped from the supplemental, will only be included in FY '86 if there is an outpouring of support. Now is the time, while members are at home!

Literacy

On August 1 the House Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education and the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities held a joint hearing on illiteracy. Subcommittee Chairmen Rep. Hawkins (D-CA) and Sen. Stafford (R-VT) co-chaired the hearing; Sen. Simon and Reps. Goodling, Martinez, Owens, and Williams were also present.

Subcommittee members expressed concern over the high economic, social and political costs of illiteracy. Chairman Hawkins suggested that if money is not spent now to educate the illiterate population, it will cost society much more later. Rep. Williams said it costs \$600 million each year to keep illiterates in prisons.

Suggestions from witnesses from the business and education community included: business-education partnerships, a literacy corps of tutors, intergenerational tutoring, improving reading-teach education, and an increased commitment to improving American education. Both legislators and witnesses agreed that the most effective attack on American illiteracy will come from a creative combination of nonprofit, government and business efforts. Hearings will continue in September.

At the hearing, the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition released a new report, "Literacy at Work: Developing Adult Basic Skills for Employment," prepared for the coalition by the Northeast-Midwest Institute under a grant from the American Can Company Foundation. The report is available for \$5.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling, prepaid, from Northeast-Midwest Institute: The Center for Regional Policy, 218 D St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003. The coalition is a bipartisan organization of almost 200 House members from 18 older industrial states.

Register of Copyrights

The new Register of Copyrights will be Ralph Oman, chief counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks, according to an August 6 release from Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin. David Ladd resigned the position in January; Associate Librarian of Congress Donald Curran served as acting Register during the interim. ALA Executive Director Robert Wedgeworth served on the search committee.

UNESCO

The Senate on July 31 and the House on August 1 agreed to the conference report (H. Rept. 99-240) on HR 2068 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1986 and 1987 for the Department of State, the U.S. Information Agency, and the Board for International Broadcasting, clearing the measure for the President's signature. During conference, the Senate accepted a House provision to earmark \$250,000 to support the United States National Commission on UNESCO. Now attention will shift to the appropriations process to secure funding for the National Commission in FY 1986. The House has already passed HR 2965, FY '86 appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, State and Justice, and did not include funds for the National Commission. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittees responsible for the Department of State will probably mark-up their bill in mid-September.

As a follow-up to its previous resolutions on UNESCO, ALA Council passed a resolution at the 1985 Annual Conference calling on Congress to authorize and appropriate \$250,000 per year to support the work of the National Commission for the next two years. The resolution is attached to this newsletter.

Pay Equity

The House began debate on HR 3008, the Federal Equitable Pay Practices Act of 1985, on August 1 (Congressional Record, pp. H7108-H7136). Rep. Mary Rose Oakar (D-OH) introduced HR 3008 on July 16 as a revised version of HR 27 which reflected recommendations made during hearings which she chaired of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits (see May 29 ALA Washington Newsletter).

HR 3008 would establish an 11 member bi-partisan Commission on Equitable Pay Practices which would be responsible for conducting an 18-month study to determine whether the federal classification and pay systems are affected by discrimination based on sex, race or ethnicity (Hispanic origin). The Commission will hire an independent consultant to perform a job content and economic analysis of the federal pay and classification system. This type of information has not been studied since 1923 when the classification system for federal employees was established. Upon completion of the study, the Commission will submit its findings, conclusions, comments and recommendations regarding any necessary legislative and/or administrative changes, along with the consultant's study, to the President and Congress. While proponents of the bill point out that the bill requires a pay equity study in the federal government, opponents maintain that the legislation represents an "end run" that would set the stage for converting the theory of comparable worth into public policy.

The concept of comparable worth continues as a controversial issue with the Administration opposing the idea. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights recommended April 11 that federal civil rights enforcement agencies and Congress "reject the doctrine of comparable worth." On June 5 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled that it would not act on behalf of women who allege discrimination in pay on the basis of "comparable worth."

Both the House and Senate have an omnibus Economic Equity Act of 1985 pending. Sen. David Durenberger (R-MN) introduced the Senate version, S. 1169, on May 20; Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) introduced HR 2472 on June 6. Both bills address women's retirement security, dependent care, insurance, employment and tax reform.

ACTION NEEDED: The House is likely to take up HR 3008 again in September. Urge your Representative to support it.

Federal Register Availability

In the April 19 Federal Register (pp. 15674-84), the Office of the Federal Register published a list of libraries where the FR and Code of Federal Regulations are available for examination free of charge. Any library that maintains these publications, makes them available to the public, and wishes to be included on future lists should write to the Director of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408, or phone (202) 523-5227 giving the name and address of the library. A complete listing of Government Depository Libraries is available without charge from The Library, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20401.

Correction

The ALA Council Resolution on 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services, attached to the July 23 ALA Washington Newsletter, contained an error in its reference to the measure introduced by Rep. Bill Ford. The correct reference is H.J.Res. 244.

RESOLUTION ON
U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

WHEREAS, The United States has withdrawn from membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) effective December 31, 1984; and

WHEREAS, The Council of the American Library Association has on three occasions (January 1984, June 1984 and January 1985) noted the importance of UNESCO-related programs in support of the free flow of publications and other forms of information across national boundaries and world wide equality of access to information; and

WHEREAS, The United States National Commission for UNESCO, which includes representation from the American Library Association and many other non-governmental organizations concerned with the several UNESCO program areas, provides an important vehicle for citizen participation in the formulation of government policy on UNESCO matters; and

WHEREAS, ALA President E.J. Josey on March 22, 1985, urged that Congress assure that funds continue to be authorized, appropriated and expended by the Department of State to support the work of the Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association call upon Congress to authorize and appropriate \$250,000 per year to support the work of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO in FY 1986 and FY 1987, as provided for in H.R. 2068; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to appropriate members of Congress, to the Secretary of State and to the United States National Commission for UNESCO.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois
July 10, 1985
(Council Document #47.7)

STATUS OF LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO LIBRARIANS	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	X	125						
Civil Rights Restoration Act	HR 700		X		S 272, 431								
Congressional Budget Resolution	HConRes 152	X		133	SConRes 32	X	15						249
Economic Equity Act	HR 2472				S 1169								
Fairness Doctrine					S 1038								
Florence Agreement Protocol					S 1274								
FLSA - State, Local Employees Exemption	HR 3173				S 1570	X							
Freedom of Information Act Amendments	HR 1882				S 150	X							
Higher Education Act Extension					S 786								
Information Policy Institute or Com.	HR 744				S 43	X							
Line-item Veto							92						
LSCA Technical Amendments	HR 1997			98	X								
Medical Library Assistance Act Extension	HR 2409			158	X	S 1309							
National School Library Month	HJRes 154					SJRes 52							
NIE Reauthorization	HR 2246												
Pay Equity Study	HR 3008	X	X	232	X	S 519							
Presidential Libraries	HR 1349	X	X	125	X	S 1047							
Public Lending Right Study Commission						S 658							
State Dept. Authorization	HR 2068					S 1003							
Tax Reform (major Congr. proposals)	HR 800, 2222	X				S 325, 409							
Taxation - Manuscript Donations	HR 1657, 3087												
Taxation - Thor (inventory)	HR 2055												
WHCLIS II	HJRes 244					SJRes 112							
<u>Appropriations</u>													
Supplemental, FY 1985	HR 2577		X	142	X	HR 2577							
Agriculture, FY 1986	HR 3037	X	X	211	X	HR 3037	X						
Commerce, State Dept., FY 1986	HR 2965	X	X	197	X	HR 2965							
HUD, Indep. Agencies, FY 1986	HR 3038	X	X	212	X	HR 3038	X	X					
Interior, FY 1986	HR 3011	X	X	205	X	HR 3011	X						
Labor-HHS-Education, FY 1986							X						
Legislative, FY 1986	HR 2942	X	X	194	X	HR 2942	X	X	111	X			
Treasury, Postal, FY 1986	HR 3036	X	X	210	X	HR 3036	X	X					

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