



# ALA Washington Newsletter

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## Appropriations, FY 1987

Library Programs. The House Appropriations Committee approved the FY 1987 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill (HR 5233) July 24. The L-HHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee had made its recommendations June 24 in closed session and embargoed the results. Amounts recommended for library programs are as follows:

(amounts in thousands)	FY '86 Appro- priation	FY '86 after 4.3% Sequester	FY '87 Reagan Request	FY '87 House Committee
Library Services & Construction Act				
Title I, public library services	\$ 75,000	\$ 71,774	\$ -0-	\$ 80,000
II, public library construction	22,500	21,533	-0-	25,000
III, interlibrary cooperation	18,000	17,226	-0-	20,000
IV, Indian tribes (2% setaside of appropriations for titles I, II, III)				
V, foreign language materials	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
VI, library literacy programs	5,000	4,785	-0-	5,000
Higher Education Act				
Title II-A, college library resources	-0-	-0-	-0-	defer
II-B, training, research	1,000	957	-0-	defer
II-C, research libraries	6,000	5,742	-0-	defer
Educ. Consolidation & Improvement Act				
Chapter 2 state block grant	528,909	506,166	528,909	533,909
NCLIS	690	660	690	660
National Library of Medicine	55,759	55,273	56,408	61,588
(incl. Medical Library Assistance Act)				

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Appropriations for Higher Education Act programs were deferred pending enactment of reauthorization legislation. Most education programs were restored to pre-Gramm-Rudman-Hollings cut levels plus a percentage for inflation. For LSCA, after restoring the cut, the committee added 6.6 percent for title I and 11 percent for II and III. For LSCA VI, \$5 million is the full amount authorized. The Committee did not explain either the reasons for increases in LSCA programs or for recommending less than the President requested for the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

The committee noted its concern about the Education Department's efforts to force Illinois to repay its entire LSCA I allotment from 1977 through 1980 even though the federal audit found no fraud or criminal wrongdoing. HR 5233 includes language barring ED from using funds under the bill for attempting to collect such a refund from Illinois.

For the National Library of Medicine the committee in its report (H. Rept. 99-711) said the \$5,180,000 above the President's request should be used to:

...cover the full cost of maintaining current NLM programs and services for the biomedical community; continue the implementation of the Library's preservation initiative at the funding level recommended in the plan presented to the committee; accelerate progress in the Unified Medical Language program; and expand extramural programs, including Medical Informatics research and research training, and Medical Library Assistance awards.

Postal. The House Subcommittee on Treasury-Postal Service-General Government Appropriations met July 17 and recommended \$650 million for postal revenue forgone. The Postal Service had originally estimated \$716 million would be necessary to freeze nonprofit postal rates through FY '87, but USPS has lowered its estimate, and it is expected that \$650 million will be sufficient to avoid further increases.

NEH. For the National Endowment for the Humanities, the House Appropriations Committee on July 24 approved \$138,641,000 for FY '87, the same as the pre-G-R-H level as recommended by the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee chaired by Rep. Sidney Yates (D-IL). Humanities Projects in Libraries would be at \$2.9 million rather than the \$1.4 million the President requested; the Office of Preservation at \$4 million as requested, and Challenge Grants at \$16.5 million.

In its report (H. Rept. 99-714) on the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill (HR 5234), the committee said it "will continue to allot funds for the various humanities disciplines including the media, museum, and library programs," and that it "commends the National Endowment for the Humanities for its program to preserve rare books and encourages the Endowment to increase its emphasis on this valuable program."

#### Congressional Budget

Congress gave final approval on June 26 to S.Con.Res. 120, the congressional budget resolution for FY 1987. The final version was designed to meet the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction targets when implemented with funding and reconciliation legislation. The conference agreement assumes that most education programs, including libraries, would be funded at levels that would restore the 4.3 percent G-R-H cuts of March 1, plus an inflation factor of about five percent. For postal revenue forgone, conferees assumed \$716 million. These assumptions are not

binding on appropriations committees, and in fact, House subcommittees recommended higher levels for library programs and lower levels for postal subsidies (see article on appropriations).

Previous over-optimistic economic projections and changing economic conditions may affect whether the budget resolution is sufficient to meet the G-R-H deficit reduction targets and whether automatic cuts are necessary October 1, the beginning of the 1987 fiscal year. It is possible a cut of between 6 and 15 percent might be needed unless additional revenues are found through tax reform legislation or otherwise.

#### Balanced Budget & Emergency Deficit Control Act

The Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision on July 7, ruled unconstitutional the automatic trigger provision of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings amendment (Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, PL 99-177). The court held that the law violated the Constitution's separation of powers requirements by granting executive branch powers to the comptroller general, a legislative branch officer. The comptroller general, as head of the General Accounting Office, has the final say in determining whether each year's G-R-H deficit reduction target has been met, and if not, how much spending would have to be cut.

The fallback provision in the law now comes into play under which the automatic cut or sequestration of funds has to be approved by the House and Senate and signed by the President. On July 17 both House and Senate passed H.J.Res. 672, ratifying the G-R-H cuts (4.3 percent for nonexempt domestic programs) which took effect March 1, 1986. The FY '86 cuts would otherwise have been invalidated by the Supreme Court decision.

Remedies have been suggested, ranging from Sen. Gary Hart's (D-CO) call to repeal G-R-H, to giving the President the power to remove the comptroller general (thus weakening congressional control of GAO), to giving the Office of Management and Budget the final authority for the automatic cuts (thus strengthening an agency many in Congress feel already has too much power). Sens. Gramm (R-TX), Rudman (R-NH) and Hollings (D-SC) proposed the OMB solution in an amendment to this year's debt ceiling extension bill (H.J.Res. 668) which is currently pending on the Senate floor.

#### HEA Reauthorization

A lengthy series of House-Senate conference meetings on S. 1965, reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, is scheduled to begin July 29. Senate conferees named July 14 include all members of the Education, Arts and Humanities Subcommittee: Republicans Hatch (chair of Senate conferees), Quayle, Stafford, Thurmond, Wallop and Weicker; Democrats Dodd, Kennedy, Matsunaga, Pell and Simon. House conferees named July 24 include all members of the Postsecondary Education Subcommittee: Democrats Hawkins (chair of House conferees), Atkins, Biaggi, Bruce, Dymally, Eckart, Ford of MI, Gaydos, Hayes, Owens, Penny, Perkins, Solarz and Williams; Republicans Coleman of MO, Goodling, Gunderson, Henry, Jeffords, McKernan, Petri, Roukema and Tauke.

ACTION NEEDED: Contact your Senator or Representative among the conferees quickly to urge support for the HEA II-D College Library Technology and Cooperation Grants, and the more adequate authorization levels for library programs in the House version of S. 1965.

Library of Congress

On July 10, the Library of Congress restored evening, Sunday and holiday hours of service in the general reading rooms after four months of curtailed service due to budget cuts. See the July 10 Federal Register, pp. 25124-25. A supplemental funding bill, HR 4515, restoring \$867,000 of the \$18.3 million cut from LC's FY '86 budget, was signed into law (PL 99-349) July 2. House-Senate conferees in their report (H. Rept. 99-649) directed LC to remain open evenings and weekends, as did the House Appropriations Committee in its report (H. Rept. 99-693) on FY '87 legislative appropriations.

ALA Washington Office Director Eileen Cooke testified June 24 before the Task Force on Libraries and Memorials of the Committee on House Administration in support of HR 4545, a bill introduced by Task Force Chair Mary Rose Oakar (D-OH) to extend for three years the authorization for LC's American Folklife Center.

Grace Commission Legislative Package

A package of 15 bills developed to implement many of the Grace Commission recommendations was introduced in the House and Senate June 26 by members of the congressional Grace Caucus and announced at a press conference by Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman William Roth (R-DE). Two years ago, the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, chaired by industrialist J. Peter Grace, issued its report with over 2,400 recommendations for eliminating federal programs and cutting government costs to save \$424 billion over three years. The report was strongly criticized by the General Accounting Office and the Congressional Budget Office. Estimates of three-year savings from the legislative package range from \$7 billion to \$25 billion.

The Grace Caucus bill of most interest to the library community is the Federal Performance of Commercial Activities Improvement Act of 1986, introduced by Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-NH) and Rep. David Dreier (R-CA) as S. 2621 and HR 5116. The bill would codify Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 by requiring federal agency procurement of goods and services from the private sector whenever cost effective unless national security interests necessitate a government supplier, or private sector supply is more expensive or would cause unacceptable delay, or could not supply such goods and services. Agencies would be required to conduct cost comparisons within 5 years, and report anticipated and actual savings.

WHCLIS II

Six Representatives and seven Senators have been added as cosponsors for H.J.Res. 244 and S.J.Res. 112 since the list was published in the last (June 26) ALA Washington Newsletter. New names are Reps. Young (R-AK), Morrison (D-CT), Livingston (R-LA), Spratt (D-SC), Lloyd (D-TN), and Jeffords (R-VT); and Sens. Murkowski (R-AK), Hawkins (R-FL), Dole (R-KS), Levin (D-MI), Exon (D-NE), Abdnor (R-SD), and Kasten (R-WI). Cosponsors now total 124 in the House and 32 in the Senate for legislation calling for a White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1989.

ACTION NEEDED: More cosponsors are needed quickly.

Telecommunications

THANKS NEEDED: A resolution of tribute on telecommunications was passed by the ALA Council on July 2, 1986, commending Sen. Larry Pressler (R-SD) and the 28

Senators who cosigned the recent joint letter to the Federal Communications Commission on the continuing problems libraries face in connection with AT&T private line tariffs for connection to nationwide bibliographic databases. A copy of the resolution is attached to this newsletter. If you have not yet thanked your Senator, do so now and enclose the ALA resolution.

#### Pay Equity

Pending in the Senate is S. 519, the Federal Employee Anti-Sex-Discrimination in Compensation Act of 1985, sponsored by Sens. Daniel Evans (R-WA) and Alan Cranston (D-CA). The bill would authorize an independent study of the federal classification and compensation system to find out whether sex discrimination is a factor in determining the wages in predominantly female federal jobs. A similar bill (HR 3008), which also includes race and ethnicity as factors to be studied, passed the House last October, following hearings at which Deborah Miller of ALA's Commission on Pay Equity testified. Unless the Senate acts, the measure will die at the end of the session.

ACTION NEEDED: The ALA Council on July 2 passed a resolution urging support of S. 519; a copy is attached to this newsletter. Contact your Senators on this issue and enclose a copy of the resolution.

#### Economic Equity Act

The Economic Equity Act of 1985 is the subject of a new legislative fact sheet from ALA's Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL). The five-page fact sheet summarizes HR 2472 and S. 1169 which would ensure economic equity for American women by improving retirement security, dependent care, tax law treatment, insurance and health care coverage, equal employment opportunity and pay equity. The measures were introduced in May 1985 and by June 1986 had 104 House and 16 Senate cosponsors, but no further action has been taken.

For a copy of the fact sheet, send a mailing label to COSWL/ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Previous COSWL legislative fact sheets still available include the following topics: abortion, child care, equal rights amendment, health effects of VDT use, non-discrimination in insurance, pay equity, pensions, and social security.

#### Federal Economic Statistics

Comments are requested by August 8 on the quality and usefulness of economic statistics produced by the federal government, including the usefulness of the current statistical series, the accuracy of economic indicators, and the appropriateness of current series in terms of the trade off between timeliness and accuracy. The comments are requested by the Working Group on the Quality of Economic Statistics, Office of Management and Budget, 3001 New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. See the July 9 Federal Register, p. 24955.

#### HEA II-B Training Grants

September 26 is the deadline for new grants under the Higher Education Act II-B Library Career Training Program. According to the July 21 Federal Register, p. 26178, both fellowship and institute awards may be made this time. Higher education institutions or library agencies or organizations are eligible. Request application forms from Library Programs, OERI/USED, 555 New Jersey Ave., NW, Rm. 402, Washington, DC 20208-1430 (202/357-6315).

RESOLUTION OF TRIBUTE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- WHEREAS, Recent access charge decisions and divestiture related tariffs are having a major impact on the cost to libraries of telecommunications, through which libraries share resources and enhance service delivery to the nation's library users; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Larry Pressler (R-SD), a Member of the Senate Communications Subcommittee, has recognized the public interest served by libraries and the unique role of libraries in providing universal access to information; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Pressler has spearheaded over the last three years a sustained and successful effort to protect libraries and their users from the impact of sudden and significant rate increases for existing telecommunications services; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Pressler's most recent efforts included a letter to the Federal Communications Commission on the continuing problems libraries face in connection with certain tariffs under FCC investigation; and
- WHEREAS, A total of twenty-nine Senators signed the April 1986 letter to the FCC, indicating strong bipartisan support for libraries as common carriers of information; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association once again enthusiastically commend Senator Pressler of South Dakota for his continued leadership in assuring affordable telecommunications for libraries, express strong support for his efforts, and pledge continued cooperation in preserving universal access to information; and, BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association commend the twenty-eight Senators who cosigned the April 1986 letter to the Federal Communications Commission; and, BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to Senator Larry Pressler and to Senators Mark Andrews, Max Baucus, Rudy Boschwitz, Bill Bradley, Dale Bumpers, Quentin Burdick, Alan Dixon, Dave Durenberger, Thomas Eagleton, Daniel Evans, Wendell Ford, John Glenn, Albert Gore, Jr., Chic Hecht, Carl Levin, John Melcher, Howard Metzenbaum, George Mitchell, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Don Nickles, Sam Nunn, David Pryor, Dan Quayle, Paul Sarbanes, Paul Simon, Robert Stafford, John Stennis, and Edward Zorinsky.

Adopted by the  
Council of the American Library Association  
July 2, 1986, in New York, N. Y.  
(Council Document #51.1)

RESOLUTION ON THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ANTI-SEX-DISCRIMINATION  
IN COMPENSATION ACT OF 1985

- WHEREAS, It is the stated policy of the ALA to "fully support the concept of comparable wages for comparable work, and support all legal and legislative efforts to achieve commensurate wages for library workers..."; and
- WHEREAS, An ALA Commission on Pay Equity was appointed by then President-elect E. J. Josey to address the issue of wage discrimination in salaries paid to female-dominated occupations and professions, such as librarianship; and
- WHEREAS, The wage gap between male-dominated and female-dominated occupations which persists in our society is also evident in the federal government where federally employed women earn only 63 cents for every dollar earned by federally employed men; and
- WHEREAS, The federal classification and compensation system was established in 1923 at a time when discrimination based on sex was legal; and
- WHEREAS, Both Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 6(d) of the Fair Standards Act of 1938 now prohibit sex discrimination, yet the federal system has never been studied to determine if discrimination based on sex still remains in the system; and
- WHEREAS, Senate bill S. 519, the Federal Employee Anti-Sex-Discrimination in Compensation Act of 1985, would authorize an independent study of the Federal Classification and Compensation System; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association communicate to Members of the U. S. Senate its support for Senate bill, S. 519.

Adopted by the  
Council of the American Library Association  
July 2, 1986, in New York, N. Y.  
(Council Document #51.4)

LESS ACCESS TO LESS INFORMATION  
BY AND ABOUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT: VII

A 1986 Chronology: January - June

During the past five years, this ongoing chronology has documented Administration efforts to restrict and privatize government information. A combination of specific policy decisions, the Administration's interpretations and implementations of the 1980 Paperwork Reduction Act (PL 96-511), implementation of the Grace Commission recommendations and agency budget cuts have significantly limited access to public documents and statistics.

Since 1982, one of every four of the government's 16,000 publications has been eliminated. Through two 1985 directives, the Office of Management and Budget has clearly consolidated its government information control powers. Circular A-3, Government Publications, requires annual reviews of agency publications and detailed justifications for proposed periodicals. Circular A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources, requires cost-benefit analysis of government information activities, maximum reliance on the private sector for the dissemination of government information, and cost recovery through user charges. The likely result is an acceleration of the current trend to commercialize and privatize government information. Recent proposals to discontinue or contract out National Technical Information Service exemplify this trend.

Another development, with major implications for public access, is the growing tendency of federal agencies to utilize computer and telecommunications technologies for data collection, storage, retrieval and dissemination. This trend has resulted in the increased emergence of contractual arrangements with commercial firms to disseminate information collected at taxpayer expense, higher user charges for government information, and the proliferation of government information available in electronic format only. While automation clearly offers promises of savings, will public access to government information be further restricted for people who cannot afford computers or pay for computer time?

ALA reaffirmed its long-standing conviction that open government is vital to a democracy in a resolution passed by Council in January 1984 which stated that "there should be equal and ready access to data collected, compiled, produced, and published in any format by the government of the United States." In January 1985, Council established an Ad Hoc Committee to Form a Coalition on Government Information. The Coalition's objectives are to focus national attention on all efforts which limit access to government information and to develop support for improvements in access to government information.

With access to information a major ALA priority, members should be concerned about the following series of actions which create a climate in which government information activities are suspect. Four previous chronologies on the same topic were compiled in an ALA Washington Office publication "Less Access to Less Information By and About the U.S. Government---A 1981-84 Chronology: April 1981 - December 1984." Two updates in 1985 continued the chronology; the following covers January - June 1986:

January 1986 In a January 7 letter to the editor, Wendy L. Gramm, Administrator for Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, challenged The Washington Post's assertion that statistical programs have been "hacked away at" by

the Administration. Replying to a December 23 editorial, "Privatizing the Numbers," Gramm said: "No one is proposing to stop furnishing necessary information. No one is proposing to dismantle our federal statistical structure." She went on to say: "OMB's new policy does not provide...that the public be cut off from government information." Gary D. Bass, Executive Director of OMB Watch, in a January 21 letter to The Post charged that Gramm's letter "greatly misled the public."

January Due to budget cutbacks, the U. S. Department of Agriculture can no longer report to the nation the total poundage of food consumed per capita in the United States. The information has been lost primarily due to the discontinuance of crop reports from USDA. The Food Institute says that the information as now published prevents food industry researchers from making any meaningful comparisons in the fruit and vegetable areas, such as comparing changes in the national diet (like the changeover from animal to crop products), and a host of other analyses. (Dear Friend letter from Frank J. Panyko, Vice President of The Food Institute, January 13, 1986)

January The Administration is considering a change in federal reporting requirements that would eliminate a major source of data about how much federal grant and contract money goes to minority firms. Administration officials said that the OMB and the Commerce Department may adopt a reporting form similar to one now used by Commerce to track how federal grants are spent. Although the Commerce questionnaire asks about funds spent with minority contractors, it requires no data on how money is spent with subcontractors. Subcontracting is a major source of federal funds for minority businesses which often are too small to bid for the overall contract. Rejection of data-collection plans and the move toward a standardized, abbreviated information-gathering form have led critics to charge that the Administration wants to do away with most racial data gathering. (The Washington Post, January 14)

January The Federal Election Commission announced that "drastically curtailed public disclosure of federal campaign finance information will result from a series of budget cuts forced upon the FEC." Effective March 1, the computerization of itemized information filed by political committees on the '88 election will be reduced severely, although candidate and political committee reports will continue to be available on microfilm for public review and copying. Among the effects of the reduction in computerization will be a reduction in timeliness, since data entry time probably will double; accuracy of detailed information may be reduced because less expensive methods of data entry will be used; and availability of detailed information will be reduced. (FEC, news release, January 30)

Stepping into the breach is Washington Online's Campaign Contribution Tracking System which includes all FEC reports filed since 1983 and costs \$3,500 in annual subscriptions for unlimited usage. ("Databases," no date)



January At its Midwinter Meeting, ALA Council passed a resolution urging ALA members to monitor the effects on government information and publications of the implementation of OMB Circular A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources, and to report problems to the ALA Washington Office, Members of Congress, and OMB.

February As was proposed last year, the President's budget would again eliminate all postal revenue forgone appropriations. If enacted, this would mean that as of October 1, 1988, those eligible for free mail for the blind would have to pay the full cost of this mail; and major increases would take effect in all subsidized rate categories including nonprofit bulk mail, classroom publications, and the fourth-class book and library rates. Since rates as of January 1, 1988, are at full attributable cost levels, enactment of the budget would eliminate all indirect subsidy and result in regular commercial rates. A two-pound library rate book package would be \$.94. (OMB, Budget of the United States Fiscal Year 1987, Appendix)

February For the fifth year in a row, the President's budget submitted to Congress proposed to eliminate the Library Services and Construction Act and Higher Education Act Title II library grant programs. In addition, the budget included proposals for FY '88 to rescind or "unappropriate" all library grant program funding except LSCA I and III where about half the states had already received funds. (Ed. note: These funds were released in mid-April after Congress did not agree to the rescissions.) (OMB, Budget of the United States Fiscal Year 1987, Appendix)

February In the FY 1987 budget documents, one of the "accomplishments in 1985" announced that departments and agencies eliminated or consolidated 3,848 publications, approximately 25 percent of the federal inventory, to achieve cost avoidances of \$35 million, a 20 percent reduction since 1981. (OMB, Management of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1987)

February The Federal Communications Commission will publish summaries rather than the full texts of Notices of Proposed Rulemaking, rulemaking decisions and policy statements in the Federal Register. The FCC decided that "publication of detailed summaries would be a reasonable and cost-efficient way of apprising the general public of its actions." Federal Register publication of the actual texts of final rules will be continued. Budgetary constraints and the rising cost of Federal Register publication were given as the rationale for the cuts. To cut publication costs further, the FCC also amended its rules to enable it to reduce the amount of material published in FCC Reports. Hereafter, only those rulemaking decisions and policy statements summarized in the Federal Register and not published in Pike and Fischer (a private sector service which costs \$1,875 to inflate and \$1,375 for an annual subscription) will be published in FCC Reports. (FCC News, Report No. GN-9, February 24, 1986)

March Birth expectation data is missing from the current (June 1984) Fertility of American Women report from the Bureau of the Cen-

sus. The supplemental question required to obtain the information was dropped from the Current Population Survey in 1984 because of cost considerations. Martin O'Connell, Chief of the Fertility Statistics Branch at the Bureau, said that the birth expectation data will be provided through external funding sources in the 1985 and 1986 surveys. Collection of the birth expectation data will continue to depend on external funding sources unless the importance and use of these data are made known to the Bureau. (National State Data Center Steering Committee Newsletter, March)

March The House Appropriations Committee has directed the Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration to study charging user fees or contracting with private firms for its aviation information management activities, according to the March 3, 1988, issue of Aviation Daily. RSPA is turning data collection functions over to the Transportation Systems Center, which the Department wants to "privatize" in April 1986, according to RSPA Administrator Cythia Douglass. On April 1, RSPA announced that it will resume production and distribution of Air Carrier Traffic Statistics, Air Carrier Financial Statistics, and Air Carrier Industry Scheduled Service Traffic Statistics. Subscriptions to these publications will be sold by TSC for \$150, \$50, and \$50, respectively. When sold by the Government Printing Office, Air Traffic Statistics cost \$74 and Air Carrier Financial Statistics cost \$16.

March Budget cuts mandated by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings balanced budget measure brought on a fiscal emergency at the Library of Congress requiring the elimination of 300 positions, the reading rooms closed on Sundays and most evenings, and significantly fewer items purchased, cataloged, preserved, and made available to the blind. (March 4, Congressional Record, pp. E588-9)

March The federal government's spending on the collection of data about higher education declined by 83 percent between fiscal 1974 and 1984, and spending on education research dropped by 64 percent, according to a study by the General Accounting Office. In the same period, spending on the entire Department of Education rose by 22 percent. At the request of the House Subcommittee on Select Education, GAO is conducting a comprehensive study, expected to be completed by December, of the condition of federally sponsored education research and data collection. Early findings show that reductions in spending on the gathering of education statistics have been disproportionately higher than cutbacks in other statistical agencies. Between fiscal 1980 and 1984, the budgets of most federal agencies devoted to the collection of statistics suffered an eight percent reduction. The budget of the National Center for Education Statistics, however, shrank by 28 percent during that period. The GAO also found that in some instances NCES had decreased the sizes of its samples and the frequency of some types of data collection activities. That, it said, raised some concerns about the validity and quality of the work done by the agency. (The Chronicle of Higher Education, March 5)

March A federal health official phoned the Department of Health and Human Service's main library to ask for the March 13 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. He reported, "They said that because of Gramm-Rudman we no longer have that journal. "Can you imagine? The top federal health agency!" The HHS librarian, John Boyle, said: "I don't know whether it can be ascribed to Gramm-Rudman, but the department is holding orders. The subscription has expired and is awaiting renewal. We are waiting for money to be approved." (The Washington Post, March 28)

March The Joint Committee on Printing in a March 14 letter to every Representative and Senator, outlined the effects of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings 4.3 percent cut as of March 1 on the printing and distribution of congressional publications. They announced that the public will be referred to GPO bookstores to purchase congressional documents such as bills, public laws, reports, committee prints, hearing records, etc. (Ed. note: See May entry on this issue.) (Dear Colleague letter from Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., and Rep. Frank Annunzio)

March At a March 17 hearing, the Joint Economic Committee heard from private economists who said that the quality of the nation's economic statistics is in danger of being destroyed through a combination of budget cuts and bureaucratic neglect. One of the witnesses, Courtenay Slater, was the author of a study commissioned by the committee on problems with government statistics. For information about the report, "Opportunities for Improving Economic Statistics," contact the JEC, G-01 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510, 202/224-5771. (The Washington Post, March 16)

March The Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, have initiated a disinformation program which covers 15-20 programs, six or seven of which are Defense Department projects. Deliberately false, incomplete and misleading information, including altered technical information, will be released in order to impede the transfer of accurate technological information to the Soviet Union. A six-inch-thick document outlining the program to the armed services asks for comments "on the use of false requests for proposals, false or misleading information to be given at press interviews, inaccurate performance figures for aircraft and weapon systems, and other altered technical information." A Defense Department official said: "If some of the results of the disinformation activity on a particular program get passed on to Congress through hearings or other means, there are channels on the Hill that can be used to get the correct information to the people who need to know." (Aviation Week & Space Technology, March 17)

March In a March 26 letter to Sen. Mathias and Rep. Annunzio, ALA Washington Office Director Eileen Cooke protested that the JCP plans to sell all Congressional documents "...means that participation in an active, meaningful and timely way in the federal legislative process will now depend on the ability to pay." She asked the JCP to reconsider the recently announced restrictions on public access to basic congressional documents. Cooke sent a

letter May 6 to every Senator and Representative urging them to ask JCP to reconsider. Other groups have also protested, and there has been increasing publicity about the proposal in the Washington, D. C., area newspapers. (Ed. note: See May entry on this issue.) (See "Endless Reams of Legislative Paper May Be Yours...for a Price," The Washington Post, May 13)

March In a March 29 column in The Washington Post, Jack Anderson and Joseph Spear described the National Wartime Information Security Program (WISP), "the blueprint for press censorship." The broad sweep envisioned for WISP was described in an internal Pentagon memo prepared for a meeting of government planners on September 21, 1983: "The National WISP provides for the control and examination of communications entering, leaving, transiting or touching the borders of the United States, and voluntary withholding from publication, by the domestic public media industries, of military and other information which should not be released in the interest of the safety and defense of the United States and its allies." The memo included a bow to the First Amendment: WISP was not to be used indiscriminately---for example, "as a guardian of public morals." Anderson and Spear concluded: "The alarming thing about the Pentagon directive is that it allows the defense secretary to set up a censorship program 'if the United States is believed about to be attacked.' Attacked by whom? The Soviet Union? Libyan hit squads? Killer bees? The directive does not specify. All the defense secretary needs is the president's permission and the news-media is silenced---at gunpoint if necessary."

April At the request of Rep. Major Owens (D-NY), the House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee chaired by Rep. William Ford (D-MI) held a library oversight hearing on April 8 on OMB Circular A-130 and its implications for access to government information; H.J.Res. 244, calling for a White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1989; and the impact of Administration budget proposals for federal library programs (including LSCA, HEA, the ECIA Chapter 2 school block grant, and postal revenue forgone).

April The Council on Environmental Quality decided to abolish a rule that requires federal agencies to consider the worst environmental consequences of their actions, contending that the regulation is "unproductive and ineffective." The decision caps a three-year Reagan Administration effort to limit the reach of the National Environmental Policy Act. Since 1970, NEPA has required federal agencies to prepare detailed analyses of the environmental effects of dams, nuclear waste disposal sites, pesticide-spraying programs and other federally financed projects. Final regulations were published in the April 25, Federal Register, p. 15618, with corrections on May 7, p. 16846. National Wildlife Federation official Norman Dean said the change significantly weakens existing rules, which require agencies to disclose the absence of information in all instances. "The fact that information is missing in the first place makes it almost impossible to determine if a significant impact is reasonably foreseeable," he said. "Under the new rule, an agency wouldn't even have to identify the fact

that information is missing," Dean observed. (The Washington Post, May 25)

April The Commerce Department announced a study of alternatives for privatizing the National Technical Information Service in the April 28 Federal Register, pp. 15868-70. The notice asked for public comment on privatization alternatives (discontinuing NTIS completely, selling or contracting out all or portions, establishing a public or private special-purpose organization) and on ten key issues including whether government reports placed in NTIS should be copyrighted. In a June 6 letter to the Department of Commerce, ALA Washington Office Director Eileen Cooke urged that NTIS continue to operate either as, or within, a not-for-profit public service agency with continued Congressional oversight.

April Rep. Glenn English (D-OK) chaired an April 29 hearing of the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information, Justice and Agriculture, to review a controversy about public access to the papers and recordings of the Nixon White House. The National Archives and Records Administration published regulations implementing the Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act of 1974 in the February 28 Federal Register, p. 7228. Officials from NARA, OMB, and the Department of Justice were questioned about a February 18 Justice memorandum (requested by OMB) which basically allows former President Nixon to control public access to documents of his administration. (OMB Watch, May 9)

May The Reagan Administration is considering the criminal prosecution of five news organizations for publishing information about American intelligence-gathering operations, particularly intercepted communication reflecting U. S. code-breaking capabilities. "The president himself first revealed the nature of these intercepted messages," said Leonard Downie, Jr., managing editor of The Washington Post. "What we reported subsequent to that---details of the intercepts---did not do anything more to reveal our intelligence capabilities than the president himself did." (The Washington Post, May 7)

May Speaking to a group of students on May 21, President Reagan said that the problem of hunger in the United States is caused by "a lack of knowledge" about where to obtain help. Critics responded by blaming administration policies. J. Larry Brown of the Harvard School of Public Health, chairman of the Physicians Task Force on Hunger in America, said the Administration had eliminated a program to inform people about food stamps benefits. (The Washington Post, May 22)

May A public notice in the May 22 Congressional Record, p. H3161, announced that effective June 2 new procedures for public distribution of congressional documents would be instituted at the House and Senate Document Rooms. Public distribution of both House and Senate materials will be handled only through the Senate Document Room located in Room B-04, Hart Senate Office Building. The public will be entitled to receive one free copy of

any bill, report, resolution, public law or other document typically distributed in the Document Room. Additional copies may be purchased. The public still may obtain copies of committee prints and hearings from individual committees. Once the committee supply of each document has been exhausted, the public may purchase additional copies from GPO's Congressional Sales Office, North Capitol and G Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20401.

May "The Pentagon, concerned with the flow of high technology to the Soviet bloc, is trying to limit foreign access to government and commercial computer data bases that contain sensitive technical information. A range of legal and technological options are now under exploration, from licensing access to high-tech data bases to planting special computer programs within the data bases to monitor who is seeking what information. Government officials concede, however, that they face formidable obstacles in devising a workable system, including such questions as whether data bases enjoy the same constitutional protections as other media and how to implement restrictions in ways that won't deny data-base benefits to American users." (The Washington Post, May 27)

June OMB has agreed to fuller disclosure of its role in reviewing proposed federal regulations. All original versions of draft and final rules sent to OMB will now be made public upon request, along with OMB's written suggested changes and reasons for them. At present, only the published version of a rule---in which OMB's revisions cannot be tracked---is available. Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) said: "No longer will OMB operate within the shade-drawn, doors-closed, no-fingerprints environment in which it has operated for the past five years." Sen. David F. Durenberger (R-MN), and Reps. John D. Dingell (D-MI) and Jack Brooks (D-TX) are other leaders of a bipartisan group of congressmen who are threatening to cut OMB funding by the \$5.4 million required to run the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, currently headed by Wendy Lee Gramm. (The Washington Post, June 17)

June At a joint hearing on June 18 of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, members of the Postal Rate Commission presented results of a congressionally mandated preferred rate mail study. Among their recommendations are: 1) recalculating the revenue forgone in a way which would reduce the appropriation by some \$265 million a year; 2) eliminating the revenue forgone appropriation entirely (except for the small amount needed for free mail for the blind and free voting-rights mail) by amending the rate-making statute to provide separate subclasses for the eligible nonprofit mailers; and 3) restricting eligibility for advertising or commercialized uses of the nonprofit rates. The report recommends ending eligibility for publishers and distributors for books and other qualifying material they mail to libraries and other eligible institutions.