



ALA Washington Newsletter

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- 6) Resolution on Freedom of Information Day, March 16
- 7) Resolution on the Glenerin Declaration (for text of declaration, see December 10, 1987, Federal Register, pp. 46980-81)

Congressional Schedule

The second session of the 100th Congress convened January 25. The Senate will experiment with a new schedule this year in which three full weeks in session will be followed by a week for work in the home state. Election year events will shorten the session, with recesses for the Democratic (July 18-22) and Republican (August 15-19) National Conventions, and adjournment in early October to campaign. Recess periods for the House and Senate are scheduled as follows:

House

February 11-15

April 1-10

May 28-31

July 1-5

July 15-25

August 12-September 6

October 5, Adjournment target date

Senate

February 8-12

March 7-11

April 1-8

May 2-6

May 30-June 3

June 30-July 5

July 18-22

August 15-September 6

October 8, Adjournment target date

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National Technical Information Service

The Department of Commerce announced plans to issue a request for proposals to privatize the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) in the January 6 Commerce Business Daily. The Department intends to privatize the NTIS functions under the Federal Employee Direct Corporate Stock Ownership Plan (Fed Co-Op) concept, under which federal employees would exchange their government jobs for salaried positions with a contractor and be provided stock in the new firm. A conference with potential bidders is scheduled for January 29.

Both the House and Senate have passed a prohibition against further contracting out by NTIS in separate legislation. However, final legislative action has not taken place on either the House-passed HR 2160, the National Bureau of Standards Authorization Act, nor the Senate-passed trade bill, HR 3 with text of S. 1420. An October 1986 Commerce Department report, "Privatization Proposal for the National Technical Information Service," concluded that extensive privatization would present substantial "policy costs and risks, those associated with U.S. competitiveness, national security, technology transfer, intellectual property rights and the availability of scientific and technical information."

ACTION NEEDED: Despite congressional disapproval of additional contracting out of NTIS, the Commerce Department and OMB are taking specific steps to privatize NTIS. Contact legislators, especially those on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. Inform them of these NTIS privatization developments and urge final action quickly on the House and Senate actions prohibiting further contracting out of NTIS.

Federal Historical Programs Directory

A comprehensive guide to historical activities and programs has recently been published by the Society for History in the Federal Government, the American Historical Association, and the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History. The only complete guide to federal historical activities in Washington and around the country, the Directory of Federal Historical Programs and Activities may be obtained at \$6 each from the American Historical Association, 400 A Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Federal Register Notices

Math/Science Grants. February 26 is the deadline for applications for awards under the Secretary of Education's Discretionary Program for Mathematics, Science, Computer Learning, and Critical Foreign Languages. Local education agencies, higher education institutions, and nonprofit organizations are eligible for grants to improve the quality of instruction. See the January 4 Federal Register, pp. 65-66.

Postal. The U.S. Postal Service, effective December 24, will attempt to forward all fourth-class mail unless the sender specifically endorses the package to the contrary. See the December 24 Federal Register, pp. 48683-85.

NSF. The National Science Foundation published in the December 30 Federal Register, p. 49216, a revised Statement of Organization effective December 18 which includes a description of the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering, including the Division of Networking and Communications Research and

Infrastructure, which includes a Networking and Communications Research Program. This program supports research in networking and communication theory, including such topics as digital communications networks, communications and information theory, etc.

Consultants. The Office of Management and Budget published in the January 12 Federal Register, pp. 768-71, a revision to Circular A-120, Guidelines for the Use of Consulting Services. The guidelines, effective immediately, expand the coverage of the circular and exempt from it all activities carried out under Circular A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities.

GSA. An advance notice was published in the January 11 Federal Register, pp. 620-21, regarding plans of the General Services Administration to reorganize and rewrite the Federal Information Resources Management Regulation (FIRMR). Comments on the FIRMR Improvement Project are due by March 11.

"Classifiable". The Information Security Oversight Office published in the December 21 Federal Register, p. 48367 (with corrections in the December 30 FR, p. 49250), a clarification of the definition of the term "classifiable information" as used in Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreements SF 189 and SF 189-A. The final rule says in part: "'Classifiable information' does not refer to currently unclassified information that may be subject to possible classification at some future date, but is not currently in the process of a classification determination."

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

A 1987 Chronology: June - December

During the past six 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, as amended by PL 99-500), 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.

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?

During 1987, a government policy of secrecy was demonstrated in the Iran-Contra affair and in obligatory employee secrecy agreements. The Federal Bureau of Investigation asked librarians to report on foreigners using certain libraries. At the same time, the federal government is contracting out the operation of more and more of its libraries to foreign-owned private companies.

The American Library Association 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 this series of actions which creates a climate in which government information activities are suspect. Previous "Less Access..." chronologies were compiled in two ALA Washington Office publications covering the period April 1981 to December 1986. The following update continues the chronology published in June 1987.

June 1987

Two scientists hired by the Public Health Service to prepare a report for Congress on lead poisoning in children resigned in protest, contending that PHS plans to delete and dilute critical portions of their work. The scientists said that their draft report, which details the adverse health effects of lead at blood levels common to 17 percent of urban preschool children, suggested the need for more far-reaching and costly remedies than the Administration is willing to consider. They said a condensed version of a draft sent out for review fails to present the national scope of an environmental problem once thought to be confined to poor, inner-city dwellers and to detail the health consequences.

"No way in hell you can comprehend the complexity of this problem in a boiled down, very misleading, essentially neutral document," said author Paul Mushak, adjunct professor of environmental pathology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. "It's one of the most subtle, nastiest rewrites I've ever seen," said coauthor Annemarie Crocetti, retired associate professor of community medicine at New York Medical College. Frank Mitchell, chief medical officer of the PHS' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, said the 330-page draft has been cut to 46 pages to create a "readable, usable" document for Congress complete with all vital findings. "We're not suppressing anything," Mitchell said. The excised charts, appendices and judgments of the two authors will be made available to Congress as "backup data," he said. Another omission in the condensed version was the 16-page bibliography and extensive references in the draft. ("Authors Protest Report on Lead Poisoning," The Washington Post, June 13)

June

Nearly a quarter of the regulations proposed by agencies and departments across the government were changed at the behest of the Office of Management and Budget before they were issued, according to OMB statistics. As a result, OMB influence over government regulation appears to be increasing. In 1981, 87.3 percent of all regulations went through the OMB review process without change. Last year, the figure was 68.3 percent. OMB officials said that a third of the changes are insignificant, a few are last-minute alterations offered by the departments and agencies, and others are statistical aberrations. Some lawmakers argue that OMB's economists, statisticians and lawyers have acquired near-veto power over the scientists, engineers, and technical experts who write regulations in the agencies. They said that public health and safety are eroded when rules are watered down and standards are eased to save money or meet theoretical economic considerations.

The Administration said it has cut back on the rate of new regulations substantially. The number of pages in the Federal Register, the official vehicle for new rules, has been reduced from 87,012 in 1980 to 47,418 last year. The number of proposed rules has been cut by 2,000, and the number of final rules by 3,000, according to OMB statistics. ("OMB Cracks Whip on Rule-Making," The Washington Post, June 17)

June Congressional investigators are trying to determine why five top secret National Security Council documents were released from a special protective file November 21, 1986, routed to then-White House aide Oliver North, substantially rewritten at his direction and returned four days later without questions being raised about the alterations. Fawn Hall, North's former secretary, testified that she made alterations, destroyed the originals and made copies of the new documents on a letterhead that had not been in use in 1985. ("Release of 5 Documents From NSC Probed," The Washington Post, June 19)

June Under rules set to take effect July 1, three major agencies-- Defense, General Services Administration and National Aeronautics and Space Administration--propose to divorce themselves from long-standing printing regulations that have buttressed both the Joint Committee on Printing's and the Government Printing Office's controls on government printing. The proposed rules which were published in the March 20 Federal Register, pp. 9036-39, would let the individual agencies make many of the decisions the committee and GPO now make. According to congressional sources, if the three agencies are allowed to bypass the committee and GPO, other agencies are likely to follow.

Members of the joint committee demanded that the three agencies drop their plans for new printing rules. But the agencies notified the panel in mid-June that they were proceeding and questioned both the committee's and GPO's ability to stop them. Administration officials contend that OMB, which has trimmed the government's overall printing bills sharply, would continue to exercise control over what the government prints. OMB Watch, a citizen's group that monitors OMB actions, said: "Without some kind of congressional oversight mechanism, OMB's supervision of executive branch information activities will lead to less information for Congress as well as the public." In a memo this spring, the Congressional Research Service noted that Congress insisted on direct control over printing in 1846 because it believed that was the way to end scandals over printing contracts. Committee powers were broadened in 1895 and have gone without major challenge until a 1983 Supreme Court ruling striking down legislative vetoes. ("Hill Pressed to Ease Grip Over Printing," The Washington Post, June 19)

June The Federal Statistical Directory, which is in its second edition as a private-sector publication, now costs 550 percent more than it did when it was last a government document and is no longer available through the Depository Library Program. When the Government Printing Office sold the 1979 edition, the most recent available from the government, it charged \$5. The current privatized edition costs \$32.50. Although for 45 years the directory helped researchers identify and locate the people and agencies who can provide essential statistical information, OMB scrapped the government book as an unnecessary publication. (Publisher's advertisement provided current price.)

July 1987 OMB requested public comment on a draft revision of OMB Circular A-25, User Charges, in the July 1 Federal Register,

pp. 24890-92. In a letter to OMB, ALA Washington Office Director Eileen D. Cooke stated that ALA would strongly object to the policies of full cost recovery and market pricing spelled out in the draft if those policies were applied to government information products and services since full recovery of costs attendant to the creation, collection, processing and transmission of government information will restrict access by the public to that information. She noted that the draft of A-25 appears to indicate that OMB Circular A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources, "...shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this Circular." OMB Circular A-130 requires user charges for costs of dissemination of government information, but refers to Circular A-25--in effect, a circular circular.

Cooke also stated that ALA is disturbed that the ultimate beneficiary will no longer be considered in determining when no charge should be made for services. The current A-25, which dates from 1959, provides that no charge should be made for services when the identification of the ultimate beneficiary is obscure and the service can be primarily considered as broadly benefiting the general public. The draft A-25 turns that policy on its head by stipulating that no charge should be made for services when the identification of the specific beneficiary is obscure. (Letter from Eileen D. Cooke to Ellen Balis, OMB Budget Review Division, July 31)

July According to military and congressional sources, senior Pentagon officials, seeking internal approval for a tentative plan to deploy ballistic missile defenses in the mid-1990s, pressured an advisory panel to omit sharp criticism of the plan in a recent key scientific report. A secret report by a Defense Science Board panel concluded that the Pentagon's Strategic Defense Initiative deployment plan was so "sketchy" that neither its price nor its effectiveness could be determined. This criticism and a recommendation that the board withhold deployment-plan approval for a year or two were omitted from a version of the report given to the Defense Acquisition Board, the Pentagon's senior decision makers on new weapons systems. ("Science Panel's SDI Criticism Omitted From Report," The Washington Post, July 9 and "Defense Science Board Report on SDI," The Washington Post, July 10)

July Testifying on behalf of the American Library Association, Dr. Harold B. Shill of West Virginia University, documented that user costs in accessing government databases through private information vendors are often substantially higher than those incurred in using databases stored in government computers. Government information re-packaged by the private sector is also usually expensive for end users. An appendix attached to his testimony showed that the average cost of government information databases provided through DIALOG by the private sector is \$93.26, while databases provided directly to DIALOG by the collecting agencies costs \$45.70 per connect hour. Privatization more than doubles the cost to end users. (Hearings on Scientific and Technical Information: Policy and Organization in the Federal Government [HR 2159 and HR 1615], House Committee on

July Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology, 100th Congress, 1st Session, July 14 and 15, 1987)

July In an opinion piece in The Chronicle of Higher Education, Gerhard L. Weinberg argued that the only realistic solution to the practical problems of declassifying the enormous volume of records generated by the modern state is to set up a system of automatic declassification which in this country would be done by amending the Federal Records Act. Under such a system, every document that is classified would have a declassification schedule, including dates. No further review of the document would be needed unless the declassification were to be either speeded up or postponed. Weinberg said that the United States at one time led the way among nations in making its records openly and promptly accessible to its citizens on the assumption that in a democracy the government's records are the public's records. "Republican and Democratic Administrations alike worked toward reasserting the principle that the people should have access to the records of their government, and instituted practical administrative and budgetary procedures to accomplish that end. The declassification process was dramatically and emphatically reversed on August 1, 1982, when a new executive order on security classification took effect." ("With Secret Records Growing Some 7 Million Pages a Year, We Desperately Need an Automatic Declassification System," The Chronicle Of Higher Education, July 15)

July Former national security adviser John M. Poindexter told Congress during the Iran-Contra hearings that on December 5, 1985, President Reagan signed a "finding" that, after the fact, authorized a secret arms-for-hostage deal with Iran. The White House has said that Reagan cannot remember signing the document, and it has never been found because, as Poindexter testified on November 21, 1986, as the scandal was coming to light, he personally tore it up and put it in a basket of materials to be burned. Poindexter said he destroyed the document "because I thought it was a significant political embarrassment and I wanted to protect him." ("Poindexter Says President Not Told of Diversion," The Washington Post, July 16)

July Entreated by the White House, columnists Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta held a story that President Reagan had confidentially confirmed the existence of the secret Iran initiative to them in a February 24, 1986, interview. "Convinced that a dangerous disinformation campaign was in progress, we began revealing pieces of the secret Iranian initiative--and finally stated it flat-out in a column on June 29, 1986. 'We can now reveal that the secret negotiations over arms supply and release of American hostages have involved members of the National Security Council and a former official of the CIA,' the column reported. It remained for an obscure Lebanese magazine and a top Iranian official to confirm our story last November." ("Reagan Interview Worried Poindexter," The Washington Post, July 29)

July A Social Security Administration worker in Baltimore responsible for assessing the performance of caseworkers told a House Government Operations subcommittee that she was pressured repeatedly by higher-ups to "stop finding deficiencies" and to falsify the accuracy of her ratings. Ann Mogenhan, a 13-year employee of the Office of Disability Operations, told Congress that her managers discouraged her from conducting tough assessments of caseworkers, beginning in 1983, for fear of lessening output and jeopardizing their own merit raises. "I was told by several different managers on numerous occasions to provide false accuracy statistics on individuals whose production was high, since charging errors caused them to drastically reduce their production," Mogenhan said. She was among ten current and former Social Security Administration workers and advocates of beneficiaries who testified about the adverse impact of major staffing reductions and administrative changes in the 1300 SSA offices throughout the country. Critics contend that the cutbacks have resulted in shoddy work, unanswered telephone calls, large backlogs of applications and administrative appeal rulings, and far less personal assistance for mentally and physically handicapped people in filling out forms. Those allegations were disputed by Social Security Commissioner Dorcas R. Hardy and her top aides. ("Social Security Service Scored on Hill," The Washington Post, July 29)

July OMB asked the Census Bureau to eliminate about half the proposed questions on the 1988 Decennial Census Dress Rehearsal for the 1990 Census, roughly 30 questions, including all questions about housing value and rents, population mobility, energy, unemployment and fertility. "OMB is coming in and taking the guts out of a lot of [the Census]," said Randy Arndt of the National League of Cities. "This would have a devastating effect on the ability of local governments to measure and evaluate trends." But OMB cites the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, which gives it authority over all forms people have to answer for the government. ("Census Questions in Question," USA TODAY, July 30)

August 1987 The Joint Economic Committee, chaired by Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), held a hearing on August 7 to examine the potential effects of the OMB proposal to eliminate or shift questions in the Census dress rehearsal. Two panels representing users were unanimous in criticizing the OMB. Rachel VanWingen, government documents librarian at Georgetown University, representing ALA concluded: "Wise policy decisions are difficult to make in the face of uncertainty; they're impossible to make in the dark. There's no reason to be in the dark. The Bureau of the Census exists with a mandate to collect statistics in the national interest." ("OMB 'Unable to Approve' Dress Rehearsal, Proposes Alterations," News from COPAFS, August-September 1987)

August The Reagan Administration published a definition of "classifiable" in the August 11 Federal Register, p. 29793, to clarify a controversial secrecy pledge required of civilian and military personnel with access to classified information. The secrecy agreement, which already has been signed by an estimated two million

persons in 67 agencies since the Administration began using it in January, has been criticized by members of Congress and some government employees who believe it is intended to stifle the flow of information from the executive branch. The form requires the employee to pledge not to disclose either "classified" or "classifiable" information. Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-IA) said that the term "classifiable" could "mean anything. It will have a chilling effect on those working for government who will not disclose anything for fear that at a later date it might turn out to have been classified." At the center of the row is form SF 189, which springs from a controversial National Security Decision Directive issued by the Reagan Administration in 1983 that authorized polygraph testing and required prepublication reviews. ("Secrecy-Vow Change to Be Aired," The Washington Post, August 11 and "Taking the Pledge," The Washington Post, August 28)

August

The Air Force, bucking Administration policy, for more than a year has required all its employees--including thousands with no access to secrets--to sign a controversial new security pledge. The Air Force obtained 750,000 signatures between July 1986 and June 1987 of which at least 150,000 apparently came from employees without security clearances. A Reagan Administration regulation forbids federal agencies to solicit signatures from employees who do not have security clearances, and therefore have no access to classified data. The Administration recently announced it would halt the withdrawal of security clearances from employees refusing to sign the form pending the outcome of a lawsuit challenging the pledge. However, agencies are to continue requesting employees to sign the form. ("Air Force Oversteps Security Policy," The Washington Post, August 24)

Secrecy pledges signed by an estimated 150,000 Air Force personnel without any access to secrets will be destroyed. ("Air Force Cuts Back on Secrecy Pledges," Times-Herald [Newport News, Va.], August 31)

August

Pentagon budget cutters have decided to stop publishing the Defense Management Journal, the scholarly award-winning magazine that covered subjects from computers to managing sick leave. Defense considers the publication too costly. ("Thrift Savings Plan Grows," The Washington Post, August 13)

August

In the last few years, as computers have become ever more sophisticated and numerous, federal officials have become increasingly concerned about unclassified data. They fear that foreign citizens might harm national security by extracting valuable scientific and technical information from the huge volume of unclassified material accessible in computers. In a 1984 directive, President Reagan likened information to a mosaic, saying that bits of unclassified data, innocuous in isolation, "can reveal highly classified and other sensitive information when taken in aggregate." The government, the directive said, shall encourage, advise and, where appropriate, assist the private sector to protect "sensitive non-Government information, the loss of which could adversely affect the national security."

Described in the article are author Tom Clancy's methods in using unclassified materials to research his best-selling novels. He believes that it is unwise for the government to try to restrict access to unclassified information in the public domain. "One of the reasons we are so successful is that we have a free society with open access to information. If you change that, if you try to close off the channels of information, we'll end up just like the Russians, and their society does not work. The best way to turn America into another Russia is to emulate their methods of handling information." ("Washington Feeling Insecure About Non-Secret Information," The New York Times, August 30)

September 1987

The American Federation of Government Employees filed suit against the government on September 1 charging that mandatory secrecy pledges violate employees' constitutional rights. The lawsuit asks the court to declare the pledges illegal and to rescind the secrecy agreements signed by more than two million federal employees. The union argues that the restrictions interfere with employees' freedom of speech and that they will inhibit employees who want to blow the whistle on fraud, waste and abuse in government. Two types of secrecy pledges are at issue.

The more common pledge, which applies to 3½ to 4 million government employees and contractors with access to classified information, requires those workers to promise not to disclose classified or "classifiable" information. That pledge, known as Standard Form 189, is overseen by the Information Security Oversight Office, a part of the General Services Administration. The second pledge, which applies only to employees with the highest-level clearances--those covering Sensitive Compartmented Information--requires such workers to sign a lifetime pledge stating that they will obtain approval from government censors for any book, speech or publication, including fictionalized accounts, dealing with classified material. That pledge, known as Form 4193, applies to about 150,000 current workers with SCI clearances and is overseen by the Central Intelligence Agency. ("Secrecy Pledges Challenged Openly," The Washington Post, September 2)

September

Army Lt. General William E. Odom, director of the National Security Agency, the nation's most secret spy agency, said the federal government should prosecute news organizations that publish sensitive information. He said news leaks in the last several years have crippled U.S. intelligence-gathering capabilities in some parts of the world. Odom also criticized the Reagan Administration for its torrent of leaks and some U.S. officials for failing to have the "appropriate level of paranoia" about Soviet espionage efforts. He singled out James Bamford's 1982 book on the National Security Agency, The Puzzle Palace, for having "done more damage to us than almost anything I can think of." Odom believes Bamford and others publishing such material should be prosecuted under a 1950 law barring disclosure of U.S. "communication intelligence activities," but acknowledged that government officials who tell reporters about

sensitive intelligence findings are just as guilty as those who publish them. ("Chief of Spy Agency Criticizes News Leaks," Chicago Tribune, September 3)

September OMB ended weeks of dispute with the Census Bureau by ordering it to drop three of about 70 questions the bureau had proposed for the next census, and to use seven others only on a "long form" that goes to a limited sample of houses. The three deleted questions involved fuels and household utilities. The seven permitted only on the long form involve housing. The OMB approved all proposed questions on fertility, transportation and labor market participation. OMB had received hundreds of letters which said that detailed information about local neighborhoods is vital in planning local transportation, housing and labor services, and is available only from the full decennial census. ("OMB Orders Several Questions Cut From Census," The Washington Post, September 17)

September Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have asked librarians in New York City to watch for and report on library users who might be diplomats of hostile powers recruiting intelligence agents or gathering information potentially harmful to United States security. The initiative upset library officials, who fear intrusions into the privacy and academic freedom of library users and who object to what they called an effort to turn librarians into government informers. FBI officials acknowledged that staff at fewer than 20 libraries, most of them academic rather than public, had been asked to cooperate with agents in a Library Awareness Program that is part of a national counterintelligence effort. ("Libraries Are Asked By F.B.I. to Report On Foreign Agents," The New York Times, September 18) [Note: ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee protested "this attempted infringement of the right to receive information protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the further attempted violation of the privacy rights of all library patrons" in an Extraordinary Memorandum from ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, October 1987.]

September Vietnam veteran Mike Rego has been trying for five years to learn more about an experimental drug he was treated with at a Veterans Administration hospital. He wonders whether it may have been a factor in his contraction of a fatal and incurable disease. But information about the drug, 6-aminonicotinamide, or 6-AN is scarce. No one, including the doctor who treated Rego with 6-AN, the Canadian manufacturer, the distributor and the Food and Drug Administration, which approved the drug for experimental use, will share their knowledge of 6-AN and its possible side effects. Hoping to learn whether other patients treated with 6-AN later contracted Lou Gehrig's disease, Rego asked the FDA for information. It was then, he claims, that he learned 6-AN was approved only for experimental use--and that, to protect the manufacturer's trade secrets, the FDA cannot release information on the drug. "I cannot respond to your request for information on the investigational uses" of 6-AN, associate FDA commissioner Jack Martin wrote to Rego, "since any acknowledgment...would constitute disclosure of confidential

commercial information." ("Drug Data Is Denied to Incurably Ill Man," The Washington Post, September 24)

September The number of publications issued each year by the new Commission on Civil Rights has declined significantly compared to the number issued by the old commission. The largest decline was in state advisory committee reports. The committees also produce documents called briefing memoranda--informal, unpublished, internal documents that describe for the commissioners the results of local community forums. These forums enable the advisory committees to identify and share with the commission how community leaders perceive local civil rights problems. The chairman of the commission believes that a count of publications was an inadequate measure of assessing effectiveness of the old and new commissions. The commission is an advisory body and the issuance of publications is the primary means by which it presents the results of its work to the public. ("U.S. Commission on Civil Rights: Commission Publications During Fiscal Years 1978-1986," GAO/GGD-87-117BR, September 25)

October 1987 The Reagan Administration engaged in illegal "covert propaganda activities" designed to influence the news media and the public to support its Central American policies, according to a report by the General Accounting Office released on October 4. The report said the State Department's Office of Public Diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean had violated a congressional ban on the use of taxpayers' money for unauthorized publicity and propaganda purposes in 1985. Rep. Dante Fascell (D-FL), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said, "It makes me wonder what else is still being hidden from Congress and the American people." ("GAO Accuses Administration of Illegal Latin Propaganda," The Washington Post, October 5)

October Testifying before a House subcommittee, Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), said: "We in Congress must ask ourselves this question: Is SF-189 a legitimate attempt to prevent disclosures of classified information, or is the Administration over-reaching its authority, seeking to gag public servants, in order to prevent embarrassing disclosures of waste and abuse?" His answer: "My personal involvement and dealings with executive branch officials on this matter indicate to me an attempt on their part to go way beyond the legitimate protection of classified information. Their intent, in my view, is to place a blanket of silence over all information generated by the government. It is a broad grab for power by any standard, and it begs to be addressed immediately by Congress." (Hearings on Standard Form 189, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, Subcommittee on Human Resources, 100th Congress, 1st Session, October 15, 1987)

October The contents of the still-classified National Security Decision Directive 192, signed by President Reagan in August 1985, concerning the "Star Wars" Strategic Defense Initiative were revealed in a book scheduled for release in November 1987. The book, The Arms Control Delusion by Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-WY) and Angelo Codevilla, was given official advance clearance by

the CIA. Columnist Jack Anderson commented: "Either the agency's reviewers overlooked the sensitive quotes, didn't realize how sensitive they were or knowingly approved the book's ad hoc declassification of a presidential document." ("Conservatives' Book Escapes Censor," The Washington Post, October 26)

October The Secretary of Defense issued policy and procedural guidance in the October 30 Federal Register, pp. 41707-10, for considering national security in the dissemination of Department of Defense-sponsored scientific and technical information at meetings, whether such meetings are conducted by the U.S. government or private organizations.

November 1987 In a special report aired on November 4, The Secret Government--The Constitution in Crisis, Bill Moyers characterized Oliver North's admission during the Iran-Contra hearings that he had misled Congress: "Oliver North had been the secret government's chronic liar, long on zeal for his president and the cause. But he was not the only zealot, not the only one to deceive. The hearings revealed a wholesale policy of secrecy shrouded in lies, of passion cloaked in fiction and deception." (Transcript available from Journal Graphics, Inc., 267 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007)

November The Supreme Court rescued the Internal Revenue Service from a sea of paperwork by making it easier for the IRS to withhold information sought under the Freedom of Information Act. The court ruled, 6 to 0, that the IRS may refuse to disclose certain records even if it were possible to delete everything linking those records to individual taxpayers. "This ruling means the [IRS] can turn down just about any FOIA request," said Paul B. Stephan III, a University of Virginia law professor who studied the case which involved the Church of Scientology in a dispute with the IRS. ("Court Eases Way for IRS to Withhold Information," The Washington Post, November 11)

November In an extraordinary secret order, President Reagan declared that if Congress failed to provide satisfactory funding and support for his Strategic Defense Initiative, he would abandon the traditional interpretation of the U.S.-Soviet Antiballistic Missile Treaty, which has been accepted by every president since the treaty was signed in 1972. The secret document--which Members of Congress were never meant to see--was National Security Decision Directive 192 signed in August 1985. The directive laid the theoretical groundwork for reinterpreting the ABM Treaty. From there, it was but a step to Reagan's order in December 1986 to proceed with the Zenith Star laser program. ("And Then There Was Zenith Star," The Washington Post, November 15)

November During Senate debate (November 12, Congressional Record, p. S16219), Sen. Alphonse D'Amato (R-NY) said that "a good name for OMB would be 'the Office of Disinformation.'" He accused OMB of "twisting the figures when they see fit, cutting the programs they may disagree with, shirking their responsibilities by failing to communicate forthrightly with the committees and the Members attempting to work something out, but really

looking to see how they can sabotage those programs they are opposed to--the ideologs, OMB. They are not elected to run the country." Sen. D'Amato made his remarks during debate on a major housing bill. ("Senate Nears Vote on a Housing Bill; Reagan Vows Veto," The New York Times, November 16)

November The findings and conclusions in the executive summary of the report of the congressional committee investigating the Iran-Contra affair contain the following excerpts:

The common ingredients of the Iran and Contra policies were secrecy, deception, and disdain for the law. A small group of senior officials believed that they alone knew what was right. They viewed knowledge of their actions by others in the Government as a threat to their objectives. They told neither the Secretary of State, the Congress nor the American people of their actions. When exposure was threatened, they destroyed official documents and lied to Cabinet officials, to the public, and to elected representatives in Congress. They testified that they even withheld key facts from the President.

The United States Constitution specifies the process by which laws and policy are to be made and executed. Constitutional process is the essence of our democracy and our democratic form of Government is the basis of our strength. Time and again we have learned that a flawed process leads to bad results, and that a lawless process leads to worse....

The confusion, deception, and privatization which marked the Iran-Contra Affair were the inevitable products of an attempt to avoid accountability. Congress, the Cabinet, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff were denied information and excluded from the decision-making process. Democratic procedures were disregarded.

Officials who make public policy must be accountable to the public. But the public cannot hold officials accountable for policies of which the public is unaware. Policies that are known can be subjected to the test of reason, and mistakes can be corrected after consultation with the Congress and deliberation within the Executive branch itself. Policies that are secret become the private preserve of the few, mistakes are inevitably perpetuated, and the public loses control over Government....

The very premise of democracy is that "we the people" are entitled to make our own choices on fundamental policies. But freedom of choice is illusory if policies are kept, not only from the public, but from its elected representatives.

(Report of the Congressional Committees Investigating the Iran-Contra Affair With Supplemental, Minority, and Additional Views, 100th Congress, 1st Session, H. Rept. No. 100-433 and S. Rept. No. 100-216, November 1987)

December 1987 Jane E. Kirtley, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and Paul K. McMasters, chairman of the freedom of information committee of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, testifying before the House Committee on Government Operations, Subcommittee on Information, Justice and Agriculture, accused the Justice Department of refusing to enforce the Freedom of Information Act. Kirtley and McMasters urged Congress to create an independent agency to resolve disputes over access to government files. Kirtley said the obstacles faced by reporters in obtaining government information had increased because of the Reagan Administration's "general proclivity toward secrecy" and the lack of an effective enforcement agency. Rep. Glenn English (D-OK), subcommittee chair, agreed: "Justice seems to be doing all they can to undermine the intent of the Freedom of Information Act." ("2 Say Officials Withhold Data," The New York Times, December 2)

December Although more than a quarter of all government publications have bitten the dust since the Reagan Administration took office, the surviving 12,000 are fodder for continuing controversy over whether the campaign has gone far enough or too far, whether it has gone after the fattest targets or whether it has mowed down some useful consumer publications while leaving the more ideologically oriented publications intact. An article by Judith Havemann presented a case study of one of the most controversial remaining publications, Management, a slick, glossy publication of the Office of Personnel Management. Alan K. Campbell, the founder of Management, describes the publication conceived as an academic journal for government executives as today "a little heavy on the ideology." But Herb Berkowitz, public relations director of the Heritage Foundation, said that Management is "probably the best publication put out by the government." Asked whether it should exist, he said he would be "happy to see them do away with every taxpayer-supported publication."

Management sells 25,003 copies at a bulk rate, has 2,600 subscribers at \$13 a year, goes to 819 libraries, and is given away to 4,000 reporters and others by OPM. When Reagan cracked down on government printing, OPM Director Constance J. Horner was required to justify Management's existence every year to OMB. She had to "certify in writing that it is necessary in the transaction of public business required by law of the department, office or establishment." The critics of Management said its very existence shows how political the process is. ("Management Magazine: House Organ With a 'Spin,'" The Washington Post, December 2)

December A secret appendix to the arms treaty signed by President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev reveals that the United States has deployed dozens more medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe than it has previously acknowledged, U.S. officials said. The 114-page treaty appendix, which the Reagan Administration decided to withhold from the public without offering an explanation, also reveals that the Soviets currently have 15 percent fewer medium-range missiles than the Adminis-

tration has publicly stated in recent weeks. The government's decision not to release the document was made at the request of Pentagon officials who argued that the disclosure could invite terrorist attacks on the U.S. military bases it identifies, according to senior U.S. officials. But other U.S. officials, including Secretary of State George P. Shultz and the chief U.S. negotiator of the INF pact, Maynard W. Glitman, have argued that the terrorist threat is minimal because U.S. nuclear warheads are not typically stored with the weapons deployment sites listed. Shultz and Glitman have protested the Administration's decision, which was also opposed by the Soviets. Gennadi Gerasimov, chief spokesman of the Soviet foreign ministry, said he plans to publish the document in a Ministry of Foreign Affairs bulletin that he edits. ("U.S. Deployed More Missiles Than Disclosed," The Washington Post, December 10)

December Public Printer Ralph Kennickell, in a December 10 letter to Joint Committee on Printing Chairman Rep. Frank Annunzio (D-IL), says he will "seek proposals from interested vendors in the information services industry...for dissemination of government publications to depository libraries...at little or no cost to the government possibly because of the development or enhancement of the vendor's commercial interests." GPO would "supply the successful information service provider with government publication data tapes, at no charge, for loading onto its own computers. The information would be retrievable on-line from terminals in a test group of depository libraries, where information searches would be conducted for citizens without charge." The number of online access hours available to test libraries would be limited. An RFP would be announced by February 1, 1988. Kennickell's letter indicates that because "it appears that Congress will be denying our request for an additional \$800,000" for pilot projects, he is seeking to use existing resources to comply with the JCP's desire to test electronic formats in depository libraries. The letter did not address potential changes in the nature of the Depository Library Program and possible proprietary control of government information by the private-sector vendor.

December The Senate Iran-Contra Committee released a newly discovered White House computer note from early 1986 in which then-national security adviser John M. Poindexter said that Vice President George Bush was "solid" in support of a "risky operation" to sell arms to Iran to gain release of U.S. hostages. The notes were turned up by a new search of the NSC computer sought by the Iran-Contra Congressional Committees last summer. Originally blocked by White House officials, the panels, with the House taking the lead, were finally permitted to test a program designed to recover messages which senders thought they had destroyed. The Senate panel said that 96 new notes had been turned up of which the three released contained the only new information. ("Bush Was 'Solid' Backer of Iran Deal, Note Says," The Washington Post, December 8)

December People for the American Way assailed the Reagan Administration for an "obsession with secrecy" and said an opinion poll shows

that a majority of Americans believe "the government is not open enough." In a 142-page report, Government Secrecy: Decisions Without Democracy, the Administration is criticized for issuing more than 280 "secret laws," increasing the Pentagon's "black budget" for secret projects to at least \$22 billion, binding millions of federal employees to secrecy contracts and reversing a 30-year trend toward fewer classified documents. The group denounced the "extraordinary power" of OMB and decried its authority to decide which government publications are released, to set up information-collection policies for all federal agencies and to rewrite federal regulations. ("Administration Accused of Secrecy Obsession," The Washington Post, December 18)

December

According to a GAO report to be published on December 21, the veil of secrecy surrounding trading in the Treasury and agency securities market should be lifted. Although the Treasury securities market is the most active in the world, with more than \$100 billion of trades a day, there is no central exchange where prices and trades are listed as in the stock market. Instead, trading is handled through brokers acting as middlemen between major banks and securities firms. Individual investors, pension funds and insurance companies that are customers of the banks and securities dealers have only partial knowledge about the wholesale prices of government securities. While the Treasury and Federal Reserve endorsed the GAO report, the Securities and Exchange Commission said the conclusions were too cautious.

Richard G. Ketchum, director of the division of market regulation at the SEC, said a specific deadline should be established for broadening access to price information. He noted that established customers of the brokers already have full access to price and trading information and may not find it in their best interests to make that information available to their trading competitors and customers. He recalled that in the stock market, the SEC had to invoke its authority to force securities dealers to publish the price quotes and trade information on over-the-counter stocks. If brokers do not move to broaden trading access within two years, the SEC said the issue ought to be taken up by regulators or Congress. ("Data Urged on Trading Securities," The New York Times, December 21)

December

Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-IN) disclosed that in a newly discovered White House computer note, former national security adviser Robert McFarlane discussed the purging of National Security Council files around the time the Iran-Contra affair erupted in late 1986. Hamilton, chairman of the House Iran-Contra panel, said the note confirms previous evidence that "McFarlane was engaged in efforts to keep the story from coming out." Reps. Peter Rodino (D-NJ) and Dante Fascell (D-FL) said the recent discovery of the computer messages demonstrates that there is still relevant information that has not yet been made public about the Iran-Contra affair. ("McFarlane's Iran Role Amplified," The Washington Post, December 22)

December

Congress, making good on earlier warnings, ordered the Administration to stop asking government workers to sign controversial secrecy pledges governing classified information. Congress attached a rider to the continuing resolution providing funding for fiscal year 1988 which bars any department from spending money to implement or enforce what are known as Standard Form 189 and Standard Form 4193. The prohibition is good throughout fiscal 1988, which ends next September 30, "and should force the administration to come up here and work something out with us if they want to continue using such pledges," a House staff official said. House officials said the congressional directive probably would not affect enforcement actions involving the SF 4193 prepublication pledge. ("Congress Restricts Use of Secrecy Pledges," The Washington Post, December 24)

December

The Information Security Oversight Office which oversees the implementation of SF 189, "Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement," further clarified the term "classifiable information" in the December 21 Federal Register, p. 48367. The revised definition states: "Classifiable information" does not refer to currently unclassified information that may be subject to possible classification at some future date, but is not currently in the process of a classification determination."

December

Reportedly neither the United States Information Agency nor the educational film industry is happy with the interim regulations published by USIA in the November 16 Federal Register, pp. 43753-57 (correction 12/11 FR, p. 47029) which are titled: "Propaganda as Educational and Cultural Material; World-Wide Free Flow (Export-Import) of Audio-Visual Materials." USIA will accept comments on the notice until January 15, 1988. With the interim rules in place, USIA has begun to review 3,590 films, maps, charts and other audio-visual materials it accumulated during more than a year of inaction since a Los Angeles federal judge ruled that USIA exceeded its authority and acted like a censor in deciding what materials to recommend for duty-free status under the Beirut Agreement of 1948. In November the filmmakers returned to court, charging that USIA again was attempting to play censor. ("Reviewing USIA's Role as Reviewer," The Washington Post, December 30)

Resolution on Reauthorization of
The Library Services and Construction Act

- WHEREAS, The Library Services and Construction Act has proved to be an effective federal legislative program in educating and informing the nation's citizenry by strengthening and improving library and information services since 1956; and
- WHEREAS, LSCA has provided significant support for resource sharing and cooperative efforts to address a rapidly changing information environment; and
- WHEREAS, LSCA has responded to changing priorities and needs for library and information services as expressed by the library community and many library users; and
- WHEREAS, Title V is needed to assist libraries in developing collections of materials in foreign languages to serve the millions in the United States who need materials in various languages; and
- WHEREAS, Title VI supports libraries working to solve the problem of adult illiteracy, that has been recognized by federal agencies as a major domestic concern; and
- WHEREAS, Title V and Title VI of LSCA expire at the end of fiscal year 1988; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support the extension of LSCA Titles V and VI through the life of the Act; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association strongly support the reauthorization of the entire Library Services and Construction Act, including Titles V and VI, and offer its assistance to the U. S. Congress in the development of revisions and improvements that extend ongoing vital services and develop those new services dictated by new technologies and the severe deterioration of existing library materials.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 13, 1988
(Council Document #33)

Resolution on Electronic Dissemination of Government Information
to Depository Libraries

- WHEREAS, A democratic society depends on ready and equal access to government information by and about its government; and
- WHEREAS, Government information in any format is government information; and
- WHEREAS, For over a century, the Federal Depository Library System has been the key element in the distribution of printed government information to academic, business and general users on a wide geographic basis; and
- WHEREAS, A number of government agencies are currently able to provide copies of floppy disks, CD-ROM products, and other forms of electronic media to the Government Printing Office for direct distribution to depository libraries; and
- WHEREAS, Many, though not all, depository libraries are now capable of accepting and utilizing appropriate electronic products for immediate use in disseminating government information to their users; and
- WHEREAS, Depository library should be involved in decisions regarding choice of appropriate formats for publication of government information; and
- WHEREAS, Immediate dissemination of such electronic products to meet public demand is urgently needed prior to the completion of the pending Office of Technology Assessment study of the long-range factors in disseminating electronic government information; and
- WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Printing's Ad Hoc Committee on Depository Library Access to Federal Automated Data Bases, the Association of Research Libraries, and the American Library Association have recently issued reports indicating the immediate need for implementing varied forms of electronic dissemination to depository libraries; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the Public Printer to prepare a comprehensive plan and request an appropriation for FY 1989 to immediately implement electronic dissemination of government information in various formats appropriate to users of depository libraries; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide an appropriation and allow for the reprogramming of current monies to permit the distribution to depository libraries of electronic government information currently available from government agencies; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the Public Printer of the United States, the Joint Committee on Printing, the House Appropriations Committee, and the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 13, 1988
(Council Document #35)

Resolution on Use of Permanent Papers in Books and Other Publications

- WHEREAS, It has been known for at least three decades that residual acids in most paper produced since the mid-nineteenth century have drastically reduced the life of books and other publications and documents; and
- WHEREAS, The serious deterioration of the holdings of our libraries and archives has been well documented by several research libraries and archives in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, It will require expenditures of hundreds of millions of dollars over the next several decades to salvage even the most essential materials by replication on microfilm or archival paper, and to prevent deterioration by deacidification; and
- WHEREAS, This problem can be stopped at its source by the use of readily available alkaline paper with a prospective life of several hundred years; and
- WHEREAS, Standards for permanence of uncoated paper have been promulgated, to wit:
- | | |
|---|---|
| American National Standards Institute
ANSI Z39.48-1984 | Permanence of Paper for <u>Printed Library Materials</u> (uncoated) |
| ANSI/ASTM Standard | D3290-86 <u>Bond and Ledger Paper</u> for Permanent Records (Type I, maximum permanence) |
| ANSI/ASTM Standard | D3208-86 <u>Manifold Paper</u> for Permanent Records (Type I, maximum permanence) |
| ANSI/ASTM Standard | D3301-85 <u>File Folders</u> for Storage Permanent Records (Type I, maximum permanence) |
| ANSI/ASTM Standard | D3458-85 <u>Copies from Office Copying Machines</u> for Permanent Records (Type I, maximum permanence); and |
- WHEREAS, The standard for permanence of coated paper is in preparation by a Committee of the National Information Standards Organization; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association Council adopted in 1980 a resolution from the Resources and Technical Services Division affirming the need to move toward the production of volumes free from self-destructive substances for all texts of lasting usefulness; and resolving that the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress be requested to call together book manufacturers, papermakers, publishers, and commercial binders to encourage that they join in a cooperative effort to urge the production of books that will endure as long as they are needed; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine in February 1986 adopted a policy of actively encouraging the publishing industry to use permanent paper in the production of biomedical literature; and

- WHEREAS, The Depository Library Council to the Public Printer of the United States on October 16, 1987, adopted a recommendation that permanent paper be used for Federal government publications of enduring value; and
- WHEREAS, The National Information Standards Organization is writing to all American publishers to urge the use of paper meeting ANSI Standard Z39.48-1984 for the printing of publications of enduring value; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge all publishers to use uncoated paper meeting ANSI Standard Z39.48-1984 for publications of enduring value, and coated paper that is alkaline and can be expected to meet a similar standard for permanence; and to include a statement identifying publications using such paper on the verso of the title page of a book or on the masthead or copyright area of a periodical publication, and in catalogs, advertising, and bibliographic references; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the U. S. Congressional Joint Committee on Printing be urged to adopt standards for permanent papers and encourage Federal government agencies to use such paper for publications of enduring value; and that the appropriate agencies of State and local governments be urged to adopt similar policies; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the following organizations among others are commended for their leadership in researching and promoting the use of permanent papers for future additions to our heritage of knowledge: the National Endowment for the Humanities for financing research and preservation activities; the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Council on Library Resources and associated groups for sponsoring research and promoting the use of permanent papers; the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine and the Depository Library Council for their recent recommendations; the Library of Congress and other research libraries for their preservation activities including the quantification of the extent of the deterioration problem; the National Information Standards Organization and the American Society for Testing and Materials for developing technical standards for permanent record papers for various uses; the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry for developing methods for testing characteristics of paper; and those American publishers, especially many university presses, who have already adopted a policy of using permanent paper in their publications; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be distributed to the appropriate government and private organizations.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 13, 1988
(Council Document #34)

Resolution Concerning the Privatization of Federal Libraries
and Document Depositories

- WHEREAS, Federal libraries and document depositories and their information resources are key components of the information infrastructure of the United States; and
- WHEREAS, Federal libraries and librarians are integral, basic parts of the agencies they serve, providing vital support to decision makers and policy staff, as well as information services to the general public; and
- WHEREAS, Federal libraries for more than two decades have worked cooperatively with private sector contractors to furnish continuous, stable, cost-effective library service; and
- WHEREAS, Executive Order 12615, issued in November 1987, requires federal agencies by June 30, 1988, to identify and schedule for review all activities defined as commercial in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76; and
- WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget currently is revising Circular A-76 to permit contracting out of activities with fewer than 45 employees without any cost comparison between government and private sector operation affecting more than 90 percent of federal libraries; and
- WHEREAS, Circular A-76 has no provision to limit contracting of vital federal government information resources to U. S. firms and organizations; and
- WHEREAS, The U. S. subsidiary of a foreign firm now operates a major departmental library and is scheduled to assume operation of a major federal government scientific and technical library; and
- WHEREAS, The Appropriations Committee of the United States Senate has declared that federal libraries and document depositories with direct research, information development, database management, information dissemination, and policy support roles perform functions that are inherently governmental; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the Congress of the United States to bar further contracting out of federal libraries and document depositories to enhance accountability, government efficiency and national security; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the Office of Management and Budget to remove library operations from the A-76 list of commercial activities and the list of fourteen activities targeted for A-76 review throughout the government; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the President's Commission on Privatization to omit libraries and government document depositories from activities recommended for privatization; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Chairman of the President's Commission on Privatization.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 13, 1988
(Council Document #36)

Resolution on Freedom of Information Day, March 16

- WHEREAS, James Madison, our fourth President, said, "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives;" and
- WHEREAS, As a profession committed to a democratic society, librarians have a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and ideas to present and future generations; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association considers access to information and intellectual freedom among its highest priorities; and
- WHEREAS, Access to information has been threatened by curtailed availability of information through selective budget cuts, interference with communication in scientific communities, suppression of information, campaigns of disinformation, increased governmental secrecy, and attempts to control dissent; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association in 1984 promulgated a resolution on the Right to Know reaffirming the Association's commitment to the people's right to information; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association has assumed a leadership position in upholding freedom of information through such means as its work on behalf of intellectual freedom, its award-winning publication "Less Access to Less Information By and About the U. S. Government" and the creation of a broad national Coalition on Government Information concerned with these issues; and
- WHEREAS, James Madison has further said that, "A popular government without popular information or means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy, or perhaps both;" now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support the Congress and the President in their proclamation designating James Madison's birthday, March 16, as Freedom of Information Day; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That in pursuit of the goals of this proclamation defending and encouraging the people's right to access to information the American Library Association use its many resources to publicize, inform and celebrate March 16 as Freedom of Information Day; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association encourage librarians throughout the country to bring the issues of freedom of information and barriers to information access into public consciousness and public debate by mounting appropriate information programs within libraries and their communities on that day.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 13, 1988
(Council Document #38)

Resolution on the Glenerin Declaration

- WHEREAS, It is American Library Association international relations policy to foster better international understanding and cooperation among library and information science communities; and
- WHEREAS, ALA recognizes that information serves as a societal good and an economic resource; and
- WHEREAS, ALA's federal legislative policy declares that a democratic society depends on the Federal government ensuring the right of access for all its citizens to a comprehensive range of knowledge and a diversity of communications media; and
- WHEREAS, ALA's federal legislative policy further states that in an age of international communication and interchange of resources, the Federal government is pivotal in the development of libraries as institutions that transcend national boundaries; and
- WHEREAS, ALA notes with pleasure the extraordinary accomplishment of information specialists convened by the United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the British Library, and the Institute for Research on Public Policy of Canada in the development of the Glenerin Declaration Toward a Coordinated Policy Agenda in Response to the Changing Role of Information in the Economy; and
- WHEREAS, Although ALA is concerned that in the Preamble to the Declaration the phrase "appropriate economic incentives" not be interpreted to encourage the privatization of government information; and
- WHEREAS, Although in Recommendation 8, ALA believes that an "adequate" rather than a "minimum" level of information must be available to and accessible by all citizens regardless of means; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association commend the U. S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for its leadership in the development of a tri-national statement on information policy; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association endorse the Glenerin Declaration Toward a Coordinated Policy Agenda in Response to the Changing Role of Information in the Economy developed through the leadership of the U. S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the British Library, and the Institute for Research on Public Policy of Canada.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 13, 1988
(Council Document #39)