AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL MEETING

December 29-30, 1927

Drake Hotel

Chicago, Illinois
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THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

December 29, 1927

The first meeting of the American Library Association Council held at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, convened at ten-fifteen o'clock, President Carl B. Roden presiding.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Twenty-five members of the Council constitute a quorum and there are that number here. This is a meeting of the Council open to others as auditors, but in which members of the Council alone are expected to participate in any discussion, except by invitation or by a vote.

The first item on the docket this morning is a petition for a Business Libraries Section, a report from the Chairman of a special committee, Mr. Utley.

... Mr. George B. Utley, of Chicago, Illinois, read the petition, with the following interpolations:

No. 1: Preceding the words, "Having now presented rather fully the views of my colleagues, I will conclude briefly by stating my own," Mr. Utley said:

I neglected at the proper place I wished to present it, to read a letter just received this morning from Mr. Handy. Mr. Handy unfortunately could not be here, so I wrote him the other day telling him again if there was any additional statement that he wished to have me present as chairman of the committee in his behalf, I should be pleased
to do it. So he wrote me as follows:

... Mr. Utley read the letter from Mr. Handy ...

No. 2: Preceding the words, "It is not a question of certain members of the S. L. A. seceding and setting up camps elsewhere," Mr. Utley said:

I think the committee who favor the petition have been rather unsuccessful in making that clear to those members of the Special Libraries Association who are not in favor of granting the petition as exemplified by one or two instances.

For instance, Mr. A. H. Johnston of Washington, who is prominent in Special Libraries work says:

"I cannot but feel that the recognition of a few malcontents would bear the aspect of a direct slap by the A. L. A. in the face of the Special Libraries Association." His phrase there "recognition of a few malcontents." As I say we have been apparently unable to give the point of view which we emphatically hold, that these people who are asking the privilege to form as a section are not malcontents within the Special Libraries Association; they are members of the American Library Association who are only asking what seems to them proper, that the American Library Association members can do.

Then also Mr. Herbert Brigham, who is of Providence, Rhode Island, who is prominent in Special Libraries
Association matters also seem to have that same regrettable attitude. He says in writing me:

"I should hazardly guess that this insurgent group from the ranks of S. L. A. speaks for less than one-fifth of those 125 persons holding membership in both associations;" and it seems to me extremely regrettable and a point which we should emphasize, that this is not an insurgent group from S. L. A. It is a group of members from the A. L. A.

... 

MR. UTLEY: Mr. President, to bring this question properly before the Council, I therefore beg to move that the Council grant the petition now before it and permit certain members of the American Library Association to organize as a section of that Association, to be known as the Business Libraries Section.

May I say, Mr. President, that Mr. Handy and Mr. Jacob, two of my colleagues on the committee, are not here this morning, and I am sorry they can't be here to say for themselves what I have tried to say for them in this report. Miss Krause is a member of the Council and so has the floor without any formality. I should like to ask, Mr. President, that Miss Loeber, the remaining member of the committee, be given the courtesy of the floor if she wishes to enter into discussion.

PRESIDENT RODEN: You have heard the report
and the recommendations which have been moved for adoption. Is there a second?

MISS KRAUSE: I second the motion.

PRESIDENT RODEN: The question is open for discussion.

MR. CADY (President, Special Libraries Association): Mr. President and Members of the Council: As a member of the Council and as an officer of the Special Libraries Association I desire to present my opposition to the action suggested in this proposed motion.

You have heard in the report of Mr. Utley the arguments presented by Mr. Handy and Mr. Jacob, and in those arguments I heartily concur.

I should like to emphasize some of them and to refer to others. It seems to me that the crux of this question comes in the definition of the word affiliation. According to the dictionary definition and according to the ordinarily accepted meaning, affiliation means the establishment of a relationship involving cooperation, friendliness and mutual helpfulness.

It seems to me that in the formation or establishment of this business libraries section, the principle of affiliation will be strongly violated. Every since its organization, the Special Libraries Association has been affiliated with the American Library Association. As an
affiliated member it has a right to expect from the American Library Association the courtesy, the assistance, the friendliness, the cooperation and the helpfulness which would be granted to an adopted child by a foster parent.

Mr. Utley, in his report, says that the gift by a parent to a child is not an unfriendly act to another child, but Mr. Chairman, I submit that everything depends upon the character of the gift. If it should be a game or a book, granted, but if it should be a knife or a revolver, certainly there is great question whether that would be considered a friendly act.

In proposing to establish this business libraries section, it seems to me that the principle of affiliation as outlined will be violated. Suppose that the American Library Association on learning that there were these members who feel that they do not wish to work with the Special Libraries Association, suppose that the American Library Association had gone to those members and endeavored to get them to forgive, to forget, to give up their personal feelings and to get them to work with the Special Libraries Association; I ask you would not that be a very friendly act?

It seems to me there is no question about it. If that is true, then the opposite action, the encouragement of these individuals to set up an independent organization to undertake work which is already the function of the Special
Libraries Association constitutes an unfriendly act and a very unfriendly act.

Mr. Handy has referred in his last letter to the ethics of the situation and the ethics come in connection with the idea of affiliation. The American Library Association above all other associations, should certainly stand for the highest in library ethics, and the violation of the principle of affiliation would certainly seem to be a violation of ethics.

Mr. Utley's principal argument seems to be that the American Library Association has never heretofore refused to grant the request of a group to form a section, but I ask you, Mr. Chairman, whether the American Library Association has ever before been asked to form a section whose activities are already provided for and taken care of by an affiliated organization.

Mr. Handy has emphasized this in connection with the American Library Association. What would the American Library Association think if some of its members felt that they did not wish to work with the American Association of Law Libraries? What would that Association of Law Libraries think if the American Library Association should sanction the formation of a section of law libraries? The same would be true of either of the other two affiliated organizations.

Mr. Utley has referred to the fact that there
would in all probability result in competition and as Mr. Jacob has suggested, while competition is undesirable in business in most cases, there are some cases where it is suitable, but surely there is no room for competition in library practice. Mr. Utley has said that this would result in an urge on the part of the special librarians and business librarians to do greater work, but I submit, Mr. President, that the urge at the present time is on the other side of the fence. The urge at the present time is to get business organizations to utilize the library service which is available.

Mr. Utley has referred and stated that he cannot see that this action will deprive special libraries of anything, but I think you will see immediately that the formation of such a section will deprive the Special Libraries Association of the possibility of winning back into activity these individuals who at the present time feel that they do not wish to work with the Special Libraries Association even though some of them are members.

It has been the hope of the Special Libraries Association officers that in time as a result of conscientious effort, of accomplishment, of efficient management that it might be possible to ultimately get these individuals to see that they could carry out whatever projects they had in mind under the banner of the Special Libraries Association. Surely the formation of this section will deprive the Special Libraries
Association of that opportunity. Furthermore, the formation of such a section will be inclined to deprive the Special Libraries Association of the possibility of gaining as members those business librarians who by reason of the power and prestige of the American Library Association may be inclined to join this section.

Miss Krause and Miss Loeber in their arguments as given in the report, seem to base their principal argument on the fact that the American Library Association is undertaking certain large projects in which such a section could participate. I ask you, Mr. Chairman, whether the friendly thing would not be for the American Library Association, having such projects, to give the business librarians of the Special Libraries Association an opportunity to participate in them.

Miss Krause and Miss Loeber refer to the very activities of the American Library Association as covered by the ten sections and state that they see no reason why the business libraries section should be left out. The reason is exactly the same as why a law libraries section is left out, because the field is already covered by an affiliated association.

They speak of a closer cooperation with the technical and other scientific and specialized portions of the public libraries, but there is no reason why that cooperation can not be carried out through the Special Libraries Association,
and may I say that today it is carried out to an extent never before realized.

Again they mention certain activities which such a section can offer to the American Library Association, and again I ask you would not the friendly thing be for them to proffer those activities to the Special Libraries Association which is already in a position to help to carry them out?

Finally, they say that the American Library Association has a great deal to offer in the development of professional standards and so forth, and it seems to me that here again the friendly thing for the American Library Association is to offer those things to its affiliated organization, the Special Libraries Association.

Again they mention the business libraries round table at Toronto and the enthusiasm at that meeting. I ask you, Mr. Chairman, why at that meeting if there was so much enthusiasm, was it not expressed in the form of a motion or some written statement approving of the formation of a business libraries section?

To sum up, Mr. Chairman, I am opposed to the formation of this section, to the affirmative action on this motion first because I believe it is a gross violation of the principle of affiliation. Next because it violates the ethics of the library profession. Next because it will
involve a competition which is bound to be wasteful, unnecessary and inefficient, and finally because it will establish a precedent which seems to be dangerous in its possibilities.

There is one other aspect, Mr. President, which I should like to call attention to at this particular time and that is this: Owing to the ethics of their relationship with the committee, Mr. Jacob and Mr. Handy could not undertake the preparation of a counter petition until they had received Mr. Utley's report and knew what would be his attitude. Now that report was received too late to prepare a counter petition, and I desire to emphasize that particular point.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I respectfully ask for the privilege at the close of the discussion, of presenting a rebuttal of any arguments which may be presented in the meantime. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODEF: The Chairman rules that Miss Loeber, although not a member of the Council but appointed on the committee, has the right of the floor.

MISS L. ELSA LOEBER: I am sorry that we haven't been able to convince the members of the S. L. A. that we are not trying to set up in competition with the S. L. A. It seems to us that there is room for both of these organizations. The S. L. A. is a large organization and has been established for a good many years and we have
never seen fit to think that we would be able to break up in any way the S. L. A.

As for there being competition between the two groups, we feel that there can be no competition in librarianship. It isn't a case of competition at all. It is a case of one group working along one line in the one association and another group working in a different way, and in proof of that, that it is possible to do that, I want to read you a part of a letter which was written by Miss Mary Day of the National Safety Council here in Chicago because she has found that a similar situation in the Safety Council arises in that organization. She says:

"As librarian for nine years of a large national association, I have had many valuable contacts with other friendly national association engaged like ourselves in the great humanitarian work of saving lives. Many of these national associations have safety sections and committees in some cases are devoting their entire energies to some specific problem of the safety movement. I recall, during the past few days, valuable safety publications which have come to my desk from such associations as the American Gas Association, the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, the National Fire Protection Association." She goes on to list about nine or ten others.

"The more people that are thinking and working
for the conservation of human life, the better it will be for the welfare of mankind. It seems to me the same principle applies to a business section of the A. L. A. The more people vitally interested in business library work, the better it will be for the whole library profession. Library work should not be thought of on a competitive basis, but on the basis of unselfish, friendly and altruistic service.

"Personally, I feel it will advance business library work to have a business library section. We would come in closer contact with the A. L. A. members through being an integral part of that association, and would gain in prestige through representation in the largest national library association in the world. It would be mutually advantageous to all concerned. We would have much to offer the A. L. A. with our vast resources of specialized data, and as I said before, I know we would gain from the experience, the high library standards and the efficient organization of the A. L. A."

And then another illustration of that same point. The American Medical Association does not refuse its surgeon members the privilege of being a member in other organizations even though there are several other national surgical organizations in the United States. For example there is an American College of Surgeons annual meeting, many members of each organization belong to the other or have
an overlapping membership which in no way interferes with the work of either association. In fact nearly every specialty is represented in the American Medical Association and at the same time there is a national organization for a similar group of people.

I have also a letter from Miss Julia Elliott whom many of you know is connected with The Indexers, and a good many of you know her business library classification:

"There are several reasons why I believe there should be a business libraries section of the American Library Association, but I shall cite only three briefly.

"First. It has been the policy of the A. L. A. for many years to recognize the common interests of groups of its members and to provide means, usually through the organization of sections, for these groups to discuss their particular problems, to work together for the advancement of their particular interests, and at the same time to participate in the general programs; thus keeping in contact with the professional aims, ideals, and progress of the entire body of American librarians.

"The fundamentals of a business library are the same as any other library, differing only in details and degree; and there are problems of adaptation and development that vary as widely from general library practice as college administration, for example, from public library methods. There
is need, therefore, for business librarians to get together somewhere for helpful discussion and exchange of ideas.

"The American Library Association accepts business librarians as members, and the latter should not be obliged to go outside of the Association for the group contact which is so essential and which is so freely accorded to other groups. As a member of the A. L. A. since I first entered the library profession, I believe that I should find within that Association the opportunity to meet in some group or section definitely provided for on the program, others who have similar or identical problems and interests, and at the same time profit from the inspiration which comes from association with the larger body of librarians and their many and varied activities. Such an opportunity in no wise prevents me from attending other association, if I so desire, but I should not be forced to go outside my own association for these professional contacts.

"Second. Business librarians have something to contribute to other librarians in the A. L. A. Every public library in the country has a definite obligation to the business men of the community. Libraries are supported by taxation, no inconsiderable part of which is paid by business men. A large corporation may have its own librarian, but the field of service to the average business man who cannot employ a librarian, has hardly been scratched. It has long been a
theory, if not a hobby of mine, that as soon as we give adequate service to business interests of a community, the problem of sufficient income for the library will be solved. This has, of course, been demonstrated in notable instances.

"A business library section of the A. L. A. would give a great impetus to better and more service to business in the smaller communities. Business librarians have profited from their library education and public library experience; why not a profit to the public library from the business experiences of business librarians?

"Third. Business librarians have something to contribute to the A. L. A.

"Every time the business librarian has her expenses paid to attend the A. L. A., it puts the Association on the map of that particular corporation and into the consciousness of one or more officials. Just as a matter of good publicity a business library section would be worth while and a paying investment. I venture to say that sustaining and life memberships would come much easier if a corporation understood that through its librarian it would benefit from such contributions.

"Finally, are we, as business librarians, legitimate children, or merely stepchildren of the Association which many of us have grown up with, loyally supported, and gladly worked for and with?"
I also want to add a few words of my own in connection with the request for the business libraries section. The first group meeting which was held, was held at Seattle in 1925, and the occasion for that meeting was the fact that the S. L. A. was not meeting with the A. L. A. and some of us who were going to the A. L. A. meeting in Seattle felt that a great opportunity would be lost if there was nothing on that program to bring together the business librarians of the east who are more experienced in many ways than those in the west because of the further development of business libraries in the east; and those in the west who are scattered and have fewer opportunities for getting together for discussing their problems and a group of twenty-five or more, in accordance with the Constitution of the American Library Association, asked for a round table meeting and it was granted and we had two very successful meetings there.

From that it was a very easy step to the thought of forming a business section of the American Library Association which could continue that very kind of work. We have had round table meetings from that time until now. We hope to have another one this afternoon, but the work of the round tables, as we brought out in our report, is not an organized piece of work. We have no money to carry on our work. We have to depend on the generosity of the individual business houses in allowing us money for postage and so forth, and
with an organized section that would be taken care of and the work would be more coordinated and carried on more easily.

We have made no special appeal to win favor for our cause to the members of the Council because we have felt and very strongly feel that this whole thing must stand on its own merits and not on the ropes of any of our friends whom we might have persuaded to our point of view.

If the American Library Association feels as we do, that the formation of a business libraries section in its own organization will be of benefit to the American Library Association, then we want the section, but if the Council feels that it is not going to be of benefit, we certainly do not want to organize; but we do feel that the proposition has merits. We feel that it is a logical proceeding under the Constitution, and we feel that we are justified in asking for the section.

We have attempted right from the beginning to conduct our communications with headquarters of the American Library Association and to conduct our meetings in as dignified and professional a spirit as was possible and we hope that the evidence of our sincerity of purpose and our professional standard will appeal to the Council in such a way that they will feel that we have deserved a place in the organization of the American Library Association. Thank you.

MR. WHEELER: There may be several public
librarians here who would like to say they are charter members of the national association. If there are, I am inclined to believe they will agree with me in spite of the arguments in favor of this affiliation, that this may not be the most appropriate time for it.

We also should recall that the Special Libraries Association established eighteen years ago, was established by a public librarian who perceived the necessity for a special group, who brought those people together and who formulated a plan for that organization on such a firm basis that I think we all must recognize the contribution of the Special Libraries Association has made to the general course of library work.

It will take a long time to recount the activities that have been carried on by the various sub-committees of the Special Libraries Association, but as one of the early workers in that group I want to recall one activity I personally had a connection with, the establishment of the publication known as "Special Libraries".

It is my conviction if we had waited for the A. L. A. to crystallize its interests in that particular field, the establishment of that particular publication would have been delayed for a long time.

The Special Libraries Association has made so many contributions to library work in these special fields. They have built up such a prestige that it seems to me we
ought to consider this present issue on one basis alone and that is the attitude at the present moment of the Special Libraries Association itself.

It is all very well to say that the members of this Association who have undertaken the establishment of this section have very good reasons but it isn't always the facts that count. Sometimes it is the feelings. Sometimes it is the opinions, but I believe that even if this were the very best thing to do, at this time, at this particular meeting is not the time to carry through an affiliation which obviously does not meet the approval of a considerable number of members of the Special Libraries Association and certainly does not meet with the approval of the officers.

Mr. Cady pointed out and I think we ought to give due consideration to it, that any such creation of a section at this time is going to weaken, can't help weakening the Special Libraries Association. It is going to divert the attention of people who should be actively working with the S. L. A. setting up a separate organization, a new set of officers, undertaking projects that may not be correlated with the old group, and without wanting to take any more time, Mr. Chairman, I should like to move a substitute motion. Would it be in order?

PRESIDENT RODEN: It is in order, yes.

MR. WHEELER: I move the adoption of this
resolution:

"Whereas, It does not appear that the sentiment of the majority of the members of the Special Libraries Association and its officers is in favor of the creation of a business libraries section of the American Library Association; therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That this petition be not granted at the present time."

MR. STEVENS: I second that resolution

May I say I was one of the early dozen that established the Association. The instigation of that whole movement was the organization of the first business library in America. I was then doing special library work. I have since been doing general library work so I have not been associated actively with the work of the Special Libraries Association, but I have great regard for it, great respect for it. I thought it was doing magnificent work in a field that could not be divided and I was rejoicing in its prosperity as a parallel work with the work of the A. L. A. I was unaware of any division of opinion until a day or two ago when I received a very urgent and intense letter from a man whom I regard very high in the Association who couldn't be present here, urging against the adoption of anything that would tend to disruption in the Special Libraries Association. That was my first information almost on the even of my taking the train. This man
expressed himself as bitterly opposed to any such action, and I can't believe that the American Library Association would sanction a petition which is not endorsed by even the petitioners themselves, that is to say, the business librarians are not unanimous within the Special Libraries Association to secede from it.

Now I am torn between opinions. I so highly respect Miss Loebel's intentions and her motives. I know it is right in a way and I regard the other members of the business libraries group who desire to form a section of the A. L. A. very highly. I am wondering whether it would be the gracious and honorable thing of the Association, however, to yield at this point to this petition. I feel it would be discourtesy to the association, to its founder and its objects for us to do so now.

If, however, there is an actual dissension and difference of opinion such that a group feels warranted in asking to secede from its affiliation with that organization, then it is time for the Special Libraries Association to clean house and to arrive at some kind of unanimity within itself to be able to convince its own members that it is a proper organization to operate in all special departments, and if not, if they cannot be convinced, those who feel out of sympathy should be unanimous in expressing a desire or purpose to withdraw. Then let them resign from the Special Libraries.
Association and let them join as individuals the American Library Association, and then let them as members of the American Library Association and not as seceders from the other association, petition a section within the American Library Association.

MR. WHEELER: I don't understand one point of view, that there is any question as to the dissension on Mr. Stevens' possibility. I don't understand that there is any such, simply a motive involved of these individuals being affiliated and following the procedure that was followed in a good many cases. We don't need to think for a moment about the question of dissension, but it seems to me that this ought to be decided not by the facts but by the feeling, the feeling of the Special Libraries Association that it would be harmful, or if you want to fall back on the technical interpretation of affiliation, you ought to be very careful to carry out the spirit of that word at this time; so I hope this substitute motion, Mr. Chairman, will prevail.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Question on the substitute moved by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Stevens.

MR. DUDGEON (Milwaukee, Wis.): Mr. Chairman, are we to understand from the wording of it that we are taking the position that until somebody else permits us by majority vote to do what we want to do, we will not do it? It seems to me that's a very logical situation and to a
certain extent it will set a precedent that whenever any group wants to be affiliated, they have to go out and ask any other group with which they are affiliated to give them the privilege to petition us for a section. I don't know altogether about the merits of this. I think it is a matter of considerable moment. Possibly it ought not come to a head at this time, but I don't quite like this idea that they seem to regard this affiliation as a sort of amalgamous relationship, that an individual can't be related to the two things, that these people are committing bigamy by having a second relationship.

It seems to me it is worth consideration whether we want to take the position that until this organization by a majority vote sanctions this movement, we will not entertain it. That is plainly involved in the substitute motion. I am perfectly willing you give it consideration.

MR. WHEELER: I did that very intentionally. If Mr. Dudgeon would like to submit a substitute wording, as the mover of the substitute, I would be glad to consider his suggestion.

MR. SAMUEL H. RANCK (Grand Rapids, Mich.): Mr. Chairman, I happen to be one of those members like Mr. Wheeler, who were present when the Special Libraries Association was organized and I have been a member ever since.

During the war you may remember that there
was a joint committee appointed, a sort of harmonizing committee, with the Special Libraries Association and the American Library Association. There were either five or seven members of that committee and I was the chairman.

After the war was over the work of the committee seemed to have been accomplished and the committee was discharged. Three members or two members were appointed by the American Library Association, as I recall it, and the other equal number by the Special Libraries Association, and I think the committee chose the chairman, which was myself.

I happened to know something therefore from the inside, of the feeling that existed at that time, and I think it is a very unfortunate feeling. Personally, I don't feel that this is the time to vote on this question, to adopt this thing. I am in favor of organizing ultimately a business libraries section, but it seems to me we ought to put forth a special effort to make the other group feel that this is not a hostile movement on the part of the American Library Association.

The Special Libraries Association has done a great work and the reason for its organization in the first place was the fact that the American Library Association as a whole did not appreciate at that time the need of taking care of the interests, the library interests in connection with these special groups and that led to the organization
of this Association, and I am very anxious that we bring this thing about in some way without the other group feeling it is a hostile movement on the part of the American Library Association, and I should prefer if Mr. Wheeler's resolution were one of postponement with the hope that if we go ahead with this thing, and I think we ought to go ahead with it ultimately, that the other group, the Special Libraries group (I am a member of both, to be sure) could be made to understand that it is not a direct hostile movement to try to break up their organization. I think it can be worked out in such a way that there is room for both if they want to continue in that way.

DR. BOSTWICK: Mr. Chairman, I desire to present a motion which is always in order and which it seems to me is better than any of those that have been presented because no inference can be made from its wording and because it will enable us to act on this matter any time in the future when we so desire.

I move we lay the petition on the table.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT RODEN: Dr. Bostwick's motion is to lay the petition on the table. That disposes also of the substitute.

MRS. EARL: I second Dr. Bostwick's motion.

MISS KRAUSE: May I speak on the motion?
PRESIDENT RODEN: There is no debate on a motion to lay on the table.

... The question was put to a vote and carried ...

MISS KRAUSE: May I as a matter of record, have an opportunity to elucidate somewhat on what Mr. Ranck said? I know it is too late now, but may I make the statement?

PRESIDENT RODEN: With the consent of the Council, as a member of the committee Miss Krause asks to be heard. Is there objection? There is no objection heard, Miss Krause.

MISS KRAUSE (Chicago): I sort of feel that after seventeen years I ought to sing my swan song, and so if the Association will bear with me just a minute -- I have been listening to all of this because I have been very personally concerned, as you know. I have been a member of the A. L. A. nearly a quarter of a century. I have never been a member of the S. L. A. Neither has many of this list of names who are on this petition. That list, by the way, was not read.

Just as a matter of record and following out what Mr. Ranck suggested, that he thinks we ought to have the S. L. A. know that there is no animosity, no unkindly feeling towards our friends in the S. L. A., I want to review this
whole discussion just a little bit.

As I say, I think this is my swan song because with the motion tabled, I don't think it is worth while now, after we have been doing it past two years, for this group to try to make people understand that it is friendly. I have written letters and talked, and after all there isn't any proof in it except in proof of my own action, and unless we can organize and act, we can never prove our friendliness.

To start back, first of all, and if this is my swan song I must ask you to be patient for a few minutes. I don't want you to go out of this meeting with any feeling of antagonism if we can get rid of it this morning, even though we can't take action.

First of all we have had a lot of confusion in library circles between that word business and special. Business librarians are special librarians, but special librarians include many things, and the Special Libraries Association particularly include many activities which are not business activities. I am going to repeat many things you have heard. As you know we have had mentioned some things and I want to sum them up a little bit and then if Mr. Cady wishes to speak again, I would like very much if the President would give him an opportunity of rebuttal which he asked for.

I have here the page from the Special Libraries Magazine of this month in which down at the bottom of it they
mention their field. They say: "Our field is special librarians, business consultants, executives, statisticians and economists." Now you see their field is very broad and really, I have a sort of feeling this morning as if this little group of us who have been in the A.L.A. and always interested in A.L.A. first and foremost ought to be a little congratulated when the Special Libraries Association with its record and with all the work it is doing, and I speak very seriously because I have many friends in the Special Libraries Association, think for a minute that this little group of ours could in any way interfere or handicap in any way the things that they are doing and which they have so well established. It is a little complimentary, but it isn't the kind of compliment we want.

We have no desire, and I for one would be very, very much opposed had we started this section, to have any number of people who are now active in the Special Libraries Association affiliate themselves with this section in the A.L.A. if we had it. I personally would not approve of it. It is not in any sense a proselyting movement and it is not in any sense the action of any disgruntled members of the Special Libraries Association. Our list of names is there, and the examination of who they are, which list hasn't been read, unfortunately, confirms the statement of Mr. Handy in the report, that they were unknown to him and only emphasizes the fact that they have not been active, and yet if you would
look through this list of names, you would find that every one of them is engaged in the work of the proposed section according to the Constitution. Every one of their names is in the A. L. A. handbook for 1927, so that in no sense can we consider it a disgruntled movement.

Mr. Handy mentioned the fact that only two cities were represented in these signatures. That also is not correct. I am going to be very frank and tell you that fifty per cent of the signers are from Chicago. We people in Chicago are closest to A. L. A. headquarters. We have more contacts. We are more interested in it, but we have also, as he said, many from New York. We have only three from New York. We have one from Rochester, one from Providence, two from Detroit, one from Los Angeles, one from Portland, Oregon, one from Fort Wayne, Indiana, one from Pittsburgh; so that the group is fairly representative in the list of only twenty-five which, as Mr. Utley brought out, was necessary to comply with the legal requirements of the Constitution. I know that we would have more names on the list if it were necessary.

Mr. Jacob in his statement, and I can talk more frankly now that I am in my own field, with the business people, where I belong probably, said, this being a professional thing, ought not to have any competition. He suggested very strongly that it might mean a possible withdrawal
of the Special Libraries Association. Now we are a professional organization. The methods of trade competition and the methods of labor do not belong in an association which is committed to an unselfish, altruistic movement, and as Miss Loeber very clearly brought out in those letters which she read, the more people we have working, the better. We don't hurt each other to duplicate a little bit.

Now to enter into the field which Mr. Cady and I represent in a business way. We have among our electrical people the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the National Electric Light Association, the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies. Every one of them overlaps just a little bit. All of our men interested in electrical progress belong to those associations. They think the more, the merrier. We want to furnish every one of you in the United States with just as much electric light as we can get across no matter who works at it and even though we may be manufacturing competitors in some lines, so that it doesn't seem to me that this argument is particularly good.

We have also this, what I agree with Mr. Cady is the crux of this whole discussion. Let's boil out all these little minor things. It is the relation of the American Library Association to an affiliated organization. That is the thing that I think among our sober members here is the thought of what is it all about.
We are presented with a good many difficulties there. We have an affiliated organization urging the Council that it isn't to their interest. You have a group within your own membership wanting to do something for our own Association. May I ask you frankly and honestly as a member of the Council, and by the way I am of the Council, I can say we, are we not first of all concerned as the American Library Association Council with fundamentally the interests of the American Library Association? Have we had from our affiliated body any suggestion this morning of what they want to do for us, particularly as an affiliated organization? Now I will leave that open question.

They can do many things, as Mr. Cady has intimated, but if we have within our own group of members certain people who are qualified to do certain things, should we not allow our own members to function within our own circle and continue to do some of these things? That I will leave open for the Council to consider.

We passed at Toronto a county library section. Where can we draw the line exactly between the interests of the League of Library Commissions and the County Libraries Section? Do we not have overlapping there? Have we not an Agricultural Special Libraries Section which is a section in the A. L. A? We have had that for some time.

Now I think in conclusion I do want to assure
again, and those of my friends in the Special Libraries Association who know me and know some of my associates, know that we have tried for a long time, since 1925, to assure them of good faith. I have never worked in the Special Libraries Association. I was present at the Mackinaw Conference with Mr. Dana in the chair and Mr. Knapp on the floor when the discussion came up as to whether this newly formed meeting at Brennenwood should be a separate association or should be a section of the A. L. A., and as long ago as that I had perhaps the temerity, being young and unknown, to suggest even way back there that we should make this new movement a section of the A. L. A. That is many years ago. It is something to be forgotten, but I simply mention it to show that in voting postponement of this until the atmosphere may clear, I know means never. We have never come any nearer on the solution of these relationships, and now in conclusion I think I want to explain to you or express to you what I personally feel and what others may personally feel about why we have this difference of opinion.

Some of you may honestly ask me, and I would be glad to answer it honestly if I can, why can't we business librarians who are members of the A. L. A. just as well do our work in the S. L. A.? Now why can't we? What is all this talk about anyway? I am going to try to answer that if I can.

We have two groups of people in special library
work. I am not saying altogether business library work, because there are many people in the Special Libraries Association who are not business librarians.

We have come into library work from two very different angles and that accounts for the differences in our views. For example, Mr. Cady whom I am very glad is with us this morning and whom I hope I may have a chance to talk with, has come into the special libraries movement, and I say this very seriously, Mr. Cady will understand, as rather a distinguished physicist. You take Who's Who in engineering and you will find Mr. Cady has a record for research. Through his research he comes in touch with the importance of the special libraries movement which he has most heartily headed and espoused and has become president. His point of view on this library movement is from the point of view of a man who has gone deeply into research. That is his point of view. He sees it very deeply and he sees it as some of us do in our specialized business problems. We love to be deep and we don't think anybody else understands.

Most of us on this list of petitioners, perhaps I may say I will take all the responsibility of it, I in particular have come into business library work from general library work or from a general library school. The whole emphasis of our life prior to coming into library work has been for what the A. L. A. stands... We are first of all
not specialists. We are first of all librarians. We are secondly specialists in our field and we cannot separate ourselves in our minds and in our thoughts from the fact that if we are librarians, we do not want to be divorced from our connections, with the general work which some of us have done very happily, and from those general connections which some of us feel sometimes when we are soaked in statistics and figures that keep our souls alive, and that is why we like to stay in the A. L. A.

I can see very clearly that there is a long reach between these two groups of people. I don't say that we are all in both classes. We have some library school people. We have some librarians who have served in other general library positions before they went into the S. L. A., but they are the type of people who prefer the specialization while we people who were petitioning you this morning are the people who want to do our work but who want to keep ourselves related. I can't think of any greater degradation to myself personally than to be denied the pleasure and the enjoyment that I get out of my general American Library Association connections.

There is this other point which I think might have worked out had we been permitted to try it. I know just as well as anybody else here that there has always been a feeling and justly so, that the American Library Association
did not understand the Special Libraries Association or sympathize with many things they were doing. That is true. I have sort of been a buffer in between. On the other hand, I am very frank to say that many members of the Special Libraries Association do not understand the American Library Association, and I hope, a far off dream, I am afraid, that is now long past, that with a group of us in the A. L. A. who are working in the business field or in the special field, if you may have it so, we with our work on one hand and our sympathies with the A. L. A. might in a way find a bridge that we might make between the A. L. A. and the S. L. A., to what I know personally has never existed, an affiliation in spirit rather than an affiliation in name. (Applause)

This, I am afraid, is now impossible, and I for one will never help to get it on the table. I think those of us who want to work in the A. L. A. must deprive ourselves of our connections with our fellows except as we can have in round tables, but I think you all understand that no action of the Board this morning opens the door for us to be voted into the Special Libraries Association when we never have been there and when we haven't been particularly interested. We can't vote people into organizations when their sympathies are some place else, and I don't believe that for the A. L. A. to refrain from letting us have a business libraries section will in any way alter it.
I think our contribution except as we make it individually, as some of us have for many years, that our contribution as an organized group must be lost for some time to come. I thank you, Mr. President. (Applause)

PRESIDENT RODEN: The regular order will be taken up now unless there is objection.

Referring to the suggestion that was made that other speakers be given time on this subject, it seems to me that to continue it would be debating a non-debatable motion after it has been passed. (Laughter) I am perfectly willing to entertain a motion to suspend the regular order if that is the pleasure of the Council.

MR. LOCKE: I think when one decides the fact and one decides the feelings, it isn't well to go on.

PRESIDENT RODEN: We will proceed with the regular order. The second item on this docket is the proposal for the establishment of an International Library and Bibliographical Committee. Who has that report? Mr. Milam.

SECRETARY MILAM: This matter was referred to the Committee on International Relations but that committee felt that after the official delegates of the American Library Association to the Edinburgh Conference had unanimously endorsed the proposal, it didn't call for any action on the part of the committee; so it comes to you directly from the Edinburgh Conference with the signatures of representatives of fifteen
countries including the United States.

The resolution adopted at the Edinburgh Conference creating a committee on an international library and bibliography was printed in the bulletin for December. It has gone to all members of the Council as well as to all members of the Association, and presumably you are familiar with it. Is it your desire, Mr. President, to have it read?

PRESIDENT RODEN: What is the pleasure of the Council as to having this resolution read?

MR. CADY: I move the reading be dispensed with.

... The motion was seconded and carried ...

SECRETARY MILAM: The question then is on the adoption of this by the Council of the A. L. A. on behalf of the Association. It may interest you to know that it has already been adopted by the British and the French Library Associations and probably by others, though we have not had word.

PRESIDENT RODEN: The resolution is submitted to the Council for adoption. All in favor of the adoption will signify by saying aye. The resolution is adopted.

SECRETARY MILAM: Mr. President, the resolution does not provide for the appointment of the member or the representative of the A. L. A. on the International Library and Bibliographical Committee. Presumably the action
would be left to the Executive Board if no action were taken here, but presumably also this Council could give instructions as to the official delegate if it chose.

PRESIDENT RODEN: What is the pleasure of the Council?

MR. UTLEY: I move this matter be left in the hands of the Executive Board.

MR. RANCK: I second the motion.

... The question was put to a vote and carried ...

PRESIDENT RODEN: The next topic on the docket is the use of rag paper stock in certain government documents for depository libraries with recommendations from the special committee.

MR. FRANK E. WALTER (Minneapolis, Minn.): Mr. Chairman, the majority of the committee is here and the documents are in shape and there will be time to get one or two meetings of the committee, if you will postpone it for that time.

PRESIDENT RODEN: We will lay over that report.

The next is the summary of the report of the ventilation and lighting of libraries. Mr. Ranck.

MR. SAMUEL H. RANCK (Grand Rapids, Mich.): Mr. President and Members of the Council: This summary is perhaps not exactly a summary but a report of the committee.

It is presented as something that is before
It is presented as something that is before the committee.

The December number of the Architectural Forum, a number devoted to libraries and municipal buildings, has an article on library planning by Mr. Tilton and Dr. Bostwick has one on the librarian's ideas of library design, and the chairman of the Committee on Ventilation and Lighting of Library Buildings an article on ventilation and lighting of libraries. To that extent it contains the ideas of the chairman, but there were fourteen points that were summed up in that article that seem to me the basis, a working basis for a report, the final report on that subject.

The reasons for those fourteen points are outlined in some length in the article in the Architectural Forum. I might say first of all that this committee has done a great deal of work on that subject. Dr. Andrews of the John Grerar and Dr. Burton of the University of Chicago when he was still librarian, was a member of this committee and Mr. Dadenberg of the New York Public Library and Mr. Brett of Cleveland, and a number of interesting things were tried out in library buildings in these different places, not perhaps in the technical, physical aspects of them so much as in what might be termed the human aspects of the working of these things, and we have had a good many conferences and much correspondence and the committee has spent a great deal of time.
First of all the committee early arrived at the conclusion, which is the general conclusion of students of ventilation, especially, that nearly all the ventilating machinery in buildings as they existed ten years ago and before, were based on the wrong theory of what ventilation was to accomplish. It was based on what is known as the carbon dioxide theory, namely that each human being gives off a certain amount of carbon dioxide which is a poison and that you must keep the percentage of carbon dioxide in the air low to a certain percentage in order to have good ventilation.

Then there was a theory of crowd poison and a number of other theories, but all of those have been definitely exploded and it will be necessary to junk millions of dollars worth of ventilating machinery in libraries and hotels and other buildings throughout the world because of their working on an exploded theory. It will also be necessary to change the laws in a great many of the states. I think some thirty-five states have laws based on this exploded theory. Some of them have repealed them, but most of them are still on the statute books, namely, to the effect that a certain amount of air comes in a room, thirty cubic feet per person per second for each individual in the building, to have good ventilation.

As a concrete illustration of the situation, how many feel that the air in this room at the present moment
is good, from a ventilating point of view? (Five) How many think it is bad? (Fifteen) I will agree with the majority that it is bad. I wish I had a thermometer and a hydrometer. Those are some of the fundamental things back of it.

Here are the fourteen points.

1. Supply the fresh, invigorating air that most normal humans crave without cooking the life out of it by heating it to a very high temperature, thus destroying its invigorating feeling of freshness.

Twenty-five years ago it was believed that this problem of ventilation was solved by the so-called Plenum System. The Plenum System combines the heating and ventilation in one and you heat the building and ventilate it with the same operation. That meant that in cold weather in order to heat the building the air had to be brought up to a temperature in a Plenum chamber of about 200 degrees and then it came into the room. It meant when there were a few people in the room who needed very little air for ventilation purposes, you had to pump and heat a great deal of air and raise it to that temperature to keep it warm, and in that cooking process to keep it warm the freshness of the air was destroyed.

I feel that something of that kind is happening right in this building this morning. One of the scientists speaks of fresh air having electrical qualities,
for instance, ionization, and when you heat it beyond a certain temperature, that is driven off, and that is what gives it the feeling of freshness, and we lose that. That is what we mean by the air that comes in for ventilating purposes should not be heated to a very high temperature, just temperate so as not to destroy it.

2. Deliver air in the proper quantities without waste through supplying much more than is needed in some rooms and at the same time not enough in other rooms, because of the variation in loads in the different rooms.

What I mean by the variation in loads; the ventilating load might be termed the number of people in the room. I might say right here that I am convinced that the whole problem of ventilation of library buildings and buildings in general is a problem of ventilating people rather than ventilating buildings. In other words, when there are a few people in a room, don't pump in thousands and thousands of cubic feet that aren't needed and heat it, causing a great waste and expense, and when there are a great many in the room get the proper amount, and that means the laying out of a ventilating scheme or a different plan for most of the buildings at the present time.

3. Humidify the air for the sake of the people in the building and for the sake of the books, the humidity in the winter months to be about fifty per cent of saturation.
An open steam jet in the fan room will produce fairly satisfactory results. Air washers not only humidify the air but they also free it from dirt. They are, however, expensive to operate and sometimes are troublesome in other respects.

As an illustration of the humidification of the air, say it is zero outside and you heat that air by the Plenum System and put a hydrometer in your building (every library building ought to have a thermometer and a hydrometer) and a thermometer in every room, and one or two hydrometers around the building to measure the relative humidity. What I was going to say was that when the air is about zero outside and you bring it in with the Plenum System to about a temperature of seventy in the rooms, the relative humidity is nine or ten per cent and that is drier than the air on any desert in the world, and the result is that it chaps the hands and irritates the membranes of the mouth and nose, and it is hard on the books, not to mention the furniture.

4. Separate the heating system from the ventilation system. Use the split system. This makes possible the supplying of air in the quantity needed, and without heating it so as to destroy its freshness, simply tempering it during cold weather.

In our new branch library building we did that and it is astonishing the difference. The public notice the difference and we all notice the difference when that is
compared with the main building which has the Plenum System. The building is heated by coils and when there are a few people in the rooms we ventilate it without any fans or any cost of energy for fans by window ventilation, natural ventilation. When there are many people in the room, we put the fans on and the air comes in at a temperature even below. That is, if the temperature is sixty-eight, which I prefer, we bring the air into the room at about sixty, and that gives that feeling of freshness and you save all that expense of coal and heat in heating that air and get a very much better feeling of freshness. In other words the heating is one proposition and the ventilation is another proposition and they are separated, they are not hooked together as they are in the older plants.

5. Provide for easy, independent control from the room itself of the amount of air to be delivered into that particular room from the ventilating fan system. In other words consider each room as a unit. That is very easy to do with the modern machinery. The engineers will have no difficulty in laying out the thing to get satisfactory results, if the medical men and the physiologists and the librarians really know what is the best thing to do. It is a relatively simple thing. For instance, in our new building, one of our new buildings, you can push a button and start the fan. You don't have to call up the engineer and regulate it
that way. The librarian can regulate it herself. That is very easy to install. That is what I mean by easy, independent control.

6. In crowded rooms, especially rooms frequented by odoriferous persons, move the air in vertical rather than in horizontal or semi-horizontal lines. This will not cause the spread of odors across the room to the annoyance of persons along the way.

That happens in the libraries, as you know, in the newspaper rooms. For instance you take a newspaper room like the room in the Chicago Public Library where they put a nose on the machine to deaden the odors and so on, but the exhausts are around at the side of the room and all these odors from the center go clear across the room, but it is perfectly possible to move that air up and around. They do that in theaters and in auditoriums generally, and in a room of that type it seems to me that's the way to handle it.

This question of odors, for instance. In Pittsburgh I have seen the children, they were pointed out to me some years ago, who come from some of those alleys up in the hills and ravines have their clothes sewed on them in the fall and they don't come off until spring, and I don't know whether this happens anywhere else outside of Pittsburgh, and when those youngsters eat garlic at home, as many of them do, that adds to our problem of ventilation.
7. Provide for natural ventilation — windows — as much as possible when there are only a few people in the room, reducing the cost of operation of the ventilation system. I have already referred to that.

8. Provide, especially in a crowded room such as a filled lecture hall, for sufficient motion in the air (without at the same time causing drafts) so that people have the sense of freshness in the air they breathe. This will keep them more alert and awake so that they will be able to get more or do more from their presence in such air.

   In other words stagnant air will soon give you the feeling of bad ventilation whereas air in motion causes a feeling of good ventilation because air in motion is ventilating the body, taking that envelop of saturated moisture that surrounds a person in a closed room and moves it on and gives a feeling of freshness that you feel when you are out in the open with a nice breeze.

   And that sort of thing is very important because if you have an auditorium for instance, it helps to keep the audience awake. I have seen people go to sleep in churches, for instance. It wasn't the fault of the preacher or anything of that kind. It was the fault of the ventilation or the lack of the ventilation system.

9. In cities take the air for the fans from the roof of the building rather than from the street level,
Mr. Lidenberg doesn't agree with that so far as the importance of providing for different eyes. Mr. Andrews tried some very interesting experiments in that and so did Mr. Burton in the University of Chicago, but I am convinced there is a great difference in eyes, that some eyes require a great deal more light on the reading plane than others.

I know that I require a great deal more light now than I did when I went to college. When I went to college I did most of my work with a student's lamp. I have that student's lamp out in my country home and if I have to read a newspaper, for instance, in the evening by that lamp, I think it is something awful and yet for four or five years I did all my studying with that same lamp. I don't think there is very much difference in the character of the oil that goes into a student's lamp to make all that difference in light.

About ten or fifteen years ago it was supposed that four or five foot candles on the reading plane, on the desks, or the reading tables was enough light and all the books said that, but the newer library buildings, we in Philadelphia, for instance, have fourteen foot candles, which seem to me over lighted. I think there is such a thing as over lighting, but the lighting companies and all of those people want to have as much as possible.

The main thing is to provide for a variation in eyes, and that can be done. There is a difference in eyes
of different people.

11. Plan a color scheme for the walls, windows, and draperies to give an artistic effect. It will attract readers and be more restful to all who use the room. Red is not a restful color to have in such a room, but there are other colors which possess just that quality. I think you all agree with that. Some of the factories in France have had some very interesting experiments in the amount of product that is turned out through the changing of the color of the walls in the room in which the people work, and in some of our college libraries they are trying that thing as well as in laboratories. The Neplopert (??) Laboratories at East Cleveland are doing some very interesting experiments in the effect of color from lighting. This is a big subject and a very interesting subject.

12. Give special attention to the lighting of the book stacks. Here utility should be the first and last consideration. It is of the highest importance.

I think in the lighting of library buildings the book stacks are the worst lighted parts of the building. I have yet to see a single book stack that was satisfactorily lighted. How many here know of a book stack that is satisfactorily lighted so that you could easily read the titles of the books on the floor. (One hand) The University of Minnesota.
MR. WALTER: We did that by using a lamp of sufficient intensity and it reflected on the marble floor.

DR. BOSTWICK: We had it in New York in one branch so you could read everything on the lowest shelves. It was done by an engineer who had no sense of artistic beauty and he did it by long projecting arms five or six feet long which distributed the light evenly, but it was so frightfully ugly that everybody who came into the building exclaimed about it and they all had to be removed.

MR. WALTER: We are just using an ordinary light globe but putting them close enough together to throw the light down and the marble floors reflect.

MR. RANCK: A marble floor or a white enameled floor or a cement floor painted white will help a lot in reflecting the light to the lower shelves, but I think as a rule the lighting of the stacks satisfactorily is almost unexplored country for the illuminating engineers, and I have said repeatedly to the engineers and others that I think there ought to be some way of throwing the switch in your alcoves, your stacks with a foot so that when a page or somebody has an armful of books, he doesn't have to use one hand to throw a switch off, because you can waste a lot of light in your stacks. You can easily waste more light in the stacks than you can in the rest of the building and this can be eliminated if you can throw your switch with the foot and light it all.
the way to the bottom.

13. Have all lighting fixtures, switches, apparatus, etc. easy of access to both janitors and workmen. Electric fixtures that can be cleaned or adjusted only from the top of a twenty foot ladder which does not reach the ceiling will not get the attention they need. And I have seen some that required a thirty foot ladder. The men have to put two ladders together or strap up and swing on ropes. I have visions of the accident insurance and workmen's compensation every time a man climbs up in our reference room to get on a ladder that is held by ropes fastened on ropes that swing to get to the fixtures.

In designing lighting fixtures of this kind we ought to ask librarians to place more emphasis on the fact that human beings are going to operate these things and it should be arranged in a way that they can get to them and operate them easily.

14. Architects, librarians and library boards should always keep uppermost in mind that the function of a library building is to serve human needs, and that it must be operated by average human beings. We must, therefore, adapt to the fullest extent possible, ventilation, lighting and everything else about a library building to human beings rather than expect human beings always to adjust themselves to the building. When all this has been accomplished, we shall have
humanized our libraries.

Mr. Chairman, those are the fourteen points that I submit as a basis for report and if there is time, I shall be glad to answer any questions, if I can.

PRESIDENT RODEN: Any discussion of this report?

MR. WALTER: There is one point I want to suggest, that is select a suitable superintendent of the building.

MR. CODY: I should like to ask Mr. Ranck if he has seen the newly installed lighting in the Engineers Library of the Engineering Society in New York?

MR. RANCK: I haven't been there recently. How recently was it installed?

MR. CODY: About a year ago. It is said to be very perfect for library practice.

MR. RANCK: I might say, Mr. Chairman, that the engineers both for ventilation and lighting will be able to solve these problems for us if we definitely know what we need and want. I didn't touch on the matter of psychology in the handling of this problem, especially ventilation. We are dealing with masses of people in our larger libraries in particular and the psychological effect of both light and ventilation and all that kind of thing are things to be taken into consideration, and that can be done
very readily by giving certain impressions that things are happening.

PRESIDENT RODEN: If there is no further discussion of this report, the meeting will stand adjourned.

... The meeting adjourned at twelve-twenty-five o'clock ...