

P R O C E E D I N G S

A. L. A. COUNCIL

Midwinter Meeting
American Library Association

December 30 - 31, 1929

Hotel Drake

C h i c a g o



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December 30, 1929

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A. L. A. COUNCIL

Monday Morning, December 30, 1929

The first session of the A. L. A. Council at the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association, December 30-31, 1929, Hotel Drake, Chicago, was called to order at ten-five o'clock by the President, Mr. Andrew Keogh, Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: It is a great pleasure to me to preside at this meeting and to welcome members of the Council and other members of the Association, many of whom have come great distances to attend the meeting.

We shall proceed with the program as printed. The first item of business is a report of the Committee on Affiliation of Chapters. The Chairman of that Committee is Mrs. Julia Babcock of California. Mrs. Babcock is not here, and I shall ask Mr. Milam to be good enough to present the report.

SECRETARY MILAM: The Committee has examined a petition for affiliation as a chapter from the Maryland Library Association, and recommends that the petition be granted and that the Maryland Library Association become a chapter of the A. L. A.

MR. SAMUEL H. RANCK (Grand Rapids, Michigan): Mr. President, I move that the report be adopted. I am glad to make that motion as a former resident of Maryland.

... The motion was seconded and unanimously

carried ...

PRESIDENT KEOGH: The second item on the docket is a report from the Committee on Code of Ethics, of which Miss Josephine A. Rathbone, School of Library Science, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, is Chairman.

MISS JOSEPHINE A. RATHBONE: The code of ethics for librarianship got under way about a year ago this fall. Its sailing directions were first to determine whether to reprint the Bolton code of ethics, which had been prepared by Mr. C. S. Bolton, of Boston, and printed in a symposium together with a number of other proposed library ethics by the Association for Political Science, and which had been discussed more or less in library circles. A request had come for a reprinting of that, and the Council, feeling that to reprint it would thereby give it official standing which it had not had before, thought it desirable to refer the matter to a committee.

The Committee was instructed also, in case it decided not to reprint the Bolton code, to determine, in the second place, whether any code at all was desirable, and, in the third place, should it decide that a code was desirable, to go ahead and prepare a code to be submitted to the Council.

The Committee agreed that perhaps the first thing to be done was to discuss the matter with the Association of American Library Schools, since that organization represented those agencies that primarily had the responsibility for

promulgating ethics among the younger members of the profession. Therefore, a year ago at the midwinter meeting of the Association of American Library Schools the matter was presented and discussed, and though no formal action was taken, it was the consensus of opinion among those present that the Bolton code was rather too circumstantial and too one-sided, presenting matters almost wholly from the point of view of the chief librarian, to be adopted as the official code for the profession. At the same time, they felt that some code was a very desirable thing to serve as a basis, at least, for the instruction of library school students in the ethics of their employment. Therefore, the Committee with this understanding went ahead and made an outline of the points that they thought should be covered by a code, and sent this outline to all the library schools for discussion among their faculties and in many cases discussion with the student body itself.

The result of this was again discussed at a meeting of the Association of American Library Schools at the time of their meeting in Washington, their comments and criticisms having been gone over previously by the Committee, and at the same time the code as it then stood was presented to a number of people informally at the Washington conference. All of this material that was then received was gone over and digested by the local members of the Committee, those that could be gotten in touch with around New York, and the result of that

presented again to the whole Committee for criticism and again gone over by the local committee, and finally sent to the Council.

I am saying all that because it has sometimes been said that a code should not be merely the work of a small committee and should not represent merely the views of those on the committee, and I want to assure the Council that at least 200 members of the profession have gone over the code and made their suggestions, so that it is by no means the work of this Committee alone.

Mr. Milam tells me that it has been decided that material that has gone to the Council in printed or mimeographed form is not to be read here, so I refrain from inflicting the code upon you, taking it for granted that the Council has had the opportunity to see and to make some study of it.

I am, however, going to submit to you as amendments, so to speak, to the code, a few suggestions that have come to me, and then I hope those present will bring forward any other criticisms and suggestions they may have to make.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: May I interrupt for a moment. It was my thought that it would be unwise and perhaps unnecessary to read the report as a whole in view of the many things that have to be read today, but we want suggestions. There is no reason whatever why we should not spend twenty or thirty

minutes in improving the thing, if it can be improved.

MISS RATHBONE: I quite agree with you.

The Committee has gone over all of the suggestions that have been received by it. It has not adopted them all. Some of them were mutually exclusive; some seemed to us too circumstantial; some too local in their interpretation; some seemed to us really to be substitutes for the Ten Commandments, and we did not think that was necessary. Matters of plain honesty or of ordinary business ethics we did not consider it necessary to embody, but every suggestion has been carefully weighed.

Among the suggestions, however, were two or three that I feel are important enough to submit to the Council. One is a section relating to the functions of the trustees, suggesting that that be further strengthened. The paragraph which they wished to strengthen reads: "The administration (sometimes the raising) of the funds for the support of the library." It seemed to be generally considered that the duty of trustees toward raising funds should be more emphasized than is done in that paragraph. Therefore, I have prepared this to be inserted, if it seems wise: "Responsibility for bringing the needs of the library before the authorities who control the appropriation of funds and for using all proper influences to get such increases as are necessary for the growth and development of the work." Then that would be

followed by the next paragraph, which would be the administration, leaving out "sometimes the raising," of the funds for the support of the library.

The second suggestion which seemed to be worthy of consideration was that there should be a paragraph on dismissals, and this has been prepared to follow after resignations; then the heading Dismissals would be 5, and Recommendations would be 6. It now is:

"4. Resignations. Resignations should be made in writing to the authority from which the appointment came with due notification to the immediate supervisor. Adequate time should be given before the resignation takes effect for the work to be put into shape; for the appointment and, when practicable, the initiation of a successor."

Then would follow:

"5. Dismissals. Dismissals should be made whenever the good of the service demands. The employee's length of service, need of the position, and personal worthiness may be considered, but these elements should never outweigh a clear case of incompetence or incompatibility. It should be remembered that an employee who is unsatisfactory in one position may often prove effective in another department or position. Such adjustment may be attempted where practicable before dismissal. Dismissal should be made by the highest executive officer."

I think it might be said that dismissal should be made by the same authority that makes the appointment, because sometimes that is the board and sometimes the librarian or possibly a committee of the board.

The third change is a mere matter of substituting "he" for "she" in the paragraph on Assistants, Page 5. I suppose the library assistant is so frequently a she that the Committee did not realize it was excluding male assistants from consideration by the use of the personal pronoun, so we are very glad to substitute, as has been suggested, "he" for "she" in so much as "he" is supposed to include "she," and therefore "if an assistant is critical of a department or feels that he has been unfairly dealt with, he should first discuss the matter with the head," and so on wherever "she" is used we shall be very glad to substitute "he."

Those are the only suggestions which the Committee has seen fit to lay before you, but we are more than glad to have other suggestions and as many criticisms as possible.

MR. ERNEST J. REECE (Columbia University):

I arise not to make any comments upon the principles or details enunciated in the report, but I do feel called upon to voice some sentiments. I hope that the members of the present Committee will not feel that this is in any way directed at that Committee, since I can assure them that the sentiments in

question go back some years before the appointment of the present Committee. I think we must all agree that although changes might easily be suggested in the report as made and as the Chairman has made them, for example, this is an excellent piece of work; it is comprehensive, it is on a high plane, and it will be an invaluable teaching rule.

I wish, however, that the Council might find some way by which the Association might reap the advantages of such a statement without incurring the disadvantages that often are associated with codes. For one thing, this statement is very much a domestic, a family matter; it is something, as the Chairman has said, to be used primarily for instructional purposes; it is not a thing to be given any publicity; it is not a thing to get itself written into a compilation of codes. I wish it might be found possible for the Secretary and for ourselves to say, if asked, that the American Library Association had no code of ethics. There would be an enviable position of distinction about that.

Moreover, a statement of this kind should be kept plastic, it should be subject to change. It is a risky thing to put upon it any label of completeness or finality. My suggestion, therefore, is that after whatever points may be thrashed out that it seems necessary to thrash out within the code itself, the action of the Council be to approve the work of the Committee rather than to adopt the product of that work

as a code.

I should like, therefore, to present the following resolutions:

"RESOLVED, That the Council considers the report of the Committee on the Code of Library Ethics as a commendable statement of the attitudes and principles of conduct which are appropriate to librarians and to the governing bodies of libraries; that the Committee be asked to arrange for the manifolding in mimeograph form under some such title as 'Suggestions to the management of libraries and the professional conduct of librarians'; that the distribution of the statement be restricted to libraries and to library schools."

... The motion was seconded ...

PRESIDENT KEOGH: It is moved that the work of the Committee be approved and that the report itself, with desirable changes, be mimeographed and circulated privately. What do you think about that, Miss Rathbone?

MISS RATHBONE: I don't know just what to say, Mr. Keogh. I think it would hardly carry as much weight among the younger members of the profession if it were put in that way as if it were formally adopted. I must confess that when I was appointed Chairman I was quite uncertain myself as to whether it was advisable for the Association to adopt a formal and definite, hard and fast code of ethics. My opinion has been somewhat modified by the reactions that I have received from

the library school and others, many of whom seem to want not only a code, but a far more definite and detailed and circumstantial code than we have prepared. There seemed to be a feeling on the part of many librarians that such a code would work to the advantage of their institutions, were it generally disseminated. It does not seem to me it is the part of the Committee, however, to make a plea for the adoption of the code.

I am perfectly willing to leave it in the hands of the Council and let it take any turn that the Council wishes. I will do anything that the Council wants to have done with it.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: As it stands, then, the Committee does not propose the adoption of the code, but leaves it in the hands of the Council. On the other hand, there is a motion by a member of the Council, duly seconded, that the report be accepted and the work of the Committee be approved, that the report be mimeographed and circulated privately.

MR. CLARENCE SHERMAN (Providence, Rhode Island): If the resolution is adopted, it would not prevent the Association from adopting this as a code of ethics at the present or in a revised form at some future time.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: It is my interpretation that that is correct.

MR. REECE: It would not prevent the adoption at any future time.

MR. FORREST B. SPAULDING (Public Library,



Des Moines, Ia.): May we hear the resolution again?

... The resolution was reread ...

MR. SPAULDING: May I offer as an amendment to that motion that the words following "for the governing of conduct of librarians" be omitted. It seems to me that this body ought to be able to say yes or no. I can see many good reasons for saying no as to the adoption of a code of ethics at this time, but the motion as presented provides for the publication of a code as presented by the Committee without its adoption or without sponsoring on the part of the Council. I should like to come clean, so to speak, and decide at this meeting this morning whether or not we are going to have this code of ethics today.

MR. H. O. SEVERANCE (University of Missouri, Columbia): I have gone over this code, trying to make applications to myself and to my library staff, and I am very much in favor of it. I wonder whether if we would state this title differently, we would need that resolution. I think that what we want to do is to adopt a suggested code of ethics.

I should like to make a substitute motion that we use the words "suggested code of library ethics." It seems to me that answers every purpose. I should like to have the Association go on record as suggesting this code of ethics for use in our library profession. I need it myself, and my staff needs it.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Do you accept that, Mr. Reece?

MR. REECE: I think I would rather have the resolution go to vote, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Did you make that as a motion, Mr. Severance?

MR. SEVERANCE: I made it a motion.

... The motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler ...

MR. JOSEPH L. WHEELER: I understand that the substitute motion is that the Association adopt a suggested or at least a preliminary code of ethics. That is what I am seconding.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Under the ordinary rules of order the substitute motion will come first.

MR. SEVERANCE: Mr. Ranck suggests that I be a little more explicit in regard to this, that some may not understand it. Mr. Wheeler used the word "preliminary," I used the word "suggested." It means simply that we adopt a code, that we suggest it can be amended at any time at any of our meetings, or anything can be added or anything can be done with it that we want to do. My thought is that we adopt this as something that we suggest to the librarians to follow. After an experience of a few years, we might get something still more definite.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Does that change your point

of view, Mr. Reece?

MR. REECE: I think not.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Are you ready for the question? We will take the substitute motion first. If I understand it correctly, Mr. Severance, the Council is to accept this code and publish it.

MR. SEVERANCE: As a suggested code. Members of the Council only are expected to vote.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: The substitute motion is that this be adopted by the Council as a suggested code of ethics and that it be published by the Council as a basis of any future code to be determined at later times.

... The substitute motion was carried by a vote of 20 to 6 ...

PRESIDENT KEOGH: May I assume, Mr. Reece, that this takes the place of the motion?

MR. REECE: I suppose we'll have to.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Unless there is something more to be said, we shall accept that last vote as expressing the decision of the Council as to this code of ethics. Does anyone question that or want to raise any further question? If not, it has been accepted.

I do not find that in the substitute motion there was any approval of the work of the Committee. I am quite sure that the Council does feel very keenly its obligation to

Miss Rathbone and her Committee for working this out.

The next order of business is a report on D. C. numbers on L. C. cards, by Miss Eliza Lamb, University of Chicago Libraries, Chicago.

MISS ELIZA LAMB: The addition of D. C. numbers to the Library of Congress cards has been discussed from time to time for many years. This cooperative work is now, we hope, about to be started. The fact that libraries using the Library of Congress classification have been materially helped by the printed numbers has doubtless influenced this demand for the D. C. In 1926, the Catalog Section referred the matter to the A. L. A. Council. The Committee on Cataloging and Classification was then asked by the Executive Board to submit a budget, with suggestion for financing, and a plan of work.

The Committee report having been approved by the Board, circular letters were sent to all libraries subscribing to the Library of Congress printed cards, stating the problem and inviting them, if interested, to subscribe for a period of three years an amount approximately equal to ten per cent of an average annual bill for the printed cards. This was later followed by a second circular letter.

In accordance with the plan as outlined, Library of Congress, aside from furnishing desk space, will assume no responsibility for the work. D. C. numbers will

first be supplied on cards currently printed for English books, and as many others as possible. As time and funds permit, they will be assigned to all printed and reprinted cards.

Service received seems a just basis for payment. Responses have been varied and interesting. While some have expressed themselves as entirely opposed to the undertaking, others have been enthusiastic over its possibilities. Some generous subscriptions have been made without thought of returns, but to promote a piece of cooperative work. In some instances, the regulations of library funds have prevented subscriptions being made as suggested. This applies mainly to state institutions and to school libraries under departments of education. It is hoped, however, that if such libraries find the service of value, a satisfactory method of payment will be found.

Nine thousand dollars a year for three years was the minimum amount required for starting the work. Subscriptions to date total \$8000, showing a definite interest in the project. Library of Congress, by detailing service, agrees to underwrite for three years half the remaining \$1000, providing A. L. A. will underwrite for an equal amount. This has been recommended. If the service proves as useful as expected, other libraries using the D. C. classification will wish to subscribe and the work should be self-supporting at the end of the three years of trial.

The feeling is rather general that this printing of D. C. numbers will be especially useful to the small libraries. The large libraries may, however, profit in the end if this service leads to expanding the D. C. classifications to provide numbers for new subjects as the need arises.

Extension of Cooperative Cataloging. I have been asked to speak also of the extension of cooperative cataloging. The subject, of course, dates back many years. Recent consideration of it is as follows: A committee of the Catalog Section, of which Mr. Currier was Chairman, recommended in 1928 an investigation of the whole field. This report of Mr. Currier's was printed in full in the proceedings of that year, and in this he details the various branches which should be covered by such an investigation. This report was referred to the Executive Board with the request that funds be appropriated for carrying on the preliminary investigation.

In December, 1928, this was approved by the A. L. A. Executive Board and the officers were instructed to make every reasonable effort to secure the funds. The matter was again brought up for discussion at the meeting of the Executive Board last May. It was the sense of the meeting that the group which represented the project ought to carry it one step further and work out some plan for securing funds. A committee was accordingly appointed, and I will read the report of that committee.



"At a meeting of delegates from the various regional catalog groups held at the Washington conference, the following committee was appointed to discover a means of raising the \$75,000 considered necessary for the furtherance of the Cooperative Cataloging project: Harriet D. MacPherson, Chairman, Helen K. Starr, Eliza Lamb.

"The committee at once interested in its cause Mr. Charles H. Hastings, who drew up a sample petition to be used in approaching some foundation for funds. As a matter of fact, Mr. T. F. Currier's well known survey of the Cooperative Cataloging field will probably be used in connection with this petition.

"In October, several catalogers interested in Cooperative Cataloging met in conference at Columbia University. Those present were: Mr. Charles H. Hastings, Mr. T. F. Currier, Miss Harriet B. Prescott, Miss Minnie E. Sears, and Miss Harriet D. MacPherson. At this meeting it was agreed to ask Mr. Keogh, Dr. Williamson and Dr. Bishop to undertake the actual appeal to any foundation they thought wise. These gentlemen have now been authorized by the committee to act in the capacity of a subcommittee, and to undertake the problem in their own way. We are fortunate in having secured their aid, and have the utmost confidence that they will ultimately succeed in raising the desired fund."

PRESIDENT KEOGH: You have heard the report of



the Committee. What is your pleasure?

... A motion was regularly made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the report be accepted ...

PRESIDENT KEOGH: The next item is the hospital library project, recommendations from the A. L. A. Committee on Hospital Libraries. The Chairman is not here, and I shall ask Mr. Milam to present the report.

SECRETARY MILAM: Mr. President, there are three recommendations here, some of which apparently do not belong to the Council in a strict interpretation, but the Chairman wanted them all read to the Council.

The first is a recommendation that ten books a month for hospital libraries be included in the Booklist.

The second one is that the Hospital Libraries Committee's budget be increased from \$50 to \$100 a year.

The third is a recommendation that the project for affiliation with the American Hospital Association be endorsed at this time, inasmuch as the Executive Secretary of that organization, Dr. Bert Caldwell, is again submitting our request to his Council. A copy of the plan for the proposed affiliation is attached.

All the members of the Council have had copies of that last statement.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: You have heard, in the absence of Miss Jones, the Chairman, a summary of the recommen-



dations from the Hospital Libraries Committee.

If I understand the matter correctly, the first of the recommendations, that the Booklist include ten books a month, with annotations from the point of view of the hospital librarian, should be referred to the Editorial Committee; that the second recommendation, which involves an increase in expenditure from \$50 to \$100 a month, must go to the Executive Board, which passes upon appropriations; that the third recommendation, the project for affiliation with the American Hospital Association, be endorsed by the Council, is before you for action.

MR. SEVERANCE: I have gone over this rather carefully, and there are two or three questions I should like to ask to make it clear to myself. Is the Hospital Libraries Committee to affiliate with the organization, or is it to affiliate with us?

SECRETARY MILAM: I think it was unwise to direct the questions to the Secretary as representing the Committee, because I had no authority to do anything more than to present this report, and I have practically no information except what is included in this statement. I may say that I wondered about that myself. I judged that what they meant was that we should affiliate with each other.

MR. SEVERANCE: On the next page, in this plan for affiliation, it says: "It is greatly to be hoped that the

Association" (I take it the American Library Association) "will create a Hospital Library Section to meet as part of its annual conference, with an interested chairman in charge. This would serve to bring library work in hospitals to the notice of hospital authorities. Such a section would provide opportunity not only for the reading and discussion of papers, but also for the conduct of a round table at which measures for the furtherance of education in hospital library methods and administration, as well as in the selection of books and current literature for therapeutic uses, would be considered."

I don't feel that we are ready to endorse that if it means that we are to endorse a section. The Hospital Libraries Association has a round table, and it has had for some time, and if the Hospital Libraries Committee and the round table and the committee from this other association meet and decide in their round table that they want a section, then that should be presented to the Council with fifty signatures of those who are interested. I am not ready to say that we shall endorse this section, because it has not come to us in the proper form.

MR. RANCK: I move that the whole matter be referred back to the Committee with the request that they state definitely the recommendations that they want the Council to adopt.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Mr. Ranck, I don't think it



is necessary to refer the first or second of these paragraphs back to the Committee or that any action should be taken at this time by the Council, because the By-laws provide for action by the Editorial Board or by the Executive Board on such matters. The third one, I think, ought to come before the Council, and the motion of Mr. Ranck before us is that it be referred back to the Hospital Libraries Committee to be put in proper form and brought to the Council at a later date.

MR. GEORGE LOCKE (Toronto): Will you kindly read the last paragraph, Mr. Milam?

SECRETARY MILAM: "It is recommended that the project for affiliation with the American Hospital Association be endorsed at this time, inasmuch as the Executive Secretary of that organization is again submitting our request to his Council."

Mr. Chairman, representing the Committee in so far as I can, I wonder whether I might ask that in some way encouragement be given to the Committee without committing the Council to any particular program. I know that the Committee has been working with the American Hospital Association for some years, endeavoring to bring about a closer relationship between that organization and the hospital librarians in the interest of hospital libraries. I feel confident that the Council would want to encourage such effort and that it might be very helpful to have a motion stating that fact, along with

the reference back to the Committee, which Mr. Ranck has proposed.

MR. RANCK: I shall be glad to incorporate that. My personal view of the matter is that ultimately there ought to be a section, that the hospital library work is so important that it would be better if it came before us with that end in view.

MR. WHEELER: Why can't we adopt the resolution saying that we adopt it in principle, and refer some of the technicalities back to the Committee?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Mr. Severance is the Chairman of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws. What about this theoretical proposal of Mr. Wheeler's?

MR. SEVERANCE: Mr. Ranck's motion was seconded, I believe, but I think he is willing to withdraw it. I think what we want to do is this: We want to endorse in general this proposition without regard to the details; the details can be left to some other time.

I should like to make a substitute motion, if Mr. Ranck will withdraw his, that in general we endorse the proposition of the Hospital Libraries Committee to affiliate with the American Hospital Association.

MR. RANCK: I am in favor of that half of it; that is only half. The idea is that the other half should come back to us from the Committee and that part should be referred

to them.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Shall we take up the two halves separately for voting? Are we all agreed in principle that affiliation with the American Hospital Association is desirable? Will those in favor say "aye"? (Unanimous approval)

As to the method by which that shall be accomplished, Mr. Ranck proposes that the report be referred back to the Hospital Libraries Committee with instruction to prepare it for submission to the Council at a future meeting in proper legal form.

MR. WHEELER: May I make a substitute motion, that the Committee be authorized to take up the matter of affiliation with the American Hospital Association and proceed to comply with the affiliation, after they submit these paragraphs and technicalities to Mr. Severance's committee, if necessary, or do whatever is necessary to get them in constitutional form.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: That is the same thing, is it not?

MR. WHEELER: I mean that it is not necessary to come back to the Council again.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: This is now a substitute motion.

MR. GEORGE B. UTLEY (The Newberry Library,

Chicago): What is affiliating with what? It seems to me that we have got to know a little more definitely before any action can be taken, what part of the American Library Association is affiliating with the American Hospital Association. In other words, is the whole American Library Association affiliating, or is it the Hospital Libraries Committee of the American Library Association that is affiliating, or is it the Round Table of the Hospital Librarians that is affiliating, or is it the Hospital Libraries Section which is affiliating, which does not yet exist? It seems to me that by the process of elimination, it is not the American Library Association at large that is affiliating, but rather that the section which is proposed of the hospital libraries is the proper organization and body to affiliate. It does not seem to me that we can very well vote affiliating or that that section can apply for affiliation until it exists. While I am heartily in favor of some form of affiliation with the hospital organization, it seems to me that there is not an organization of the American Library Association yet in position to apply for that affiliation.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: That is no part of the report; that is a proposal arising out of this report.

There is now a substitute motion before the house. It was not seconded, Mr. Wheeler. There is no substitute motion before the house.

Mr. Ranck then has a proposal.

MR. WHEELER: Can a committee affiliate?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I don't know.

The second part of the question is that it be referred back to the Committee for definite statement as to what it is they want the Council to do, and present it in proper form, and that we endorse the proposition in general. That is the motion.

... The motion was carried ...

PRESIDENT KEOGH: The next order of business is library activities of the federal government: what they ought to be. I shall ask Mr. Milam to make a statement on that point. There is no committee.

SECRETARY MILAM: As the members of the Council will recall, a resolution was adopted by the Council at Washington at the last session and in the last half hour of the session, as I remember it, asking the Secretary of the Interior to appoint a librarian on the national advisory Board to study education, a national advisory committee on education. That was transmitted, and the Secretary of the A. L. A. has been appointed as a librarian on that committee. The committee consists of about fifty people. That report, Mr. President, in common with the other reports, was sent to all the members of the Council with a request that you be prepared to contribute suggestions at this time in order that the representative of the

Association on the committee may have, within the next few weeks or months, when the time comes, the best advice that you can give as to what the federal government ought to do in the field of library service through its Department of Education.

MR. RANCK: I think a good many of us feel that the Bureau of Education could enlarge its service very materially in the way of distributing knowledge with reference facts, for instance the publication at more frequent intervals of the statistics of the American libraries, which are frequently called on, not only by the library profession, but by others. The last one, I believe, was in 1923. They used to come out, I think, every five years. I don't know whether there is another in the offing now, but I don't recall any blanks from the Department of Education in recent years. Those are some of the things that a nation-wide study could cover and that the federal government is in position to make. I think they ought to be enlarged very materially.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Do you know whether there is any such thing in preparation?

SECRETARY MILAM: I cannot answer that. It is not intended, I take it, that these questions can be answered or settled here. We are simply recording the suggestions, and I hope we will have a lot of them.

MR. SEVERANCE: I should like to ask Mr. Milam a question on No. 5 of these statements, "Compile and publish

statistics of all kinds of libraries." How will that be effective, Mr. Milam, if we in the A. L. A. should provide for a statistical bureau? Would there be duplication?

SECRETARY MILAM: I should hope that it would put the A. L. A. statistical bureau out of business. There is no reason that we should pay for it if we can get the government to do it without cost to us.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: If there is nothing more, we shall pass on to the next matter.

MR. RANCK: Write to Mr. Milam in the meantime.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: He would be very glad to receive suggestions.

SECRETARY MILAM: I should like to make a personal appeal to every member of the Council present to note right now the fact that I want to hear what you think the answers ought to be to each one of these questions, as well as other topics. The committee which is working on the whole program will reach libraries sometime in the next several months, and when that time comes there will probably be a conference of three or four people, and they will expect somebody to say (and they probably will turn to the member of their committee who represents libraries) what the government ought to do. I don't want to answer that question for myself; I should like to answer it for all the members of the profession who are willing to express their opinions through me.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Would you like to have us take up the questions seriatim?

SECRETARY MILAM: Not necessarily.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Shall we read them?

MR. PAUL PAINE: Yes.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: "Is it the duty of the federal government to

"1. Maintain an adequate library on education for the staff of government employees in education and for other students?"

SECRETARY MILAM: There is not much question about that one. I put these in the form of questions so you would not think any conclusions had been reached by anybody.

"2. Extend liberal inter-library loan privileges?" Is there any reason why the libraries of the country should be able to look to the federal bureau or federal office of education for inter-library loans in that field?

"3. Prepare and publish bibliographies of current books and pamphlets within this field?"

... Mr. Milam read the balance of the questions through 10 ...

MR. JAMES T. GEROULD (Princeton University Library): Have these statements thus far been sent to members of the Council?

SECRETARY MILAM: Yes.

MR. PAINE: Wouldn't federal support of any of our activities in libraries carry with it federal supervision of those same activities? Necessarily, shouldn't you say?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Not necessarily. It depends upon the kind of support. We all get publications of the Bureau of Education free of charge. That is a contribution from the government.

MR. PAINE: This last provision called for an appropriation from the federal government to carry on extension activities, we will say, or something like that, or county library service. Could it be expected that we could get an appropriation from the federal government without some supervision as to how that money was going to be spent, and would not that carry with it federal supervision of the extension work so supported?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I don't know what the answer would be to that. Of course, that is something that Mr. Milam should bear in mind. What we are trying to do is to give him suggestions as to what he should say as representative of the A. L. A. in this committee. It is perfectly proper for him to ask at that conference whether this would or would not involve federal supervision of libraries that were subsidized.

SECRETARY MILAM: That is one of the main questions that this committee is going to get into before it goes much further.

At this point I should like, Mr. President, to say that the so-called steering committee of the larger committee presented ten proposals, I think, at the last meeting of the whole committee and decided to go as far as it could with unanimity in the adoption of those proposals. The first proposal was that the federal government should gather, compile, interpret and disseminate adequate statistics of national scope at all levels of education. Of course, this does not refer to libraries except incidentally.

2. Conduct research on basic educational problems of national significance.

3. Maintain a complete library of educational works and make it accessible to the public.

4. Maintain a legislative digest and information service to which state legislatures could look for information concerning the laws of other states and of foreign countries concerning education.

5. Support institutions and enterprises that serve the whole nation but are beyond the scope of the state, such as military, naval academies, service schools, etc.

6. Furnish experts on request, provide subsidies, etc.

They got through No. 5, and when they came to furnishing experts and providing subsidies, they decided they had better not go any further in the attempt to adopt these

resolutions at the present time, so they adjourned and are going to consider these things indefinitely. That is the rock on which a good many things are likely to break before the party is over.

MR. SHERMAN: In the tenth provision, I think equalization of library service or educational service is a mirage; it is not obtainable. There will always be inequalities, and I don't believe it is possible to establish equalities. In the second place, it seems to me bad economically and politically to expect the federal government to be pouring out constantly in anything except absolute emergency measures. I hope this Association will not make any effort to stand with those who are constantly trying to get that very thing.

MR. GEROULD: Anyone who knows the problems of government bureaus recognizes the difficulties with which they have to deal and the inefficiency of the result. I think that we are turning a bit from the course which has been pursued for a number of years, away from a dependence on the federal government for a lot of things we ought to be doing ourselves. I personally feel that we ought to go rather slow in a movement of this kind, and that every project should be very carefully analyzed before it is suggested by this body as proper for government administration.

MR. STROHM: I don't know that I have a right to speak, but if those remarks were in the nature of asserting

library manhood, I am with him. I don't believe that we need to have any guidance from the federal government or elsewhere. I like to feel that the states are not territories any longer and that we can stand on our own feet without having any pipeline from the federal government.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Michigan and Detroit have grown up.

DR. C. C. WILLIAMSON (Columbia University, New York City): I believe the questions are all cast in a form which makes it possible to answer them by a simple yes or no. I should like to know whether the Secretary would care to have such answers. That is a rather different matter from undertaking to defend the answer.

MR. RANCK: It would seem to me we should have the Secretary say whether he would like to have answers yes or no. It would be at least a guidance to him.

SECRETARY MILAM: If we could have an expression of opinion which would not be absolutely binding, I should certainly very much welcome it. As a matter of fact, I was not appointed by this Association to this committee, but was invited by the Secretary of the Interior because I was the Secretary of this Association. I judge that under those circumstances this Association ought not technically to give me any instructions, but I hope you will give me a lot of advice. Is that right?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I think it is.

DR. WILLIAMSON: If we do not have a public expression from the audience, perhaps they would write to Mr. Milam.

MR. PAINE: Let us call for the sense of the meeting.

SECRETARY MILAM: Is it the duty of the federal government to

1. Maintain an adequate library on education for the staff of government employees in education and for other students?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: What is your opinion on that?

... The majority of the Council favored No. 1; one opposing vote ...

MR. ROBERT J. USHER (Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans): I think your first question is on an adequate library. We already have an adequate library.

SECRETARY MILAM: If you answer this in the negative it would mean that you think they ought not to have one.

MR. USHER: I think no special stress should be put on the department.

SECRETARY MILAM: The whole program of educational service of the government is under consideration. They are beginning, of course, by taking an inventory of what they have, but they are going to recommend what they have which they think should be continued as well as what they think should be added

to what they have.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I don't think this implies any criticism of the present Bureau of Education library. It is simply a belief that there should be in the Bureau of Education an adequate library on education.

MR. RANCK: I think it would strengthen the position of the Bureau of Education in getting support. That library is still in position to be vastly improved as an educational library, good as it is, the best in the country.

SECRETARY MILAM: 2. Extend liberal inter-library loan privileges?

... The Council unanimously approved No. 2 ...

SECRETARY MILAM: 3. Prepare and publish bibliographies of current books and pamphlets within this field? (Majority in favor; one opposed.)

4. Prepare special bibliographies on educational subjects on request? (Unanimously in favor.)

5. Compile and publish statistics of all kinds of libraries? (Majority in favor; one opposed.)

6. Make investigations, surveys and studies of library service to schools and colleges? (Majority in favor; four opposed.) Library service of all kinds? (About sixty per cent in favor, forty per cent opposed.)

7. Issue publications on library service to schools and colleges? (Majority in favor; two negative.)

Library service of all kinds? (Majority in favor; four negative.)

8. Maintain a library division of the federal office of education with a staff competent to serve as library experts in connection with any study or survey in the field of education? (Twelve in favor; seven opposed.)

9. Give advisory assistance on library service to schools and colleges? (A very small majority in favor.)
On library service of all kinds? (Majority opposed.)

10. Give financial aid

(a) To equalize library service?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I don't know what it means.

SECRETARY MILAM: For example, Governor Lowden said about a year ago that the time had come when the federal government should aid rural schools and rural education of all kinds through subsidies, in the same way that the states had attempted to do that. It therefore becomes a question from a prominent man who is worthy of consideration, and I put it on the docket. It means federal appropriations for, shall we say, county libraries or school libraries throughout the country.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Shall the government give financial aid to equalize library service? (A large majority opposed; three voting in favor.)

SECRETARY MILAM: (b) To aid in the establishment of libraries, e.g., county libraries? (One in favor;

majority opposed.)

(c) To promote adequate library service in educational institutions and in connection with educational projects partly or wholly financed by U. S. government funds?

MR. STROHM: Isn't the National Education Association interested in this? Why shouldn't they approach the government instead of the A. L. A.?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: It is a question whether library service in the schools shouldn't come under the libraries.

... On No. 10 (c) fifteen voted in favor, and thirteen or fourteen opposed ...

SECRETARY MILAM: I shall still welcome the suggestions of every member of the Council.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Next is the report of the Committee on Subscription Books.

MISS MAY WOOD WIGGINTON (Denver): The report of the Committee on Subscription Books, or rather the demonstration of its activities, what you might call Exhibit A, will be in your hands within a few days, I hope. The Committee on Subscription Books was appointed in response to a long-felt pressure.

You all know the work of the Pacific Northwest Library Association and how it was welcomed everywhere and how librarians everywhere had to turn to it as the only source of information. Demand upon the American Library Association to

continue this has been insistent for many years, and therefore this Committee was appointed. It was appointed with the idea of continuing plans that had been formulated more or less by a previous committee on subscription books, a special committee. These plans included the gathering of information about subscription books. This information has to come from all sources. As you know, it is sometimes very difficult to secure it. The idea has been, and still is, to gather this information and opinion from librarians everywhere. We intend to publish a digest of opinions, not merely our own, and we want to gather them from all sources.

The original plan was to secure a corps of volunteer workers who would send in to us information and opinions. We have not gone as far with that as we had hoped. The organizing of volunteer labor takes a great deal of correspondence. We expect to do more on it soon. Those of you who have not been called upon may feel yourselves called upon now. I am asking you now to send to us any opinion or information you may have. Some of you will be asked more specifically, but the ones who do not receive a special letter are just as much expected to help us.

MR. PAINE: Do you mean with regard to any particular subscription books?

MISS WIGGINTON: What is being sold in your community, what particular crime is being committed in your

community, what you think, what your experience is with any set that you are sold; particularly if you find that your experience is unhappy, we should like to pass that on to some other librarian and save his money.

Having gathered this information and opinion, we plan to publish it in a subscription books bulletin, the first number of which will come out shortly. This bulletin, of course, is an effort to keep up to date. We can take up only a certain number of sets each time. We may publish an opinion this month, and three months from now revise or amend or contradict ourselves as we get further information and further opinion. When the bulletin is in your hands, you are invited to express yourselves freely and to let us know whether what we have given you is adequate to your needs.

We have particularly in mind the librarian in a small library who has no sales resistance. We plan a bulletin that will be useful in branches, in school libraries and in small public libraries and in the homes. We hope eventually that this bulletin will answer the questions that come to librarians from mothers, for instance. I have women call me up constantly, asking me over the telephone: "Someone is trying to sell me such-and-such a set. Shall I buy it?" Instead of offering my own opinion or telling her, as I sometimes might, that I don't know anything about it, we will have a file of the subscription book bulletins to which we can turn. Eventually

we hope the public at large will depend upon this and know that they can come to the library and get an express written digest of opinion and information about sets. We have our minds particularly fixed on the value of the dollar. We are more concerned, perhaps, in that than we are in the scholarship or editing of a work. One is more apparent than the other. The librarian who is in doubt wants to know whether this thing is worth \$50 and whether she should spend her \$50 for this as really a good investment. We hope to give you the experience of librarians who have invested their money and after a while are willing to admit that it is unwise or is wise, as the case may be.

As we proceeded with our work, we found that other aspects of this work had come to us. We were particularly delighted when the Subscription Books Committee of the National Association of Book Publishers came to us with a suggestion, with an invitation, with an offer of cooperation, asking us to send them a particularly itemized list of measures which publishers might take (I am quoting their wording) to eliminate everything and anything that librarians or the general public might complain of. You can see what an opportunity that was to us, and we have formulated such a list, and it will be printed in the bulletin.

We felt when we had it ready that we were dropping a bombshell into the publishing offices, because we

expressed ourselves very frankly and freely and tried to include everything that had bothered and had offended librarians from time to time. We have had a most gracious response to that from the chairman of their committee, who expresses himself to the effect that he had been afraid it was difficult, impossible, to get from librarians a definite expression that would enable publishers to know why librarians have felt as they have toward certain aspects of the subscription book business. He felt that this definite expression of ours was a proof that librarians were willing to cooperate with publishers.

You can see that there is no end to this aspect of cooperating with the publishers. It has developed surprisingly in the last few months. Publishers come to us with definite requests for constructive criticism. They say: "How can we build this set to suit your demands?" So our notes need to be not only warnings to librarians not to buy something that is not worth the price, but also need to be constructive criticism that the publisher can read and that will show him how to build a better set.

I think this eventually may be our greatest service if we can achieve what we want, because there is no doubt that publishers generally in many cases have improved their output in order to meet the demands set by the American Library Association. That is particularly true in children's

books. The publishers have made a great effort to secure the recommendation of the Booklist, for instance.

That is one of the encouraging things. Now one of the difficult things we have met is something that the A. L. A. Publications have not had to encounter before. The Booklist and the A. L. A. Catalog, and such things as Miss Mudge's Guide, do not include what they do not recommend. It is very much easier to leave out a book than it is to express yourself frankly, because the comeback is not quite so difficult to meet. We know that any expression that we put in print will be read most critically by publishers, particularly if it is unfavorable, and we have to express ourselves in a way that they cannot find too many holes in it.

That is one of our difficulties, but we bear in mind always that the service to the librarian is more important than what service we might render to the publishers by pointing out ways in which they can improve their product. As between the two, we try to give the librarian a definite expression so when she reads the notes she may know whether or not she wants to buy the set. That seems to us more important than a detailed criticism that might be a help to the publisher.

I hope the bulletin will contain many things that will be useful to you. If there is anything that you want in it, we are open to suggestions and advice. We want to put in what will be of use to you. Of course, the important thing



at present is that we be able to continue it; we cannot continue it without support. We shall need at least a thousand subscriptions to make it stand on its own feet and carry its own expenses. We trust that it will be useful in branches; therefore, we hope the large libraries will subscribe for enough copies to supply their branches, not so much for the librarian, perhaps, as for this harassed mother who comes in and wants to know what she should buy for her children. We hope the small libraries will have it, and in the cases where they cannot afford it, we hope the commissions will subscribe and send them these bulletins.

We are asking now for your most hearty support. This support can include suggestions as to what we should include, information which we ask you to send us that will help us to find out what is being sold in your community and what is worth while or what is not worth while; your advice and your suggestions; and your subscriptions.

MR. PAINE: Has the price been mentioned?

MISS WIGGINTON: One dollar. It is very cheap. It is \$1 for the year. I believe the first number if bought separately is a little higher than the others. The first number will include, in addition to reviews, certain other features that we hope will be helpful, as, for instance, a list of places where you may find reviews of subscription books, so if you are not satisfied with what we have to say on the subject,

you may look up what has been said about this work some other place; or if there is some book that we have not yet had time to review, you may find reference to it.

The preparation of copy for the bulletin has presented a great deal of difficulty which we hope time will ameliorate, and we hope further numbers will become increasingly useful to you.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I take it, Miss Wigginton, that your report is not proposed for adoption at this time.

MISS WIGGINTON: I have no recommendation to make.

MR. RANCK: I think this is a splendid thing, but I am wondering to what extent the Association might be financially responsible for adverse criticism, because that thing is likely to come up sooner or later.

MISS WIGGINTON: We are printing a disclaimer in the first number, which I hope will be adequate; also a statement to the effect that publishers may quote us in full but not in part.

SECRETARY MILAM: Perhaps Miss Miller will remember the wording of that disclaimer.

MISS MILLER: I don't believe I can remember the wording, although it is to the effect that the American Library Association as a body cannot be held responsible for statements in this bulletin, as it can take no action except through its executive board or through a vote of its membership, and that

obviously neither of these things has been done on any opinions or views printed in this bulletin.

MISS WIGGINTON: I may say that since the question of democracy has already been discussed this morning on the floor, the question has been discussed in the Committee and in various meetings as to the advisability of having, for instance, an editor in the A. L. A. Headquarters who could do the work and formulate these opinions. At present, the expression of opinion is left to the members of the Committee, which makes it a more or less individual thing and not nearly so actionable as though it came from the A. L. A. Headquarters office.

MR. STROHM: Perhaps this point that Mr. Ranck raises should be referred to the Committee on the Code of Ethics. If you are going to give a judgment, you ought to have backbone to stand by that judgment instead of running to cover. I think if the A. L. A. is apparent at all in that, it should be responsible.

MR. LOCKE: I think that we ought to give all the support we can to this Subscription Books Committee. Every now and then some of us come across the train of that serpent. It trails across the border, as well as do some other things. An article was written by the head of the Bureau of Statistics, and it was lifted out and put in the encyclopedia and his name put down as editor. Also the president of one of our



universities discovered that he was an editor of one of these books; they had obtained an address of his and put it in. I corrected, once, a statement that this book contained, with regard to the British flag, and they at once said, "What is wrong with it?" I told them, and I also went in as an editor. Someone told me that he had been presented with a set of books and he found afterwards that he was in for \$89 and it was presented to him because of his importance as the Chaplain of the university. I discovered it was this same set of books. That sort of thing has been going on all through the country. It is the librarian in the small place and the trustee in the small place who is taken in by the fact that So-and-so is an editor of this book; it is sold to those people and they have no recourse.

It is all very well for some of us people who are in the big libraries and are more courageous. I have a lovely set of marble stairs that I have sent three down now. You can't do that in a small place nor in a small library. In the country districts they spend \$150, for instance, on the Encyclopedia Britannica, and that is their whole appropriation for the year, or they buy some other subscription book and use up their whole appropriation. We have got to do something to help those people, and we have got to face the issue courageously.

This same little serpent has changed its name



three times within the last three years in order to avoid the publicity that has come through the county courts. What I object to is that it hurts legitimate book trade. The book seller in the town and all of us librarians from our standpoint as librarians are hurt because a man says, "I was stung with that two dollars down business, and I will never buy another book." Oftentimes he never does. We have got to face that issue courageously and be constructive. We ought to be able to support these people. It is the first bit of constructive thing I have heard which we can hand over to the subscription people. (Applause)

MR. STROHM: May I ask the Chairman if in preparing this she approached school authorities? My experience has been that there are more school superintendents upholding this thing than librarians ever did or ever will. I see their names on these subscription books.

MR. LOCKE: I discovered an interesting thing the other day. A chap showed me a list of names, and as I looked carefully at it I found it was the same old list of names that had been coming to me year after year that had been sold from one subscription book publisher to another, with this thing tacked onto the bottom.

MISS WIGGINTON: May I ask Mr. Locke to send me detailed and accurate information. I want to know the names of those sets, and I want to know the publishers.

MR. LOCKE: I should be delighted to give you the names of all of them.

MISS WIGGINTON: I may tell Mr. Locke that in this list of cooperative measures which publishers might take to eliminate anything and everything which the general public might criticize or complain of, the first thing we say is: Do not list as editor or collaborator the name of someone who has contributed only a few articles.

MR. LOCKE: Yes, but that is like the Ten Commandments in this country.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Mr. Strohm made a recommendation. I am not sure that it was a motion. It was that this matter be referred to the Committee on the Code of Ethics. I am not at all sure that that is the proper committee, but if that is a motion I shall be glad to bring it before the house. I take it that it was not a motion.

MR. WILLIAM ALCOTT (Boston, Mass.): I see on the program that we have twelve numbers for two morning sessions and we have disposed of six. I should like, if you please, to bring up another matter of some importance that concerns very deeply this Council.

I am here as the representative of an affiliated body, but I am here only because I am a member of A. L. A.

The matter I wish to bring up concerns a section of the American Library Association which was authorized a year

ago today. I have had considerable correspondence on it with the Committee on Constitution and By-laws and with the Secretary of the Association. Apparently, an irregularity occurred in the organization of Business Libraries Section, which was organized a year ago today. Immediately, at the request of the President of the A. L. A. at that time, the matter was called to the attention of the Secretary. I have learned within the past forty-eight hours that the Secretary is powerless in a matter of that kind; it does not reside in him, but that the matter rests wholly with this Council, which has authority to create sections and authority to discontinue sections.

There are very few documents in the case. The first document is the Constitution and By-laws of the American Library Association, which specifies how sections shall be organized, how they shall be open to any member of the Association, but that no member may vote in the section unless he is registered in that section; that at the final meeting of that section, officers shall be elected for the ensuing year.

The official program issued for the Washington conference contained the announcement of one meeting of the Business Libraries Section to be held in council chamber on Thursday, May 16, at eight-thirty. The A. L. A. Bulletin for August, 1929, contains the official account of those proceedings.

There it is stated that two meetings were held and that one meeting, which was neither announced as to time or place and which had not been disclosed as to time or place, elected officers and adopted a constitution, and then at the meeting which was announced in the bulletin, no business was transacted. There were three addresses of welcome, four papers, the Chairman announced that officers had been elected, that a constitution had been adopted, that they were not looking for memberships that night, no opportunity was given for registration, and the meeting was declared adjourned.

A request was made for the Chairman to withdraw that declaration which was made without a motion to adjourn, and the Chairman declared that this was no time for discussion, and the meeting was adjourned.

The right of every member of A. L. A. who was present at that meeting on May 16 was thereby violated. Those who were promoting that Business Libraries Section it seems to me were responsible for an action which was below the dignity of the American Library Association and below the dignity of the library profession.

Following the matter's being referred to the Secretary by the President, I took occasion to consult an outsider, a parliamentarian of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, who has been there for thirty years and is one of the eminent parliamentarians of this country, and showed him

the proceedings of the A. L. A. as published in the August number, and the by-laws and the program. I said, "Is there an evasion?"

He said, "Not only an evasion, a violation."

One of the members of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws thinks that there is no violation. There is another comment that I won't quote because I don't think it will be helpful at this time. Another said, "I am sorry for the disagreement there and I wish it might be cleared up."

Last October at the meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club at Lenox, a resolution was adopted, on recommendation of the executive board, that the attention of the executive committee (they should have said executive board) of this Association should be called to this matter for such action as the board deemed wise. I think a mistake was made there, because instead of that matter going to the executive board, which I believe is to come up according to Mr. Milam's correspondence, it should have been referred to this Council, which alone has authority.

My only contention is this: that the Business Libraries Section, officially authorized to come into existence, has not come into existence because of its failure to observe the by-laws and the constitution of this Association, and that therefore it does not exist, but there is no power to make that statement apart from this Council.

I, therefore, Mr. President, offer this resolution for vote: "Whereas, this Council by vote on December 28, 1928, authorized certain members of the Association to organize a Business Libraries Section, and

"Whereas, according to the proceedings of that section as published in the A. L. A. Bulletin for August last, there appears to have been a serious failure to recognize the rules of this Association, tending thereby to infringe the rights of members and to injure the good name of this Association and of the library profession, therefore be it

"Voted, that the President is hereby authorized to appoint a committee to inquire into the matter and to report back to the Council, and that the President also be authorized to suspend the function of said section if in his discretion the circumstances warrant."

As I say, my contention, which is backed up by this parliamentary authority whom I quote, is that the documents show a violation of the by-laws and failure to conform with them, and that therefore the Business Libraries Section does not exist.

I should like any committee of this Association merely to verify whether that is so or not and report whether it is so or not. I submit that vote, Mr. President.

MISS L. ELSA LOEBER (New York City): It seems to me that before there is any further discussion of the matter,

I should like to state exactly what happened. Being Chairman of the Business Libraries Section I am in position to do that.

In 1925, the business library group had its first round table, and presented a petition to the Council for the formation of a section. The vote on that section did not come up because the S. L. A. threw all kinds of obstacles in our way and blocked the vote as far as it could. The vote did not come up before the Council until 1927. Again, because of their arguments and because of the work that they did at that time, the Council laid the petition on the table. The group did nothing at all during the following year. On the vote of one of the members of the Council outside of the section, the matter was taken from the table in 1927 and the section was authorized. There was no meeting of the section until the Washington meeting. It was not the intention of the group in any way to evade the Constitution. As a matter of fact, the group had made every effort from the very inception of it until the authorization, to do everything in its power to abide by the Constitution and By-laws of the A. L. A. In so far as I know, we did.

The meeting to which Mr. Alcott objects was held the afternoon of Thursday, on the evening of which the open meeting was held, and at that meeting nothing took place except those of us who were present and who had been original members of the group elected officers and adopted a constitution and

by-laws.

The section of the Constitution needs interpretation if what we did was out of order.

That, as far as I know, is the history of the matter.

MR. UTLEY: I should like to second the motion of Mr. Alcott. However, I think, Mr. President, that I second it from a little different point of view than from the point of view of the gentleman who makes the motion, but I heartily agree with the motion.

I do not agree with the gentleman's statement that the section does not exist. A year ago at this time, as most of us remember who were here, the Council voted almost unanimously that the business libraries' petition be approved and that the section be created. That was done in entirely constitutional form; the section then and there became an existing thing. It is in existence now by virtue of that action a year ago.

I think Miss Loeber, Mr. President, is entirely correct in her statement that the officers were elected at the Washington conference entirely within the legal provisions of the Constitution. However, I am quite willing that that should be challenged, and so it gives me pleasure to second the motion that a committee to investigate this matter be appointed by the Chair.

I agree with Miss Loeber most heartily that if those officers were elected in any way in an illegal fashion, it is due to the fact that that section of the Constitution needs to be explained more clearly, but I don't think it does. I am not in position to say definitely, but I am under the impression that the officers were elected in a very similar way to the election of officers of previous sections when they have come into existence, and I don't really see how else the first officers could be elected, but I am willing to have that investigated.

I said a moment ago, Mr. President, that I take pleasure in seconding the motion of Mr. Alcott, but I said also that I think I second it perhaps from a little different point of view than the gentleman who made the motion.

We are a professional body. I hope we are not hagglers over constitutional minutiae when it means obstructing the wheels of library progress. It seems to me, Mr. President, that that is the critical thing before us. We were convinced, a year ago, that this group of special librarians had something to offer as a contribution to librarianship, and that those men and women could better what they had to offer by being officially organized as a section. They convinced the Council that that was true. The Council, being convinced, approved their petition and created the Business Libraries Section. Now it seems the thing for the Council to do, rather than to haggle

over minutiae as to the way the first officers were appointed, is to clear the way for that section to make its contribution which it is in position to make to the library progress of the country.

So in order to clear that way, to clear up any difficulty, any question as to the legality of the appointment of those officers, I cheerfully second that motion, and I hope every member of the Council will vote for it. Let the Chairman appoint a committee and let the thing be investigated, and when they make their report and say that such-and-such officers are elected, or, if they are not elected, then let them elect other officers, then we can proceed to receive this contribution which these business librarians are prepared to make.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: May I ask this question of Mr. Alcott and Mr. Utley. Unless this committee is appointed and unless it reports before the Council ends tomorrow, there will be no opportunity for action until the meeting at Los Angeles in June. Is that correct? Then if it should report that there was no section in existence, there would be no opportunity to carry out the desire of the Council that there should be such a section until the meeting next June. Is that correct?

MR. ALCOTT: I understand so.

MR. UTLEY: I think that is correct, but it seems to me that it is not difficult for the President, if he wishes

to do so, to appoint a committee which can report between now and the time the Council meets tomorrow morning.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I think we shall do that.

There is a Committee on Constitution and By-laws, and it seems to me that it is the function of that Committee to pass upon this dispute. The Chairman of that Committee is Mr. Severance, and he is here.

MR. SEVERANCE: The other members are not here.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Would you like to have the Chair appoint others from the Council to serve with you?

MR. RANCK: Mr. Utley was Chairman of the Committee that made this recommendation for that section, and he is perhaps more familiar with the preliminaries than anyone else.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Mr. Severance, in the absence of the other members of the Committee, would you be willing to have other members from the Council appointed to serve with you in this matter?

MR. SEVERANCE: Yes, I would.

MR. UTLEY: Speaking to Mr. Ranck's suggestion, Mr. President, while I do not wish to shirk a duty, I do not think it would be appropriate for me as Chairman of that Committee to serve on this Committee, but I may say that myself or any other member of that Committee will be pleased to be of any service he can be to that Committee.

DR. WILLIAMSON: I should like to ask a parliamentary question, and then, if the answer is as I think it will be, to make a substitute motion. The question is: Is it within the power of the Council to vote to regularize the action taken in Washington, to legitimize the organization or section?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: That also is a constitutional question.

DR. WILLIAMSON: If that is within the power of the Council, then I would offer a substitute motion that the Council vote to regularize, to validate, the action taken by those who intended to organize the section at the Washington meeting. It seems to me that this is a pure technicality. Whatever action the Committee takes will be a pure technicality. The Council wants the section organized. Those who were interested proceeded in good faith. They were the people primarily interested, and if there had been any opposition there I think it would have been merely technical in order to block the wishes of the Council.

MR. SEVERANCE: I have had correspondence with my friend Alcott and discussed this matter at Washington after it was over, and there was only one thing in the whole proceeding that I was in doubt about, and that has now been cleared up. I think if we will just for a minute decide what is a legal section, there will be no difficulty further on. I take

it that a legal section that we authorize is composed of the members who signed that petition, members of the round table who signed the petition asking that they be organized as a section, which we granted. If the members of that section as authorized met in Washington and decided upon a constitution and by-laws and had the open meeting afterwards, they were within their rights, and I think it is legal.

What would be the difference if we should find or if you should decide that that particular thing is not legal? Then steps should be taken to make it legal. It would be simply delaying the matter.

I have read this Section 17 again and again and have discussed it with certain people, and I think this section is within its right and it is legal and it is elected with officers and it is a going concern. I should like to make this statement in view of what Dr. Williamson has just said regarding this section.

MR. GEROULD: I should like to second Dr. Williamson's motion and ask for a ruling of the Chair.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I am not sure that there is any legal point involved there, Mr. Gerould. Will Dr. Williamson kindly put the question again so that I may pass upon it?

DR. WILLIAMSON: It is moved that the Council go on record as validating the action taken by the organizing

group of the Business Libraries Section at the Washington meeting.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I may say that the Constitution, Section 23, says: "All powers of the Association not otherwise provided for in the Constitution and By-laws shall be vested in the Council." That is to say, there is apparently no method under the Constitution and By-laws by means of which an action of this sort can be validated; that is, there is no specific statement to that effect. But this general statement, it seems to me, does cover the point; it gives this Council complete power in all cases which are not specifically excluded. That, I think, is my answer to your question, Mr. Gerould.

We have two motions before us, one a substitute motion which has been duly seconded; one of them the original motion offered by Mr. Alcott and seconded by Mr. Utley.

MR. ALCOTT: May I say one word, please. It seems to me that the taint of illegality which now hangs about a very important section of this Association and to which the Association looks in its great campaign to get funds from business men, will not be removed by such a vote on a technicality. If the Association intends to get the confidence of business men in its effort for funds, I don't see how it can look any business man in the face and say: "Of course, we did, at Washington, a little crooked thing, but in the desire to get a little more money we will overlook it." To me it is an

absolute case of bad politics and of high-handed proceedings, and the members of the A. L. A. who in good faith went into that meeting under their rights in the by-laws to attend an open session and to have the right to take part in it were denied that privilege. You are not helping them a single bit. You are not making it right with them. Their rights will still be ignored and violated.

A year has gone by since this was authorized. Not much has been lost; not much will be lost if we let this go over one more year and do it right. I believe nothing is settled until it is settled right. If it is done this way it will bob up again, it seems to me, until it is settled right and in a fair and honest way.

I hope the substitute motion will not prevail. It seems to me it can be settled in a very few moments by adoption of the motion which I made, which was seconded by Mr. Utley, from entirely different motives, and the Committee can report back to this Council and you will have something definite, and more time and judgment will be given to it than can be given in these few minutes in this large body now. Let the question come tomorrow on it.

MR. WILLIAM J. HAMILTON (Gary, Ind.): May I ask to hear the last of that resolution by Mr. Alcott read?

... President Keogh reread Mr. Alcott's resolution ...

MR. UTLEY: The question has been called for, but I beg to ask the President if I am within my rights to speak.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: You are.

MR. UTLEY: I should like to say, as the seconder of the motion Mr. Alcott made, that I should vote with that motion, seconding it I naturally would, but I am also heartily in favor of this substitute motion and should like to vote for that, because my object merely is to get this thing straightened out before the Council if there is any question about its not being straight at the present time. I think it is a very small matter anyway, and if the Council feels that way about it and wishes to validate any possible irregularity, which I do not think existed, well and good, and that is an easier way, it seems to me, than to have it go to a committee, report back to the Council, and then the Council vote on it, and I wish to say that although I seconded the other motion, this substitute motion is very welcome to me.

DR. FRANK P. HILL (Brooklyn, N. Y.): There seems to be a little difference here that ought to be settled finally. What harm is it going to do if we let this go over until the next meeting, whether it is tomorrow morning or at the Los Angeles meeting? It ought to be cleared up, and merely validating the action of that group, whether they took the right action or not, is of no matter. We ought to appoint a

committee to find out whether the action taken was right, and it seems to me rather than let it go by default and have it come up time after time, such a committee ought to be appointed. Therefore, it seems to me that the original motion would clear the whole subject a great deal better than the substitute motion.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I may say if the original motion should prevail and the committee is appointed, I should ask the committee to report tomorrow.

MR. WHEELER: There is a good deal more behind this matter than we have gathered from the discussion. The matter was brought up in the Council two years ago, and I believe I was one of several who voted against the creation of a Business Libraries Section. I believe most of us would have been in favor of the creation of a Business Libraries Section under ordinary circumstances, but there was a great deal of feeling on the part of some that it ought not to be created. I am frank to say that I think when there is so much feeling about it, it would be better to postpone it for a while.

Now a question has come up about the election of the first officers. It seems to me, Mr. President, although under ordinary conditions a technicality like this ought not to be given so much time, it would be much more satisfactory for the whole situation if the original motion prevailed and a committee should be appointed to make a report.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Will those who are members of the Council, members only, be good enough to hold up their hands if they approve of the substitute motion by Dr. Williamson?

MR. ALCOTT: Does that assume that there was something irregular in the organization of the section? Does this vote assume that there was something irregular?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I think not.

DR. WILLIAMSON: The assumption is that there was not anything irregular on the strength of what has been said by our most competent authorities, but if there were some slight technical irregularity, we think this is the best way to settle it once for all.

The Council voted a year ago to organize a Business Libraries Section. I do not think the Council wants to have its wish blocked now and next year and the next year, and have a minority, if it be a minority, prevent the wishes of the Council to put it into effect. The vote validating the action will settle the question. I hope possibly that some technicality can be brought up next year, but I should hope that our friends in the Special Libraries Association would get the idea from the vote today that the Council will be consistent and maintain its stand of a year ago to permit this group of the A. L. A. to have a Business Libraries Section.

DR. HILL: It is not a question of sustaining

the Council of a year ago. It is a question of validating the action of this little group. I think that we would be wrong to do it, or rather that we would be right if we allowed this committee to be appointed and got an opinion from the committee as to the proper action to be taken.

... The question was called for. The substitute motion was put to a vote, and was lost by a vote of fourteen for, twenty-one against ...

PRESIDENT KEOGH: The original motion, then, is before you, and it is this:

"Be it voted that the President is hereby authorized to appoint a committee to inquire into the matter and report back to the Council, and that the President also be authorized to suspend the function of said section if in his discretion the circumstances warrant."

MR. RANCK: I should like to move an amendment to that, to eliminate that part about the President. The Council should decide this.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: The President should be very greatly embarrassed by making the decision.

MR. ALCOTT: I shall be glad to accept that amendment.

MR. UTLEY: I accept it.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: With the approval of the proposer and the seconder, the motion before you is: "Voted,

that the President is hereby authorized to appoint a committee to inquire into the matter and report back to the Council."

... The motion was carried with one dissenting vote ...

PRESIDENT KEOGH: The Chair will appoint Mr. Severance as Chairman of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws, and will be glad to add two others to that committee in place of the other members of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws who are not here. Would you like to make nominations as to who those two shall be?

MR. SEVERANCE: It doesn't matter.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Or will the recommendations come from the floor? The President will appoint the two other members of the committee after adjournment.

MISS BOGLE: The members of the Headquarters staff of the American Library Association, your employees, are very happy in their quarters at 520 North Michigan, and I am hoping, on the part of the Secretary and the other members of the staff at Headquarters, that you will find it possible to visit us there. I hope it is your pleasure and I know it is your duty to come to see us, and I hope you will all do so.

SECRETARY MILAM: There were two long reports received for Council consideration, too late for distribution to members of the Council. One of them has to do with the braille of books for the adult blind. That has been

mimeographed and you can get copies as you go out. Another has to do with fire insurance. It has not been possible to have that mimeographed, but if there are two or three or a half dozen members who are sufficiently interested to ask Mrs. White or me for it in Room H, it may be borrowed between now and tomorrow so you may know what you are talking about.

We have been especially urged to ask everyone to see the bulletin board. Two or three groups are vitally concerned.

... Upon motion regularly made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned at twelve-twenty o'clock ...
