

PROCEEDINGS

COUNCIL MEETING

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

December 27-28, 1934

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MR. LOWE (Continuing): Mr. President, I should like to move the adoption of this report.

... The motion was duly seconded, voted upon, and carried ...

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Before taking up the report of the Second Activities Committee, I should like to have the members of that committee please come to the platform. Those members are Mr. Paul North Rice, Mr. Charles Harvey Brown, and Miss Mabel Louise Conat.

Before taking up this report I think it might be well to recall that this is one of the finest things, having reports of this kind. This is the second thing that Mr. John Cotton Dana did for the American Library Association. I know at the time he made criticisms of the Association. Perhaps some of us felt impatient, but it was a mighty fine thing for the Association. I simply want to say that at this time.

I also wish to say about this report that I think I am in a position to know how much time, thought, and energy have been put into this report. I know what it means to bring out a report on activities. I consider this a very fine piece of work.

I take great pleasure in calling on Mr. Rice, the chairman of the Committee, who will present the report.

MR. PAUL NORTH RICE: Mr. President: As the President has said, Mr. Dana is indirectly responsible for these activity committees being appointed. In 1930, as the result of some of his

criticisms, the first Activities Committee was appointed, consisting of Mr. Compton, Chairman, Miss Countryman, and Mr. Meyer, who made their epoch-making report.

According to the resolution adopted by the Council, an Activities Committee must be appointed every three years to make a survey of the activities of the American Library Association. Accordingly, in 1933, three years after this epoch-making report, and before the Association had got through talking about it, a second committee had to be appointed.

We are presenting a very slender report in comparison with the first one, and our first recommendation is that it be not necessary to have an Activities Committee every three years. We would suggest the following amendment to the resolution passed May 29, 1928: that that be amended to read, "A periodic scrutiny of Association activities should be made at least once in six years and at more frequent intervals when deemed necessary by the Executive Board or the Council. The survey is to be made by a committee to be appointed by the President and is to include as complete consideration of the effectiveness and results of the various activities as is warranted and practicable with the view of suggesting to the Council possible changes of policy." The only amendment is changing three years to at least once in six years and at more frequent intervals when deemed necessary.

Mr. President, I should like to move the adoption of that amendment.

... The motion was duly seconded ...

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Is there any discussion?

MISS JUNE DONNELLY: May I ask why it is six instead of five years? Six is so hard to remember.

MR. RICE: Except that six is one more year. The Committee considered ten and felt that was, perhaps, a little long. Six really was a compromise.

... The motion was voted upon and carried ...

MR. RICE: I should say, perhaps, that one reason the report is no longer is because it contains only those matters on which the Committee could come into agreement. There were a good many questions on which we did not all agree.

We present the next three items with no definite recommendation. They are, "The Value of the A. L. A. To Libraries and Librarians", "Finances of The Association", and "Membership in the A. L. A." We do feel, however, that some of these sections with no definite recommendation are, perhaps, the most important part of our report.

On the next item, "The Foundations and Library Progress", we do make a definite recommendation, after citing some of the foundations that have helped most in library progress. We recommend that the Council instruct its secretary to express to the foundations mentioned the cordial appreciation of the Association for their contributions to library progress. Mr. President, I should like to move the adoption of that resolution.

... The motion was duly seconded, voted upon, and carried ...

MR. RICE: The next item, "Unemployment, Salaries and Financial Support of Libraries", is, again, a paragraph where we make no definite recommendation.

When it comes to the discussion of "A. L. A. Headquarters", we should like to recommend the following: that the Council go on record as again approving, as soon as funds permit, the inauguration of three major activities at headquarters:

1. A statistical and research bureau
2. A department for college and university libraries
3. A department for library work with children and youth in and out of school;

and that the organization of the statistical department be given preference over the other two. Mr. President, I should like to move the adoption of that resolution.

... The motion was duly seconded, voted upon, and carried ...

MR. RICE: The next item is, "Expansion at A. L. A. Headquarters". The Activities Committee recommends the following resolution for adoption: The Council recommends that centralization of activities at headquarters not be extended far beyond those existing and recommended, and that when the financial condition of the Association warrants, after careful consideration and approval by the Executive Board, funds be allotted to certain

committees, boards or institutes for studies and activities to be conducted by them or under their supervision. Mr. President, I move the adoption of that resolution.

... The motion was duly seconded ...

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Is there any discussion? It seems to me to be pretty important. Perhaps you all agree to it.

MR. SAMUEL RANCK: I should like to inquire whether Mr. Milam is heartily in favor of that resolution.

SECRETARY MILAM: I think I am. This is essentially in line with the spirit of the official program of the American Library Association adopted three years ago, where we defined our functions and the fields of activities and on which we built a program looking toward the future. I still endorse that one hundred per cent, and I think I can endorse this one hundred per cent, Mr. Ranck.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Is there further discussion?

... The motion was voted upon and carried ...

MR. RICE: We feel that the most important part of our report this year is a discussion of committee work, and we have discussed at length the committees, their organization, the work of committees, and the appointment of committees, and then we have a number of suggestions and recommendations to make.

The first recommendation is that the Council recommends to members of the Association:

a. That no person should accept an appointment as

carried ...

MR. RICE: Fourth: that the Council recommend to the Committee on Committee Appointments:

a. That the committee communicate each year with the chairmen of all committees and request recommendations for the appointment or discontinuance of members of their committees.

b. That in case any committee does not appear to be functioning, members of the committee, as well as the chairman, be consulted as to the reasons.

I move the adoption of the fourth resolution.

... The motion was duly seconded ...

PRESIDENT COMPTON: I wonder if Miss Bement, who is the chairman of that committee, has any comment to make.

MISS CONSTANCE BEMENT: I am chairman of the Committee on Committee Appointments and not Committees.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: This is the Committee on Committee Appointments.

MISS BEMENT: I did not know that. I heartily agree with everything in this whole set-up, particularly about the members who do not answer correspondence, also about the chairmen not having stenographic help. That should be one of the requirements. I think the trouble with the Committee on Committee Appointments is the fact that we are duplicating. After we have done two years' work, we are up against the same thing that the Committee on Activities is up against. We are going over the same

ground again and again.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: That does not affect this recommendation, however. Are there any further comments?

... The motion was voted upon and carried ...

MR. RICE: Fifth: that the Council request the Committee on Committees to make a complete and thorough study of the work and organization of all boards and committees with a view to recommending to the Council desirable changes; and to make hereafter an annual recommendation to the Council of which committees should be discontinued or consolidated.

I move the adoption of the fifth resolution.

... The motion was duly seconded, voted upon, and carried ...

MR. RICE: The Activities Committee, I know, is very much gratified by your approving everything. We did hope, however, to hear a little more discussion.

"Nominations", is the next section, and after our discussion of nominations for the Executive Board and nominations for President and general procedure, we make the following definite recommendation: that the Council approve in principle the election of a President one year in advance of his assumption of the office of the presidency, the President-elect becoming automatically a member of the Executive Board. In order to avoid any increase in the size of the Executive Board, the office of second vice-president is to be abolished.

Of course, this involves an amendment to the Constitution. The Council can only approve or disapprove this in principle. I move the adoption of the resolution.

... The motion was duly seconded ...

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Is there any discussion?

MR. FRANK L. TOLMAN: It seems to me that the adoption of this in principle does not necessarily get us very far. If we want to adopt the principle, we certainly should take the measures to bring it before the proper body. I am not entirely familiar with the Constitution of the American Library Association, but it seems to me, if we are going to do anything, we should at least recommend to the Executive Board the preparation of such an amendment to the Constitution and provide that it be submitted in the proper channels for adoption. If we simply say that we believe in this in principle, we are just spouting a little bit of hot air.

MR. RICE: I wonder whether the procedure would not be to approve it in principle and recommend that the Committee on Constitution bring in an amendment.

MR. TOLMAN: I believe that would be satisfactory.

MR. CARL B. RODEN: Mr. President: My remarks are not exactly on the substance of this resolution, but this seems to be a favorable occasion for me to bring a pet peeve of mine out into the air. It has been growing for some years.

I have been chairman of the Nominating Committee twice, and each time I have been impressed with the utter absurdity of the

task before the Committee in nominating two candidates for each office except President, one to be elected and one to be defeated. I think it is safe to say that no other learned or other society in the world asks its own official nominating committee to go through such an absurd performance.

There are always opposition tickets, and there is always opportunity to formulate opposition tickets if the official ticket is not approved, but there seems to be no basis of common sense for the official nominating committee to propose a ticket and then disapprove its own work and propose another. We have long ago recognized that fact with reference to the office of President, which was acknowledged to be too dignified to be subjected to any such ridiculous procedure. We are still, however, following that practice in every other office when, as a matter of fact, there is never any issue nor difference between the candidates nominated, no policy represented by one as against a policy represented by another, nor any other facilities for contrasting the merits or the qualifications of one except, perhaps, by the color of his hair or eyes, or something like that.

I should, therefore, recommend to the Committee on Activities, if that is the proper procedure now, that they consider, along with this resolution, another one, that the Nominating Committee shall nominate hereafter only one candidate for every office, and to make it pointed that opposition tickets are always in order and are always possible from the floor.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Do you make that as an amendment to this, Mr. Roden?

MR. RODEN: I move that as an amendment.

MR. L. L. DICKERSON: I second that amendment.

MR. H. M. LYDENBERG: May I ask if the Committee has felt that a matter of such vital significance to the atmosphere, the attitude, and the administration of the Association is wisely determined, mainly, by us today on this occasion? Speaking for myself, I can see many advantages in everything that has been said by the chairman and by Mr. Roden, but I want to ask, as a matter of information, one question, namely, what was the action that made the retiring President an ex officio member of the Executive Board for one year? I forget just what the formal action on that was. Is that constitutional or merely an administrative voice of the Executive Board?

SECRETARY MILAM: I am speaking from memory, but my memory says there were two votes in approval of an amendment to the Constitution, which provided that the immediate ex-President should continue as a member of the Executive Board. Mrs. White, is that correct?

MRS. WHITE: Yes.

MR. LYDENBERG: That would mean the prospective President would be a member of the Executive Board for one year, would be the active head of the organization for another year, and would be an ex officio member of the Executive Board for a third year.

Is that correct?

PRESIDENT COMPTON: That is right.

MR. LYDENBERG: At the moment I am not certain whether I am speaking properly when I make this comment on an amendment which is before us. I shall let the Chairman and Robert's Rules of Order decide. I am inclined at the proper time to move that this be laid on the table for action at the next meeting of the Council. I don't believe that all of us have had sufficient time to think it over and to take our positions.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Your motion refers to the amendment?

MR. LYDENBERG: Yes. It refers to the whole problem.

MR. RODEN: I second Mr. Lydenberg's motion.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: There can be no discussion on the motion to table.

MR. TOLMAN: I wonder if he would accept a little change in the amendment. If we lay this matter on the table, it will come to us in exactly this form. It seems to me it might be very well to consider the desirability of referring this recommendation back to the Activities Committee to consider the discussion and reformulate this, if desirable, and to present further recommendations at the next meeting of the Council.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Mr. Tolman, would it not be better to refer that to the Committee on Constitution rather than the Activities Committee?

MR. TOLMAN: Yes.

MR. LYDENBERG: I think the Committee on Committees should take every step possible to see that so fundamental and vital a change is widely brought to the attention of the membership at large. How they do it, I do not know.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: What committee do you mean, Mr. Lydenberg? Do you mean the Committee on Constitution?

MR. LYDENBERG: Yes.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: As I understand the motion at the present time, it is that this provision recommended by the Activities Committee, with Mr. Roden's amendment, be referred to the Committee on Constitution and for them to make recommendations to the Council. Is that right, Mr. Roden?

MR. RODEN: Yes.

MR. DICKERSON: May I suggest that the committee make a report at the next annual meeting? In other words, avoid the possibility of tabling the whole thing. At the same time, it will give an opportunity for more thoroughgoing discussion and provide for rather immediate action rather than postpone the matter indefinitely. I should like to see a period specified, or a time when that committee would make its report.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Would you accept that, Mr. Roden?

MR. RODEN: Yes, sir, with pleasure.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Do you accept that, Mr. Lydenberg?

MR. LYDENBERG: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Is there further discussion?

MR. ERNEST J. REECE: The constitutional aspect of it is the thing to clear up. We are all aware of the fact that from time to time a certain amount of misunderstanding and occasionally a bit of disaffection is aroused because, to some of the members of the Association, the present procedure in making nominations seems arbitrary. Mr. Roden has pointed out that the present machinery for remedying that is wholly inadequate and has to be given up in part.

I would simply like to urge upon whatever committee is to consider this matter that it go thoroughly into that aspect of it and see whether something more democratic, more widely popular, can not be instituted for the carrying out of nominations, something which might remedy the difficulties presented today and also forestall the kinds of difficulties and the dissatisfaction that we sometimes hear.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: I should like to point out that there is nothing in the Constitution at the present time which requires more than one nomination. I think that ought to be made clear. "The committee shall nominate one or more persons," is what is stated.

MR. RODEN: The first time I was chairman of the Nominating Committee, we followed the Constitution and nominated only one, and there were protests and criticisms, the best reasons I have heard assigned for the objection being that it made no excitement for the members of the Association. I do not see why an election

of officers in a learned society should provide entertainment for any of the members. That is, frankly, the only reason I have heard assigned.

The second time I was chairman of the Nominating Committee, we nominated the ticket twice all the way through, except for the office of President. I do not think the results were any more gratifying nor any more valuable to the Association than they were the first time, but perhaps we did supply a little extra excitement.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Is there any further discussion? Do you all know what you are voting for? You are voting on the recommendation of the Activities Committee, with the amendment that only one person be nominated for each office, this whole matter to be referred to the Committee on Constitution for recommendation at the next annual meeting.

... The motion as amended was voted upon and carried ...

MR. RICE: The next item covers A. L. A. meetings, particularly the question of whether there is sufficient interest for the librarians of small public libraries, librarians of small college libraries, and reference librarians of public libraries in these meetings. We also discuss the organization of sections and group thinking.

The only recommendations we make are these:

1. That the Committee on Chapters and Sections be requested to obtain from each section, sub-section and round table

a statement of its aims and the type of librarians which its meetings are designed to serve. After these aims have been formulated a copy is to be forwarded each year to each newly elected sectional or sub-sectional chairman.

2. That the Executive Board as need arises select subjects for group discussion and appoint small committees to arrange for symposiums.

Mr. President, I move the adoption of the foregoing resolutions.

... The motion was duly seconded, voted upon, and carried ...

MR. RICE: We have no recommendations with regard to "A. L. A. and State Associations" nor "The A. L. A., The National Organization". With enthusiasm, however, we make our final recommendation: The Committee on A. L. A. Activities, acting upon the instructions given it, submits this report to the Council and respectfully asks that it be discharged. I move the adoption of that resolution.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: I wonder if Mr. Brown will second that.

MR. CHARLES HARVEY BROWN: I second the motion.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Is there any discussion?

MR. RANCK: Mr. Chairman, I should like to move an amendment, and that is that we express the thanks of the Council for the splendid work done by this Committee.

... The motion was severally seconded, voted upon, and unanimously carried ...

MR. GEORGE B. UTLEY: There is one other way in which the Association could arrive at the result suggested a few moments ago, having the incoming President be a member of the Executive Board a year before he became President. We used to follow that practice informally without any constitutional provision for it. Some of the other learned societies have constitutional provision for it, at least the American Historical Association has. I refer, as you may readily guess, to the provision that either by common consent and assent and practice or by constitutional provision the first vice-president be elected to that office with the understanding, either constitutional or otherwise, that he succeed to the presidency the following year.

Some years ago we had that provision, and it was pretty generally understood that the person who was elected first vice-president should become the nominee for the presidency the next year. Gradually we drifted away from that practice and now it seems to be quite contrary to our practice. For some years the American Historical Association, as you all know, has not only had that practice but has had a constitutional provision covering it. Their constitution says that the person who is elected first vice-president is constitutionally in line for the presidency the following year.

Mr. President, there is much to be said on both sides of

this question. I do not think we now have time to go into that. Therefore, I should like to move, if I may, that this question of policy be referred, along with other matters, to the Committee on Constitution.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: I understand, Mr. Utley, that that is exactly what has been done. The motion was to refer this matter to the Committee on Constitution.

MR. UTLEY: I am sorry I did not understand it correctly.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: I think your comments will be valuable to the committee.

The next item is the report of the Committee on Recruiting for Library Service, by Mr. Reece.

MR. REECE: The members of the Council, I believe, have before them certain suggestions submitted by the Committee on Recruiting, which, largely, are excerpts from summaries of recommendations made in the last year or so, which seem to the Committee particularly applicable at the present moment in the light of efforts for national planning. The recommendations are as follows:

... Mr. Reece continued, reading the report of the Committee on Recruiting for Library Service, copy of which was retained by Mrs. White ... (Insert paper)

MR. REECE (Continuing): I take it, Mr. Chairman, these do not call for action, but I should like to point out that although made by the Committee on Recruiting, largely they are suggestions which might have come from any committee which is concerned with personnel, or all the committees concerned with personnel jointly, and I believe the Committee on Recruiting feels that they have virtually the force that they might have if the various committees had considered them and desired to join in with them.

MR. TOLMAN: I wonder if I might ask the chairman of the Committee a question. I am particularly interested in the first resolution because it seems to me that is addressed to libraries in general and, perhaps, is of more general interest than any of the others. The only other thing I would like to know, in passing it along, is what it means. Could we have an interpretation of that language?

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Mr. Reece, would you interpret?

MR. REECE: What the Committee had in mind was not so much state-wide and regional and national planning as the matter of individual forecasting and planning on the part of libraries, which should be profitable to the specific library whether or not a state or national plan can be framed and carried through. There is nothing to prevent the articulation of such plans with larger plans, but it was the more modest form that the Committee had in mind originally in bringing forward this recommendation.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Do you have any specific examples in mind, Mr. Reece?

MR. REECE: There is the Seattle Ten Year Plan.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: I had that in mind.

Are there any other questions, or is there any further discussion?

MISS DONNELLY: I can not see what this has to do with recruiting.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Can you answer that question, Mr. Reece?

MR. REECE: The Committee's assignment is, in part, to study the problems of recruiting for library service. The Committee has felt, and it hopes rightly, that the most potent influence for healthful recruiting is the building of an attractive library service. These recommendations, it felt, all point in the direction of strengthening library service and, therefore, making it seem more worth while to possible candidates.

MR. DICKERSON: While endorsing most heartily the proposition of the Committee, there is one other consideration that I should like to raise just at this time. That is based upon the belief that, of course, our standards of recruitment should not be lowered in any sense. However, some of the most promising recruits have not the financial means for going on to professional schools. I believe that has been brought to our attention in the last year or two, since we have seen so many promising librarians who had an

academic background for another profession, perhaps, who would be ideal recruits, but who could not be recruited because of their financial inability to attend the professional schools.

That raises a question in my mind as to whether this Committee, or any other committee of the Association, has gone into the possibility of obtaining the allocation of federal funds for library student aid as has been done for colleges and universities generally. I have in mind a number of persons, for example, who with a little bit of help, perhaps with their tuition, would make better recruits than anybody else I know of, but I know of no provision whereby those people could enter the professional library training schools or whereby the classes could obtain student aid as is given in tens of thousands of other cases throughout the country. I wonder if that question might be raised here.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Quite properly. You would feel it was a question to be considered by the Recruiting Committee, would you not, Mr. Reece?

MR. REECE: The Recruiting Committee knows that that thing is being done. I read within the last day or two, and doubtless others read it too, that the number of college students enabled to remain in college because of the kinds of funds Mr. Dickerson mentioned now is as large as one hundred thousand. I should expect to find that there was a pro rata number in the case of library schools.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: You said that according to your information, Mr. Dickerson, you knew of none.

MR. DICKERSON: My inquiry has not disclosed any as yet. There has been no hope given to prospects. Of course, that is merely a casual observation. I really believe some committee of the Association should be made responsible for investigating the matter so as to be ready when the funds are reallocated next year, as no doubt they will be, to make a case for the library student.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Would you care to make a motion to that effect?

MR. F. A. KUHLMAN: I should like to make a suggestion that part-time employment for students applies to library students as well as to other students. In a given institution, a certain per cent of the F. E. R. A. students are graduate students and a certain per cent are undergraduates, and of that group, a certain per cent must be selected from the incoming or first-year students. The F. E. R. A. funds would apply as well to candidates for a library school as they would to any other branch of an institution. At least they do at the University of Chicago.

MISS DONNELLY: There must be plenty of library school people here who can tell you what they are doing. They allot so much to Simmons College each month, and it is available for library school people as well as anybody else. The conditions at the beginning of the year were so awkward that they said they all had to be freshmen and later changed it to half. Then all the college

presidents got after them and they removed that restriction so that it does not have to be all the incoming class or any particular proportion of it. However, they said they had to be doing research work. People just starting in a library school are not competent to do library research work, so that held us up for a long time. Then we put things through in early October, and it was late in December before they were approved. There are, however, a certain number of library school people at Simmons who are receiving the same aid as others. We are continuing to put in projects and I hope they will be approved before the end of the year.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Are there any representatives from library schools who are getting aid for their students?

MISS HELEN MARTIN: At Western Reserve six or seven students are getting aid right now.

MISS SUSAN AKERS: We have three at North Carolina.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: It seems it is being used rather generally. That was a good question. Is there any further discussion?

MR. DICKERSON: I should like to make one motion to clarify the situation. I move that the Committee on Recruiting be instructed to investigate further the matter of federal aid to students in library science, including training classes, so-called, as well as the accredited professional schools. I make that motion for this reason: I am afraid when it comes down to

practical considerations, this might be falling between provisions which are made otherwise. I think there is a very practical matter of allocation there.

... The motion was duly seconded ...

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Is there further discussion?

SECRETARY MILAM: It is one of the pleasant duties of the Secretary to try to keep peace between the committees and have things go where they belong. We have so many committees in the field of personnel that I do not know where this belongs, and I am going to suggest an alternative, that it be referred to the Executive Board in order that the Board may refer it to the committee to which this matter seems to belong.

MR. DICKERSON: That is entirely satisfactory.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Is there any further discussion?

MR. KUHLMAN: I think it is a mistake to suggest that help be found in F. E. R. A. funds. I think we ought to think in terms of fellowship or scholarships. It is a mistake to try to make a specialty of library school students in the federal funds. Those students are already included to the extent of \$15 a month. What is needed is something in the way of scholarships and fellowships, and they might be obtained, perhaps, from private sources. For instance, the Social Science Research Council has a substantial grant which makes advanced work possible. I should think if the motion could be expanded so that it would not be confined to federal funds, but would say that we might look toward a plan which

would use federal funds or funds secured from private sources, it would be better.

MR. DICKERSON: I am perfectly willing to accept that. I think we can not emphasize too strongly the importance of going after private funds for fellowships and scholarships. I know of some fine work that has been done in that field. However, I still want to emphasize the importance of seeking federal funds specifically, perhaps not labeled as such, but to see that a proper proportion of the federal funds is allocated to the library students.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: The second accepts that, also.

... The motion was voted upon and carried ...

SECRETARY MILAM: Mr. President, may I say one thing more? This does not have anything to do with the effect of that motion. Naturally, the officers and staff of the A. L. A. have followed with great interest the route to Washington. We have been back and forth a great many times, and we have been in touch with a great many people. While I do not know enough to speak in great detail on the subject that has just been under discussion, it is different from everything else if we would not get this answer from Mr. Hopkins, if we ever got to Mr. Hopkins: "We haven't got a darned thing to say about whether that money is going to be used for library students or some other kinds of students. That is a state and institutional problem."

I think Mr. Dickerson will find the answer to that

particular question at the University of Indiana and at Butler, in the state administration and not in Washington. That is why I wanted to say this, Mr. President, because you can not hope for too much from the A. L. A. on a national basis. They are not dividing those funds into little compartments before they send them out. The distribution is made locally.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: The next item has to do with library revenues. We have had tax limitation laws in various states which are affecting and will affect library revenues seriously. The question has been raised as to whether the Council should pass a resolution in regard to this. We are asking Mr. Tolman, the chairman of the Committee on Library Revenues, to present this matter.

... Mr. Tolman read the prepared report of the Committee on Library Revenues, copy of which was retained by Mrs. White ...
(Insert paper)

MR. TOLMAN (Continuing): I move the adoption of this report.

MR. RANCK: I second the motion.

... The motion was voted upon and carried ...

PRESIDENT COMPTON: The next item is a report by the chairman of the Committee on Library Administration and Cost Accounting, Miss Althea Warren, of Los Angeles.

MISS ALTHEA H. WARREN: Mr. President and Members of the A. L. A. Council: The Committee on Library Administration exists to chew over matters definitely referred to it. Last year's committee had three problems: the revision of the standards of the A. L. A., a survey of lessons learned from the depression, and a study of cost accounting as it is possible to apply it to libraries.

The decisions made as the result of the first survey were stated in the October Bulletin, but there was one addition to the old survey terms which has never received the Council's approval, and which Mr. Sherman, the previous chairman, thought had best be brought forward to be settled definitely at this time. The suggestion is that the standards for libraries have added to them this sentence, under the paragraph, "Income Needed": "Communities desiring full development of library service will find it necessary to provide a support much larger than the one dollar minimum."

I should like to move, Mr. President, that that addition

be adopted.

... The motion was duly seconded, voted upon, and carried ...

MISS WARREN: The second piece of work before the Committee on Library Administration is continuing under the same sub-committee that attacked it last year, the problem of cost accounting, and it is hoped that by the Denver meeting we will have some one definite recommendation to make, but at present it is in a fluid state.

We are no longer talking about the problems of the depression. Mr. Evans is chairman of that sub-committee and desires that it be abandoned for the present time, under an official name at least.

Therefore, it behooves the Library Administration Committee to suggest to the Executive Board that other tasks be assigned to it. One of the things that can probably never be settled but about which it is nice to talk is the measurement of reference service, and we hope a sub-committee, under Miss Guerrier, will undertake that problem. There are a number of committee members interested in it, although we all feel doubtful as to whether we can ever find a concrete way of measuring reference service.

From Mr. Sherman's report we felt there were other matters which would require study at this time. One of them, which our seventeen committee members seem to favor more than any other is the matter of mutilation and book theft.

I wanted to bring these matters before the Council. Just as Mr. Milam has said, I did not want to feel that our Administration Committee was stepping into the territory of some other committee. If we are doing that, we should like to hear about it.

The other question is that of replacements and inventory. The English libraries seem to be more systematic and more scientific in their replacement routing than most American libraries. We have felt that a thorough study of the methods used in public libraries throughout the country for replacement would be of interest and help, and the same thing may be said of the inventory problem.

I have listed other subjects as well, but I think two more will absorb all energies until the twenty-fourth of June. If there are people who feel that the Library Administration Committee should take up the question of larger metropolitan areas or pay duplicate collections, or some of the other points touched in the summary of Mr. Sherman's report, I should be interested to hear discussion.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Is there any discussion? You are not asking for action, are you? You are merely asking for suggestions, are you not?

MISS WARREN: Yes. I wondered whether you thought the question of replacements was worthy of study or whether it was in the territory of some other committee. Do you know, Mr. Milam?

SECRETARY MILAM: The book selection end is in the hands of another committee, but the machinery for bringing about replacements is not assigned to any other committee so far as I now recall.

MISS WARREN: It was the machinery that we were hoping to investigate. How about book theft and mutilation?

SECRETARY MILAM: That is yours.

MR. RANCK: I did not quite understand from Miss Warren's report just how far her committee has gone with the subject of cost accounting. I think it is of very great importance.

MISS WARREN: It has gone far enough to get into a fight.

MR. RANCK: The printers have been studying cost accounting for twenty years. We have been working on it for ten years or more.

MISS WARREN: We know it will be a long time before we will have a definite system to recommend, but there is a great deal of interest, and we find that a number of libraries have definite ideas. We hope we can decide on one single unit of cost which we can phrase in such terms that the accountants will accept and try it--getting the cost of one thing, such as catalog and order costs.

MR. RANCK: I wish to say that, in my opinion, when it is properly worked out, and it is a difficult problem, this will be of very great help to the library in going before tax levying.

bodies or other sources of revenue, because we will then know just what these costs are and will not have to present guesses.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Mr. Ranck is quite right.

Is there any further discussion? This report will be referred to the Executive Board.

I wish at this time to present the status of the finances of the Association.

... Mr. Compton read the prepared financial report, copy of which was retained by Mrs. White ... (Insert paper)

PRESIDENT COMPTON: I think the next item has a definite bearing on the benefit of the Association to libraries. I am now going to call on Mr. Browning, the chairman of the Book Binding Committee.

MR. EARL W. BROWNING: Mr. Chairman: The incoming Book Binding Committee discovered that the thing the librarians were most interested in was the price of binding, and it seemed to us that the way to get at a possible reduction or find out the justice in the present prices was to deal directly with the Book Manufacturers' Institute. I appeared at the meeting of the Mid-Western Group the first of December and was very graciously received. I sat in at their meeting which lasted all day. This group which, I understand, is the larger group of the National Association, the other part being the Eastern Group, agreed to pass on to us any discount or any reduction in prices just as rapidly as possible.

The advance that was made seems fair when you consider that the average advance in the price of materials has been between thirty-five and forty per cent. I understand now from some members of my committee that there is a chance of a reduction as they seem to see a slight decline in the price of materials coming. So we hope to be able to announce some slight reductions by the time of the June meeting. Those of you who deal with this Mid-Western Group will hear from them shortly on reductions that they are going to make, which have not been accepted by the Eastern Group as yet.

Another matter which was brought up to the committee was the matter of these large volumes printed on thin paper, such as "Who's Who In America" and the new Webster's dictionary, and some others of that type. We took the matter up with the manufacturers of these volumes and got all sorts of answers. The publishers of "Who's Who In America" told us that they had printed the first thirty-two pages on a thicker paper, and they were very anxious for us to watch the results and report to them. I call that to your attention and hope you will notify the committee if you see any drawbacks because of having those first thirty-two pages printed on heavier paper. So far it seems to be working very well.

We have had one item referred to us for adjustment-- there is a joint committee of the Book Manufacturers' Association and the A. L. A. Book Binding Committee on prices--an overcharge on the part of a printer through a misunderstanding, possibly. That has yet to be ironed out.

I hope that all of you who have any difficulties or any questions about prices or materials or the interpretation of the specifications accepted at Montreal will let the committee know, as we are very anxious to work on the most important things first. We are very anxious to help you in every way we can in getting a simple, durable, inexpensive binding, if such a thing is possible.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Does anyone wish to ask Mr. Browning any questions?

Is there any other business that any member of the Council wishes to bring up at this time? I believe Mr. Kuhlman wishes to make a statement for the Documents Committee.

MR. KUHLMAN: I think Mr. Lydenberg can make that statement either now or later.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Mr. Lydenberg, do you have a statement to make for the Documents Committee?

MR. KUHLMAN: With reference to the N. R. A. and the A. A. A. hearings, Mr. Lydenberg.

MR. LYDENBERG: The Joint Committee on Materials of Research has made films of the hearings in Washington on these two codes and is prepared to furnish these to libraries at a practicable cost of manufacture. The price will depend upon the number of subscriptions. It will cost at least \$200, and that is based on a minimum of ten subscriptions. If more subscriptions are received, the price will go down. That is it, in general. Do not check me up on those figures, but that is the general picture. You will hear from the committee in the due course of time, and ample opportunity will be given for subscriptions to be sent in.

I do not need to point out the importance of this, not only in giving to a large number of libraries throughout the country the material that now is unavailable except in Washington, and even there is scarcely available for continued observation and objective study, but it is going to give us a very important opportunity to see how libraries that hitherto have worked solely

with the printed book are going to adjust themselves, adjust their approach and that of their readers, to the use of film slides.

In addition to the number of feet of film you buy, you will also have to secure a projector, and, therefore, the library has not only the problem of storage of the film and of securing the projector, but of adjusting its approach and helping its readers adjust their approach to this new method.

It does not make any difference what some of us think about the significance of this. I do not think it is a thing to be urged upon you. I do feel very strongly that it is an opportunity for all of us to give much thought not only to the problem of securing these things for research, but also to the bigger problem that opens before us, if the use of material of this kind is to be developed.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: What Mr. Lydenberg has said in regard to this will be covered by a statement in the Bulletin later.

MR. LYDENBERG: Yes, and there will be ample circularizing by the committee. If anybody does not see the notice in the Bulletin or is neglected or wants to know where to turn, let me say that the chairman of the Joint Committee is Professor Robert J. Brinkley, of Western Reserve. Mr. Kuhlman and Mr. Milam and some of the rest of us will gladly answer any questions, or we will gladly put you in touch with the chairman of the committee.

MR. KUHLMAN: Mr. Brinkley has sent me a circular describing the two sets of films. I regret that I did not have an

opportunity to see Mr. Lydenberg before this meeting this morning.

The one set of films relates to the A. A. A. hearings, which ran into 137,000 pages of transcript material, and they, as Mr. Lydenberg has pointed out, will sell on a sliding scale. The minimum will be \$170, if thirty or more libraries subscribe. If ten or less libraries should subscribe, the maximum would be \$192.

The other hearings, the N. R. A. code hearings, ran into 150,000 letterhead-size pages. The minimum price will be \$200, and the maximum price will be \$229. The two projectors that can be used in showing these films are on exhibition right here at the checking counter in the hall, and descriptions of these two sets of films are available here as well as there at the table with the projectors.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Are there any questions?

MR. KUHLMAN: One set of films will be on exhibit. Mr. Case was expected at nine o'clock, but his train was delayed. It is expected that one set of the A. A. A. films will be available so that you can actually test them for yourselves. The subscription date will be up to March 30, I believe. At that time the exact price will be established. In other words, you make your subscription now on the minimum basis, and if, say, thirty libraries subscribe, that will be the final price. On the other hand, if fewer than thirty libraries should subscribe to the set of films, the price will be graduated and pro rated accordingly.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Are there any questions anybody

wishes to ask Mr. Lydenberg or Mr. Kuhlman?

Is there any other business that any member of the Council wishes to bring up at this time?

SECRETARY MILAM: I have been asked to announce that the award of the biennial Oberly Memorial Prize for the best bibliography in the field of agriculture or the natural sciences has been postponed until the first of March, 1935. Any who wish to enter bibliographies in the contest should submit before February 1, 1935, four copies of the bibliography to the chairman of the committee, Gilbert H. Doane, of the University of Nebraska.

I am also very pleased to announce that without solicitation or arrangement on our part, Mr. Llewelyn Jones will review Miss Agnes C. Hansen's "Twentieth Century Forces in European Fiction" on the radio Sunday night, station WMAQ, at six o'clock.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: If there is no further business, the Council will stand adjourned until tomorrow morning at ten o'clock .

... The meeting adjourned at eleven-forty o'clock ...

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

December 28, 1934

The meeting convened at ten-fifteen o'clock, Mr. Charles H. Compton, President of the Association, presiding.

PRESIDENT COMPTON: Mr. Milam has an announcement which he wishes to make.

SECRETARY MILAM: I have a communication from the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Library Institute which apparently I am to read.

... Mr. Milam read the communication referred to, copy of which was retained by him ... (Insert letter)

PRESIDENT COMPTON: The first item which we are to take up this morning is National Planning for Libraries. I am very sorry to say that Mr. Wilson, the chairman of the Planning Committee, is ill and could not be present.

Before beginning the actual business, I should like to say, in regard to planning, that nothing the Association has undertaken has seemed to be so popular and has seemed to meet such a universal response as planning. At the present time there are forty-two states and the District of Columbia which have set up planning committees. You have before you, I think, a statement of the progress of state planning up to the present time, together with statements of what has been done in certain states. With this brief statement I shall call on Mr. Milam to read certain provisions in the tentative report on planning. These first divisions are mere textual changes, and it should not take us very long to act on them.

SECRETARY MILAM: Mr. President, I think I ought to explain that the summary of state plans is not in your hands but will be distributed to the meeting of the state planning committees tomorrow. There are, however, in your hands two documents which we shall have to ask you to use during the next half hour or so. Those documents are "Looking Toward National Planning" and "Report on Planning". The "tentative" on the latter report can now be scratched out. That has now been approved by the Executive Board and comes to you with the recommendation of the Executive Board

and the planning committees. You will observe that in the mimeographed document the paragraph headings are page references, referring to pages in the printed document.

I shall present first the textual criticisms, which are these: "Page 3. Insert before the last paragraph on page three the section on 'The Library and Its Public', which is on pages seven and eight." That is simply a transfer which seems wise to the committee. It involves no policy.

Then there is the paragraph on that same mimeographed page which is labeled "Page 4 and 5": "Make the following headings coordinate with 'The State's Responsibility' instead of subordinate to it: 'Public Libraries', 'School Libraries', 'University and College Libraries'."

The primary reason for that, so far as I recall, is that certain university and college librarians called our attention to the fact that the only place they appeared in the planning was under "The State's Responsibility", and some of them are not the state's responsibility.

Then if you will turn to page two of the mimeographed statement, line five of the second paragraph as printed refers to national responsibilities in the printed document, page five. It is proposed that five words be inserted after the word "aid" in the fifth line of the second paragraph, to make it read, ".... and provide financial aid for libraries and library service." That is considered a textual criticism because it does not change the

thought, but simply clarifies it slightly.

Then the last item on page two, which is labeled "Page 5", is to change the heading from "Books" to "Books and Other Library Materials".

PRESIDENT COMPTON: You have heard these proposals read. Is there a motion?

MR. LEWIS J. BAILEY: I move that they be accepted.

... The motion was duly seconded, voted upon, and carried ...

PRESIDENT COMPTON: We will now have the next item.

SECRETARY MILAM: Now going back to the mimeographed document, the paragraph that is labeled "Page 4", which begins, "Substitute for the two starred paragraphs" and so forth, refers to page four in the printed document. In the printed document on page four, you will note that there are two paragraphs not in italics which are starred. The Planning Committee and the Executive Board recommend that we substitute for the two starred paragraphs a new paragraph, as follows:

"For libraries, as for schools, the state should acknowledge and accept responsibility for the provision of adequate service for all inhabitants. It should encourage the continuation and increase of local support, and should assume a part of the cost of local libraries, through state appropriations to supplement local funds, or to provide a minimum program."

PRESIDENT COMPTON: I am going to ask Mr. Lester, who

is chairman of the Board on Library Extension, to make a statement regarding this provision.

MR. C. J. LESTER: Mr. President and Members of the Council: This statement is in pretty familiar terms, although the language is new, because I am sure the Library Extension Board has brought many of these thoughts before the Council many times. In a way it sounds almost like a reiteration of the charter for library commissions at the beginning of that work of thirty or forty years ago. It is developed somewhat in the last phrases, but it goes back to the beginning of the state's recognition of its responsibility for the development of library service.

Frankly, I am pleased with this change that comes from the Planning Board. It brings together the thoughts which formerly were in the two paragraphs and, I think, simplifies the statement which we have to consider, not merely because it is a new paragraph, but because of the sequence.

I should like to call your attention particularly to the phraseology in the second sentence, which really develops what has been done by state agencies, encouraging the continuation and increase of local support through those other duties which have gradually developed in the work of state agencies, through the state aid which has already been adopted in some states, and which we now ask the Council to accept as a general statement from the Planning Board. It goes on through the possibility of supplementing local funds with state funds, and into the

possibility of a minimum program which might be set up by the state.

As I say, in the statement before it, it seems to me the two main facts which differentiate this from what has been presented to the Council before are, first, that it brings into one single paragraph two sentences, the ideas previously expressed in two paragraphs, in this much digested planning report. They are ideas which have been spread through various resolutions which were brought to the Council. Second, it states in that concise form those things which have been done by the state agencies, and which it hopes may be done in the future through state aid.

If there is no motion, Mr. President, I shall move the adoption of this paragraph as offered by the Planning Committee.

... The motion was duly seconded, voted upon, and carried ...

SECRETARY MILAM: Unless your copy has been corrected, the next paragraph on the mimeographed page reads "Page 3". It should read "Page 4". It refers again to the printed document, page four and the last paragraph under "The State's Responsibility" and before "Public Libraries". This is a restatement of that last paragraph:

"The state library agency should maintain a state reference and lending library to serve officials and to supplement other libraries. Pending the establishment of complete library service for the state, it may need to serve isolated readers or

groups of readers directly. It should work for the coordination of all library resources in the interest of adult education, scholarship and research."

I may say for myself, and I think for the members of the Planning Committee, that we still consider that entirely inadequate, but that is as far as we have gone with the statement of the functions of that activity.

MR. RANCK: I move the adoption of that paragraph.

... The motion was duly seconded, voted upon, and carried ...

SECRETARY MILAM: We are now coming to the section on "National Responsibilities", which you will find in the printed document on page five, the second column. Remember the first paragraph provides that the federal government should assume responsibility for nation-wide leadership in the library movement through a library agency. On page one of the mimeographed document, at the bottom, it reads, "Insert as a new second paragraph the following:

"The functions of such library agency should be to forward the development of library service in cooperation with the states and with other federal agencies; to foster inter-state library cooperation in the interest of improving the educational, cultural and recreational facilities available to all the people; to foster such nation-wide coordination and division of responsibility among national, university and other research libraries as

will tend to make the materials of scholarship, and services in connection therewith, equally available to people in all parts of the country; to collect and disseminate statistics and other information about libraries; to make surveys and studies in the library field; to administer federal aid to libraries if and when such aid is made available."

MR. C. B. JOECKEL: On behalf of the Federal Relations Committee, I should like to move the adoption of this amendment to the national plan.

... The motion was duly seconded ...

PRESIDENT COMPTON: I should like to have a statement from the chairman of the committee. Before he makes that statement, I think I ought to say that the Committee on Federal Relations spent a day and a half in Chicago considering this whole question. It has their approval, as well as the approval of the Planning Committee and the Executive Board. We should like to hear from Mr. Joeckel, chairman of the Committee.

MR. JOECKEL: Mr. President and Members of the Council of the Association: I have been in many hot spots in the course of my life, but this may be reasonably hot at that. It seems to me I am in the position of a prime minister presenting something here. I have my ministerial bench here which I hope will give support. I do not know whether there is any significance in the fact that they are sitting on the left side of the audience. You may have some views on that a little later.

I do not want to talk any more than is necessary on this question, but I do think that certain general things should be said. If you get tired of listening to me, call for the question and I shall be only too glad to subside.

As the President has said, this proposal which is now before you has no less than three layers of official approval at this moment. It has been approved, first, by the Committee on Federal Relations, second, by the Committee on Planning, third, by the Executive Board of the Association, and it is now before the fourth layer, and I trust the final layer, for approval.

All of this, it seems to me, is highly complicated. With the papers in your hands and the italics and all that sort of thing, it is more complicated than a session of Congress, and perhaps one beneficial result of this whole thing is that if this should ever be presented to Congress, the committee and the officers of the Association will, at least, have ample experience with a very complex and complicated procedure. I am not sure I understand it all, but I know there are enough parliamentarians here to keep me in order.

This first proposal on the subject of a federal library agency is one of two which the committee is bringing before you at this time. The other, not to keep it secret, is the matter of federal aid, but there will be two proposals brought before you on the subject of a federal library agency and two on the subject of federal aid to libraries.

In a general view of the organization of American libraries, the one thing which is conspicuously lacking at the present moment is the existence of a federal authority or agency which is broadly concerned with the development of all types of library interests throughout the country. If any of you have attempted to explain the library system of America to a visiting foreign librarian, I think you will all recall his inability to understand why it is that we do not seem to have any such organization. He does not, of course, understand the federal nature of the American government, and, therefore, it is more apparent to him than it is to us.

It is true, of course, that the national government is now carrying on certain definite library activities, certain bibliographical, cataloging and reference activities, which are of interest to many libraries, and which are highly important. It is also true that we have a whole galaxy of federal libraries, libraries of various bureaus and departments and offices, more or less--largely more--uncorrelated at the present time. But the bald fact remains that from the official point of view there is no national leadership or planning.

The Committee believes at this time that we should move actively in the direction of the creation of a federal library headquarters strong enough to be really important in this whole field.

The possibilities as to the actual activities, the

actual functions, of such a committee are, to me, at least, and I think to many of you, very fascinating indeed. Almost everything that you can think of in the way of progress in libraries might, at one time or another, come forth from such an agency. Of course, we must realize that such an agency must be, in our federal government, advisory. It can scarcely have executive powers under the very nature of our government. I think many of you feel that that is, perhaps, an advantage rather than a disadvantage, but in spite of that, it could, if backed by a reasonable amount of money, probably exercise a good deal of really important nation-wide leadership.

Among the possibilities which might be brought before such a committee would be the coordination of the present and entirely independent and wholly and largely self-interested federal libraries. There is no such coordination at the present time. In the field of statistics, the possibilities are very great. There is no central place, no central picture statistically, of the library scene in America, and it seems to me that a federal agency might, in the long run, be the best place for that sort of thing.

The fostering of all sorts of inter-state relationships extending beyond the boundaries of a particular state, the question of uniform library legislation in certain groups of states, and all that sort of thing is a natural function of such a federal library agency.

Then there is the whole question of the correlation of