PROCEEDINGS

THE COUNCIL

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

May 11 and 15, 1936

Richmond, Virginia
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May 11, 1936

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MONDAY MORNING SESSION

May 11, 1936

The first meeting of the Council of the American Library Association, held in conjunction with the Fifty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Association, convened in the Mosque, Richmond, Virginia, at 10:30 o'clock, President Louis R. Wilson presiding.

PRESIDENT WILSON: The Council will come to order, and the first order of business will be the consideration of the report presented by the Special Committee on Federal Aid.

It should be stated, I think, that the procedure in the Council is for members of the Council to participate in the discussion, that members of the Association may do likewise from the floor, and that only Council members vote.

With that explanation made I shall ask Mr. Hopper, First Vice-President, to take the Chair, in order that, as Chairman of the Committee, I may make certain explanations with respect to the report of the Special Committee on Federal Aid.

... Mr. Franklin F. Hopper, of New York City, took the Chair ...

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Since the First Vice-President has the misfortune to be called on to preside at this stage of the
game and since, after the report, there is likely to be considerable discussion, I would like to suggest that those who participate in the discussion mention their names, because, viewed from this height the gloom in front of us is prevailing and I find it is very hard to distinguish the features of anyone. It is possible that we may know your voices, but in order to be sure I suggest that when the time comes for discussion, you mention your names.

The first order of business, then, is the report of the Committee on Libraries and Federal Aid. President Wilson, as Chairman of that Committee, will make the report.

DR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council, Members of the American Library Association and Friends: The special committee which is making its report this morning was called into being at Denver last June in the following resolution: "That negotiations with government officials toward securing permanent federal aid for libraries be deferred until a special committee created by the Council shall have given further study to the subject and reported to the Council at the next annual conference. The President shall act as Chairman of this committee and appoint to it Association members representing various points of view on federal aid."

Under that resolution a committee was appointed in
September of last year and began immediately to consider the question which had been referred to it. It held its first formal meeting in Chicago in November. For that meeting the various members of the Committee were assigned or asked to consider certain special features in the field of federal aid in other activities in which the government has participated, such as federal aid to education through the land-grant colleges, federal aid in highways, federal aid through the Library of Congress, and other governmental agencies concerned with libraries, and so forth.

All of the Committee undertook to see the full subject in as broad a perspective as possible, and at the same time notice was given to the Association through publication as to its meetings, and that opportunity would be given through letter and through appearance before the Committee to express views for and against the proposal.

The Committee held a second meeting at the Mid-Winter Meeting, and at that time made possible the appearance of people before it on two occasions. I think that only two people appeared to express views. But through letter, sought through the publications of the Association, and through the Wilson Bulletin and the Library Journal, a number of letters were in hand, both for and against, and in that way the
Committee endeavored to give everyone who wished an opportunity to be heard and to present ideas with respect to the proposal.

A third meeting was held in February and the report was agreed upon and put in final form and was sent to the printer so that it could be published in the Official Bulletin of the Association, and could therefore reach all of the membership a month before the meeting this morning.

During the consideration of the subject by the Committee, the Committee itself and the officers of the Association have undertaken to be as judicial as they could in their statement with respect to the subject, and have not participated extensively in even speaking to library associations and groups with respect to the matter. That is, we have tried, throughout our entire deliberations, to approach this subject judicially and without controversy or without emotion. And we bring you the report today which has been in your hands for the past thirty days hoping that in your consideration we may continue to be guided by that, or actuated by that, point of view, by that spirit.

With this explanation as to the way in which the report was projected and has been developed, I am going to move its receipt by the Council, with the expectation upon its receipt that the recommendations which the report contains will
be presented later with a motion to adopt, but the motion which
I make at the moment is that the report of the Committee as
printed be received and filed, and that later a motion to adopt
be presented.

In making this motion I wish to say that the Com-
mittee unanimously agreed to this procedure. Mr. Chairman, I
therefore move that the report be received and filed.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Is the motion seconded?

DR. F. P. HILL (Brooklyn, N. Y.): I second the
motion that the report be received by the Council.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: The motion is that the report be
received and filed by the Council. All in favor say "Aye";
opposed, "No." The motion is carried.

Then, as I understand it, the matter of the definite
recommendations is now in order for consideration.

DR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask Mr.
Joeckel to present the main findings of the report. Mr.
Joeckel?

MR. CARLETON B. JOECKEL (Chicago, Illinois): Mr.
Chairman; Mr. President: A member of the Association, as I
understand it, was going to make an inquiry as to how many
people have read this report. I wonder if he wishes to make
that inquiry. I will assume, then, that everyone has read it,
and that will make it possible to speak very briefly concerning what it says.

In brief this report, I think, may be said to do five things, and I will discuss those five things just as briefly as I can, mentioning the five points and trying to give you in a sentence or two the reasons for deciding on those things and our principal recommendations with regard to the various points.

In the first place, the report attempts to give you a bird's-eye view of the present federal aid system as it exists in the United States and as it has grown up. As Dr. Wilson says, this work was done cooperatively by the committee, and I think it is fair to say that all my colleagues on this Committee really enjoyed this assignment. They found many interesting things about the federal aid system which they didn't know before, and received a very definite impression regarding it.

I think the important thing to say about this federal aid system is this, that it has a definite pattern, that it is not a haphazard system which has grown up entirely differently for each field in which the government has interested itself. And there is no reason, no reason so far as the Committee can see, why this pattern should be varied in the case of a federal
aid system for libraries. We think in general in all probability any federal aid system is likely to be about the same in the case of libraries as in the case of any other public federal function, and for that reason it is important to note what the elements in that pattern are. They are in the report and it is scarcely necessary for me to do anything more than mention them.

In the first place it is obvious that state control and local control is retained about 99.44% in the federal aid system. It is true that there is a certain degree of regulation, but there is no really important evidence, so far as the Committee can discover, that that regulation is really onerous. There is matching in the federal aid system, but it is important to note that the states and local governments have contributed far more than has the Federal Government toward the objects of the federal aid statutes. And it is also worth reminding you that there is in every case a formula for the distribution of federal aid. Usually that formula has been fairly simple.

The second thing that the report does is to remind you as librarians of what the Federal Government is already doing by way of providing library and bibliographic services for the libraries of America. That is so well known to you
that I am afraid that some of you may forget just how much you are receiving from the libraries and other agencies of the National Government.

I think it would be very profitable (I don't mean now, of course) for every librarian here to sit down with a pencil and list the various services, bibliographic and otherwise, which his library does receive from the national libraries, and then perhaps attempt to calculate the cash value of those services. I am quite sure that some of you would be surprised at the amount.

In the third place, and this possibly is the most important part of the Committee's report, the Committee has tried to summarize pro and con the arguments for and against federal aid. Now on that point I can only say, on behalf of the Committee, that we hope that you feel that we have done an honest job on that score. We have tried our very best to state the case as we see it, not passing over the things which seem to us to go against the general report of the Committee. We tried to state that case fairly. We know that the arguments on both sides are important and that they deserve consideration.

Without going into detail as to these arguments, without trying to be specific about the pros and cons, it has seemed to the Committee that the discussion on "yes" and "no"
with respect to federal aid focuses around two points, and those are the old points of control and a nation-wide minimum of library service. To state those two points somewhat more dramatically as they have recently been stated in a book somewhat along these lines with regard to education, you have here in a sense the conflict of two well-known American shibboleths, the idea of liberty and the idea of equality. Now we have all been brought up from babes on those two words. We hear them used by every public speaker; we have read them in all the documents, and we all subscribe to them, often in the same sentence. But we realize, of course, as common-sense human beings, that these two doctrines, if I may call them such, are to a certain extent conflicting. Obviously if you have 100% liberty you are not going to have 100% equality, and if you have complete equality you are not going to have complete liberty.

And so, in this matter of federal aid for libraries, you must make a reasonable compromise.

Now, our compromise has been to say that the liberty side of this question is concerned with the matter of control, and the Committee comes to the conclusion that there is no real danger of federal domination or control in a proposed system of federal aid for libraries. We just don't think
that that is reasonable, either in historical perspective, viewing what has been done, nor do we think that it is reasonable in the United States, at least under present conditions, and I don't think any of the members of the Committee is naive enough to believe that the Constitution is going to be changed either very lightly or very quickly.

With respect to equality I hope that you have noticed that we have tried not to use the word "equality" in the report. If it is in the report it really should have been stricken out. Somebody's blue pencil didn't work at that point. We have preferred to use the phrase "a minimum program of library service." We know that we can't expect to have complete equality in library service; even if every city and town in the country had exactly the same amount of money per capita still there would be variations in the library service. And so we have preferred to think that it is possible, and we believe it is possible through a system of federal aid, and only through a system of federal aid, to have a minimum program of library service of a nation-wide nature. And we believe that that is necessary, because in a democracy we think that all citizens should be educated people, that that is the only way in the long run that a democracy can endure, and we submit that education includes libraries, whether it be in school or
in college or in the long years of adult life.

The conclusions and the recommendations of the Committee constitute the fourth thing which the Committee has tried to do, and these are summarized and are before you, but I don't suppose you can read them in this gloomy atmosphere. But I am sure that probably most of you have memorized them, and therefore it isn't necessary for me to read them all. They are all printed in italics and they are all printed on the separate sheets which were handed to you as you came in.

The conclusions and the findings of the Committee, it seems to me, center around two main concepts. In the first place, the federal aid system is designed for libraries in general, and that means for all types of libraries and for all types of library work. I hope none of you will think of this solely as a public library program or a school library program or a state university library program or a state library program. The idea that the Committee has had in mind, avoiding I think some of the mistakes of the federal aid system in the past, is to provide for a general system of federal aid.

And in the second place the recommendations, as you read them, emphasize continually the point that the actual administration of the federal aid system will remain in the hands of the states and local governments. I think you will
see that the state library agency is to be very important in any such system, that it must be important, and that the local units are also important.

I hope that all of you, in reading this report, took time to reread the concluding section on page 461, including the summary of the recommendations in which we tried to put before you in concrete form what a federal aid system for libraries would be like if there were federal aid -- if and when, if I may say so. There seems to have been some confusion in the minds of some librarians as to what the picture would be like if the federal aid system were established, and that conclusion endeavors to show what it would be like.

It is quite evident that so far as the National Government is concerned there would, of course, need to be important changes. There would need to be a federal library agency; there would need to be a federal aid statute appropriating the money and specifying the formula, to some extent, on which that money would be appropriated. With respect to the state level in government, the only change required would be that state agencies would need to be created in those states which do not have agencies. Of course it is assumed that the existing agencies would be greatly strengthened in their
functions. So far as any necessary change in state laws, it doesn't seem likely that that would be required.

With respect to the local governments and with respect to the local level in our governmental structure, it would seem that no changes would be required. The local libraries would still administer the fund.

Turning, finally, to the fifth thing which the Committee has tried to do, the suggested program for action by this Association, that again has been summarized and is put before you on special sheets. It is probably not necessary for me to read those points.

The first point, about the establishment of the federal library agency, of course is obvious. On the second point I think it is worth while to urge on behalf of the Committee that the members of the Association, particularly all those who are on appropriate committees and representatives of the various state agencies, read this section with the utmost care. The Committee believes that there is a unique opportunity at this time and in this year and next to provide for the national collecting of library statistics in a way which will implement any further campaign which may be undertaken.

The third recommendation of the Committee, for a study of library finance, is, I think, in essence, an attempt
on the part of the Committee to be completely honest in this whole matter of federal aid. The Committee believes that this study is necessary in order that we may be honest with ourselves as members of the Association, that we may be honest with the individual libraries of the country and, above all, that we may be honest with the Federal Government in any presentation of a request for federal aid at a later time.

The fourth recommendation is simply to the effect that all further action, if this report should be approved, is left in the hands of the Executive Board where, of course, it belongs. They are the ones who control the ways and means and have power to carry out such a campaign.

I think, in summary, it may be said that the general nature of this report is an attempt to show that the development of American libraries is too important a thing to leave wholly to the states and the localities. It is and should be, in effect, a national enterprise in which all units and levels of government, the local units, the states, and the National Government, should be concerned. (Applause)

DR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, on the basis of the statement and the report which are before you, I move the report's adoption.

MISS ADAH FRANCES WHITCOMB (Chicago, Ill.): I
second the motion.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: The adoption of the report is moved and seconded. The question is now open for discussion.

DR. HILL: From the remarks that have been made from the platform and from the sheet which we have in our hands, it would appear that the report of the committee is a unanimous report. If that is true, why there is little that we want to say about it. I think we would like to know if this report is a unanimous report before we begin the discussion.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Can the Chairman answer that?

DR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, the report as submitted for receipt was unanimously supported by the Committee. The report as moved for adoption was supported by seven members of the Committee and opposed by two members of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Are there further statements from members of the Committee in connection with this report?

MR. CLARENCE E. SHERMAN (Providence, Rhode Island): If it is in order I should like to express my reasons for opposing the adoption of the recommendations contained in this report. Are they in order at this time?

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Yes.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman; Mr. President: According to one radio program, "Time marches on!" And it seems to
me that it really appears to, when a man by the name of
Sherman comes into the City of Richmond and attempts to
dissent with anything' (Laughter and applause)

It also seems to march on when a man by the name of
Sherman appears at least in one respect to make a plea for the
preservation of local rights and obligations and responsibil-
ities.

I find myself not in a very pleasant position because
of the admiration I hold for the qualities of the person who
is the most responsible for the writing of this report, Mr.
Joeckel, and for the almost poetic way in which it flows
along. I must say that it is very difficult not to agree
with it. It is almost a fairy story, it is so beautiful in
rhythm, and I must say in much of its logic. (Laughter)

This matter that we are discussing today of course
now appears under a new dress, in new costume. It was almost
murdered by its friends when they talked in terms of
$100,000,000. Why they ever settled on that sum I never knew.
They tried to explain, but somehow it didn't record. I never
was quite sure whether it had some relationship to the $1.00
per capita, that very rough approximation we make of standards
of library practice, or whether it had something to do with
the guinea pigs! In any event, I think we can be very grate-
ful that finally we are thinking very deliberately about this matter that is, we must admit, a very important proposal, and if it must pass there is much more hope for a sensible conclusion, and I use "sensible" not in any disparaging way, but I think more sense has been given to the study of it in the last twelve months than had been given to it in the several years during which it had been discussed and thought about.

A pattern is developed by the father of this program, at least in its written form, which seems to prove almost conclusively that everything is inescapable. The analogy to the federal land-grant system, the analogy to small European countries, while not holding water in every respect, in a great deal do seem to be reasonable and inescapable. There is one thing, however, with which I must take issue, and that is where it tells us that the trend toward federalization is so definite and so real that we might just as well line up. Those are my words, but the meaning is there.

I want to remind you that these days there seems to be a trend toward war. Must we line up with that trend, or can we still oppose it if we believe in peace? And so I make that as a sort of an apology for standing before you and opposing what seems to be so logically necessary and inescapable, the trend toward federalization.
I am not one who is ready to agree yet that it is a trend that we must follow in all respects, and especially in this one. And so we have a very interesting background, and if you want federal aid and don't object to certain responsibilities and obligations that I think must come despite what has been said about them, we have here a program that is, I believe, as good as could be written.

Of course, the foundation stone of it seems to be a nation-wide minimum of library service, and that, of course, calls up all sorts of pictures of a coast-to-coast program, all-American, a sort of NBC network. It is a grand picture; it quickens the pulse of any librarian who is ambitious and who has pride in the development of the library movement thus far. But like all patriotic feelings, I think sometimes we need to pause before we rush for the musket. The essential unity of library development as an abstract idea is a beautiful thing to dwell upon. Whether or not it is at this time a proposal that we should put into practice I am not sure. In fact, I do not believe that it is or I shouldn't be talking now.

Most community services that we use in our home towns were originally -- most of them -- of local origin. This is an old story, but I believe that they should remain there as
the responsibility and the obligation of the people of that town to do the best that they can for themselves, and to make every effort to improve. I think our nation is too vast to consider this program of a minimum standard of library service; it is too vast and too heterogeneous at this time. It may be that our children will see it, but I do not believe that the nation is ready to see it right now.

Moreover, I do not believe that the exceptional federal action that our country has been forced to take during these four or five desperate years of unemployment and recovery should be taken too seriously as additional reasons why we should turn away from an old theory and adopt a new practice. For, after all, a community should receive the kind of service it deserves in general, the kind it is willing to fight for and sweat for and work for. I don't believe that it follows at all that because we may need -- and we appear to -- a minimum of common school education in a democracy for every child to be exposed to, whether it takes or not, that there necessarily follows that there needs to be a national minimum for public libraries, despite the fact that I believe in them as much as anyone in this room, because I think if it does, where is the end?, if for no other reason. I think that playgrounds, stadia for our public schools, street lighting
and other things that are very important in our towns and cities will be the next step, or logically should be. I think there is a fallacy in this so-called equalization idea, translated into new terms, that we can not confidently and wisely follow.

In fact, I believe we might face a few facts as to the universal importance of public library service as it now exists. In the report and elsewhere a great deal of consideration has been given to the number of millions of people in this country who are without public library service. I believe the figures quite often quoted are 40,000,000. Now that is impressive -- 40,000,000 out of our 120,000,000 are without any reasonable sort of public library service: very poor, very meager if at all. Those of us who have devoted a few years or a long life to the management of a public library, and seeing what it can do in a community, naturally are sympathetic toward those areas in which that may be true.

But I want to remind you, how many million do you suppose there are in your town and my town who can have pretty good library service and don't use it? Do we ever figure that out when we use that 40,000,000 figure? I sometimes am disturbed about it, chagrined, and a bit discouraged. The normal registration in most communities is something like forty
per cent.

In the City of Providence, in which I live and devote my working time to a public library's problems, with a dozen or fifteen branches and stations and a central library -- not a modern equipment in many respects but probably average with the country as a whole for cities of its size -- we have a registration that is perhaps forty per cent, at the outside, out of a population of 250,000. Is that impressive? What proportion of the 40,000,000 who do not have library service would use it if we gave it to them, by this action or any other?

This spring we have had a little experiment in Providence that confirms that impression. Even though the figures may not impress you, they do me. We do not believe in so-called Conscience Days, but we realize we are living in trying times, and a lot of people who otherwise might meet their obligations to libraries or other institutions are unable to do so for financial reasons, so we sent out a fine cancellation letter addressed to everyone who owed over five cents and did not still have in his possession library property, offering them in a courteous and sympathetic way the privileges again of the library, telling them to pay whenever they could, we didn't care when, what they might owe. One would consider that if
the minimum public library service for the country as a whole is as necessary as it seems to be that every one of the 4,000 people included in that group would have come clamoring in for their cards.

How many do you suppose came in, of those that could be located? Ten per cent! Ten per cent responded at all. Those who did respond apparently appreciated it. They were very kindly in their words to us for our having made the offer, but ten per cent out of 4,000 even cared enough to come in and start over again!

We have in our city another commentary on this question of the universal importance of a minimum public library service. We had about 10,000 non-residents of the community surrounding Providence until two years ago. Because of the need for economy we decided to charge a fee of $1 or $2, depending on circumstances. How many non-residents do you suppose Providence now has out of the 10,000? Nine hundred fifty-nine! And with many, we know it wasn't because of the $1 or $2. It is because library service wasn't important enough for them to pay that fee.

So I believe that the sincere desire for reading more or less regularly, and the use of free public library facilities, are still in a semi-aristocratic state of mind, not
the democratic standards that we aspire to and believe in and want to continue to work toward. We haven't yet arrived there, despite the fact that we may be very proud of our progress thus far. The dream of books for everybody is still a good dream to have, but the belief that it is realized in 1936 is a dream and not a reality, despite the creditable record that has been made.

I could go on and give other data, but it would only clog the time and I don't know that it would impress those who already feel that we should have this federal aid program, but I do believe that before we moved into the position we now occupy we ought to have made the study of library finances to find out how much is needed. We don't know. We may make a guess, sincerely, but a guess; yet we talk about the fact that communities need more for libraries and, not getting it, the nation should give it. How many towns and cities have ever done what they should do? My own city hasn't. Our city appropriates twenty-two cents per capita for the public library. Now that we need it and our endowment is shrinking and we turn to the city, do we get it? No, because the times are bad. That is the trouble in the country as a whole. Is that any reason why we should pause and stop and say, "All right, if you can't or won't, we will turn to Washington!"? I can't
believe that it is. I think we still have a longer go at our local communities.

Now may I say, as I draw toward the conclusion of my remarks, if there is some wise prophet in this room who will stand up and say with confidence and with the facts to assure us that what he says is true that the only way our public libraries can go on in the future is through federal aid, and if we don't adopt this report now and work for it and its conclusions that public libraries may go the way of all flesh, I remove every objection in the world and I would work just as hard as everyone in the room for it. But I can't believe that yet. I don't believe that the time is here when we can feel that the old program is dead and done merely because the conditions under which we are now living are rather exceptional, and I am not forgetting that in the provisions of this report anything is said about the National Government paying all the freight, that the local governments would not be depended upon for some.

But I am thinking of the psychology of foundations, of public-spirited givers, and of local governments. If the Federal Government once starts giving to local areas on any basis whatever, we will get the same reactions we have had during unemployment relief and local charity. As soon as the
Federal Government started to give, the local areas felt they should unload the whole business on the Federal Government. It is a perfectly natural way of thinking these days. That is the trend toward federalization. It is the trend from which I think we should try to escape.

I want to say one other thing before I do stop finally, and I don’t want you to believe for a moment that I am impertinent. As a friend I am talking among friends, but as I have thought this action over and tried to analyze it with whatever mental ability I may happen to have, it seems to me that we are doing a very bold thing. We, a profession of librarians, the servants of institutions, not free like lawyers or doctors who tack our own shingle over our door and are our own masters, are proposing a program which may eventually, despite the beauty of the report and the statements that we propose this and therefore it will conform with what we would like to have, be done that way five, six, or ten years from now by the Federal Government if this program proceeds. I believe that there may be a very good chance that the organization and the structure of the free public libraries as we know it in years from now may be quite a different thing from what it now is.

Now I want to ask you, if you were a member of a
school board in your town and your Superintendent went to a national conference in Richmond and by himself, without asking for your endorsement or your board's endorsement or your city government's, went and voted and did his best to develop and bring to pass legislation that might eventually change the relationships in many respects of the local schools, would you feel that he might be a little out of tune? I felt so, and I asked my board, before I came, how they felt I should vote, inasmuch as I was representing them here, on their time and I may say at their expense.

And I believe that no one in this room who hasn't already consulted with his board or his city manager or whatever the official relationships are that tie him as a servant (not as the owner of a library) with his community is exceeding his responsibilities or hers. Now I say that as a friend and in the kindest way I can, but I believe it most sincerely.

And so in closing I would say, if you want -- rather, if your library wants, not you -- federal aid, money, from whatever source it can get it so desperately that you (your library) are ready to gamble on the future, both local and federal, I believe you should favor this report and work for its adoption and for its conclusions. But if you are not sure
of it and you haven't been authorized, and you have any doubts about the future, I don't see how you can. (Applause)

DR. ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK (St. Louis, Mo.): I wish to state at the beginning that I am here at my own expense. (Applause) Moreover I have with me thirty members of my staff who are all here at their own expense. (Applause)

It seems to me that if one clears away the cloud of verbiage with which this question has become covered it is fairly simple, and I want to call to your minds -- almost everybody has probably forgotten it -- a very interesting historic parallel to this controversy.

When a multimillionaire in the person of Mr. Carnegie arose and proposed to aid libraries all over the United States by helping them to build buildings there was considerable opposition. It was felt that Mr. Carnegie, having given this money to libraries, would make some attempt to control them. Being a capitalist, he wouldn't allow any but capitalistic books to be put in the libraries. That is particularly interesting because the city in which we are meeting today was one of those cities that refused a Carnegie gift.

The interesting thing is that the people who refused the Carnegie gift didn't make any effort to prevent those who wanted to take it from taking it. (Applause) They said, as
Horace Greeley said to the section in which we are meeting today, "Erring sisters, go in peace." And so we went.

Now I wouldn't for a moment attempt to force those people who object to federal aid to take it. I wouldn't lift a finger to do that. But it seems to me a little unfair that they should try to prevent us, who want it, from taking it. That is the issue, it seems to me, very plainly marked out and stripped from all the cloud of verbiage. (Applause)

MR. MILTON E. LORD (Boston, Mass.): Mr. Chairman, I think that I, too, as a member of the Committee who voted in the negative on this report, ought quite clearly to state my position. I never have enjoyed work on a Committee as much as I have on this one. The spirit of impartiality and judiciality with which the problem was approached, the friendliness of discussion, made the work go very smoothly, and at the final meeting of the Committee in February it seemed very completely -- well, perhaps not completely but obvious to me what the possible final action probably ought to be.

As I went back home afterward I tried to reduce it to specific terms, taking it out of the large general field of the country at large. It is very easy to talk in large terms without specifics. I came down to my own State of Massachusetts and then particularly to my own City of Boston, and I found
that I had quite clearly a question in my mind which is along the lines that Mr. Sherman has raised. And it is true that it seemed, in many ways, to be rather legalistic. I couldn't find the answer clearly, however, and I thought that I ought, quite frankly, to state it to myself, and I did so by writing out the position as I saw it. I am going to take the liberty to read those few paragraphs that I wrote, because they are better expressed there than I could do it extemporaneously.

I don't offer it as an argument, necessarily, against federal aid. I offer it primarily as a question that I think, at least for me and probably for some others, perhaps needs an answer, and I am quite sure that the remaining members of the Committee probably have the answer all ready for me as soon as I get through. Remember, this was perhaps legalistic, and there may be some fallacies in my expression of it. If you can set me straight, all right:

"Public libraries in the United States are in general governed by boards of trustees. The trustees of a public library have two main responsibilities. The first of these is to obtain support for their libraries, social and moral support from the community in general, and financial support from the governmental appropriating body having jurisdiction in that community or governmental area. The second is to maintain
their library in a manner to afford the best library service possible with the funds at their disposal. To meet this latter responsibility they are empowered to appoint a librarian, and they delegate to him the power and the responsibility which they deem necessary for achieving their purpose.

"It is not the librarian's responsibility, however, in either the original or the final instance, to obtain the necessary financial support for the library. It is the responsibility, rather, to take the funds that are provided and to administer them in a manner to bring about the results desired by the trustees within the lines of the policies which they have adopted for the library.

"There is no evidence that this fundamental operating theory has been amended generally throughout the country, at least to the extent that trustees have delegated to the librarians themselves, either individually or in association, the power and the responsibility to obtain the financial support which the latter deem necessary for their libraries. It is doubtful that trustees can make such a delegation of either their power or their responsibility. The trustees of public libraries are trustees for the people of a specific locality or area. They are themselves the delegates."
"Now I believe that it is one of the oldest and simplest maxims of law that a delegate may not delegate unless specifically empowered to do so. Almost universally in the case of public libraries it has been the practice to place upon the trustees the responsibility for obtaining support for their libraries; the acts of establishment, both of their libraries and of themselves as trustees, have not made provision for their delegating their power or their responsibility in this respect. What power, then, have their librarians, either individually or in association, to negotiate for financial support for their libraries from governmental sources, be they local, state, or federal?"

I offer that as a question which stands quite clearly in my mind relative to the Item No. 4 under the suggested program of action for the American Library Association; namely, "Authority to proceed with a formal request for federal aid on a permanent basis should be vested in the Executive Board of the American Library Association." (Applause)

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: I am sure the Council can not help but be impressed by the drastic process of adult education to which the Committee have subjected themselves. They have learned a great deal. The question is still open for discussion.
MR. FRANK LELAND TOLMAN (Albany, N. Y.): I would like to ask, in order that we may be voting definitely upon the matter before us, that there be a separate vote on the fourth recommendation of the Committee. It seems to me that there is little doubt but that the Council will agree with reference to the other recommendations. The fourth recommendation in a great many respects does not entirely harmonize with the other recommendations. It seems to me peculiarly inept for this Committee to come to us and say, in effect, "We have looked into this matter as carefully as we could; we have assembled the data as far as we could. We realize we know nothing about it. Further study is needed, so let us undertake a special investigation of taxation and library finance; let us undertake all of these studies, but don't let us hold up our program. Let's get the money first and do our investigation as to whether we need it or whether we can get it later."

I have always thought that the logical thing to do was to investigate and study first, and then determine on our practical line of operation.

In addition to that I would like to say a very hearty "Amen" to the argument that has been presented here that we librarians are guilty of the most flagrant usurpation of power in attempting to decide what is fundamentally the primary duty
of library trustees. I don't think that that can be too much over-estimated. I can not understand, for myself, how a large committee to investigate this subject could have been formed without the membership on that committee of a single library trustee, and it seems to me that whatever further studies are undertaken should very definitely be extended so that trustee membership and participation on a real cooperative basis should be established.

I have never been greatly excited over this proposition of federal aid. I have tried to keep in touch with it; I realize its importance. I have read a great deal of the literature on the subject, and it seems to me important to keep in mind that we are not the only profession that is very drastically divided in reference to the wisdom of this policy. The Division of Superintendence of the National Education Association discussed federal aid at its last meeting, which I believe was held in the City of St. Louis, and I hope the thirty members of the St. Louis Public Library staff attended and listened to the words of wisdom of Mr. Mort. If they did not, I wish to call attention to the fact that the main advocate of federal aid for education, Professor Mort, said to that body, "You needn't be at all excited, because it will be at least twenty years before this propaganda of all the
educational forces of the country is able to make any impres-
sion upon Congress." Now if that supremely superbly organized
body of educators can look forward to twenty years in an at-
tempt to get this subsidy, it seems to me that it will take the
librarians of the country at least to a period long after my
bones are laid to rest before librarians will receive this
subsidy from the Federal Government. And so, as I say, I am
not supremely excited about this issue.

I would like to add that a supremely wise man, in
discussing this same problem of federal aid, said that the
greatest fallacy of popular thinking in the United States was
the inability to determine when an issue was definitely decid-
ed. He said that the trend away from federal expenditures and
federal aid was now so evident that we were debating an issue
that was as dead as Caesar's ghost.

So that, whether it be a matter which is entirely
dead or merely a matter which can be considered only as a long-
time program, it does seem to me that if it is wise to proceed
at all (and I am always in favor of study and careful considera-
tion, whatever the outcome of that study may be), it seems to
me that we have ample opportunity and ample time to make amends
for such difficulties and shortcomings as have been evidenced
in the consideration of this project to the present time.
And so my own hope is that this Council will authorize the continuance of this investigation so that we may really have the facts before us, that it may amend its membership so that the trustees, who are legally responsible for the financial support of libraries, shall be adequately represented and that some way be provided by which those members of the Association and the friends of libraries may have a real opportunity to appear before the Committee and get the benefit of real, open discussion of the Committee with outside interests. (Applause)

MR. CHARLES H. COMPTON (St. Louis, Missouri): I would like to inform Mr. Tolman that I heard Mr. Mort and the other speakers. I think that if we may not get federal aid for twenty-five years, maybe longer, I am not concerned about it. I realize that we have been going on for some twenty-five years with little if any progress in meeting these needs of these 40,000,000 people, and perhaps the other 40,000,000 who have inadequate service.

I feel that we do have a responsibility for these people. I feel that very strongly. I feel very strongly that you can not place local responsibility on them and expect them to have libraries, for we well know the inequalities there are in per capita wealth.
I believe the statistics are that in the poorer states the per capita wealth is only one-fourth that of the better states. I don't think that we can put too much emphasis on the need for libraries. I have not thought, and I think if you will look up any statements that I made while I was your president I don't think any statement I made in any way indicated that I thought, we could go and snatch $100,000,000 from Congress. I said in those questions and answers that were published in the Library Journal that it was the most difficult task in my opinion that the American Library Association ever attempted. I am still of that opinion. I think that it is perhaps one of the most important, if not the most important decision that the American Library Association has to make.

I feel that Mr. Tolman's plea for more study doesn't make a very strong impression on me. We can go on studying this subject for twenty-five years, for fifty years. We can keep on discussing it in the Council. In the meantime it seems to me, and I think there are indications of it, that there are other agencies that are going to take over our function. I think it is a question of whether we are going to meet the problem before us. I feel today that democracy in the United States is on a test, as is the government in other countries, and I feel that this morning we are going to make a decision
that will affect democracy in the United States.

Now as to Mr. Tolman's question in regard to the trustees. I want to remind you that Mr. Tolman was the gentleman who made the motion in the Council that the amount to be requested should be raised from $50,000,000 to $100,000,000. At least in that time he took that responsibility.

MR. TOLMAN: I have seen the light.

MR. COMPTON: I have not much more to say, except that I feel that it is extremely important. (Applause)

MISS SALLY M. AKIN (Macon, Ga.): I am from the deep South and a little library. My trustees are not members of the A. L. A. If they were, they certainly would be shown the courtesy of expressing their opinion on belonging on this Committee, but they are not. For that reason, my trustees not being members of the A. L. A. and I being thoroughly legalistic, I wonder why they should be considered so much.

It is curious for anybody from the Deep South to agree with Providence about anything, and this is no exception, the Lord knows. The common folks need books and they need to feel that the provision of books does not belong with the nabobs of the town. I haven't talked over this matter with my trustees. I believe we can take aid from the Lord Almighty when we can get it! (Applause)
CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Would we take it from the devil?

MISS AKIN: We frequently do!

MR. JAMES T. GERould (Princeton, New Jersey): The only reason that I have ever been able to assign in my own mind why I should have been appointed on this Committee is that I was known to have been an opponent of the original proposition. I was one of those who signed postal cards in opposition to the former action of the Council.

I went into this study with the Committee; at least I tried to do it with an open mind. It so happens that in my itinerant career I have had something to do with a number of the Western states. At one time during the war I was in very intimate contact with the Red Cross organization of the four states of Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Montana. I learned a great deal about the internal social organization of those states. And I realized that rules which apply beautifully in New England, in New Jersey, fail to apply in that area.

I was tremendously impressed during the discussions that went on in the Committee with evidence introduced by Miss Long -- I wish she were here today -- of the amount of territory in the State of Oregon actually owned by the Federal Government. She produced a map showing the total area. My recollection is that it was something like ninety per cent.
DR. WILSON: Fifty in Oregon and ninety-five in Utah.

MR. GERould: Actually the property of the Federal Government!

There are people living in those areas and they are citizens, voting citizens of our nation. The government owes to those people some of the support which in other areas can be provided by the state.

Now after all, we are a nation, not a collection of states. That interesting question was settled somewhat drastically at a certain courthouse not many miles from this city. As our social organization progresses there must be, we must all agree, I think, a greater degree of socialization. That socialization will take varying forms, and I am not going to attempt to go into it now. But to a larger and larger extent I am perfectly convinced, and I don't think that the tide has turned so drastically as has been said here a moment ago, that the national government must step in and aid.

Now I am not disturbed over Section 4 of this recommendation. All this report says, in very brief, is that when a national agency is established the American Library Association, in cooperation with this agency, will make certain studies to determine what sums it is wise to ask of the Federal
Government. No. 4 simply says that the Executive Board will act for the Association, as it has authority to do, in working out these studies. We are not asking for $100,000,000; we are not asking for any specific sum. We are asking for permission to go on to make these studies and to make them with the idea, eventually, of receiving some support from the Federal Government.

Now it may relieve Mr. Tolman's mind somewhat (I don't believe it will) to know -- and I am sure the Chairman and President didn't know it when they appointed me -- that I am in a very small way also a library trustee. (Applause)

MR. FORREST B. SPAULDING (Des Moines, Iowa): I had intended to speak this morning as an individual professional librarian, a member for some years of the American Library Association. But if I can find my badge I will now put it on and speak as a delegate, officially elected to attend this meeting on behalf of the Des Moines Public Library and, Mr. Chairman, the President of the Board of Trustees, my immediate superior was at the meeting where this topic of federal aid was discussed, where that verbal poker game took place raising you $500,000 every few minutes, and she and the other members of the Board are intensely interested in this subject, yet as individuals only one is a member of the American Library
I am sent here, and I believe (though I have no written credentials to prove it) that I am expected to give my opinion as an individual, as a trained librarian, and if they don't like the opinion that I give they can get another librarian, and I am sure that that is their state of mind.

But what I wanted to say particularly is that it seems to me, as Dr. Bostwick has expressed it so ably, that we are talking about a lot of different things and we are getting all excited about adopting a program for federal aid. In reality, if we adopt this morning this report which is before us we are not adopting a program of federal aid. We are not insisting that anybody take anything from anyone. What we are doing, it seems to me, is merely setting ourselves on record as having faith and confidence in our Executive Board and believing that they can handle themselves to represent us when it seems to be the time to strike.

Now that No. 4 paragraph of the program does not say that this Executive Board shall enter upon negotiations for money from the Federal Government to receive money for a program of federal aid. That paragraph that we are so much excited about -- some of us -- merely says "authority to proceed with a formal request for federal aid should be vested in the Association."
Executive Board of the American Library Association."

I have had the privilege this winter of doing some work on behalf of the federal library agency which is mentioned in the report but which is not under consideration this morning, and I have found many in the Congress, both in the House and in the Senate, who have said, "Why in the world haven't you librarians expressed yourselves before? Why haven't you come to us and stated what you wanted and put this thing in a way so that we could act for you?"

I have found people who were interested in our problem. I would hate to go back some time and tell those same men the answer, if the answer should be that the American Library Association Council does not want to make decisions which will empower its Executive Board, we will say, to act between meetings.

That, virtually, is what, it seems to me, Mr. Tolman is proposing this morning when he says "Let's appoint another committee. Put a few trustees on it and let's consider this some more."

If this Committee has not considered this question for you in the way you want it considered, then I say, "Appoint another Committee," but ask them to act quickly, so that we may vest in our Executive Board power to go ahead on a program in
which we have some confidence.

MR. S. L. SMITH: I represent a group in the South, where we need libraries badly -- that section that was reported on four years ago as having eighty per cent without having any library service. I am not responsible for the report, but I think it is true.

We were called upon (an organization which I represent) a few years ago by the American Library Association, Dr. Wilson, Carl Milam, and others, to help start some demonstrations in the South, to see if we could get those people library conscious where they have no library service.

The fund I represent appropriated five or six thousand dollars to help do that in eleven counties of the South where there was a large negro population, and we were told that the people wouldn't read if you gave them this service, and we were also told, "If you go ahead and help them for six or seven years and then stop, they will not continue the service."

We have helped some of them five years, and Charleston County, South Carolina, has already voted the money to continue to every rural section in that county adequate library service. Columbia, South Carolina, has voted a one-mill tax, although our term of cooperation doesn't expire for
another year, to continue the library service, and it was done almost unanimously.

On the twenty-first day of April, little Webster Parish, Louisiana, where we started it anew, all rural, forty-three per cent colored, where everybody reads and where they have a larger reading population than Boston, New York, or Chicago, judging by the report of the American Library Association, they put it up to a vote of the people, and because of this five or six years of service the people voted a one-mill tax on the twenty-first day of April for a ten-year service, guaranteeing adequate library service there, and others are continuing that sort of thing, until we believe that all of them will come in.

Here is what is happening: In these eleven counties they read last year 6,500,000 volumes under trained library service, although they have only 166 people per square mile. That was 5.1 books per capita, white and colored, rural and urban. The American Library Association report of cities of more than 200,000 of the United States and Canada shows 5.39. That is coming up pretty well. The American Library Association report shows that these large cities had 24% of their population registered in cities of 200,000 or more. None of those is considered in this group. In these rural counties, eleven
counties, they had 28% of their population registered last year, and so it goes on and on. They will do it if they are given the opportunity.

We have half of the wealth of the nation in the South and we have a great majority of the people not served by library service. They will never have it unless some outside source comes in to help carry this on. I don't know where it shall come from. Foundations can't do it. But the government doesn't hesitate to call on the Rainbow Division and say "Come on and win the war and save the world for democracy!" So why not give these men the same opportunity?

The government, it seems to me, has a responsibility. I don't know what it should be, but I believe you are on the right track and I hope you will win.

MISS ELLA MAY THORNTON (Atlanta, Georgia): At the risk of not seeming properly modest, entirely, I wish to make a statement which I think will be illustrative. I have the honor to be State Librarian by appointment of the Governor, a member of the Library Commission, which makes me, I believe, a trustee, and an official delegate to this convention. I believe that if the roll were called here many similar delegations would be represented.

It seems to me, therefore, that there would be a very
audible voice from constituents of that kind, and I feel this, that the Governor of my state has said repeatedly, in print and in speeches, that the money that goes into the United States Government has come from the states, and if there are any funds for distribution, so long as the United States is distributing funds each state that wants the money should go after it.

MR. HENRY BARTLETT VAN HOESEN (Providence, R. I.): I have been interested in the equalization of opportunity in education and I have been in sympathy with the idea of equalization of opportunity for library service. But I had to be opposed to the vote of the Executive Board because the amount they decided to ask for seemed to me fantastic.

Curiously enough I shall have to vote against this report because it mentions no amount at all. This leaves the matter entirely in the hands of the Executive Board. We should have confidence in them, even though they ask for $100,000,000.

Another point is this: At the meeting in Atlantic City one of the members of the Executive Committee asked a question: "Is there any librarian who doesn't need money for his library? Well, then, you are all in favor of it." Yet what we were sold on to begin with was federal aid where it was to equalize opportunity.

Now in this report, as it stands before us now, that
is still ambiguous. There are several points that at least are not clear in my mind. The first is, are we going out for aid for establishing library facilities where they do not exist now, or are we also going to aid libraries which do exist now? Or both?

In the second place, what is meant by "adequate" library facilities? Perhaps this is only my own ignorance. Ninety per cent, it is said in the report, of the people who need library service and do not have it are in the rural communities. Have we any indication, in this report or elsewhere, as to what minimum library service in rural communities constitutes?

I do not understand what is the meaning of a system of permanent federal grants in aid. Is the word "permanent" necessary?

There are these things that are not clear in my mind. Perhaps the Committee could enlighten me, but without such enlightenment I would still have to vote against this report, although I am heartily in sympathy with the equalization of educational opportunity so far as it is practical.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Does the Committee want to answer Mr. Van Hoesen?

DR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to answer
just one point in Mr. Van Hoesen's statement. The judgment impugned a moment ago was that of us, the Council, rather than that of the Executive Board. That is, it was the Council that raised the amount to $100,000,000, and not the Executive Board.

MRS. JENNIE F. PURVIN (Chicago, Ill.): A trustee! Trustees come and go, but librarians, it seems to me, go on forever.

As a trustee I can assure you that our main problem is one of finances. I am wondering if you could present to the trustees of the country the suggestion that in supporting this idea of federal aid you will be helping them gain finances for their own respective institutions, if you will not be doing a very great deal for your Trustees Section immediately.

Obviously a great many things will be changed in the discussions which will continue over the quarter of a century that I understand we will have to wait before we do get federal aid, if we get it. In the meantime, because there are so few trustees in any sort of organization and so many librarians in the American Library Association, I should like, as a trustee, to say that I think we will help you in your idea.

MR. CLARENCE B. LESTER (Madison, Wisc.): Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council: I hesitated for a while to rise to my feet for any part in this discussion after
Mr. Sherman's remarks about the earlier efforts, many of which came from the Extension Board under my Chairmanship. I apologize for their crudity. I claim some support for their efforts at progress.

I have been stirred a number of times to remark on some of the matters which have been presented here. I am going to confine what I have to say to one of the two points emphasized by Dr. Joeckel in presenting the report as fundamental. Those two are, control and equalization, expressed otherwise by him.

I want to speak a moment as regards the latter. If Mr. Sherman's arguments with regard to that fraction of the population, be it somewhat small or somewhat larger in other places, which uses the libraries are to be carried to their logical conclusions, it means that public library support is on the basis of individual payment. Does he advocate that? He does not. He asks all property in the city of Providence to help support an institution used by that portion of the population which can make use of it because it is educational.

He does not divide his service among the wards of the city of Providence according to the amount which each ward can pay in taxes. It goes into one fund, and it gives as good facilities as may be possible within a half mile of the central
library or on the outskirts of the city -- not equal in the two cases.

I was born and brought up in Providence. Perhaps I am a New Engander gone wrong. I come now from a section of the country to which Dr. Gerould has alluded, where I see the need for some effort at a spread of opportunity.

Not many years ago Mr. Carroll Streeter, editor of one of our best agricultural papers in the Mid-West, was introduced by me at a library meeting to speak on the subject of the choice of books and library service for the rural people. He said, "Rural people are folks just like the rest of us. They should have the same opportunity as the rest of us. My speech is done.

"But you have assigned me so many minutes and I will go on and expand that point."

I submit that that is the fundamental point with regard to opportunity under this federal aid program -- opportunity for all on such basis as may be reasonably possible to be used in the country as in the city by those who can make use of it.

MR. TOLMAN: I wonder if I may ask your indulgence just for one moment.

The State of New York is in a very unfortunate
situation in reference to this project before the Committee. Whatever may be the attitude of the Council in reference to determining the wisdom of further adequate study of federal aid, the State of New York and the Carnegie Corporation seem to have no such hesitation. We are having a very extensive survey of the educational system of the state now under way which includes the library system of the state, and that very large expert survey commission is charged, among other things, to investigate and report on the desirability of federal aid for schools, libraries, and other institutions.

While this investigation is in progress it will, of course, be impossible for me, as a member of the Council, to vote upon this proposition. I therefore simply wish to express the unfortunate reason that makes it impossible for me to express my convictions in the form of a vote at this time.

DR. HERMAN MEYER (Washington, D. C.): Mr. Tolman, inasmuch as Dr. Koeppel, of the Carnegie Corporation, is here, I think it should be said that it is my understanding that the funds in question are not Carnegie funds, but Rockefeller funds.

MR. TOLMAN: I stand corrected.

DR. MEYER: Dr. Bostwick drew a parallel between the Carnegie gift and this federal aid which I hoped someone else would challenge. When the Carnegie gift was first proposed it
was feared that there would be a sinister control. That has never developed. Mr. Carnegie, in his bequest, said what he wanted, and that noblest of gifts to the American people has been nobly administered by the Carnegie Corporation and other bodies which his money brought into existence.

The parallel doesn't exist in the case of anything from the Federal Government. The controlling body there remains the Federal Government or such agencies as it brings into existence. I haven't lived in Washington thirty-one years not to learn that their tenure of office, in the first place, is not continuous, which means that the policy will not be continuous. All too frequently what they do is to stimulate, actuate, begin in a spirit of pure whim, and with a change of administration there may be an absolute change in the policy of the controlling body, and there will be a controlling body.

Now we have no assurance that Congress is not going to take a finger in running whatever money is given in this way. There are always members of Congress who are looking out for things that they believe the Federal Government should control more than it is controlling now, especially those things where federal money is used to carry them on. That is the thing which I fear more than anything else in this whole proposal, to get a continuing or any kind of grant from the
Federal Government. There will be that control, and that control never existed for a moment in Mr. Carnegie's bequest to the people of the United States.

Mr. Smith, the speaker from South Carolina, pointed out the way in which this could be done, although I believe he spoke on the other side, without federal aid. The American Library Association, I believe, had some demonstrations down in those counties, and the people there saw the force of the demonstrations and they themselves voted to carry on the work, which seems to me more in accord with American spirit than to go to Washington and put your hands in the federal till and take out what you want. (Applause)

MISS MARY U. ROTHROCK (Knoxville, Tennessee): Perhaps it is significant that the woman on the committee waits until all the men have had their say.

It appears to me that two points have emerged thus far from this discussion. One is whether the American Library Association is willing to assume the responsibility for taking a position with respect to the future development of library service in the United States of America. I should be sorry if we "muffed", or shall I say "abdicated", our leadership.

The second point which occurs to me is the natural emphasis which we tend to place on our local viewpoints, our
local problems. At the same time, this is a national body; it is a national problem. And perhaps I may be pardoned in this historic atmosphere, inasmuch as Mr. Sherman, who first spoke on the subject, struck the keynote of history, if I say it was not a man named Sherman who said "The Federal Union, it must be preserved." It was a man named Andrew Jackson. (Applause)

MR. CARL L. CANNON (New Haven, Connecticut): I have followed with a great deal of interest the remarks of the various speakers this morning because I have had a great deal of difficulty in making up my mind about the question of federal aid for libraries. I heard the debate in Chicago two years ago and at that time the question was limited pretty largely so far as the Association action was concerned, as I understood it then, to securing a library agency, and I have always felt that that was a very wise measure and still do.

But as a result of the talks this morning my doubts about the wisdom of federal aid for libraries have not been lessened. In fact, they have been increased. The reasons why it seems to me that there is considerable doubt are, first, I don't believe that the present period of federal expenditures is going to last forever. I think it is going to terminate very shortly on its present scale. I remember Al Smith made one remark which is widely quoted, and that was with regard to the
continuance of the present administration. Incidentally, this is not an anti-administration talk by any means. He said, when a question arose as to whether or not the beneficiaries of the government would vote for the party then in power, "Nobody shoots Santa Claus."

I think, again with no political reference whatever, that Santa Claus will be shot eventually, and he will be shot by the taxpayers after a certain amount of relief has been provided them. This relief was necessary and it has been provided, but I don't believe that we will be justified in assuming that the present rate of federal expenditure will be continued.

Then if, for example, as Mr. Spaulding suggested, we go to the Congressmen and tell them what we want, well, Congressmen are always willing to listen to what you want, but they are also willing to listen to what the opposition has to say when it comes to assessing taxes. That same situation is in evidence in Washington now, where the Congress is perfectly willing to vote the appropriations, but when it comes to voting the taxes it is another story.

My second reason is the one that is expressed by Mr. Van Hoesen, and that is that there is not a sufficiently definite indication given of how much money will be requested
and how it will be spent. The Committee, I think, has had to straddle that question because they wanted to present a report that would be pretty generally accepted. But the question is, if federal aid were secured, which I rather doubt, would it be granted for new libraries in sections of the country which do not now have libraries, or would it be granted to libraries already in existence? It seems to me that if states not now provided with libraries were given sufficient money to establish new libraries, that alone would entail a tremendous appropriation, possibly more than we could get from Congress. If given to libraries already established, how much? How would that be determined? It seems to me those questions really have to be answered first before we could saddle responsibility on the Executive Board.

Now then, if a library agency were established and sufficient time were given to work out some of these very practical questions relating to administration and to taxation, then a definite program could be presented, if eventually federal aid were conceded in such a way that it would appeal to the Congress. Otherwise, as I see it, it would be nothing but the usual congressional log rolling, and I doubt very much the permanent value to the Association of having a large appropriation granted without any carry-through process which
might leave a number of new libraries high and dry after three or four years of prosperity.

MR. MILTON E. LORD (Boston, Massachusetts): I am somewhat in doubt myself, and I think there are a lot of people in the same position. I am wondering whether, in coming to a vote on this, there is not possibly a relief for us in our uncertainty in this respect. I am not certain that I am correct in my statement, but I have been told that the French Chamber of Deputies votes twice upon each question, first upon the principle involved and then, secondly, upon the measures for putting it into effect.

If I today had to be posed with voting twice, if the second vote were concerned with Section 4 of the suggested program for action and the first vote were concerned with the other recommendations, which after all are concerned primarily with principle, it would be a much easier answer for me to give, and I offer that as a suggestion.

MR. WILLIAM F. YUST (Winter Park, Florida): The opposition to this reminds me of a story in the best seller of all times. You will remember when the children of Israel got up into the neighborhood of the Promised Land that they sent a committee up there to look around and see what the prospects were. After that expedition they came back with a glowing
report. They said, "The land? Why, it flows with milk and honey!"

As evidence of the riches of the country they brought back a cluster of grapes. That cluster was so large they had to hang it on a pole, which they carried on their shoulders. I think they came from Massachusetts, probably. And they said, "Let's go out and take it."

"But there are giants up there. They will control us. They will direct us. Why, we are in their sight as grasshoppers."

But, to make a long story short, they proposed to send another delegation, appoint another committee, with the result that they wandered around in the wilderness for forty years. (Laughter and applause)

Let us not go and do likewise!

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: The hour is growing late. Before I call on the Committee for a final word, is there further discussion?

MR. L. J. BAILEY (Indianapolis, Ind.): Is it not true that the Council is asked to pass upon the matter of the principle of federal aid, that the report offers studies to be made in the future, that there is not any question of one great big request for millions of dollars, but there may be
dozens of requests that we might have, that they may go through the forty years before all of the requests that we might have in mind will be answered, that it is not necessary and it would not be advisable for the Council to attempt to pass upon detail, that that is something for future study?

Wisdom is not going to die with this Council. There will be others. Can we not agree upon some principle of federal aid, the necessity for it, the advisability of approving that principle at the present time by the Council, and leaving it to the officers of the Association in the future, and to the various committees that will be provided, to work out details of requests at special times? I feel it is not one great sum but the various details that will come up year after year. Can we not agree upon the principle? Is that not what we are voting upon this morning?

DR. WILSON: If the discussion from the floor is concluded, I should like to summarize in this way: Your Committee has studied this question for the year and has given this subject the best consideration that it could. It has tried to see to it that all of us have had the report before us so that we could understand it and make up our minds as to whether or not we agree with the general principles which it contains.
As a member of the Committee my personal feeling is that, having done this kind of thing, it is the duty of the Council to reach a decision with regard to the moment, that postponement doesn’t get us very far, and that if action at any time is to be taken that the Association could have confidence in the people whom it chooses for membership on its Executive Board and its officers and its committees that are related to this subject.

Detailed specification today, it seems to me, is impossible. But within or on the sheet that you have in your hands there is a statement which carries out the ideas of the majority of the Committee, and it is a statement which the majority of the Committee has moved and has had seconded for your adoption. Therefore it would seem to me that the time has come for us to vote upon this proposal, and the question would be whether you wish to vote seriatim with respect to the various items, or whether you elect to vote for the first section, which carries the conclusions and recommendations, and the second, which suggests a program of action for carrying those conclusions and recommendations into effect.

I think, Mr. Chairman, it would be desirable to determine which way you wish to proceed with respect to that, whether to adopt the report as it is represented in this single
sheet, as a whole, or seriatim.

DR. HILL: Would the Committee be able to make a unanimous report on the adoption of the first three paragraphs?

DR. WILSON: Of which part, Dr. Hill?

DR. HILL: Of the program that you have given us, the recommendations. That is, take two votes, first on the first three paragraphs, and second on the last. If we can find the Committee unanimous on any part of the recommendations I think it would aid us.

DR. WILSON: I am not sure whether that could be achieved, and I don't know that it is the responsibility of the Committee, inasmuch as the Committee has presented the report in the form it is.

DR. HILL: Mr. Chairman and Mr. President: I move that the vote be taken on the first three paragraphs of that first page of the program.

... The motion was seconded ...

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Will you repeat that, please?

DR. HILL: I move that we vote first on the recommendations of the Committee as contained in the first three paragraphs of the suggested program.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Dr. Hill, in order to be perfectly clear, does your motion relate to the conclusions and recom-
mendations, of which there are seven, or to the suggested program, of which there are four parts?

DR. HILL: To the suggested program, at the foot of the page.

DR. WILSON: You aren't proposing the recommendations at all? You are concerning yourself with the second division of the paper, which has to do with the program, and not with the recommendations of the Committee?

DR. HILL: Well, we have accepted the report.

DR. WILSON: You have received the report. It is not adopted.

DR. HILL: I know that very well.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: If the motion that has been made has not been seconded --

DR. HILL: It has.

MR. H. F. BRIGHAM (Louisville, Kentucky): My motion to amend the motion to adopt is out of order, but I would like to make it.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Dr. Hill, would it not be better for you to withdraw your motion temporarily until the report as a whole is adopted?

DR. HILL: No.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: All right.
DR. HILL: That catches us.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Well, Dr. Hill, suppose you withdraw that until we act on Section I, the conclusions and recommendations, because we can hardly go ahead with the program until the conclusions and recommendations are adopted.

DR. HILL: We don't want to.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will now withdraw, and somebody can make a motion to take it the other way.

MR. BAILEY: I move that the Council adopt Section I, the conclusions and recommendations.

... The motion was seconded ...

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: It is moved that the Council adopt the first Section I, which moves that "A system of permanent annual federal grants-in-aid to libraries is essential to the complete and adequate development of library service throughout the United States."

Are you ready for the question?

Did you intend that motion to cover the whole of the conclusions and recommendations?

MR. BAILEY: Yes.

MR. TOLMAN: I think we can save time, without any evil, and I therefore suggest that we amend that motion to include the first three paragraphs of Part II, "A Suggested
Program for Action by the American Library Association." We would then be adopting all except the last paragraph on the page, concerning which there seems to be some division of opinion.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Well, Mr. Tolman, since we have to act on Part II anyway, it seems to the Chair that it would be preferable to act first on Part I, and conclude that before we take up Part II.

MR. VAN HOESEN: We are voting on the seven conclusions and recommendations? Then I would like to move an amendment to Section 1, that the word "permanent" be stricken out.

... The motion was seconded ...

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: The question, then, is on the amendment. The Chair rules that the question is on Dr. Van Hoeسن's amendment to strike out the words "permanent annual."

MR. SPAULDING: I think the Committee had very definitely in mind, when it put in that word "permanent," that we were getting away from the sort of thing that has been discussed this morning by only a few, and that is, relief and employment and creating jobs and doing something of a temporary nature through one or two administrations. I, for one, would regret very much to see action taken this morning on something
that didn't seem to be of a permanent nature. I don't believe you can build any type of library service on a temporary basis. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: All in favor of the amendment striking out the word "permanent" say "Aye." Opposed, "No." The motion is lost.

The question is now on the motion to adopt the conclusions and recommendations. Are you ready for the question? The Chair will rule that we take a rising vote. All those in favor please stand and remain standing until we announce the count as completed.

SECRETARY MILAM: Only members of the Council will vote.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: All those opposed, please stand. Fifty-six for, six opposed. The motion is carried.

Now, Dr. Hill, your motion. Will you state it again?

DR. HILL: You have it there, I think -- that we vote on the first three paragraphs of the suggested program.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Dr. Hill's motion is in favor of the first three paragraphs of the suggested program, which is Section II.

DR. HILL: No; that we vote on the first three
separately.

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: Then the question is that we vote separately on the first three paragraphs of Section II. Is that correct?

... The motion was voted upon and lost ...

MR. MEYER: Division!

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: No; it is clearly lost.

Now the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the whole second section.

DR. WILSON: I move that the second section, Section II, "A Suggested Program for Action by the American Library Association," containing paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4, be adopted.

... The motion was seconded, voted upon, and carried ... (Applause)

CHAIRMAN HOPPER: We have not adjourned. I am turning the Council meeting back to the President.

... President Wilson took the Chair ...

PRESIDENT WILSON: There will be two very brief items of business for our consideration now. Mr. Joeckel, Chairman of the Federal Relations Committee, will make a statement, and there will be announcements by Mr. Ayer and Mr. Milam.

MR. JOECKEL: Members of the Council: The Committee on Federal Relations begs your leave to postpone its statement
until Friday. I hope that you will all be here, because we hope that at that time we may have something interesting to report to you.

... Announcements by Mr. Milam ... (Mr. Ayer absent)

PRESIDENT WILSON: A motion to adjourn is in order.

MR. W. W. BISHOP (Ann Arbor, Michigan): I so move.

... The motion was seconded, voted upon, and carried, and the meeting adjourned at 12:20 o'clock ...
FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

May 15, 1936

The second session of the Council of the American Library Association, held in the Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia, convened at 10:00 o'clock, Dr. L. R. Wilson, President of the Association, presiding.

PRESIDENT WILSON: The Council will come to order.

The first matter of business is the report of the Federal Relations Committee, which will be made by Mr. Carleton B. Joeckel.

Mr. Joeckel has a side partner in the presentation of his report, and that partner seems not to be present at the moment, so we shall proceed to the next item and call for the report later.

We will have the report on the Resources of American Libraries, by Dr. W. W. Bishop.

DR. BISHOP: Mr. President and Members of the Council: I am not making at this time a formal report. The report of the Committee was published with the other annual reports in the Bulletin which you, we presume, have all read.

I am, however, disposed, in offering a resolution sponsored by the Committee on Resources, to say a word as to the importance and extent and variety of the work which lies
before not this Committee alone, but the Association as a whole.

The subject is no new one. It has been before us many times. Some of you will recall that at the Conference in 1915 at Asbury Park I took occasion to speak at some length upon the difficulty which even then research workers in various parts of the country were experiencing in an endeavor to locate materials known to be in the United States, or supposed to be in the United States, which they needed in the course of their studies. Continually both before and since then other members of the Association have called our attention to this very vital problem, for it is a vital problem.

Stop and think for a minute what has been happening in the development of libraries from New England to California and Washington. We have been bringing over from Europe large quantities of books, journals, manuscripts, other materials for research. We have been trying in this country, and with very considerable success, to do in four or five decades what it has taken our European colleagues four or five centuries to accomplish. They have been on the ground and have got the materials as they appeared at no great and undue labor. In the meantime we have been manufacturing -- I say "we"; not the American Libraries but the American scholars have been manufacturing -- in our own country materials for research, and
we are finding, particularly in this region, that early publications may escape oblivion only by some happy chance and by the accident that so frequently happens, of the enthusiasm of a private collector as well as by the industry of librarians. That means that we have been trying to put our scholars in the United States on the level with European scholars in their opportunities to have direct access to printed materials of vital importance to them in the conduct of their work.

It long ago became apparent that we were going to have rivals in this effort. In 1921 I went abroad to buy books for the University of Michigan Library. Pretty nearly everywhere I went I discovered that two groups of librarians had been before me with long purse strings and long purses, apparently -- and with open purse strings -- the Japanese and the South Africans, both of whom had bought very extensively the materials particularly in the biological sciences, which the University of Michigan was at that time anxious to acquire and some of which we have never succeeded in acquiring even from that time to this. Libraries all over the United States have risen to research collections and small libraries with special collections have frequently risen and bought materials which their larger colleagues have not been able to acquire just because they have special libraries.
Now, Mr. Gerould for years, and I may also say I for years, have been pointing out the need of knowledge where this material is located, and for policies of cooperation in furthering the development of similar collections of resources.

Then came the war and then came the depression. The depression has made us conscious of a great many difficulties which we have felt rather dimly before but have some hope to avoid and overcome. We have apparently all (many of us, at least) gone on supposing that every important library in the United States could become a miniature British Museum or Library of Congress and have everything which it needs. We know, as a result of these depression years, that that happy belief is absolutely a fallacy. We can't all have everything.

Meantime, here are our scholars asking for material, demanding material, halted in their work because we have not been able to find it. The Association, cognizant of this difficulty and of similar matters into which I have not ventured to go this morning, has had for some years a Committee on Resources of American Libraries. That Committee has worked admirably, and yet it has never been able, because of lack of funds, to do very much more than scratch the surface of the materials to be mined and of cooperative work just lying ready to be done.
The Committee has gathered a good deal of materials of various kinds, some of which remain unpublished. Others have been published in its annual reports. Certain areas of the country have shown the possibilities of regional development in the matter of survey and cooperation, and because one of our greatest and prime necessities is to discover what we have before we begin to attempt any plan for mutual building up of resource material we must build on known collections rather than work on any assumptions.

I can not forebear mentioning, Mr. President, in this connection, the remarkable work which has been done by a group of university and public libraries under the Chairmanship of the Librarian at the University of North Carolina, the successor to yourself in that position. This Committee of Southeastern University and Public Libraries has pointed the way for a real survey of the materials of the entire country.

But there has always been a very serious obstacle to the continued success and to the influence of the Committee on Resources. That has been the fact that it has been a committee appointed annually, with changing membership, with no continuity except by reason of the appointing power. I was put into the Chairmanship of this committee last September. Already two months had gone by since the Denver Convention -- more than
two months. In the short time since September down until the present date the Committee has been able to hold three meetings, thanks to an appropriation from the Executive Board which met part of the travel expense to one meeting, and has conducted its first informal conference on union catalogs, which was held in Washington last month and which will be reported on at the meeting of the College and Reference Section and the Committee on Resources this afternoon. We think we have managed to do a great deal in a short time, but now at the end of this meeting we go out of office and our successors may or may not approve the lines on which we have been working.

This is a long time job. It is nothing that any annually-appointed committee can carry through successfully. If we are first to discover what we have in the entire country, if then we are to make the resources known to each other, and if then we are to secure cooperation in lines of purchase, if we are to secure some kind of zoning, or at least some sort of regional cooperation, it can not be done except over a long period of years and with a body which has reasonable continuity.

Moreover it will be impossible, I fear, to secure any considerable funds for this work on, first, survey, and second-ly, developing and coordinating our resources for research, unless there is something more permanent, some organization of
a more lasting character than an annually-appointed committee.

Therefore, Mr. President, the Committee on Resources submits to the Council a proposal for the creation of a Board of five members to serve for terms of five years, with the hope, the confident hope, that if this Board is created the work thus briefly sketched -- and I could fill the entire morning with the things that need to be done without any description of what has been done, for not very much has been done -- may be carried forward to a successful conclusion if the Board organization is set up.

This resolution has been before the Executive Board and has in general met with approval, and I offer it now. I think it has been put in your hands, but it may be proper to read it and, in reading it, to move its adoption.

"Be it

"RESOLVED, By the Council of the American Library Association:

"That there be established a Board on Resources of American Libraries, to consist of five members who shall serve for terms of five years each and shall elect their own Chairman from among their number. The five members originally appointed shall draw lots for the terms, which shall run successively from one to five years."
"The duties of this Board shall be to further and guide efforts toward the effective increase, coordination, geographical distribution and use of the materials for research and education in American libraries. The Board is charged with the duty of making a study of the present resources of American libraries and of suggesting and guiding future efforts toward a wise distribution of these materials. It is further charged with the task of endeavoring to inaugurate and carry out schemes of cooperation in purchase and in specialization between American libraries.

"It is particularly charged to cooperate with other organizations concerned with its general purpose.

"To these ends the officers of the Association and the Executive Board are urged to appropriate funds and to solicit support to carry on the work of the Board on Resources."

It will be noted that I failed to read the concluding sentence of the first paragraph. Considerable doubt has been expressed as to the wisdom of including this single sentence. With the consent of the Committee on Resources, therefore, I have left it out.

I now, Mr. President, move you that this resolution be adopted.

PRESIDENT WILSON: You have heard the report by the
Chairman of the Committee on Resources of American Libraries and you have heard the resolution presented and the motion to adopt. Is there a second?

... The motion was seconded ...

PRESIDENT WILSON: The resolution is properly seconded. Is there discussion?

DR. S. H. RANCK (Grand Rapids, Mich.): Are we to understand that the last sentence makes it prohibitive?

DR. BISHOP: It says nothing.

DR. RANCK: I was wondering whether that was up to the discretion of the Executive Board.

DR. BISHOP: Exactly.

MR. J. P. DANTON (Waterville, Me.): Will this Board supplant the present Committee on Resources?

PRESIDENT WILSON: The present Committee, under the resolution, would be discontinued, and the Board would assume its functions and the enlarged functions mentioned in the resolution.

DR. RANCK: Mr. Chairman, I would ask for information, whether they have contacted the Federal Archives people on this subject. They have sent out letters to a number of libraries, to my knowledge, asking very detailed information with reference to sociological resources in these libraries.
PRESIDENT WILSON: I might answer that, Dr. Ranck, by saying that last Fall the Executive Board appointed a committee, or suggested names for a committee, involving the National Archives, and there was collaboration between the National Archives and the Committee on Resources at the Mid-Winter Meeting. Is that correct, Dr. Bishop?

DR. BISHOP: Quite correct.

... The resolution was voted upon and adopted ...

PRESIDENT WILSON: We shall now have the report of the Committee on Federal Relations, by Mr. Joeckel.

MR. CARLETON JOECKEL: Mr. President, Members of the Council: I think it is generally known that the Committee on Federal Relations this year has been confining its efforts to one single objective, the effort to secure an appropriation of $40,000 for a Federal Library Agency; to be specific, for a Library Division in the Office of Education in the Interior Department. That item is a very small item in the very large Department of the Interior appropriation bill. I had hoped that there might be something definite to tell you about the fate of that item, but it has been in suspense. It is now in suspense and it has been since last December. In fact, life for the Committee on Federal Relations has been a series of crises since last December. We had a crisis in the last week
of December, at the Mid-Winter Meeting, and we are in a crisis now, or rather we will be in a crisis next week, so we understand how hectic life is and how long it takes for things to be done.

The final report, therefore, of the Committee can not yet be written. I have written two or three reports and have torn them up because something else always happened and there is no end, apparently, until Congress sees fit to put the period. We have had one or two commas, several commas in fact, possibly one semicolon, but yet no period. (Laughter)

The only thing that I wish to say in connection with this activity at the present time is simply this, that it has been very obvious to all of us who are concerned with the work that we are involved in a new type of activity or a largely new type of activity. Our experience in representation before Congress on a matter of this sort is almost nil, and we have found that there has not been a really effective organization in the Association for doing this sort of thing.

The work of the Committee has really not been the work of the Committee but rather that of many persons and bodies in the Association and many state library associations and library workers. In particular I would like to mention the assistance of Mr. Vitz, whose pamphlet on the need for a
Federal Library Agency was published in January as a supplement to the A. L. A. Bulletin. That was a foundation document of much importance to many people.

The A. L. A. staff, of course, was unusually helpful in what they did. I think I may say with all fairness that nothing could have been done without the extremely intelligent and active work of Miss Julia Wright Merrill at the A. L. A. headquarters, because when Miss Merrill cracks the whip a great many of us now jump many feet. In this case it was quite all right, because every time she says something I know it is something important to be done.

We have, however, in our activities, unearthed a new species of librarian, a very unusual and new type of genius. I mean to say that we have discovered in the person of a country boy from the Middle West the perfect library lobbyist, and I know that you all realize that I refer to Mr. Forrest Spaulding, of Des Moines; playing the rather naive part of the quite ignorant country boy who doesn't know his way around in Washington, he has proved himself extraordinarily skillful in bringing these matters before the appropriate committees and I think that, Mr. President, my part of this report is now over, and I would like to request, on behalf of the Committee, that you call on Mr. Spaulding to tell us a few of his
adventures in the great City of Washington. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Mr. Spaulding, will you please speak to the point?

MR. SPAULDING: Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council of the A. L. A.: I stand before you a poor country boy, much poorer than I was at the Mid-Winter meeting when I was routed out of bed and asked to start to Washington within two hours. I landed in Washington and things seemed pretty hopeless. The story, in brief, is this:

The Commissioner of Education asked for $40,000 in his original budget request to establish this library agency, but somewhere along the line, presumably in the hands of the Budget Director, it was dropped out of the appropriation bill. It was a long process to get the item restored. I appeared before two sub-committees; I had the help of Mr. Joseph Wheeler, who came up from Baltimore to appear before the Senate sub-committee with me. I contacted all of the members of both the House and the Senate sub-committees and still, when the Senate sub-committee voted on that item, it was a three-to-three vote with six people present and voting. We almost got there then and that, I think, is one of the commas that Mr. Joeckel refers to.

However, through some devious means that I didn't
exactly understand and I don't think anyone will know exactly, the item was inserted in the bill on the floor of the Senate, and we thought we were going pretty well. I still think that we are.

But unfortunately, along with the amendment for $40,000 for a library agency there was another amendment for $64,000,000 for some reclamation projects in the West. It has been a little difficult to center attention on the $40,000 item and distract the attention of those members of the House who object to the $64,000,000 item.

But I can report this. It was told me last week in Washington. Everyone seems to feel that there is an excellent chance of the Conference Report being adopted some time this coming week, and while the original $40,000 probably will not be the amount, we hope for the adoption of the Conference Report with a reduced amount of $25,000 for the creation of a library agency.

I am a poor country boy and I don't know just exactly what has happened, but I have tried to tell you so far as I know. I do want to say this, however, that the backing of A. L. A. Headquarters and the backing of the librarians in the field has made it possible to work in Washington. I was received by all of the men that I saw who were interested in
this library matter, and where a telegram had come from one of you or from a state association the door was wide open. If you go up on the Hill and mention libraries, almost any one of the members of these committees will smile and say, "Oh, yes, we know all about them."

Particularly Miss Merrill backed me up all the time from Chicago. Countless telegrams poured in, and don't ever believe that telegrams don't count. Those people up on the Hill want to hear from their constituents, and they are interested in anything that their constituents are interested in.

I can see ahead a lot of work in Washington on the part of some members of the American Library Association, and I hope that we will in another year be a little better organized to carry on such work. We can't sit back in our nice chairs in Des Moines or elsewhere and expect that the Congress is going to do for us what we may want done without a great deal of foot work in the offices of the House and Senate, around Capitol Hill and through that labyrinth, that rabbit warren that undermines Capitol Hill connecting all those buildings.

The country boy enjoyed his assignment, and I thank Mr. Joeckel for it. (Applause)

MR. JOECKEL: I wish that all of you who are at all
superstitious would proceed to knock on wood.

I do, however, say one thing very seriously, and that is that Mr. Spaulding and his efforts in Washington have constituted what I think is a rather unique service to the Association. For a man to give up I don't know how many weeks of his time entirely without compensation, and for his Board to allow him to leave on ten minutes' notice for Washington at almost any time is a rather unusual thing, and I believe, Mr. President, that some formal expression of our opinion on this subject therefore ought to be given to Mr. Spaulding and his Board, and if it is in order, I should like to read a very simple resolution which is not couched in glowing terms but which I think means what we want it to mean at this time.

I therefore move that the American Library Association extend to Forrest B. Spaulding its sincere thanks for his skillful and effective efforts as its Washington representative in its work for an appropriation for a federal library agency, and that the Association also extend its thanks to the Board of Trustees of the Des Moines Public Library for its generous cooperation in permitting Mr. Spaulding to engage in that activity on behalf of the Association.

I move the adoption of that resolution.

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

MR. BRIGHAM: Does our lobbyist suggest any kind of telegrams that may help between now and next week?

MR. SPAULDING: Answering that question, I don't think that any telegrams would help now. So far as we know, everything is set for the adoption of our item of the Conference Report, and while something might happen, I don't think telegrams are in order at the present time.

PRESIDENT WILSON: We shall have the report of the Committee on Library Administration, by Miss Althea H. Warren, of Los Angeles.

MISS WARREN: For the last three years the Subcommittee on Cost Accounting of the Library Administration Committee has been struggling trying to determine the items for which libraries particularly wish unit costs and to collect such items on the same basis.

In the Annual Report for 1935 Mr. Alexander Galt, of Buffalo, who is Chairman of this Committee, said, "While true cost accounting, with costs reduced to unit basis, is of value and can be usefully followed in libraries, the conditions and procedures in libraries vary to such a great extent that at the present time results obtained by unit costs for various items, useful though they may be for comparison from year to year
within the same library, can prove of small value to any other library. It is therefore recommended that the American Library Association do not attempt to gather or publish unit cost figures until figures of general interest have been collected and published. We are confining our recommendations to the bettering and enlarging of the statistical report, and suggesting the publication of a table by the American Library Association of figures which are now supplied to Headquarters but not accessible to librarians in printed form."

At the last Mid-Winter Meeting Leora Lewis acted as Chairman of a meeting of the members of the Library Administration Committee who were present. These recommendations in Mr. Galt's report were discussed, and a resolution based upon them was voted. In view of the President's address stressing the need for measurements of service in the coming development of our Association, and also No. 2 in the program of the Federal Aid Report, I feel no hesitation in offering to you the recommendation of the Library Council as a motion.

Therefore, Mr. President, I move that it be recommended to the American Library Association that there be instituted as soon as possible a statistical division or department at A. L. A. Headquarters, believing that such a department or division, properly developed, will prove of inestimable value
to the profession.

It is also recommended that there be published a quarterly supplement to the Bulletin, at least two issues of which shall be devoted to statistics, the other two to be devoted to research in statistics.

May I make that motion?

... The motion was seconded ...

PRESIDENT WILSON: It is moved and seconded that the resolution, with two divisions, be adopted. Is there discussion? If not, all who are in favor of the motion will say "Aye." Opposed, "No." The motion is carried.

MISS WARREN: A second matter to come before the Council from the Library Administration Committee is connected with statistical report blanks. Mr. James Howard has acted as the Library Administration Committee's representative in connection with a representative from the Salaries Committee and also from the College Libraries Advisory Board, and at a meeting held here in Richmond on Monday there were two other organizations who were interested in combining to try to effect a report blank which all organizations might use to avoid special reports for state library reports and other agencies.

Therefore this resolution was passed, which I wish to put before you in the form of a motion: That the Council be
asked to authorize the appointment of a special committee to consider an annual report blank of the American Library Association for public, college, university, and school library statistics, consisting of five members, to represent, first, the U. S. Office of Education; second, a joint member representing the National Association of State Libraries and the League of Library Commissions; third, the College Library Advisory Board of the A. L. A.; fourth, the Library Administration Committee of the A. L. A., and fifth, the Salaries Committee of the A. L. A.

May I present the resolution?

PRESIDENT WILSON: Do you move it?

MISS WARREN: I move that.

... The motion was seconded ...

MISS H. MARJORIE BEAL (Raleigh, N. Car.): May I ask a question? You say one member to represent the League of Library Commissions and the National Association of State Libraries?

MISS WARREN: Yes. It was felt at the meeting that one person could represent those two Associations.

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

PRESIDENT WILSON: Miss Edith A. Lathrop will present the report of the Committee on Cooperation with the
National Education Association. Is Miss Lathrop here?

MISS EDITH A. LATHROP (Washington, D.C.): Mr. President, Members of the Council: I presume that you have all read the May Bulletin, so you know something about the activities of this Committee. The report in the May Bulletin was written early in March, after a meeting that the Committee held in St. Louis in connection with the Department of Superintendence of the N. E. A.

The report that I am about to read this morning was written last week, so there are some changes. A number of things that the Committee authorized the Chairman to carry out at its St. Louis meeting are in the report that I shall read this morning.

... Miss Lathrop read her report (See paper marked No. 1) ... 

MISS LATHROP (Continuing): I don't know whether it will be in order to propose that this be adopted.

PRESIDENT WILSON: It seems to me that it is in order for us to receive this report and to refer the recommendations contained in it to the Executive Board, inasmuch as the recommendations have not been considered by the Executive Board in any way. Do you move the receipt of the report?
MISS LATHROP: I move, Mr. Chairman, the receipt of this report by the Council.

PRESIDENT WILSON: And its reference to the Executive Board?

MISS LATHROP: And that the recommendations in it be referred to the Executive Board.

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

PRESIDENT WILSON: The report of the Committee on Library Cooperation with Latin America will be presented by Miss Mary Helen McCrea.

... Miss McCrea read her report (See paper marked No. 2) ...

MISS McCREA (Continuing): This resolution was worked out by members of the Committee. It was endorsed by the Bibliographical Society of America at its Friday evening session, June 28, 1935. With the endorsement by the American Library Association of such a proposal the Committee feels that work to secure the necessary funds for such a project can be successfully undertaken. The need for cooperation in Latin America is, of course, apparent. The need seems to be to get the resources known and to get the libraries at work in Latin America. To do that we must have trained people working there,
people trained from their own countries or people from the United States who are willing to assist and work with them.

Mr. Forrest B. Spaulding did quite a bit of work in Peru some years past, and I think he will back me up on this matter. Different people have gone down; I myself went down and visited quite a few of the countries, and the one thing that they said to me was, "We need people here who have sufficient library training to make our resources known."

In one country they said to me, "Please go and see one of our libraries," and I went to visit this particular library. Oh, the very, very valuable library books were on museum shelves, thrown this way and that, right beside the mummies, and the bookworms were roaming through.

They said to me, "If we had people who realize the conditions that are here, and realized how to make these things available to the general public, we would know what we have and would be able to make library progress." They said, "We would welcome any method."

The project of securing people who are interested has been undertaken by the Committee. To make a survey a committee was appointed this winter who are making a survey of the different interested people. Members of this Committee have written to the various library schools of the United States and
found out from them that there are people interested in doing that sort of work. They have written to the Latin American libraries and discovered there are people there who are interested in such a scholarship, and we felt that if it were continuous and annual it would be very much better, so I would like to present for the Council that resolution, and I do so at this time.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Do you move the receipt of your report, and reference of the resolution to the Executive Board?

MISS McCREA: I so move.

... The motion was seconded ...

PRESIDENT WILSON: You have heard the resolution. Is there discussion?

MR. SPAULDING: I am not a member of the Council, but I would like to say that after my brief and long-ago South American experience in Peru I think that the recommendation of this Committee is really very important.

We have sent librarians to South America and to other countries. They have done some work, but work which can not be sustained as it would be if we could have an interchange of students or offer scholarships in our schools here to train librarians for work in Latin America.

I would like to make this comparison with the Latin
American countries that have only recently celebrated their centenaries. Their libraries, after all, are about where many of our libraries were in 1876 or a few years previous, and I would like to see a few South American talented scholars come up here and receive training in our schools. I think that that resolution is one of the most important things for international cooperation that we have had before us for some time.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Is there further comment?

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

PRESIDENT WILSON: Mr. Utley, of the Committee to Study A. L. A. Conferences, will report upon the A. L. A. Conferences.

MR. GEORGE BURWELL UTLEY (Chicago, Ill.): Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Council: The chief thing which this Committee has to report at this time is that there is nothing to report. At the time that Miss Howe, the Chairman of the Committee, whose absence from this Conference we regret, requested a place on this Council program, it was thought possible that there might be a meeting of the Committee and that in consequence there might be something for us to report, but as it has not been feasible to have another meeting there is, in consequence, as I have said, nothing new to report.

I hope, however, that you have seen the rather full
report of the Committee in the May Bulletin. The Committee has taken its work rather seriously and for two years past has been giving considerable thought and attention to the problem put before it, and you will recall the report of the Committee at the Mid-Winter Meeting, resulting in the adoption of five recommendations of the Committee as they are given in the report in the May Bulletin.

May I call your attention just by topic to those five recommendations and say that those are the ones on which at the present time we are centering our activity, but in the future there may be other things that we will wish to consider: The question of time limits to papers; the question of ability in public speaking; the question of establishing certain specifications for speakers; the question of consultants at meetings; and the question as to the number of sessions which the different Sections and Round Tables should properly have without making our Conferences too much of a seven-ring circus.

May I call your attention to the fact that at this Conference here in Richmond the recommendation has been put into effect with reference to consultants, and enough use has been made of that service to make the members of the Committee hopeful that its recommendation is going to be worth while. Just in one session from one Conference a thorough decision
can not be reached, but we are encouraged that that is a service which will be appreciated as time goes on.

The Committee, Mr. President, will continue to study this question, and will doubtless have other reports to make from time to time during the period of the life of the Committee. We are having good conferences, as we have had for a year past, but none of us is under the slightest delusion that with proper amount of study on the part of all members of the Association we can't have still better conferences.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Utley.

Just at this point I would like to make one comment with regard to one of these recommendations which was presented at the Mid-Winter Meeting last year, and that is with respect to the number of sessions that Sections hold and the number of papers presented.

The offices of the Association have no control whatever over those parts of the program, other than the programs of the General Sessions. That is, whatever is done by Sections or Round Tables is altogether in the hands of those who are responsible for those particular meetings, and therefore it is desirable that this particular recommendation be thought of by those who are projecting Sectional Meetings or Round Table Meetings for the Annual Conference. I am sure
that this Committee and others of us, as we look at the Annual Conference, feel that a good deal of our energy is consumed in paper hearing rather than in effective discussion, and probably our Conference could be improved if the emphasis could be shifted from the former to the latter.

I think that is what the recommendation which Mr. Utley pointed out had in mind.

Dr. Bostwick, of St. Louis, will report with respect to Honorary Memberships.

DR. A. BOSTWICK: Mr. President and Members of the Council: Our Committee is not a general Committee on Honorary Memberships, but was appointed by the Council with specific reference to the proposal that an Honorary Membership be conferred upon the Honorable Elihu Root. This proposal was made by Miss Maria V. Leavitt, of the New York Public Library, and the Committee, after considering the matter and voting upon it, unanimously recommends that the Honorable Elihu Root be made an Honorary Member of the American Library Association. He is so extremely well known to everyone that it isn't necessary to give any extended biography of him. He has always been interested in libraries' matters; he has been for many years a trustee of the New York Public Library, and we all feel that it would be a very appropriate and very delicate compliment to
offer him an Honorary Membership in the American Library Association.

Is it proper to move that that be done, or is that in the hands of the Executive Committee?

PRESIDENT WILSON: It is in the hands of the Executive Committee.

DR. BOSTWICK: I move, then, that that report be accepted, and that will involve its reference to the Executive Committee.

DR. RANCK: With reference to procedure, I remember on a previous occasion, I think when we met in Washington, the recommendation was adopted by the Council and was voted on by the members at the General Session.

SECRETARY MILAM: The Section reads: "On nomination of the Council, honorary members may be elected by unanimous vote at any meeting of the Association." If this is approved, therefore, it will go to the session tomorrow morning.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Dr. Ranck, for your knowledge of parliamentary procedure.

... The motion was voted upon, Mr. John T. Vance, Library of Congress, Washington, and Miss Adelaide R. Hasse, Federal Relief Administration, Washington, voting in the negative ...
SECRETARY MILAM: There is nothing, so far as I know, which requires a unanimous vote here, but a unanimous vote would be required at the General Session tomorrow.

PRESIDENT WILSON: So far, then, as the Constitution is concerned, the action of the Council is clear on the basis of a majority vote.

SECRETARY MILAM: Mr. President, I submit that we ought to find some way out of this difficulty. It would be embarrassing to bring a matter of this sort to the attention of the Association and fail to confirm it. If there is objection, therefore, I should think that we ought to find some way to reconsider the motion and withdraw it. We certainly don’t want public announcement of the fact that some people do not want Elihu Root as an Honorary Member of the Association.

DR. BOSTWICK: All the members of the Association are not here present, and the fact that we make a unanimous recommendation wouldn’t at all interfere with twenty or thirty members of the Association getting up tomorrow and voting against it. I don’t see how we are going to get around that.

MR. VITZ: The purpose of this is to honor the Honorable Elihu Root, and it certainly would be no honor to Mr. Elihu Root to have any question of his eligibility arise. We certainly shouldn’t allow the possibility to arise tomorrow.
of such a thing. To do such a thing is to honor ourselves.

If we can't know in advance that we are going to be unanimous, let's not raise the question. I don't want to see newspaper headlines that the A. L. A. turns down the Honorable Elihu Root for membership.

Dr. Ranck: I have been wondering whether all of us know just what Mr. Root's contribution has been to the library service of this country, and perhaps a fuller statement by the Committee on that subject would help us out of this difficulty.


Miss Hasse: I don't think, Mr. Chairman, that any member of the American Library Association needs any enlightenment on the standing of Elihu Root. The question is, just exactly what has he contributed to an association of professional rank of the American Library Association, or to the profession which this Association represents? There are persons who have contributed more professionally than the Honorable Elihu Root. There is no question as to his eminence whatever.

President Wilson: Then a motion could be made to reconsider, if that is the way in which to avoid embarrassment later on.

Mr. Vitz: Mr. Chairman, in order to bring the matter before the body again, and as one who voted with the prevailing
side, I move for a reconsideration, without changing my opinion in the matter.

MR. BRIGHAM: I second the motion.

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

PRESIDENT WILSON: The original motion is now before us.

MR. M. S. DUDGEON (Milwaukee, Wisc.): In view of the situation, I move the re-reference of this matter to the committee that presented it.

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

SECRETARY MILAM: Mr. President, if there are newspaper reporters here, we ask their kind consideration.

PRESIDENT WILSON: The report on Chapters and Sections will be presented by Mr. John A. Lowe.

MR. JOHN A. LOWE (Rochester, New York): Mr. President and Members of the Council: I move that the request from the Round Table on Work With Foreign Born be granted. They request that their petition to change their name be withdrawn.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Can you explain that more fully?

MR. LOWE: When one goes into the matter of the court and requests that his name be changed, it is customary,
of course, to give reasons for and against. I thought you
would grant that without much explanation. The Work with the
Foreign Born group felt that they would like to change their
name to make it more descriptive of the type of work which they
intend to carry on in a new function having to do with foreign
relations and other activities of that sort. It now seems wise
to continue with the present name.

The motion is that the request be granted.

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

PRESIDENT WILSON: There is a resolution from the
Periodical Section by Mr. Ranck. It does not appear in your
printed program, but it will be presented by Dr. Ranck.

DR. SAMUEL H. RANCK: The Periodicals Section of the
American Library Association, at its meeting held in the Hotel
Richmond on Monday afternoon, May 11, 1936, unanimously adopted
the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, That the Periodicals Section of the
American Library Association request the Council of the Associa-
tion to call the attention of the governing authorities of
libraries to the educational importance of maintaining their
indexed periodical files on the one hand and the frequent great
difficulty (and sometimes impossibility) of filling out broken
gaps in such files, on the other, and therefore recommends that such current periodicals should be one of the last items of reading material to be cut because of shrinkage of the library's income.

Mr. President, I move the adoption of that recommendation from the Periodicals Section.

... The motion was seconded ...

DR. RANCK: Our attention was called to the fact that some libraries have been very seriously handicapped by insufficient revenue and have been cutting out their periodical files, their indexed periodical files, readers' guide, informational service, etc., sometimes for several years, and we believe, and we hope that the Association believes with us, that the maintenance of such files in libraries is of the utmost importance. By a recommendation coming from the Association stressing the importance of maintaining such indexed files it would aid in keeping them up in case of such a cut. That is the purpose and the sense of this resolution from the Periodicals Section.

We are asking the Council to adopt this, calling the attention of governing bodies of libraries to the importance of maintaining indexed files of current periodicals.

... The motion was voted upon and carried ...
PRESIDENT WILSON: Mr. Milam, will you make an announcement?

SECRETARY MILAM: Mr. President, I want to announce to the members of the Council and the members of the Association present that the Executive Board at its meeting last Sunday voted asking all present Committees to continue until the end of the fiscal year, August 31, and voted to appoint the Committees for next year to begin their service with the new fiscal year, September 1.

The annual reports next year will be made, not in the middle of the year, as has been the custom for some time, but the reports will be expected about August 1, after the Conference, thus giving committees next year an opportunity to do a full year's work. The important thing, however, is that all committees are continued until August 31 of this year.

PRESIDENT WILSON: The business of the Council having been concluded, the Council stands adjourned.

... The meeting adjourned at 11:20 o'clock ...