PROCEEDINGS

GENERAL SESSIONS

FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

May 11-16, 1936

Richmond, Virginia
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MONDAY EVENING SESSION

May 11, 1936

The First General Session of the Fifty-Eighth Annual Conference of the American Library Association, held in The Mosque, Richmond, Virginia, convened at 8:45 o'clock, Dr. Louis Round Wilson, President of the Association, presiding.

PRESIDENT WILSON: I declare the Fifty-Eighth Annual Conference of the American Library Association in session!

I am happy to have on the platform with me tonight, in addition to Dr. Bryan, the representatives of the affiliated organizations of the American Library Association.

The address of welcome to the Association and affiliated organizations will be made by Dr. John Stewart Bryan, Editor and Publisher of the Richmond News-Leader, President of the College of William and Mary, Chairman of the Public Library Board of Richmond, and Honorary Vice-President of the American Library Association Special Membership Committee. We shall be happy, Dr. Bryan, to have you address us. (Applause)

DR. JOHN STEWART BRYAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, Dr. Wilson: When I heard this long list of things that I am supposed to be I was sorry the Doctor left off the fact that I am Chairman of the Commission on Insurance for Unemployment. One of my friends said, "If you take every job yourself you
don't leave any for the unemployed."

I am very happy to welcome you here tonight. It is a great honor for Richmond, a great encouragement for us believers in libraries who had to wait so long before we had one of our own. But time is not very much in this Old Dominion. We are not quite as slow as South Carolina, however. I knew a gentleman once from South Carolina, and he was at the great French restaurant called L'Escargot, and somebody gave him some French snails, and said, "Did you ever eat them before?"

He said, "No, I've never eaten them, but I've seen them. We never could catch them." (Laughter)

I think it was 327 or -28 or -29 years ago, lacking two days, since the English caught Virginia. Next Wednesday, May 13 is the anniversary. In 1607 the British came here and here they have been ever since. I was at Jamestown on the 300th Anniversary, and they baptised a child that day named Yardley, who was a direct descendant of one of the British who came with John Smith. I suppose you may wonder why I go into that. Well, of course, we always do, you know. It is a part of the thing. (Laughter)

I suppose the greatest colonist who ever lived in America was the Virginian who gave his son this piece of absolutely glorified advice. He said, "Son, when you meet
people, never ask them from whence they come. If they are from Virginia they will tell you, and if they are not, they will be sorry." Of course that is just a modest way of putting things.

I had a cousin once and he said, "Don't talk to me about genealogy. I have got four British kings in my direct line of ancestry and nine Norwegian kings I don't count."

So we will just get down to the real meat of this, which is libraries and our Association. I suppose that on that ship, or one of those ships that John Smith came with, one of the people was the Reverend Robert Hunt. I wouldn't be at all surprised if he didn't have some wonderful books with him, because John Smith speaks of him as a godly and a courageous and a Christian divine. I don't know why he put the "Christian" in there.

Robert Hunt was the first man that ever celebrated the communion on these shores, on the third Sunday after Trinity, 1607, and in 1608 his little store of books was burned up in the fire that was caused by an effort to repel an Indian invasion or massacre.

There is a funny thing about those Indians and these English. If you read the history of Virginia, and I think it might also be true of the history of Massachusetts, you will
find out how the old Anglo-Saxon traits cropped up. They built a church, they started self-government, and then they started to open the door of salvation to the Indians by way of rifles.

Old Sir Robert Boyd left a lot of money to a Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and they gave it nearly all to William and Mary, and what was left they gave to the College for the Propagation of the Gospel, which I think meant Harvard. It certainly wasn't mentioned by name. They gave forty-five pounds to two preachers, and in spite of all that effort the Indians rose up in 1622 and nearly killed us all. That shows how ungrateful they were, because in 1618 the London Company passed an order that a college should be established in Virginia, and to that college was given by sundry well-intentioned and charitable persons a Bible, a communion set, a library, and a substantial amount of money. They picked a place down here on this river, put a palisade on top, and kept everything out but the mosquitoes. The college was never built.

The Indians nearly destroyed us, and that caused another big fire and more of our books were destroyed. You can read the early records of the invoices and you can see the quality of books we got, how many came in, and how often they were destroyed by fire.

In 1676, when Governor Berkeley was Governor (the
one whose eyes, as the Bible says, "were holden when he thanked God"), there were no printing presses in Virginia. There were eight free schools in Virginia at that time, and two are working still. There was no printing press, but one came very shortly after, because, as Mr. Lord C. Roth has just discovered, a printing press was running in Virginia in 1682, which is three years before the earliest date of any printing press that has heretofore been established in America, which was Bradford's press in Philadelphia. Old man Berkeley had been dead then just five years.

It is a strange thing about this printer. All we know about him, says Roth, is that his name was Nuthead. That seems a queer name for a printer -- Nuthead. He printed some stuff and the Council at once stopped him. They said, "See to it that provisions are taken that will not expose this Commonwealth to any dangers through a free press."

One of the most extraordinary things in this whole race of ours is the uncanny, the almost mystical perception with which we have seen that to throttle the power of speech for a fellow-citizen is to throttle it for ourselves. (Applause)

We have heard a lot of talk in this country about free press. I don't hold with those that think that free press is license. I don't believe any more than Milton did that license is a
substitute for liberty, and I think that a free press is a power that the owners thereof have to exercise soberly and in the fear of God.

But if anybody in this audience can look at Italy or Russia or Germany and not know that the destruction of a free press is the first step toward the destruction of all liberties, then they would not be persuaded though one rose from the dead. You have got to let people think; you have got to let them express their thoughts, you have got to stand for all kinds of things you don't like and don't believe yourself in order that the free spirit of man be not throttled.

I am not going to make you any speech on the freedom of the press, but I just would like to point out one thing to you, that in welcoming you here to Virginia I hope you will vicariously accept the thanks of this Old Dominion as the inheritant and the present protectress of that most priceless of all physical gifts, a book.

In 1763 Rousseau wrote his "Social Contract." In 1765 a man named Richard Bland, at Williamsburg, a student of William and Mary College, wrote his little "Inquiry Into the Colonies." It was the first time in all history that any man had analyzed, dissected, set apart, the moving spirit of the British Empire. George III didn't see it. It took him 150
years to find it out. But they know today that the English Empire is held together not by taxation from the Parliament but from loyalty to the Crown, and if they had known that then we would never have been anything but part of the British Empire.

I know a dear old lady who declined to see George Washington's birthplace. She said, "I despise George Washington."

I said, "Why?"

She said, "If there never had been a George Washington we never would have had prohibition and we would still be part of the British Empire." (Laughter)

And so the books of Rousseau and others came over here, and the thing about them was that they were read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested by the people. It was from the books that the people of Virginia got their inspiration. Look at them: Patrick Henry, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Peyton Randolph, the old Conservative who said, when Patrick Henry made his famous speech, "I would have given 500 guineas for one more vote today and I could have saved this abomination; James Madison, father of the Constitution; James Monroe; John Marshall, founder of the Supreme Court and the expositor of the Constitution. Those men owed their wisdom to the fact that their horizon had been large and their imagination had
been stimulated so they had power to appraise in true perspective this untried thought against that satisfactory experience. It was those men and the debt they owed to books that gave us this country, and in their name, in the name of posterity, I thank you.

We welcome you to Virginia. And I hope that you may have that satisfaction which, after all, is the most enduring and the deepest of joys; namely, that you can feel that in your time and in your way you, too, have fought for the great cause of freedom, culture, civilization. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: The response to the address of Dr. Bryan, in behalf of the American Library Association and affiliated organizations, will be made by Miss Ella May Thornton, State Librarian of Georgia and President of the National Association of State Libraries. (Applause)

MISS ELLA MAY THORNTON: Mr. Chairman, Dr. Bryan, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is certain that we are all happy in having listened to the gracious words of welcome that have been spoken. I wish I had the wit and wisdom to reply in kind. Certainly hospitable intent is not always so well expressed.

Perhaps you have heard of the butler sent by a hostess to waken a titled guest who was sleeping late. Confused any-
how, and interpreting his instructions according to his
experience and understanding of words, instead of entering the room quietly and murmuring discreetly, "My lord, it is time to arise," he came in hurriedly, noisily, exclaiming excitedly, "My Lord, Mister, it's time to get up."

I stand here this evening in the place of Melville Dewey, that great pioneer and prophet of progress. In 1887 the state librarians of the country organized an association, and Dr. Dewey was their first president. Other men and women of distinction and achievement followed him in office. We in 1936 owe to those founders more than can be measured. It is a long way that we have come since those early days, and practices and procedures have changed and improved amazingly. Many illustrations, contrasts, and comparisons might be given in proof of this. Here are two in not too serious vein.

Having got my information from the source I did, I can not believe it an unlikely tale that Daniel C. Gilman, first President of Johns Hopkins University, had earlier given up his place as Librarian of Yale College because in addition to performing the usual duties of his office he was required to build the fires that warmed the office and to tend them throughout the day.

My other is a Bob Ripley "Believe It or Not," and you know he substantiates everything. An Englishwoman asked
for advice as to how to classify and arrange a library, and was told this: "Never must books by men and women authors be allowed to stand side-by-side upon the shelves. This is in the worst possible taste, and can be tolerated only when they happen to be married to each other." (Laughter)

I count myself greatly honored this evening in having been chosen spokesman for the four national associations meeting concurrently in Richmond. To name them once again, they are the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, the League of Library Commissions, and the National Association of State Libraries. So far as I can learn this is an altogether unique occasion and one which is really significant, because it emphasizes anew a settled policy in our library world which may be described by the word "coordination." We have departmentalized our great libraries. Divisional integration and consolidation have been introduced effectively into the governmental structure of state library service. Combination and cooperation are keynotes in our state planning program.

I can not but feel, therefore, that a unification of common purposes and a closer collaboration upon objectives would be logical in our National Library Association and productive of good results. It is for us to work to translate the
spirit of this meeting into definite and organized aims.

It seems to me that it would be well this evening for us to choose a theme song for this Conference, and none could be so appropriate as "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia."

And may I say what I believe will find echo in every heart here, that the beauty of that song as sung this evening will long be with us, and that we must admire the dignity and simplicity with which those beautiful melodies were given and must, as nearly as we can, emulate that same spirit.

I choose this song, "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," because this great mother sent her children everywhere. Many in this audience other than residents themselves are blood and bone of the Old Dominion. They heard from their mothers the stories which the grandmother, four or five generations earlier, carried from her beloved home into the wilderness, whether Alabama, Indiana, or Oregon.

But we all share in an even greater inheritance. Those great principles of government, those high ideals of manhood and womanhood, of citizenship and of public service bequeathed us by Virginia and Virginians have had much to do with making ours the great nation that it is today.

The noted New England historian, Bancroft, writing of the Declaration of Rights in June, 1776, and the actions of
the Committee of the Convention which presented it, said this: "They (the Virginians) went like a pillar of fire in front of the whole country. Other colonies had bills of rights. Virginia's declaration was taken from the heart of nature and announced principles of government for all people in all future time."

It is my privilege, Dr. Bryan, in behalf of my fellow-officers seated beside us here, and in the name of this great company, to give you warm and sincere thanks for your cordial reception to us. Because of the inspiration of the Commonwealth's mighty past and the interest of her momentous present, and because of the pleasures and beauties which we have found spread before us so generously and so freely, I can truly say that we are glad to be in this, her great capital city. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: The audience will be happy to know that greetings have been received from the British Library Association, the Ontario Library Association, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the Virginia State Division of the American Association of University Women, and others.

Official delegates here from other countries and other organizations include, among others, the Honorable Mexican Consul from Norfolk; Lionel R. McColvin, Honorary
Secretary of the British Library Association; A. E. McLaughlin, from Victoria, Australia, and others.

It is not possible to read all of the greetings that have been received, but I should like to read one letter, namely the letter of greetings from President Savage of the British Library Association. His letter is dated April 29, addressed to the President of the American Library Association.

... President Wilson read the communication referred to ... (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON (Continuing): In this connection you will be interested to know that Mr. Savage will broadcast greetings from the British Library Association in London to the Friends of the Library luncheon on Wednesday between 2:15 and 2:45. He will speak for five minutes through an international hook-up arranged by the British Broadcasting Commission and by the National Broadcasting Company.

... President Wilson read his address ... (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON (Continuing): May I call on Mr. Ayer, of the local library and the local committee?

MR. THOMAS P. AYER (Richmond, Va.): In accord with the custom of this Association I wish to refrain from making any unnecessary oral announcements. I will try to be brief.

First I would urge you to remember that we have a
Local Information Committee established at the John Marshall Hotel. Please, in planning any trip within the city or to a neighboring town, be sure that you are following the paths and taking the schedules that will promote your own comfort, and avail yourselves of the provisions that we have been able to make for you.

Just one other thing: We have been glad to have you come to Richmond. You perhaps may not realize that Richmond is the smallest city, outside of the resort places, that we have ever held a conference. We have not the hotels that may be found in some of the cities where we have met, and we beg your indulgence if you have not been entirely comfortably taken care of. Be patient with us, and we hope that during this week you will find enough here to be glad that you came, as we are glad to have you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: The meeting is adjourned.

... The meeting adjourned at 10:20 o'clock ...
WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

May 13, 1936

The Second General Session, held in the Mosque, convened at 10:15 o'clock, President Louis Round Wilson presiding.

PRESIDENT WILSON: The Second General Session of the Fifty-Eighth Conference of the American Library Association will come to order.

This day has been chosen as Citizens' Day. The emphasis, therefore, will be placed upon the library in relation to the community which it serves. The idea running throughout the exercises of the morning and the exercises of the day will be that the library is an educational institution serving the entire population, and that as such it must be kept close to the people whom it serves.

In beginning the program I am happy to say that sharing the responsibilities with me of presiding is Mrs. Philip Sidney Smith, Chairman of the Trustees Section of the American Library Association, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of the District of Columbia, and a member of the Board of Education of the City of Washington, a person who, through these contacts, is peculiarly fitted to present the idea of the relationship between the
library and the people.

I am happy to present Mrs. Smith as co-presiding officer, who will speak to us on, "The Status of Library Development in America." (Applause)

... Mrs. Smith took the Chair, and read her paper ... (Applause)

CHAIRMAN SMITH: I have the privilege of introducing the next speaker, Mr. Munn. He said that all that was necessary to say was, "Mr. Munn, of Pittsburgh." I think you will be interested to hear more about him, and consequently I will read the notes that I have here.

He is of the Carnegie Library at Pittsburgh; will speak on the subject, "Library Objectives." He got his B. L. S. at the New York State Library in 1921, was Reference Librarian at the Seattle Public Library, Assistant Librarian of the Flint Library, Director of the Carnegie Library and Carnegie Library School since 1926. He was Vice-President of the American Library Association in 1934, President of the Pennsylvania Library Association in 1930 and '31, surveyed library conditions in Australia and New Zealand for the Carnegie Corporation in 1934, has served on the American Library Council and on many committees, is joint author of "New Zealand Libraries" and "Australian Libraries."
I take great pleasure in introducing Mr. Ralph Munn.  

(Appplause)

MR. RALPH MUNN (Pittsburgh, Pa.): Madam Chairman, Mr. President: I am not in the slightest embarrassed about that introduction. Mrs. Smith, your Chairman, mentioned the fact that I went to Australia to make a study of libraries, and over there I was never introduced as anything less than "The distinguished American library expert." Mrs. Munn was never anything less than "His gracious lady." (Applause) Now we can take it!

This talk is addressed particularly to those in the back rows. The back rows at A. L. A. meetings are, of course, the prize seats. We are taking a terrific chance when we come to an A. L. A. meeting. We have to take our speakers on faith, and I think that we show our wisdom in tempering that faith a bit with a little caution. I ordinarily sit in the back row, and I know why you are there this morning.

The tables are going to be turned a little bit this morning, however, because Professor Carl H. Milam, our Director of Public Speaking, collared me and said, "Munn, this is a beastly hall to talk in, and for heaven's sake, watch the back of the house." He said, "Don't pay any attention to these people down in front. They will be here anyway. But if you
can keep the people in the back from going to sleep or walking out on you, you will know that you are all right."

If there are any friends in back who want to come down front where they can sleep in peace, this is the time to do it. (Laughter) They are my friends back there; I feel as though I am playing a rather low practical joke on them this morning, but orders from headquarters are orders, and I can't help it.

This morning, Citizens' Day, 1936, I am going to ask you to turn back with me almost sixty years to an editorial which was written by Dr. Dewey and which appeared in the Library Journal in 1877, just one year after the formation of our organization. In outlining the objectives of the American Library Association, Dr. Dewey said, "The work laid out for the Association is to increase the efficiency of libraries in the education of the people. The value of libraries attached to colleges, to historical and scientific societies, and to other learned bodies, has long been acknowledged. But it is not so with the libraries for the unlearned. Their value is not universally granted, and the libraries themselves are not yet in existence in all of the places where they are needed.

"To these questions the Association will address itself, and their consideration can not fail to be of interest
to all who have any care for popular education, for the progress of their fellow men, and for the safety of their country.

"That may seem a large phrase, yet if there is any truth settled in political science, it is that where suffrage is universal ignorance must not be general."

Well now, after nearly sixty years we find that Dr. Dewey laid down objectives which are fully as applicable in 1936 as they were in 1877. Our methods of accomplishing these objectives may change with the times; the emphasis on various features of our work may shift. But the real underlying principle, the actual basic objectives, remain very much the same, and to bring them more clearly to your mind I would like to summarize them in this way:

First, to secure nation-wide acceptance of the free public library as an essential part of the public tax-supported system of education. And, second, to promote the development of these libraries in such a way as will enable them to function with maximum usefulness.

You will note that we have defined the public library as an educational agency, and in doing so we have the backing of official statements of the A. L. A. and of virtually all of the state library associations. Unfortunately, however, our practices in too many cases seem to have strayed a good deal
from these principles to which we subscribe. In other words, there are back-sliding librarians just as there are back-sliding Christians, people who profess their principles more than they actually practice them.

In order that we may reach a high percentage of our population, in order that we may have a huge circulation, we have in too many cases consciously lowered our standards of service and have given altogether too much time and attention to purely recreational reading of doubtful value. Our library publications are just filled, both with apologies and rather ingenious defenses of our high circulation of fiction, due, possibly, to the fact that some of these back-sliding librarians have had a little difficulty with their consciences.

It has often been said that the taxpayer has a right to what he wants, and yet it has also been pointed out several times that the municipal art gallery does not line its walls with comic strips, and that municipal orchestras don't give their programs over entirely to jazz. Nor, in my opinion, is it essential that the free public tax-supported library devote a large amount of its time and energy and funds to the circulation of second-rate novels simply because a considerable portion of the taxpaying public demands them. If library boards and librarians have the courage to define the library's
objective as lying principally within this field of popular education, the thinking element of the community, at least, will support them.

Of course our circulation will suffer for a time, and the appeal of the library will be somewhat less widespread, but we will be building on firmer foundations. You know that public schools and state universities receive tax support from people who never use them at all. They get the support, however, and they really are esteemed in proportion to the integrity of their educational program. And I submit to you that a public library which permits the purely recreational phases of its work to handicap seriously its educational, informational and cultural services has no real complaint if it is not taken seriously at the time that municipal budgets are decided upon.

I think perhaps we must also decide how large a part we are to permit sympathy and sentiment to play in the formation of our policies. For a number of years in Pittsburgh we maintained a branch down in a slum section in which almost everyone was so low in mentality and ambition that they simply could not make real use of a library, and that little branch became largely a gathering place for the young men of the district. Well now, as such it probably served a good purpose,
as a kind of social settlement, and it is not impossible that it kept some of these young men from establishing dangerous associations. But was it a proper charge on a library budget when its cost meant that in other sections of the city where people could and would make use of books and library service they were denied that service?

In another city in which funds have been low the librarian takes great pride in the library service to the type of down-and-out man who gathers in the cheap lodging houses in the lower end of the city. Well now, I know from personal observation and visits that most of those men are too degraded from idleness, drink, drugs, and so forth, ever to make any use of library service. We all admire that librarian's broad human sympathy, but is it actually library work, or is it something that might better be left to the Salvation Army?

I recently heard a children's librarian tell of her success in attracting old, illiterate negro women into the children's room, where they looked at the brightly colored pictures in the books that were intended for toddlers. Well now, of course there is no one here who would begrudge those poor old char women any pleasure that they got from looking at those pictures, and this whole group was very much pleased when they heard that report. It wasn't until the next day that
I began to wonder whether that children's librarian might not have been better employed in school visiting, or some other work more definitely related to our children's program.

In any event, during the last generation, roughly, the American public library has attempted to be all things to all men, and in doing so we have spread our energies and our resources so thin that we haven't actually reached complete success in any one of these fields, and certainly we have strayed a long, long way from our profession of faith.

In 1877 Dr. Dewey defined our objective as educational. In 1935 the Council of the American Library Association said, "The library should seek to deepen the public conviction that it is an educational institution."

Our first aim, then, would seem to be to make our practices conform more closely to our profession of faith, to make certain that our libraries actually do fall within the definition of an educational agency. They can have other functions, of course. The library which can adequately supply the educational, informational, and cultural needs of its community, and in addition carry on a thriving circulation of good recreational reading is serving its community doubly well. But the library which handicaps its more serious functions in order that it can buy hundreds of new novels every year and
maintain expensive services to circulate them is a back-silder and certainly it ought to be represented on the mourners' bench.

Is that back row still with me? When our Director of Public Speaking went out I began to be a little nervous about it! (Laughter) I am attempting to cooperate with the audience completely this morning, though. The delivery of the paper is being made according to the directions given me by Mr. Milam, and the paper itself was prepared according to the formula which I heard from another speaker some years ago. It was a morning even hotter than this, and this speaker said that he had always understood that it wasn't so much the heat as the humidity, and he was therefore making his paper just as dry as possible. (Laughter)

One idea which has changed completely since Dr. Dewey laid down our objectives in 1877 is the governmental unit upon which our library service is to be established. The small city and town simply can not maintain the dynamic kind of institution that we have been describing, and of course the rural resident can not be served through the small town and city library. Both of these problems are very happily solved when we adopt a larger unit of administration. There are plenty of problems to be considered -- means of communication, density of
population, local patterns of government, local thought and prejudice: all of these things will be considered before we decide whether our objective is to be a county library, a combination of counties, or possibly some entirely new regional unit. Certainly there is every reason to think that New Jersey and New Mexico will find different answers to this problem, but both of them should attempt to secure a unit which is large enough to give adequate support from a reasonable tax levy and yet small enough to permit the close personal supervision from the headquarters library.

It is largely true that while we have 10,000 libraries in the United States, of various kinds, we actually have no system of libraries. With some few notable exceptions, every one of these libraries is independent and competitive, buying books without any regard to the resources of its neighbor and attempting, through its own efforts alone, to fulfill all of the various types of needs of its community.

Well, waste and inefficiency are of course the in-escapable results of any such lack of system, because I think you will agree, after a little thought, that the efficiency and the economy of the chain grocery store are just nothing as compared with the efficiency and the economy of the chain library. It is only through these larger units of administra-
tion through which we can pool our resources that we will ever have efficient and adequate library service, not only in the blank spaces on our library map, of which Mrs. Smith spoke, but also in the countless little cities and towns which are today struggling along on a starvation diet.

Our second aim, then, is to determine upon larger governmental units for the operation of our library systems, and to establish further means of cooperation among all libraries. In this connection, of course, we can look hopefully to England for an example, where there is an integration of library resources which puts most of the publicly-owned books of England at the command of the most isolated resident.

Now, we have spoken of larger units of administration as a step toward better financial support. And in many cases the larger unit, standing alone and depending upon its own resources, can finance itself well. We must recognize, however, that there are great inequalities within every state, that a tax levy which will bring a reasonable degree of support in a great industrial center may bring an almost negligible amount in the rural district. These inequalities must be partially offset, at least, through a generous degree of state aid to local units. The principle of applying state funds toward the equalization of opportunity or toward providing a minimum
standard, whichever you please, has long been established as essential in the operation of our public schools. Now it is our job to extend that principle to the public library field, because without it strong libraries are likely to exist only in our more favored communities.

Linked inseparably with state aid is the state library or the other library agency of the state. It is very unlikely that states will give substantial grants-in-aid to local communities unless there is a strong state agency to assume leadership, to integrate forces, and to make for cooperation throughout the state.

Then, quite apart from its connection with state aid, our state library should be greatly developed in any event. Some of them, as you know, are submerged in political mire, and most of them do not have resources which will permit them to give adequate support to the parts of the state which need supplementary help, so that stronger state agencies certainly must be one of our objectives.

Just as state aid is essential if we are to approach equality of opportunity within a state, so we have just decided that federal aid is necessary if we are to have some degree of equality of opportunity among the various states. As to a federal library agency, you know that that question is before
Congress at the present moment.

In summary, then, our third aim is to broaden our basis of support to include the State and Federal Governments, to promote the development of state library agencies, and to press further for the establishment of a federal library agency. Larger units, increased funds, and all other material aids will avail us nothing unless we continue to advance the standards of our personnel. We must, of course, even make up some lost ground that has failed us during the depression, due chiefly to lowered salaries and the tendency to give an undue preference to local candidates.

Certification is at best a mechanical kind of aid. It can't in any way measure the librarian's spirit and devotion, but since it can insure any specified degree of training, I suspect that you will want to favor certification as one of our objectives. And I think it is quite reassuring that almost every state has adopted some form of certification as one of its own state objectives.

Fortunately it is well within our own power to get the highest type of personnel for our profession. Youth is still possessed of ideals and enthusiasm, and it will respond to any calling which has the interest and the approval of society. But just so long as we allow our libraries to stand
in the backwater of civic interest and be known chiefly for the number of novels that they circulate, we will never be able to compete successfully for our share of the highest calibre of personnel with the school and business and the laboratory. But every library which forces its way into public recognition as concerned vitally with the education and culture and industry and citizenship of that community makes our personnel problem just that much easier.

I know, for example, that the City of Cleveland has in recent years given more than its quota of promising young people to librarianship, and I suspect that it is perhaps due to the fact that the Cleveland Public Library, through its own work, has inspired in the minds of the people of that city the idea that librarianship is worthy of our best brains.

Our fourth aim is therefore directed toward the continued advancement of our personnel. We may feel encouraged about the improvement that has come since Dr. Dewey spoke in 1877, but of course we still have a long way to go.

One of the most heartening things about our problems and difficulties is that up to a certain level, at least, most of them can be greatly improved by each one of us little by little working in our own communities. Just a glance around us is sufficient to show that in both great cities and small
towns there are libraries which stand high above the average, and in most cases they have far out-stripped their neighbors without the aids that we have mentioned here, such as larger units, state aid, federal aid, and so forth. It has been vision, a devotion to a high standard of service, and hard work that have made the success of those libraries.

There may be -- I suspect there are -- some instances today in which conditions are virtually impossible, but most of us are not warranted in folding our arms and sitting back to wait for all of these aids which we have named as our objectives. Every library which forces its way into public attention and is recognized as contributing vitally to the education, the industry, the citizenship, and the leisure time pursuits of its community is serving not only its own people, but is helping greatly to advance the whole library movement toward our objectives by making the people more library conscious.

Thank you. (Applause)

... President Wilson resumed the Chair ...

PRESIDENT WILSON: The third speaker of the morning, President Graham, of the University of North Carolina, seems so far not to have appeared. If he is in the audience it will be a very grateful sight to me to see him. I am sure some situation over which he has not had control has made it
impossible for him to be here and to inform us that he would not be here. I regret, therefore, on the part of the audience, that we are not to have the privilege of hearing him at this moment.

Mr. Secretary, have you any announcements?

... Announcements by Secretary Milam ...

PRESIDENT WILSON: If Mr. Graham has not appeared since the notice of a moment ago, the morning session is adjourned.

... The meeting adjourned at 11:30 o'clock ...
THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

May 14, 1936

The Third General Session, held in the Mosque, Richmond, Virginia, convened at ten o'clock, President Louis Round Wilson presiding.

PRESIDENT WILSON: The Third General Session of the American Library Association Conference will come to order. I shall ask the Secretary, Mr. Milam, to present the annual reports.

SECRETARY MILAM: Mr. President, the Secretary presents as usual the reports of the administration officers, the boards and committees, including the financial reports, which appeared in the February, 1936, Bulletin.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Is there a motion to receive the reports?

DR. W. W. BISHOP (Ann Arbor, Michigan): I move that they be received, Mr. President.

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

PRESIDENT WILSON: The second matter of business is the report of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, by Dr. J. Perry M. Danton.

DR. DANTON: It is apparent to me, as perhaps it has
occurred to some of you, that one recommendation which our Committee might have made and which does not appear in the reprints which you have would have been a good one. I refer to the fact that the Constitution and By-Laws still require the report of this Committee to be presented to the Association at large. The result, of course, is that an item of business has to intrude upon a meeting which would be otherwise entirely pleasant and interesting. Perhaps the Committee can change that in the future.

The changes which the Committee now does propose appear in the reprints which I hope all of you have in your hands. Those reprints were distributed, I suppose, on the sound assumption that most of you did not read the report when it appeared in the Bulletin. Happily the Secretary has forbidden me to read the report as a whole. Perhaps those of you who are really interested in it will have had opportunity to skim through it as much as you skim through book reviews since it now came into your hands.

These proposals, sent out to members of the Association a month ago in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, are the result of consideration by two successive and overlapping committees of the Association. They are the result of a considerable amount of care and at least so far as
this year's Committee is concerned they were fought, bled and
died over a good many times.

The proposals, to quote from the prefatory paragraph of the report, were designed primarily to obviate ambiguity in present wording, to remove dead letter provisions, to simplify or make more meaningful the language, and to make theory consistent with practice. For this reason most of the recommendations which the Committee now makes are of what might be called a routine nature. Most of them, I think, can be dispensed with rather briefly. There are a few which are not of a routine nature.

The President and the Secretary of the Association feel, with the members of the Committee, that some of the proposals should be voted on separately. These proposals are, Articles III and XVIII of the Constitution, and Articles XII (a), XVI, and XX of the By-Laws.

The Committee proposes that Section 3 of the Constitution be amended to include the sentence which is printed in italics, namely, "The membership of an individual or an institution may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. A suspended member may be reinstated by a three-fourths vote of the Board."

I believe it was John Marshall who put the teeth into
the Constitution of the United States. This amended Section is an attempt to put one small tooth into the Constitution of the American Library Association.

Mr. President, if it is in order I move that Article III, Section 3, of the Constitution, be amended as proposed.

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

DR. DANTON: Section 18 of the Constitution is to be amended to include the italicized sentence at the end of the Section, as follows: "Only members of the Association shall be appointed to boards and committees except by authorization of the Executive Board."

Mr. President, I move that Section 18 be adopted as amended.

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

DR. DANTON: Thirdly, Section 12 (a) of the By-Laws. The only part of this Section which comes into question here, we believe, is the italicized section of the sentence beginning toward the end of that Section, "No person shall be nominated ... ", and the part which is called into question here are the words which follow: "No person shall be nominated who is not a member of the Association." The rest of that Section is substantially as it was.
Mr. President, I move that the amended section be adopted.

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

DR. DANTON: Section 16 of the By-Laws: The last sentence in italics is the one herein question: "Only members of the American Library Association may be members of a Section." This additional sentence is proposed because a Section may come into being if fifty individuals petition for it, and it is not specifically stated in the By-Laws that the fifty shall be members of the American Library Association. Consequently any old fifty, Tom, Dick, and Harry from some other group, theoretically, at least, could petition to become a Section of the American Library Association. It is perhaps unlikely, but the Committee felt that this was a worth-while addition.

I therefore move, Mr. President, that the sentence, "Only members of the American Library Association may be members of a Section," be included in Section 16 of the By-Laws.

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

DR. DANTON: The final section which we think deserves separate attention is Section 20 of the By-Laws, and
the paragraph which comes into question here is the one printed in Gothic capitals at the end of that Section. Gothic capitals means a proposal to omit, and we propose to omit the paragraph reading, "Committees created by the Council or by its presiding officer, upon the request of the Council, are limited as to functions to consideration of, or assistance in, the business of the Council."

The reason we propose the omission of this paragraph is that it is a dead letter. It is not true. The Cataloging and Classification Committees, the Fire Insurance Committee, the Special Membership Committee, to name three, were committees appointed by the Council or by its presiding officer, and it is perfectly obvious that they are not limited to consideration of or assistance in the business of the Council directly.

Mr. President, I propose, therefore, on behalf of the Committee, that the paragraph beginning "Committees created by the Council" be omitted from Section 20 of the By-Laws.

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

DR. DANTON: Mr. President, the President and Secretary agree with the members of the Committee that the remaining proposals which you have in your hands do not affect
policy or administration. They are, as I indicated a moment ago, of a more or less routine nature, designed, as I said, to clarify, to make more meaningful, the phraseology and so on.

SECRETARY MILAM: Mr. President, I would ask him whether that would be true of Section 10.

DR. DANTON: Constitution or By-Laws?

SECRETARY MILAM: Constitution, Section 10.

PRESIDENT WILSON: It would seem to me that that would change the situation, Mr. Danton, somewhat.

DR. DANTON: Section 10 has been modified, or at least the Committee is recommending a modification to include, or rather to change the composition of the Executive Board with respect to the President of the Association, and the recommendation is that the retiring President and the President-elect, who serves as First Vice-President, shall be included as members of the Executive Board.

I think I can only agree with Mr. Milam that that also should be voted on separately. Mr. President, I move that Section 10 of the Constitution be amended as indicated in this report.

... The motion was seconded ...

MR. COMPTON: I think the statement was just made that this included the provision that the retiring President
should be a member of the Executive Board. I should like to point out that the retiring President is now a member of the Executive Board. Wasn't that the statement you made, Dr. Danton?

With regard to this provision that the President-elect serve as First Vice-President for a year, I do not want to oppose this, but I do think that it is a decided change and I think that it needs very careful consideration by the Association before voting on it. I hardly think that we ought to pass it in the same way that we have passed the other things that have come up this morning.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Is there any further discussion?

Do I understand, Mr. Compton, that any motion of this sort, in order that it may become effective, has to be voted on at two annual sessions of the American Library Association?

SECRETARY MILAM: Yes, for the Constitution.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Therefore, Mr. Compton, the point that you have made is one which can be taken care of by the provision in the Constitution that amendments to the Constitution, to become effective, must be voted on at two annual sessions. Therefore we have twelve months to give careful consideration to this provision to which you have spoken.

MISS WEST: May I ask that there be an explanation of
why that is proposed?

PRESIDENT WILSON: Dr. Danton, I think, can answer that.

DR. DANTON: The President of the Association, who has formerly, of course, always been a member of the Executive Board, serves for just one year. The business of the Executive Board, as anyone who has sat in on any of its meetings is well aware, is complicated and very ramified. The result is, or has been, upon occasion, that the new President, sitting in for the first time at the beginning of his term with the Executive Board, has had almost more to learn and absorb than he could reasonably be expected to do.

This provision, therefore, is designed to give the next year's President an opportunity to become acquainted one year ahead of time with the work of the Association, and as a matter of fact I think the original proposal came from a former President of the Association. I don't remember, exactly. However, the Committee certainly does feel that it would be to the advantage of any future President of the Association, and consequently, of course, to the advantage of the Association itself, for the President-elect to be a member of the Executive Board and to have an opportunity to learn what has happened in recent months.
PRESIDENT WILSON: If I might supplement the statement I would do it in this way: On Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock the incoming President, Mr. Wyer, will be confronted with the necessity of appointing the membership of some sixty to sixty-five committees of the A. L. A. In the total membership of those committees there will be at least 600 people that have to be selected. He is confronted, therefore, with the necessity of knowing something about what those committees are concerned with and who in the membership of over 12,000 will be most useful as members of those committees. I think you can realize, from the basis of that statement, what a task the incoming President has, and how useful it would be to him to have had a look at the Association in its work for a period of twelve months.

Is there further discussion?

DR. BISHOP: With all my heart I support this amendment. Out of my own experience, called to the presidency of this Association in the midst of its war work, with no possible opportunity to familiarize myself with that work because of my own occupation in some related fields, in July of 1918, I was forced to work day and night for six weeks merely to discover what had been done officially in the previous year. Had I been a member of the Executive Board in this relation during the
previous year, I could have stepped into office prepared, on the first day, really to assume what were very heavy responsibilities at that time.

It seems to me this is plain common sense, and I hope sincerely that the Association will adopt the amendment.

MR. C. RODEN: I don't want to delay the proceedings, and since this is the first voting upon this amendment perhaps it will do no harm to pass it, and get on with the program. But I must say that I cannot agree with the opinions heretofore expressed, and I would urge upon the Association to study the implications of this amendment very thoroughly aside from the considerations to the incoming President by giving him a year to prepare for that burdensome office. I doubt very much whether any President heretofore has not been equal to that office, even without preparation, and I am very much afraid that there are other implications in that amendment which need further study.

MR. COMPTON: I am inclined to agree with Mr. Roden. I think it needs further study.

MISS WEST: This may not be necessary to be considered just now, but one point I think that ought to be explained in print, perhaps, is the relationship between the two Vice-Presidents. That is left a little bit ambiguous. There are
two people serving as Vice-President. I don't know that it is an important point, but it is a point.

DR. DANTON: I think that is made clear by reading the section following the part which I read a moment ago: "The retiring President, the President-elect who serves as First Vice-President. ." and then you will notice, in Gothic capitals, "The First Vice-President" will be left out.

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

DR. DANTON: Unless Mr. Milam catches me up again, at least I am going to make a try at proposing, Mr. President, that the remaining recommendations of the Committee be adopted without further explanation or comment.

MISS WEST: I second the motion.

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

PRESIDENT WILSON: We will now change from the business session of the meeting to the program of the morning. The theme of the Conference as stated at the first meeting is, "The Extension and Improvement of Library Service," and in the development of that theme it was pointed out that the co-ordination of the resources of the American libraries and related organizations was one of the major objectives of the American Library Association.

Within the last twelve months a new institution
concerned with the conservation of our archival resources has come into existence. It is significant for America at large and its relationships to the libraries of the nation are of great interest to this organization, and we are all interested in hearing from its Director about its organization and its program of operation.

It therefore gives me very great pleasure to present the Director of this organization, Dr. R. D. W. Connor, one time Superintendent of Schools in North Carolina, a member of the State Department of Education, the organizer of the North Carolina Historical Commission, Professor and head of the Department of History and Government of the University of North Carolina, a classmate of mine and a former colleague, and now National Archivist. We are all happy to hear Dr. Connor.

... Dr. R. D. W. Connor, Washington, D. C., read his paper ... (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Inasmuch as the program of the morning will be slightly longer than was contemplated, I am going to suggest that we change our positions for a moment or two, and upon the use of the gavel that we come back to consideration of our program. I am happy to say that President Graham, who was not here yesterday, will be able to speak for a short time at the end of the meeting this morning.
... Intermission ...

PRESIDENT WILSON: The next speaker, the Honorary Secretary of the British Library Association, will be presented by Dr. Bishop, President of the International Federation of Library Associations. Dr. Bishop! (Applause)

DR. BISHOP: Dr. Wilson, Fellow-Members of the American Library Association: Dr. Wilson got in under the wire. I cease to be President of this International Federation on the 31st of this month.

It has, however, given me great pleasure to represent the American Library Association in the International Federation. There have been international aspects of the work of this organization almost since its foundation. From the early years the Canadian Librarians have associated themselves with the American Library Association, and we trust that they may long continue to feel that common bond of professional as well as personal interest which unites us and has united us so happily.

A group of American librarians assisted in the formation, in 1877, of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, which has now dropped the latter part of its name and calls itself merely the Library Association.

Cooperation between the different nations has been
more or less informal until recent years. In fact, cooperation, which has been the keynote of this organization since its start, was individual in the beginning. I need only cite the remarkable instance of the individual cooperation which produced those volumes of Poole's Index, which were so long indispensable tools in our work, which were made by the efforts of individual librarians reporting to a common center.

Of recent years, not to weary you with details, there has been formed the International Federation of Library Associations, which held its second Congress last year in Madrid a little later in this same month than the dates for this meeting. One of the most remarkable sections of that imposing Congress was the Section on Mutual Aid, as the Europeans prefer to term it, a section which we should probably have headed "Cooperation Between Libraries." Notable among the examples of mutual aid of one library to another in the interest of scholarship and research appeared the work done in Great Britain in recent years. The cooperative movement now in Great Britain is not alone between individuals, but much more between libraries themselves as organizations.

I am frank to say that we have much to learn from our British colleagues in the effective manner in which, starting from small beginnings, they have produced results of remarkable
magnitude and of great efficiency. These have largely been done through the organization of the National Central Library in London. It was our hope that Colonel Newcomb, the Director of that Library, would be here today, but illness prevented him from coming. We were extremely fortunate in having in this country the Secretary of the Library Association, who agreed to change his itinerary and to come here to speak in Colonel Newcomb's place.

The speaker, then, who will talk about "Library Co-operation in Great Britain," is Mr. Lionel R. McColvin, Honorary Secretary of the Library Association, whom I now have the honor to present to you. (Applause)

MR. LIONEL R. MCCOLVIN (London, England): Mr. President, Dr. Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen: First of all I would like to explain that anything I shall say this morning will be entirely my own opinion and will not represent, necessarily, the views of my colleagues on the Library Association Council, or the views of Colonel Newcomb. I very much regret, probably more than anyone else, that Colonel Newcomb is not here this morning, but there is one, if only one advantage in his absence, because I am able to say to you what Dr. Bishop and many others here know is true, that no man has done more to promote not only the machinery of inter-library cooperation,
but also the spirit of fellowship among librarians, that alone can make cooperation possible, than Colonel Newcomb, the Librarian of the National Central Library, and I am happy to be able to say that he would like you to know, also, how much he himself regrets not being able to attend this Conference.

I propose to commence my remarks with a few simple things which probably are well known but which I think ought to be made clear at the outset. First of all, England is a very small country. You must think of it not as you think of the American nation, but you must think of it rather as a small, very thickly populated American state. I mention that for two reasons: One, to give you some idea of our distances, and distances do enter into the question of library cooperation. It is very much easier for the student to get from one center to another. It is more important that often he should know where items are located than that there should be any necessity to send items from one place to another. But I chiefly mention it because in England we have no intermediary between the National Government and the local authority. There is nothing in England comparable to your state government. The library service, in England, is entirely under the control of the local authority; excepting in a few matters of detail such as sanctions for loans, the National Government takes no share, no
responsibility whatever, for the library service. That is provided by the local authorities entirely from local funds, and entirely at the discretion of the local councils.

Roughly, you might divide the service into the urban and the county systems. The county library movement started considerably later than the urban library movement. It wasn't possible for the county to establish a library service until 1919. The result is that we have a not altogether wise division of the field. The counties, generally speaking, serve those areas which were not already served by urban libraries; that is, they serve the thinly-populated areas, often at less ratable value, where it is much more difficult to give an efficient service than it is in a thickly-populated urban area, and I think, myself, that when you are spreading the county movement throughout those parts of the country that are not yet served you will be wise to learn from our situation, and try to get what we have not been able to get, a better balance between the urban and the rural. That, perhaps, is in passing.

However it might be, in England we have a library service of sorts which covers practically the whole of the country. Very often the service is poor; sometimes it is good. But generally speaking, you would find great inequality -- not
inequality from one region to another, but often inequality as from one side of a street to another, as you pass over an artificial local government boundary.

You would find, therefore, in England, very much the same failings that you will forgive my saying you will find in your own country. You will find inequality of service; you will find that the man who lives in a small community hasn't anything so good a service as the man who lives in the larger community. You will find that a man who lives in a large community where the library service has not been valued is very much worse off than a man who lives perhaps in a much smaller place where the service has developed properly.

You will find, too, in the question of book stock, that every library has built up its book stock according to its own ideas and according to the needs of its own community.

As a result you will find that although there is often a great deal of duplication, often unnecessary duplication, you will find that there are gaps, books which no one has bought or which very few libraries have bought, and we, facing this problem, have tried to overcome it in part by cooperation.

The ideas behind cooperation roughly are these: We recognize that the size of the community doesn't bear any relation to the variety of demands made by the public. If you
will take 100,000 people, they are still individuals, and are just as likely to have individual, entirely personal, perhaps even eccentric requirements; yet the larger the town, the more people there will be who will share those interests. In other words, the more possible it will be for the library to serve them to some degree satisfactorily. In the small community that can't be done. The service gradually descends to something approaching a common denominator level, and we feel that we must pool the resources in order to be able to serve the individual.

Then again, we feel that in so far as we are able to do that, we shall free money that we can spend on other things, and so increase our spending capacity.

And, thirdly, we believe that in time we will approach our book buying, we will think of the requests that we get from our readers, in rather a different light. We will not say that in this town there are not likely to be many people interested in this book, therefore, if we buy it, it will stop on our shelves and no one will read it. We will, I hope, say to ourselves, "Although there might be only one man in this town who wants this book, there must be many in the country, and if we provide this book we will be providing it not for our own town, but by means of cooperation, to readers anywhere in the country, and we will hope that other librarians, thinking like-
wise, will also buy special list material which we, in our turn, can borrow."

The cornerstone of cooperation is the National Central Library. The National Central Library began life during the war as the central library for students. Its object, then, was to provide books for adult classes. But gradually its function has widened, and in 1930 it changed its name into the National Central Library and adopted its present constitution.

The National Central Library has two functions. It acts as a clearing house for requests, as an informational bureau on bibliographical matters, and it also acts as a library, with its own stock and book funds.

The funds of the National Central Library are not great. Its work has been and still is limited by the inability or for any other reason the lack of action on the part of our government to realize how much more it could achieve if its funds were more nearly in relation to the magnitude of its task. So you federalists, don't count too much on government aid, if you think of our experience, because the National Central Library has received to the present moment no larger sum than $13,000 per annum, and that is spent entirely for the information department. The rest of the income comes partly from voluntary subscriptions from the libraries of the country, and
chiefly from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust has been the fairy godmother, not only of the National Central Library but of much in British librarianship. In fact, without its help the National Central Library and our system of cooperation could not have been possible at all. The Carnegie Trust has spent no less than $2,000,000 on this cooperative project. Half of that has gone directly to the National Central Library and the other half has gone to the regional bureau and outlying libraries that I am now going to speak about, so you will understand that the work of the National Central Library, owing to its lack of funds, owing to its having at the present moment an annual income of about $47,000 to $50,000, has been very largely that of an organizer of cooperation rather than of a national central library meeting from its own stocks demands made by borrowing libraries. In fact, the stock of the National Central Library at the present day amounts to only 125,000 volumes. The National Central Library now buys only as a last resort, and the books it buys are naturally of a highly specialized character.

The next step, however, from the National Central Library, is to the outlier libraries. It is an ugly word. I don't know who invented it. But an outlier library is a
library which has agreed to lend books at the request of the National Central Library to any other library in the country that requires them. There are now 150 outlier libraries, the majority of which are definitely specialist libraries, libraries such as those of the Science Museum at South Kensington, or the British Non-Ferrous Metal Association, the Asiatic Society, the Tropical Diseases Hospital, etc. And you will realize that 150 specialist libraries, many of them of great wealth, can provide for the country an extraordinary range of valuable material.

In addition to the specialist libraries there are some fifty of the larger public libraries which again have, many of them, their special collections. So that from the outliers the National Central Library can draw upon no fewer than 6,000,000 non-fiction items.

However, the financial position of the National Central Library, and other considerations, but I think chiefly the necessity to allow some of the cooperating libraries to share the burden of administering cooperation, led to the establishment of our regional scheme.

Now, a regional scheme is not in any sense a scheme based upon what I think you call a metropolitan area or trading area. It is merely a more or less convenient chopping up of
England and Wales into a number of divisions. There were, when I wrote my paper, seven schemes embracing all but seven of the western counties of England, and in addition an eighth scheme covering central London. But I heard only yesterday from Colonel Newcomb that the seven western counties had decided to start another regional scheme, so that I can now say that the whole of the country is covered, or will be covered, by these regional schemes.

The principle is this: The libraries in a region agree that they will lend books to one another without charge. The only cost in our inter-loan is that for postage, and our practice varies. Some libraries pay the postal costs on the books they borrow; some libraries, quite wrongly, I think, pass on that postal charge to the public. But apart from that, all our inter-loan is made without charge from library to library. The libraries in a region agree that they will lend and they also, in all but two cases, have decided to set up a union catalog of the non-fiction books in a region. That work is in progress. Copies of the union catalogs are sent to the National Central Library.

What happens when one applies for a book by means of cooperation? I can perhaps illustrate by giving an example. If I were living in some outlying village I would go to my local
branch of the county library. The county branch would apply to the county headquarters. If there were no copy of the book in the county headquarters the librarian, the county librarian, would then apply to the regional bureau. Reference would be made to the union catalog or, while the union catalogs are still in process of completion the regional bureau would circularize its members. If there were no copy in the region the request would then be transmitted to the National Central Library, and the National Central Library would, either by means of its union catalogs or by circularizing, or because it knew from the type of book that I wanted that it was likely to be in the stock of one of the outliers, somehow trace a copy and ask the library possessing it simply to send it by post direct to my county branch library.

I don't know whether I have made that quite clear. It sounds a complicated process, but in effect you can usually get any book that you require for one of your readers within about four days or a week, and speaking as a librarian who has borrowed by means of cooperation, I would say that so far as my own use of cooperation, I have found that it was about 98% satisfactory. In other words, when one of my readers has made a request for some book, in ninety-five to ninety-eight per cent of the instances I have been able to get copies of that book
from some other library, somehow. Sometimes books have even been obtained from foreign countries for use by readers even in our remote villages.

At the same time, cooperation is in its infancy in England. I haven't given you any statistics. The very good reason why I haven't given them is that I frankly don't know at the moment the current statistics for this work. But there are other good reasons why we shouldn't think about cooperation in terms of volume. Statistics don't mean anything at all unless you know the type of book that is being lent.

At present in England cooperation has been confined chiefly to the definitely specialist item, the out-of-the-way book that has been difficult to obtain. It has, in fact, been service for the advanced specialist, rather than anything else. And consequently its volume has not been great but its value has been inestimable. And again we must realize about cooperation that the better the library that cooperates, the less they will want to borrow from one another, so we must be wary of judging any cooperation scheme in terms of issues, circulation. It is the greatest possible mistake.

I don't doubt, however, that within the next two years, when all our union catalogs are fully in operation, the amount of borrowing will be very much greater than it is now.
What we have done, however, is to lay down a great principle, the principle that any reader anywhere in the British Isles has the right to obtain, by means of these cooperative schemes, any book that he requires for any purpose, and that the resources of the whole country are at his disposal freely. And that realization must have opened up an entirely new horizon to any man who wants to make serious use of books. He has no longer been limited by his local condition. He now, if he wishes, if he insists sufficiently, can get practically anything that is in print or has been in print for his purposes.

And, of course, the serious reader in England has not yet begun to realize that he has that power. When he does, cooperation will really become a vital factor in England for learning and research.

But cooperation has very serious limitations, and I want to spend my last five minutes in just dealing with those, because they are easy to overlook. I myself feel that it can't be sufficiently realized that cooperation is only an adjunct to the service of individual libraries. It can not possibly be in any way a substitute for anything that a library would or should do were there not cooperation. On the contrary, cooperation brings with it a moral obligation to do more, so that each library can give something in return for the things that it
hopes to borrow. It isn't only a moral question, it is a practical one, because if the individual library doesn't develop its resources, if the general level of book purchasing in any way is diminished because of borrowing facilities, in time there won't be the material to borrow. Therefore, the first duty of the librarian, no matter how much cooperation he can do, is to put his own house in order and keep it in order.

And the next thing I want to mention with the greatest possible emphasis is that cooperation should be regarded solely as a means of answering the exceptional demands of the public. The individual library should be able to provide 99.9% of the requirements of its own public. Cooperation, borrowing from other libraries, should only come into the field for the exceptional demand. That, I know, is an ideal that we are an awfully long way from attaining, chiefly because, owing to economic and other conditions, none of our individual libraries is as good as we would have it; largely, though, because there is a tendency, too much in our country and even more perhaps in yours, to operate the library service with far too small a unit.

Now, the smaller the unit the less possible it is for a library's service to be satisfactory, the less can that service serve the individual reader who, after all, is the most important thing. The more expensive it must be, the smaller
the unit to arrive at any satisfactory average of satisfactory service.

So I feel that we have got to think not only of cooperation but of something related to it, but quite different. In England we have developed our regional schemes, our union catalogs, our National Central Library; but I don't think it has ever occurred to us that we were trying to achieve two quite different purposes. One purpose is the true cooperation of libraries which, either because of their wealth or their specialization, have something that they can give to one another in exchange for the resources of the other one. True cooperation between units equally able to give!

Now the small unit, the small general unit, as distinct from the specialist unit, can not give very much to the larger unit. In England already we find that although union catalogs do help to distribute the demands and enable the smaller libraries to do as much as possible, in spite of that some of the larger libraries are bearing far more than their share of the burden of lending, and that isn't true cooperation. It is a device, a highly desirable, eminently necessary device, to make good the shortcomings of the weaker brethren. But it can't be anything more than a device of temporary value.

What has been our experience with cooperation in
England? It has been this, that if a reader wanted a very advanced, out of the way item, you could nearly always get it for him, but if a reader from a small town with a relatively inadequate stock asked for a book of more or less general appeal, and that small library passed on through the usual machinery the request to the regional bureau and the National Central Library, it is nothing like so frequently that that reader is satisfied, because the more general a book, the more likely it is to be in use by the readers of the various libraries that possess it.

In other words, when cooperation becomes a means of helping the small library, the type of book that is required becomes more and more general, it becomes more and more a question of trying to take from the larger libraries the things that they themselves are actually using. In other words, it simply does not work. You can not serve your small libraries with their general every-day requirements by drawing upon the larger ones. And therefore you have got to face, we have got to face in England and I think you have got to face over here, a very much more difficult problem than ours has been in building up our cooperative machine: some kind of amalgamation of the smaller library units into a whole which can act as a self-contained, self-sufficient library unit for all excepting the
more specialist requirements.

How that is going to be done I wouldn't dare suggest even in relation to my own country, much less to yours. But I think it can be done. I think that somehow we will find a means by which we can take all those libraries which have some natural social and geographical affinity and weld them together gradually into an amalgam united for the service of the public. We shall have to do it without killing local pride and local interests. We shall have to overcome frightfully difficult problems of personnel, but I do think that if we are to give really effective library service we have got to realize this, that no library service can be really efficient that is not quite a large unit. How large, in terms of population, one wouldn't say, because geographical conditions will naturally affect it, but I am convinced that in England no library serving a population of less than 100,000 or 200,000 or 300,000 population can give a satisfactory service, and if we are seeking to give a satisfactory service to the whole of our public we have, I am convinced, to think on a rather broader basis, and to see how we can cooperate, not only in the way that we are cooperating in England, that of lending to one another and making union catalogs and so on, but cooperate in
a much more intimate, much better directed way, and I think that that will produce, in time, a library service which is better by far than the ones that we have now in both our countries. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: The subject of the final speaker for the morning, President Graham of the University of North Carolina, will be, "The Library as a Social and Democratic Force."

The fitness of the speaker to speak to this point is evidenced, I think, in the positions that he has held and the things which he has done. I shall refer to these briefly. As a student he was president of the Senior Class, and as such, his presidential statement dealt with the state and the state university, and it so caught the attention of the alumni when delivered that it was ordered printed. Next he was a high-school teacher in the public school system of the state. Next he was Y. M. C. A. Secretary of his alma mater. A bit later, in spite of the fact that in height he didn't quite come up to the regulations, he found himself a full-fledged member of the United States Marines. Later still he became Professor of Industrial History, after having spent four years of study at Columbia and Chicago, in the Library of Congress and in the British Museum. Later still he became President and is now
President of the University of North Carolina, and within the last three or four years, on account of these interests, on account of this background, he was appointed by President Roosevelt as a member of the committee which was to represent the consumers' interests, the public interest, under the NRA, and more recently he has been a member of the committee drafting legislation having to do with the Social Security Act.

In addition to these activities he was the person who thought of the first citizens' library movement as we know of it in the American Library Association, and if I am not mistaken he is probably the first President of an American university who has established within the institution the Division of the Library on a comparable basis with the Division of Social Sciences, the Humanities, the Physical Sciences, and the Biological Sciences.

I am very happy, therefore, to present President Frank P. Graham, former colleague and former chief. (Applause)

DR. FRANK P. GRAHAM: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: The theme, "The Library as a Social and Democratic Force," I think is personified on this platform as I look to the rear here and see that great librarian, Mr. Bishop, who as the administrator of the Library of the University of Michigan made that library the dynamic heart of a great commonwealth.
(Applause)

And when I think of my very dear friend Dr. Robert Connor I remember the fact that as the State Archivist of North Carolina he, through the collection of the records of that state, laid the foundations for his own writing of the best history of our commonwealth, and that history, as affording a common knowledge of our people, of our past, is in itself a great social and democratic force.

And when I think of this address of the Honorary Secretary of the National Central Library of the United Kingdom, as he gave us this picture of a great interconnecting system of libraries, with its pooled resources to minister to all the people, to the citizens of that great nation, I thought to myself, "There is a library as a great social and democratic force," as we think of that little island, the most highly concentrated industrial area in the world, with all its tremendous social and economic problems, as we in this age come to grips with these great issues involved in the social haphazard drift of our times. I thought to myself that there, with that mechanical framework flung across that island, through this National Central Library association there were being built up corresponding social controls to the end that modern industrialism will not go on its haphazard way of drifting to destruction.
but will be brought under social intelligence and social
guidance and social mastery for a more abundant life of all our
people.

And then when I think of our chief here this morning,
and look out at this audience as the members of the American
Library Association, I am reminded of the fact that in the year
1876 two great democratic social forces were born in America,
one in the little town of Lenore, North Carolina, as I see him,
a barefoot boy there among the hills, turning his face to the
East, where the state university is, to become a leading student
of that university, to become its Librarian, to become the
founder of its University Press, to become the founder of its
great democratic university extension which took the treasures
of that ancient institution to all the peoples of that common-
wealth, and became the founder of the Library School -- and then
left us, we regret to say, and yet with most affectionate good-
will, to become the Dean of the first Ph. D.-granting library
school, I think, in the world.

And then I think that there was born, I believe, Mr.
Chairman, in the City of Philadelphia, in that same year of
your birth, the American Library Association, as we see it on
its way, in its influences. So that in 1887 we see out of a
demand coming from the inner life of this institution the
foundation in this country of the first library school, and in 1916 the foundation of the Association of Library Schools, and then the establishment of that great graduate school at Chicago.

And may we not say, in this hour, that as we think of that barefoot boy on the hillsides in old Lenore, North Carolina, and that American Library Association as it came into being in our great metropolitan areas, that the country boy and the great national association have fetched up here this morning in the person of Dr. L. R. Wilson, President of the American Library Association. (Applause)

And I don't care what titles he may have, or what agencies and institutions he may have founded and may yet found as the product of his fertile brain, to me he is always the librarian, personifying in himself the library as a social force, as there, in the inner sanctuary of the Library of the University of North Carolina he so administered that library that it touched the life not only of the university, but of every county, and the farms and the industries and the professions and adult education and the women's associations; in fact, to all the life of all the people of our state the library became, through him, a great social and democratic force around which, in our state, there came to be organized,
around the libraries, the public schools, great democratic movements, and universities today, as he himself forethought long ago, become less and less matters of text-books and more and more the matter of libraries of books.

And when I was listening to your reference about statistics, Mr. McColvin, certain statistics flashed into my mind, more than cold figures on a page, and I recall that 45,000,000 of the people of the United States are without local access to a public library. I thought, what a waste there was of great library resources as democratic and social forces, because if we stopped for a moment to consider that a book itself, just one book, is a great democratic and social force, it is a derivative of libraries that becomes a part of the creative adventure of democracy.

When we think of a man like Isaac Newton, who gathered an idea here from a manuscript of, say, Copernicus, who revolutionized the outlook and the horizon of men, and the idea of a Galileo, and then the researches of a group of scholars at the University of Prague, and by such utilization of the intellectual treasures of the past and of his present wrote a treatise which gave that great synthesis to mankind of the theory of gravitation, which introduced into a universe of whim and caprice and arbitrary will in the heavens, which were
as somebody said, "a celestial zoo" -- introduced into that universe the ideas of law and order and arbitrary will into a great universe of natural law, with its carryover (just one book we are talking about) from astronomy and physics, from physics into politics, through which men, when they got that great conception out of a book of Newton, realized that in this universe of law and order there were great natural laws which God Himself had made, then men began to think that they lived in society and in nations where there were wills, in their view, as they translated that idea, great fundamental laws, natural rights of men which kings themselves must respect. And out of such a book and such an ideal great emancipation movements were let loose in the world.

And we might go down the list of great books. We think of that German youth who goes over into your British Museum Library and there, as he gathered (whether mistakenly or not, yet actually he did) the facts of the industrial history of England and packed them away with their dynamic power into his great book, "Das Kapital," which became the great source of the great socialistic movements of our times and the foundation of the Soviet Republics of this century. And we can say that even a book becomes a great social force!

Now may we not say, with just the calling of two
books, that a library of books is a great social force, when we think of the agencies and influences which broke down the feudal order, established and powerful and static as it had become through a thousand years? Yet some ideas were let loose. Those ideas came from the recovery of some old manuscripts, and the recovery of these old books led to the discovery of a new world, and in the midst of it all we see a little compass.

And where did that compass come from? It came out of the manuscripts in the libraries of the past, as an idea was taken from the Chinese here and from the Etruscans there and from the Arabs yonder, and from the Finns up there, until in the mind of an Italian soldier boy there came this deposit, this amalgam of ideas, that became a mechanism. And that mechanism, as it was let loose into the world in the Thirteenth Century, from the book-instructed brain of Peter Perigranus, reached its near perfection in the Fifteenth Century and liberated the ships that had to hug the tyrannical shores so that they might go out to the outer ocean, might go out on the uncharted seas and liberate the trade of the world from its interior seas to all the oceans of the world, found new ways to old continents and new ways to new continents; and you take an idea which came out of old manuscripts about the sphericity of the earth, and a mechanism which came out of the manuscripts
of many peoples, as it became composed, a composite social force, ideas and mechanisms, it disintegrated that medieval society, and that little compass needle, as it pivoted on its base, in one sense became the pivot on which turned the medieval to the modern world.

And as librarians, sometimes as we think of these statistics, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Secretary, may we not, as librarians, think of what precious things we are handling, what potentially powerful social and democratic forces we are letting loose in the world as we pass over a desk a book to a boy here, a girl there, a worker yonder, or a philosopher there. Libraries are great democratic and social forces.

And then, when we think that these books came into use again through the recovery of old manuscripts, the recovery of old books, just think of what the recovery of old books did to the world. The revival of modern learning, it is called: The Renaissance.

May we not think a little while what that mere reviving of the world, the recovering of the old, is going to change into the making of new books? The revival of learning became the basis for the advancement of learning, and the recovery of old books gave way to the making of new books, and these new books of the Seventeenth Century became great social forces as
they became the creators of new attitudes and new ideas and new movements. That is the way we see the revolutionary movements, those great liberal movements of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century, get under way, out of these collections of books let loose across library desks to the thoughtful men and women of those days.

Then what is a library? A library combines both, doesn't it? It is the treasure house of the old books and the creative center of the making of new books, out of which have come our modern science, our modern industrialism, our modern democracy, and we need, today, as we see democracy threatened by dictatorships, by demagogues, and by haphazard social drift, as the modern science out of these new books has let loose upon the world great mechanisms and economic forces with their power to destroy or rebuild the world in which we live, that creative center.

Now the demagogue has been stepped up a thousandfold in his power by the mechanisms of our age, and if we do not provide in all the places in the backwoods areas where the demagogues flourish great library centers by which the workers and the farmers can check the generalizations and pretensions of the demagogues, we will find a real threat to our democracy.

I remember that not long before the great general
strike in England came there were false prophets who took the soap boxes through the great metropolitan areas in England, but these workers who had used the British libraries, through the Workers' Education Association of England (I have seen them time and time again), checked the mountebank on the soap box or the wild destructive revolutionist in Hyde Park, with his quotations out of the best books of the best minds of England. And so England went through a great general strike with her great laboring people being a buffer group against violence and dictatorships and demagogues and the overthrow of her democracy.

As I think of our own America here, may I think of our Southeastern area, for a minute, in its great need for books and libraries, when we think that there is, in one sense, a race on between the boll weevil and the library, between pellagra and disease and social deterioration, between the mounting, the alarmingly mounting figures of farm tenancy in the cotton kingdom and along the tobacco road, what a threat there is to the culture and the civilization of our Southland in those facts. And those areas are the areas of illiteracy. Those are the areas that look black on any chart of statistics when we see where libraries are and where libraries are not. Where farm tenancy is worst, libraries are least. Where the demagogue
is most unchecked, no library service.

So we here of the Southeast, as we come face to face with the fact that we are making an inferior use of our super agricultural uses and resources and need to make a more intelligent use of our superior agricultural resources, need libraries. And we need them now. The stakes of civilization are there, and it is a matter of national concern and responsibility when we realize that this area, the area where more children are born in proportion to the population than in any other part of the world, and where superior adults are drained off just as the wealth of this area is drained off to great centers -- forty per cent of our great natural scientists are drawn off to the rest of America and the world, and sixty per cent of our greatest social scientists the South produces for the rest of the world -- the children are here, but the books are not here.

So I come to this point, that in order to have a real democracy in America we need to take account of that fact, that there is unequal opportunity between the town and the farm, and therefore, have not just a city library, but have a county-wide library, and that in our American states there is a great disparity between this backward county and that forward county, between this poor county in the mountain coves or the
pine barrens, and this prosperous rich county of the great industrial areas. And therefore not only a county-wide library as between town and country, but also a state-wide library system as between rich county and poor county.

And not only so. Because of these great regional disparities and inequities, in addition to the county-wide library and the state-wide library, we need a great federal equalization fund that takes account of this fact (applause), that children are children wherever they were born, and that a true philosophy of democracy, a real democratic policy, would be to tax the wealth where it is to furnish the books and the libraries for the children where they are, and we will not have democracy in America until we have some such nation-wide mutual aid, Mr. Secretary, some nation-wide cooperation of Federal Government and state government and county government in this great job, this great democratic responsibility of making libraries locally accessible, not only to those privileged millions but to these 45,000,000 and those 40,000,000 on our American farms.

Out of the libraries came those great mechanical devices which mastered the physical earth with their great productive power so that America produced and produced in mounting millions of statistics and goods. Out of the libraries
in the Twentieth Century must come now these social devices which will make what is now a monstrous production a democratic production for the abundant life of all people.

And as I talk in these compressed few minutes to the librarians of America, you who sit at your desks as statesmen, as creative librarians, in buildings and among books that stand static at the crossroads of our modern world, I think of what an opportunity is yours, that you will so go about your work and see your libraries, there in the midst of dynamos and factories and churches and schools, somehow in the middle of it all, giving social intelligence to a free church and a free press and a free school, as you sit there, the statesmen of the free library, to the end that the youth of America will have an equal opportunity everywhere, and that the children of this depression, the children of our Southern area, the children of all America, shall not by our neglect be the lost generation, but by our faith and by our libraries and our books be the generation that will have a more equal opportunity to build a fairer world.

And, as librarians and teachers and doctors and mechanics and manufacturers and workers, if we would have books in our hands as we go along our human pilgrimage, we may yet strive together in great adventure toward that democracy of the
Kingdom of God that is yet to be. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: The session is now adjourned.

... The meeting adjourned at 12:20 o'clock ...
SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

May 16, 1936

The Fourth General Session, held in the Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia, convened at 10:10 o'clock, President Louis Round Wilson presiding.

PRESIDENT WILSON: The final session of the Fifty-Eighth Annual Conference of the American Library Association will now begin. Mr. Milam, will you please make the necessary announcements?

SECRETARY MILAM: A total of 2,745 people have registered at this Conference. (Applause)

... Announcements ...

PRESIDENT WILSON: We will now have the report of the Committee on Resolutions, by Clarence B. Lester.

MR. CLARENCE B. LESTER: Mr. President, Members of the Association: Your Committee has followed precedent in presenting its report in brief form and general terms and appending thereto a list. The Committee offers this report:

"RESOLVED, By the American Library Association in Annual Conference assembled:

"Once more the American Library Association has met in the South, convened in the capital city of the Old Dominion for the Fifty-Eighth Annual Conference. Once more we have been
received with that genuine cordiality and generous hospitality which have, each time, made us wish to return again to gather around the table with our colleagues here.

"We extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Thomas B. Ayer, Chairman, and to his associates on the Executive Committee, Mr. Randolph W. Church, Miss Carolyn Greene, Mr. Wilmer Lee Hall, and Miss Lucy T. Throckmorton; to the librarians and other friends in the city and from other parts of the state who have served upon the active committee organization, and to the distinguished representatives upon the Honorary Committees for that comprehensive planning and effective execution in which they have cooperated to contribute to our comfort and our pleasure, here to make this week memorable in our annals.

"We respectfully tender to the President of the United States, to Honorable Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, and to Mr. Ernest A. Savage, President of the British Library Association, and to the Governor of Virginia and the Governors of the several sister states who have sent us their gracious greetings our grateful appreciation for their inspiring messages brought to us at this Conference.

"We commend the efforts of all those who have assisted in planning and carrying out the programs of this week,
and return our special thanks to those who have come from without our own ranks to contribute so much to the value of our deliberations.

"We wish to record here our recognition of the liberal publicity given to our proceedings by the Richmond and national press and the news agencies; we are grateful to the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia Broadcasting System and their associates and local representatives, and to the speakers on the radio programs, for their efficient contributions to the successful carrying out of one of the notable features of this week.

"The long list of librarians, trustees, and other friends, civic and state officials and organizations who have given personal thought and attention and official support to the proceedings of this Conference can not be set out here in detail. To all of them our thanks. We direct the Secretary of the Association to express our gratitude through these resolutions to all those mentioned herein and in the list attached to this report, and bespeak the continued assistance of Mr. Ayer and his associates in conveying it to others who may have assisted them in their efforts."

This report is presented by your Committee on Resolutions, and at their direction, Mr. President, I move the
adoption of the resolutions.

PRESIDENT WILSON: It is moved that the resolutions be adopted. Is there a second?

... The motion was seconded, voted upon, and carried with a unanimous rising vote ...

PRESIDENT WILSON: The report of the Elections Committee will be made by Miss Thelma Yaggy, Evanston Public Library.

MISS THELMA YAGGY (Evanston, Ill.): Mr. President, Members of the American Library Association: The Committee on Elections reports the following officers elected for the term 1936-37:

Members of the Council:

Elva Lucile Bascom, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Luther L. Dickerson, Indianapolis, Ind.
Charles B. Shaw, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania
Charles H. Stone, Williamsburg, Virginia
Phineas Lawrence Windsor, Urbana, Illinois

PRESIDENT WILSON: Will the members of the Council please rise and take their bow?

MISS YAGGY: For First Vice-President, Amy Winslow, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
Second Vice-President, Carleton B. Joeckel, Graduate Library School, University of Chicago.
Treasurer, Matthew S. Duggan, Public Library,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Members of the Executive Board: Harriet C. Long, State Library, Salem, Oregon; Forrest B. Spaulding, Public Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Will the members of the Executive Board and the officers mentioned rise and take their bow? (Applause)

MISS YAGGY: And for President, Malcolm Glenn Wyer, Public Library, Denver, Colorado. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Will Mr. Charles C. Compton, Past President, escort Mr. Wyer to the platform?

Mr. Wyer, it gives me very great pleasure to declare you the duly elected President of the American Library Association. I congratulate you upon the very high honor which your fellow-members have shown you, upon the opportunities which your office affords for distinguished service, upon the support which you and your associate officers may confidently expect from the committees and the members of the Association, and upon the splendid cooperation and intelligent aid you will receive from the headquarters staff in carrying into effect the purposes of the Association.

Again I congratulate you, and I wish for you as the leader of this great professional body a most successful
administration. (Applause)

MR. WYER: President Wilson, I make no effort to conceal my great pleasure as well as my sense of responsibility in receiving this high honor, and in having it passed on to me after the long line of former presidents by one who possesses and deserves the high regard of his fellows.

And to you, my friends and associates in library work, I have at this moment only a few words to say. You possess the interesting and human qualities, the most interesting and human qualities, of any group I meet. Our common profession possesses the most interesting and the most human opportunities of any of the many that I know. And these things are so because our work is concerned with people and with books.

Library service owes its vitality and its strength to the personal spirit and to the devotion to ideals and principles of each individual librarian, and it is my hope that your Association may find more and more ways to aid you to enrich and to extend this service throughout the land.

I again appreciate very much this high honor, and will devote myself entirely to it. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Dr. Douglas S. Freeman, Editor of the Richmond News Leader, author of the 1935 Pulitzer Prize Biography, "Robert E. Lee," and many other books, will speak to
us at this moment on, "Biography Today and Tomorrow." Dr. Freeman. (Applause)

... Dr. Douglas S. Freeman read his address ...

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: The concluding address at this Conference will be delivered by Mr. David Cushman Coyle, Consulting Engineer, of Washington and New York, author of many magazine articles and of "Brass Tacks." (Applause)

MR. DAVID CUSHMAN COYLE: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: I see by the papers that one of these engineers has invented a machine for doing away with the depression. You will all be glad to know about it. It is like an electric motor. You can use it for anything. But the wonderful characteristic of this machine is that it will do the work of one man, and it takes 100 men to run it! I knew you would be glad to hear that that problem, at least, has been solved.

But that doesn't do away with the problem of how you are going to adapt yourself to the machine. That is just one more machine. Your library may be a quiet place. Outside are lawns. There are green trees to be seen through the windows, but across the lawns and in through the open windows and into the sacred quiet comes the roar of the machine. The machine is inescapable, a part of our modern life. Culture must make
terms with the machine by one means or another, for good or ill.

Your predecessors had to make terms with kings and emperors, with wars and pestilence, with medieval feudalism, with all the attributes of the world in which they lived, and we, too, must make terms with our world. If culture is to survive, it must survive in the environment which it has.

Now we have had new and surprising things. Since we were born the world has given birth to so many new events that we are having mental indigestion. We don't know what to do with it. And the confusion of mind that is prevalent in the United States and in the western world is a natural result of what we have found.

It is like a friend of my sister who was traveling a while ago. She got on at a way station at two in the morning, into a sleeping car. The catch came open on her suitcase and she dumped everything on the floor. She and the porter scrambled together and put back everything into the suitcase, but when she got home and dumped it all out on the bed, there was a man's shoe! Well, that is the way we are. There are a lot of things we didn't expect. (Laughter)

When we were little we heard the story of Aladdin's lamp, the magic instrument that, by rubbing it, you could cause
things to happen. You could cause a table to come in set with
tings to eat; you could cause a door to open in front of you.

The doors in the Pennsylvania Station in New York do
that now. We have Aladdin's lamp. We have thermostats, we
have electricity. They are making instruments that are like a
man except that they haven't the man's faults. They can see
and push buttons and turn switches and make things happen, but
they don't get tired and they don't get temperamental, at least
not after they are well developed. They don't have trouble
with their wives, and altogether they are easier to deal with.
And they can work 100 hours a week without any trouble!

Now what happens as the result of these new
discoveries? We are looking forward to the possibility that
perhaps this well-known depression that we have been having for
seven years may be disappearing, but if we were to use in our
factories the technics and the methods and machines that are
now being used in the best factories, if those were to become
universal, to be applied to all, we could produce all of the
goods that we produced in 1929 with 9,000,000 men instead of
18,000,000. What are we going to do with the other 9,000,000?

The same thing is happening on the farm. Right now,
with the methods that are now in use, half the farmers in
America are producing nearly all the goods that appear on the
market, nearly all the farm products. The other half of the farmers could abandon their farms and go somewhere else without producing any noticeable effect on the economic system except several million more people on the relief rolls.

When you take into account the machines that have been invented but that are still in the blue-print form, when you take into account what we know about agriculture, what we know about chemistry, what we know about biology, all these things that have not been put into use, it is quite evident that we can use all our natural resources with a few people making material things and selling material things. The rest of us can never again be legitimately used in material occupations.

The other side of the picture is money. The man stands on one side, with his work. On the other side is the money which he is paid, or which he is not paid because he doesn't do the work. When the people were thrown out of the factories, even before 1929, the money that might have been paid to them accumulated in the banks. People saved it. They no longer had to pay it. When you go into a 10¢ store you can find articles that, when we were kids -- well, look at this -- cost fifty cents, or maybe a dollar. Now they cost ten cents. Where is the other ninety cents? The other ninety cents is
saved when you go to buy these things, and the nine men who might have been working on that job are not working there any more.

The American people were saving $15,000,000,000 a year before 1929. Don't quote the figure. Some authorities say $12,000,000,000, some say $18,000,000,000. It is about $15,000,000,000 that we were saving up and investing. Now, that is just as it should be. According to the classical economists, as civilization progresses we get more and more efficient, our goods cost less and less, we can save more and more money, and so we can build new factories and new skyscrapers and new oil wells faster and faster and the nation gets richer and richer faster and faster, until we at last arrive at Utopia!

It was a curious kind of Utopia. The classical economists would have been surprised if they had known what it was going to be. They hadn't thought about that. They just thought about how to get there.

This is what it was turning out to be: Hardly anybody was going to be employed in making goods, food, or houses. All that was to be pre-fabricated. You turn a button and these things come out, wrapped in cellophane. Hardly any money was going to be spent for goods. They would be so cheap you would
get them almost for nothing.

What were we going to do with the extra money? We were going to save up our money and hire the surplus labor to build more factories. You build a bigger factory, then you save up your money and build a better one next year, and the one you built this year goes bankrupt. More and more people were going to be employed taking down buildings. Of course it was fun for the engineers. I was one of them; I know. I remember. It was getting to be a very exciting civilization. But it was crazy.

That was one of the troubles with it. You had to have new suckers born every minute in greater and greater numbers. The people had to be willing to save up their money and invest it and lose last year's investments, and go on having confidence. They had to be unconscious of what was going to happen to them.

Well, we approached that Utopia in 1929 and found that we couldn't live in it. We couldn't go on having confidence in the face of experience. So we stopped investing our money and the whole thing collapsed. It can never be rebuilt. The veil between the starry eyes of Wall Street lambs and the future has become so thin that they can no longer believe, and without belief they can't invest, and without investment you
can't run that kind of system.

Well then, what are we going to do with all these unemployed, and what are we going to do with the surplus money that we don't have to spend for goods?

We are going to have to do just what has always been done in the past in similar circumstances, only on a bigger scale. We are going to have to hire people to do things that are not the making of material goods and are not the selling of material goods, and that are not material things at all. That is, we have got to hire a lot of people to be librarians, and that sort of people.

Now that is a specious answer, let's say. That is, there is a lot of economic technic that I might explain to you if I had a day to do it and you were able to stay here that long. But we will leave that out. It is there. Let's take the answer as it is and see what it means.

It means that in order to make our economic system run -- this is regardless of whether we want books or whether we want hospitals and parks and playgrounds and all that -- we have got to hire the surplus population to do cultural services. We have got to hire them to make parks, to make highways; we have got to hire them to build buildings in which you can carry on libraries and colleges and schools and churches. We have to
use the people to improve our health and our education and our recreation and all the things that make civilization.

We have reached the place where not very many people are needed to keep us alive, and if we are going to use the rest of the people for anything they have to be used for making life interesting and more colorful.

I was pleased to hear, in reading of the report of your Committee on Resolutions, that practically all of the members of the American Library Association formally thank themselves for having worked so hard and so successfully to give themselves a good time here. (Laughter) That is what it is for. That is what civilization is for. We are supposed to take in each other's washing. The ideal that the engineers are working toward is one where you can push a button and all the drudgery and all the unpleasant things won't happen, by themselves. The dishes will wash themselves, and all that, and then you can spend your time in keeping the rest of the family amused, and they can spend their time keeping you amused.

So what the engineers have done, and what they are going to do more of, is to free the human race from sitting in rows in front of factory machines, putting little things in and out of holes in a clanking machine. The people are thrown out
of the factories. Men and women and little children are chucked out into the sunlight, and they stand there, blinking, as one fellow said, "Like a frog in a hailstorm," not knowing where to go next. It is tragic; it is pathetic.

Well, it is pathetic, but it is not tragic. You throw the poor little kid out of the factory and he doesn't know where to go. Those of us who are interested in culture ought to recognize that that is not tragedy but an opportunity. It is a maladjustment. It is something we have to know how to handle. Here are all these people. They have to be used to make civilization. We don't know yet how to do it. That is why we are in a mess! It is not so simple as it was back in some of the other civilizations, when similar things occurred.

The Athens of Pericles fitted together quite comfortably. Pericles knew what he wanted. The Athenians knew about what they ought to want. They had a lot of money left over from the Persian wars, so they needed to spend their money to hire the unemployed, and Pericles did a work relief project which we call the Parthenon. Yeah, he spent money out of the public treasury to subsidize the theater, too. It is a significant fact that most of the contributions of the Athenian civilization which humanity now regards as valuable would have been called boondoggling if the Greek language had had any such
word.

With all civilization, the valuable parts of civilization are boondoggling. They are the things that you do because you don't have to do the things that are necessary. The Parthenon was entirely unnecessary.

The same way out in the South Sea Islands. Those people didn't have a little flash-in-the-pan civilization like the Athenians. They had a civilization stabilized for a thousand years at a stretch. It had got to a place where a few hours' work would furnish all the food and clothes you could make out of the things they had.

Did they go to making fishing spears and canoes and then getting unemployed because they had so many canoes? No. They went swimming, played music, danced, and made love. Well, they were a sensible crowd.

Now, why could they act so sensibly and why could they take it for granted that the thing you do with surplus money is art, and we make such a pother about it? They were so few and it was a simple problem. We are 125,000,000 people. We have a lot of high financiers who control many of our avenues of publicity, and they fill us full of prune juice, and that is why we can't think as straight as the ancients or, if we think straight, it takes longer for enough of us to
think the same way.

It is true that most of our thought is half-baked. The New Deal is a half-baked affair. The new era which preceded it was about a quarter-baked. We are making progress.

We know that you can't run the United States unless we can distribute our income better than we did. I don't want to waste a lot of time on economics, but it is perfectly evident that the poor people have to have more money to buy things so as to make the factories run so we can have our country going ahead. In order to give the poor people more money we have to do a number of things, of which the most important is to tax the rich people and use the money for public services so the poor people can earn it.

The only government in the United States that can justly tax the rich people is the Federal Government. It is the only government you can't get away from, and that is the reason that the Federal Government has to take over most of the job of collecting taxes. Your Committee on Policy has recognized that fact fully, that you are going to have to depend on federal subsidy more than you have in the past. We have to ease the burden on real estate taxes and on the people who have the burden of paying the local taxes. The localities have no way of taxing people in proportion to ability to pay, and for
that reason they have to ease up on taxes. The people won't pay them. They go into delinquency and you have a problem on your hands. The Federal Government has to become more largely our tax-collecting agency than it was before, and that does not mean that you have to be subject to the direction of the Federal Government, but only that you have to look to it for more money than you have in the past.

This is a big country, and don't think that looking to the Federal Government for more money than you have in the past means $100,000,000 or some little matter like that. Like all the people who have been around Washington at all, I have got used to ciphers on the ends of figures. Think of this little fact: If you take just the people over ten years old in this country, there are about 100,000,000 of them. That is one with eight ciphers after it. The difference between you personally and the people of the United States is the difference between one and one with eight ciphers.

What does a nickel mean to you? You can get a newspaper with it and have a little left over. How much does it hurt you when you pay one of them out? Do you think about it and worry about it at night, and all that? Well, put the eight ciphers after it, and think what money means to the United States. To the United States as a whole, 100,000,000 nickels,
$5,000,000, is the same thing as a nickel to you. If you think of that proportion you realize that this is a big country.

This is something that you haven't noticed. Our country is noticeable. It makes a spot on the map. Don't make little plans and get caught the way we did before. One of the reasons we had so much trouble was when we came to use the public money for helping out the depression we didn't know what to do with it. We hadn't thought about it. We thought in terms of millions of dollars when the situation was in terms of billions. The United States had been losing from forty to fifty or sixty billion dollars a year for the last half dozen years. Now, when a country is in a place where it is losing fifty billion dollars a year by staying in a depression, you can't have any effect on it with $100,000,000.

We had a lot of little plans, and when it was up to the Federal Government to spend a lot of money they didn't know what to do with it, so they naturally made a mess of some of it. You had better have an idea of where you are going to spend money, and plenty, because it is going to be thrown at you when we get to the place where we decide to get out of this depression. I don't know when that will be; it may be ten years from now. But some day we have got to get out of this...
depression, and that means hiring people and spending money, and you had better be ready and know what you want to do.

Of course, what happens to you now is that the people don't understand what it is all about and they cut your budget and make you fire your staff, and then, in order to try to get out of the depression they hire a lot of NYA and CWA people and shove them at you and tell you to get jobs for them. That is absurd, but don't waste any mental energy in worrying about the fact that we are absurd. Of course we are absurd. We have been in this only seven years. It takes time for people to think and find out what it is all about. Take the pains of readjustment as calmly as you can.

You have to recognize that in the long run what we are doing is transferring slowly and painfully our surplus labor into cultural services, and as you are on the receiving end you should take it with pleasure and not with apprehension.

It is all right to know about these general ideas, but when it comes to immediate arguments you have to deal with Board Members and mayors and people like that, and they have troubles of their own and they would only be irritated if you told them that we were progressing toward an era of greater cultural services and therefore they ought to enlarge your budget. That is not so easy. You have to use more immediate
methods of argument.

Now, some of those I have noticed have been taken into consideration in some of your recent publications. Among other things is the fact that a federal subsidy to cultural services is older than the Constitution of the United States. From the very beginning our government has been making subsidies to schools. The government subsidized public works of all sorts and kinds right along through our history. This is not something new that somebody brought in from Russia. This is what we have been doing all the time. It is the American method, and it simply means that we prefer to use the Federal Government for collecting certain kinds of taxes. That is all it means, and it is nothing radical, it is nothing new, it is nothing extraordinary. It is merely one of our ways of doing things. It is a means of relieving the real estate tax, and if anybody wants to argue about it, tell him that.

Another thing that the intelligent people in your community will recognize as a good argument is the fact that we need free discussion more now than we have in 100 years. In a time of great social change pamphlets and books are unusually important. During periods of quiescence the ordinary newspapers and magazines keep people informed about what is going on, but when passions begin to rise and things have to be
argued over, the ordinary avenues of public discussion begin to tighten up, the newspapers are bought up by men who have interests of their own, axes to grind, they attempt to close down on the radio and on the news reels and on public speaking, on the use of auditoriums; in every way the people who want to preserve the status quo try to close down and prevent discussion.

You remember in the first American Revolution the one avenue of discussion that could not be suppressed by the British Governors was pamphlets. The people can get a means of self expression through books and pamphlets that they can't get in any other way, especially through books and pamphlets that are small in cost and within the reach of people of small means.

It is desirable, therefore, that library service should be extended as widely as possible in these times when the public interest requires as much free discussion as we can get.

Those are things that you can keep in your locker for ammunition!

Although you have to use arguments like that, they are secondary arguments. They are superficial arguments. Back of them is the necessity that we should be oriented, that we should understand fundamentally what is going on, what is
really happening to us. The pains that we are suffering are the pains of the birth of a civilization on this continent.

For 300 years we have been passing through our preliminary stages, getting the continent under control, getting ourselves arranged so that we own the United States now. We have got our roads and our cities and our factories. We are ready to go. We have come to the end of our caterpillar stage, and now we are ready to be born. It is a dangerous and at the same time a hopeful period for us to go through.

We need, now, vision and understanding and courage. We need to be prepared to go forward; we need to be prepared to think of new things. We need to be prepared to realize that all we have seen in the past is nothing but a preparation. Now we have the means, the people, the set-up for a new outburst of civilization like those that have occurred in the past, when people ran into the age of plenty. This one will be on a scale that has never been seen before. Its magnificence will be unprecedented. The problems it presents are old as the race: the problem of what to do with spare time and spare energy. But the means that we have to use to work them out are new, and inspiring by their very magnificence. If we can now free ourselves from old prejudices and old ways of thought, if we can look with fresh eyes, as we should, like those who
are being born into a new world, if we look with fresh eyes on what we have, on the resources that are now here for beginning civilization, if we can show the qualities of a great race, then we have the opportunity, on this continent, to begin now a great civilization. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: In behalf of the audience I want to express its thanks for the speakers of the morning, for their very informative and stimulating addresses.

The 1936 Conference of the American Library Association now stands adjourned.

... The meeting adjourned at 11:35 o'clock ...