

RESOLUTION

Approved

WHEREAS, The action of the U. S. Government against Victor L. Marchetti, former employee of the CIA, has drawn into serious question the issue of prior restraint, which is in violation of the basic constitutional rights of an individual, and

WHEREAS, The rights of freedom of the press are guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution, and

WHEREAS, The ALA strongly supports the right of the public to hear what is spoken and to read what is written, and

WHEREAS, The ALA restates its belief that it is a gross abuse of the purpose and intent of security classifications of information to suppress disclosures which do not directly and immediately endanger national security, and

WHEREAS, The ALA does not believe that an individual can sign away his constitutional rights,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the ALA, in accordance with its declared policies on intellectual freedom, upholds the principles of freedom of the press, and freedom of the individual to express himself without prior restraint as guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That ALA endorses Mr. Marchetti's stand in his current battle to preserve his right to freedom of expression and to exercise his full responsibility to keep the American people informed of the actions of its government, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the ALA urges further Congressional investigation of the policies of government relating to the classification and declassification of information, and the use of federal loyalty oaths or anti-divulgence of information statements to enforce prior restraint of the individual's right to free expression, and

FURTHER, That this be communicated to the President of the United States, the Attorney-General of the United States, the U.S. Congress, and the news media.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL
OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
JUNE 30, 1972

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TRANSMITTED BY ROBERT WEDGEWORTH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND
SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL