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# WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER



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Attachment: President Carter's National Library Week Statement

### ESEA Extension

On April 5 the House Education and Labor Committee ordered reported a five-year extension of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The committee made numerous amendments to the version of HR 15 reported by its Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Education Subcommittee just before the Easter recess.

The subcommittee bill would remove the guidance, counseling and testing portion of ESEA IV-B (Libraries and Learning Resources) to a new and separate part D of Title IV. Title IV-B would remain a consolidation of school library resources and instructional equipment. The requirement that local educational agencies submit a single application for all Title IV programs would be repealed. State advisory council membership would be broadened by adding to the groups of persons to be represented, "school librarians, personnel involved in operating media programs in local schools, and guidance counselors." School library resources and instructional equipment acquired under IV-B are to be used "for instructional purposes only," an amendment designed to discourage the use of IV-B funds for such nonacademic items as copying machines, trampolines, etc.

The full committee accepted these changes to Title IV, and added an amendment which would require the local educational agency to adopt appropriate procedures, including periodic consultation with teachers, librarians, media specialists and other professional staff, to coordinate the selection of instructional equipment and materials with the curricula in the schools. Further information on the funding provisions of the various parts of ESEA IV and on other details will be known when the text of the reported bill becomes available and the committee issues its report. Meanwhile the Senate Education, Arts, and the Humanities Subcommittee has begun markup of its version of ESEA extension, S. 1753.

### Appropriations, FY 1979

On April 12 ALA testified before the House Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittee requesting increased funding of federal library programs in FY 1979. A separate statement was also submitted to the House subcommittee requesting additional funding for the Library Services and Construction Act in a supplemental appropriations bill for FY 1978. ALA's recommendations were identical to those made earlier in the Senate and described in the March 17 newsletter.

Also testifying on April 12 before the House subcommittee was Marlo Thomas, actress, and author and producer of "Free To Be You and Me," a television special distributed to schools in both 16mm film and multimedia kit formats. Her appearance was arranged by the Association of Media Producers, and she spoke concerning the need for additional funding for the school libraries and learning resources program under ESEA IV-B. She gave two pressing reasons: 1) Schools need materials in all media that reflect the changing world; new materials must be added frequently, and that's expensive. 2) The buyer of media must have a wide variety to choose from. Adequate funds for schools (which are the major purchaser of educational and children's media) will encourage a variety of productions through fostering competition among the producers. In conclusion she said, "We Americans are fond of saying that children are our future. I think we should put our money where our mouth is."

ALA submitted a statement on March 31 to the House Treasury--Postal Service--General Government Appropriations Subcommittee (and will shortly do the same on the Senate side) in support of increased appropriations for the grant programs of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission under the National Archives and Records Service. The NHPRC Records Grant Program provides assistance for projects for the preservation and use of historical records, and recipients have included a number of libraries.

ALA recommended appropriation in FY 1979 of the full \$4 million authorized for the NHPRC grant program rather than the \$3.5 million requested in the administration's budget. Librarians particularly interested in this program are urged to write their legislators to request full funding. Be sure to stipulate that the increase not be made at the expense of the programs administered directly by the National Archives and Records Service, but that NHPRC grant funding be considered separately. The appropriations subcommittees which act on the NHPRC budget are listed below:

House Treasury--Postal Service--  
General Government Approp. Subcom.  
Tom Steed (D.-Okla.), Chairman  
Joseph Addabbo (D.-NY)  
Edward Roybal (D.-Calif.)  
Edward Patten (D.-NJ)  
Edward Boland (D.-Mass.)  
John Slack (D.-W.Va.)  
Clarence Miller (R.-Ohio)  
Robert McEwen (R.-NY)

Senate Treasury, Postal Service, and  
General Government Approp. Subcom.  
Lawton Chiles (D.-Fla.), Chairman  
Jim Sasser (D.-Tenn.)  
Dennis DeConcini (D.-Ariz.)  
Dale Bumpers (D.-Ark.)  
Lowell Weicker, Jr. (R.-Conn.)  
Milton Young (R.-ND)

ACTION NEEDED: Now is the time to write to your members of Congress concerning NHPRC as well as the library programs included in the Labor-HEW appropriations bill. Subcommittees will make their recommendations on FY 1979 funding levels to the full appropriations committees later this month. It is particularly important that members of the Appropriations Committees hear from their constituents concerning the need for funds for library programs that were level or zero budgeted. Lists of Appropriations Committee and Labor-HEW Subcommittee members were attached to the March 17 newsletter.

#### Postal Legislation

By the lopsided vote of 384-11 the House overwhelmingly approved HR 7700, the Postal Service Act of 1978 on April 4. The bill provides for a presidentially-appointed Postmaster General, allows either House or Senate to disapprove proposed changes in nationwide service policies, drops the break-even concept of Postal Service operations and authorizes increased funds for public service needs.

No changes were made on the floor to Section 13 of the bill which makes amendments concerning the fourth-class library rate. The measure enables books to be mailed at the library rate to or from any school, college, university, or library. This would allow libraries to return books to publishers and distributors at the library rate, as recommended by ALA. Nonprofit organizations would also be able to mail books and other educational materials at the library rate generally, not just when loaning or exchanging materials as under existing law. Teaching aids, guides, scripts and catalogs of books would also be eligible for the library rate.

During floor action, the House adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Trent Lott (R.-Miss.) which would define "letter" in the private express statute. Among the items not considered letters, which could be carried out of the mail without postage, are "written or printed matter enclosed with cargo or merchandise, including invoices, circulars, advertising, labels, instructions, and messages printed on the merchandise or container." In the opinion of House Postal Operations and Services Subcommittee staff, this would appear to cover interlibrary loan forms sent with the items loaned through interlibrary delivery services. In at least one instance the Postal Service has ruled that the forms were first class mail and could not be delivered out of the mails without paying postage. The term "letter" is not defined under existing law; postal regulations have covered what may or may not be carried outside the mails, and the issue is somewhat sensitive. Librarians are cautioned not to act on the amendment or seek a Postal Service opinion on the issue until the final outcome of the legislation is known and further expert opinion is sought.

Other items which could be carried out of the mail under the Lott amendment are financial instruments, bulk letters, data processing materials, certain time-sensitive business communications, and items "sent by or addressed to an officer or employee of a carrier, including an officer or employee of an affiliate or subsidiary of a carrier, on the current business of such carrier."

In the Senate, the Energy, Nuclear Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee (under the Governmental Affairs Committee) plans hearings on postal legislation later this month. Sen. John Glenn (D.-Ohio), who chairs the subcommittee, is expected to introduce the Senate version of HR 7700 shortly.

#### Postal Service - Film Cases

Since the development of Bulk Mail Centers by the Postal Service over the last few years, there have been problems with the shipment of film cases by mail. The straps of the fiber cases tend to become entangled in the machinery and the plastic cases, with a low coefficient of surface friction, slide down the chutes so fast they become damaged or damage other parcels. Film cases were considered non-machineable and were processed by hand. This made delivery times unpredictable and slow.

With the cooperation of ALA and other organizations, the National Audio-Visual Association has been working with the Postal Service to seek a solution to the problem (other than changing film cases to fit the machinery, or imposing a surcharge on film shipments, two solutions proposed by the Postal Service). NAVA recently reached agreement with USPS on a significant first step. The Postal Service has agreed to start machining small plastic film cases experimentally. In return USPS is asking two things of film shippers:

1) Launch an informational campaign to film users urging them to securely lock plastic cases when returning them to the sender.

2) Ask all film shippers to permanently affix their return address underneath the removable label on all of their plastic and fiber cases.

To show good faith and enable further negotiations on the film case problem, all libraries which ship films by mail are urged to implement these requests. State library agencies, systems headquarters, and other libraries or agencies which serve as centers for film networks should alert all members to whom they mail films.

#### Age Discrimination

President Carter signed on April 6 a measure raising the mandatory retirement age from 65 to 70, and eliminating mandatory retirement for most federal employees (PL 95-256). Passed by both houses last year, the legislation was held up in a House-Senate conference, mainly due to a controversial Senate provision exempting tenured college and university faculty. The final version includes the exemption for tenured professors, but only until July 1, 1982. Other exceptions are employees in certain high-risk occupations, executives entitled to a pension of at least \$27,000 annually, and employees covered by collective bargaining agreements with mandatory retirement clauses. The latter would be exempted until January 1, 1980 or until the agreement runs out, whichever comes first.

#### Urban Policy

President Carter's proposals for a comprehensive national urban policy were transmitted to Congress (H. Doc. 95-309) on April 3, calling for a "New Partnership" involving all levels of government, the private sector, and neighborhood and voluntary organizations to make cities better places in which to live and work. Among the new initiatives are: requiring an urban and community impact analysis by each agency submitting a major domestic initiative; a \$1 billion a year program of labor intensive public works targeted on communities with high unemployment; increased minority business participation in contract and grant programs; expanded and amended anti-recession fiscal assistance to local governments, and a new Livable Cities program administered by HUD and the National Endowment for the Arts to provide grants for community-based arts programs, urban design and planning.

"America's communities," according to the President's message, "are an invaluable national asset. They are the center of our culture, the incubators of new ideas and inventions, the centers of commerce and finance, and the homes of our great museums, libraries, and theaters. Cities contain trillions of dollars of public and private investments--investments which we must conserve, rehabilitate and fully use."

\* \* \* \* \*

President Carter issued a National Library Week message, the text of which is attached to this newsletter.

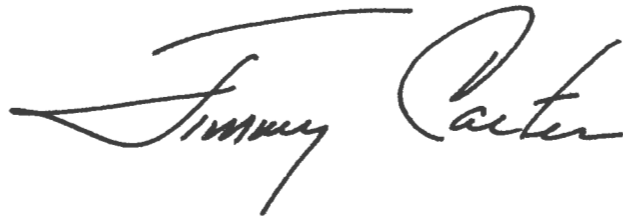
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

National Library Week, 1978

The public library has always been a wondrous place. It has extended to citizens of all ages an exciting invitation to broaden their horizons and an invaluable opportunity to look to the future with greater confidence.

Libraries still provide such access to knowledge and self-fulfillment. But today's libraries also enrich community life in other important ways. They are vital referral centers to help us locate social action, legal aid, health care and other community assistance. They are critical research centers for business, students and consumers. They provide reading programs for independent college level study and special aids to enable handicapped people to participate in these programs. They sponsor concerts, art exhibits and other events that contribute to our social and cultural life.

National Library Week, in its 1978 theme, "Info to Go," appropriately invites our citizens to take advantage of the many new features of the present-day public library. It honors an institution that remains a place of wonder for millions of Americans as it reaches out to serve the growing need for knowledge in our increasingly complex society.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

National Library Week - April 2-8, 1978