

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

WHEREAS Congress affirmed in public law^{1/} that library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States are essential to achieve national goals; and

WHEREAS that same law states as a matter of policy that the federal government will cooperate with state and local governments and public and private agencies in assuring optimum provision of such services; and

WHEREAS the White House on the occasion of National Library Week urged all Americans to recognize and support the nation's libraries as vital centers for the preservation of the right to read, the right to learn, and the right to know; and

WHEREAS productive recommendations for expanding access to and improving the services of libraries require widespread public understanding and support; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Senate in November 1973 passed Senate Joint Resolution 40 calling for a White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1976; and

WHEREAS hearings have been held in the United States House of Representatives on similar legislation (House Joint Resolutions 302, 734, and 766); and

WHEREAS the proposed conference has strong bipartisan support, including the support of Vice President Gerald R. Ford who introduced one of the bills (H.J.Res. 734) calling for the Conference when he was House Minority Leader and Representative from Michigan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Library Association (1) expresses appreciation to the U.S. Congress for its strong support of library legislation over the years; (2) thanks Vice President Ford and Members of Congress (Sen. Pell, Rep. Brademas and Rep. Hechler) for their sponsorship of the proposed White House Conference on Library and Information Services; and (3) urges final enactment early in the 2d session of the 93d Congress of legislation calling for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1976.

^{1/} Public Law 91-345, The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act, signed by the President in July 1970.