



National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science

MINUTES

March 9 and 10, 1978
Washington, D.C.

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT - Joseph Becker; Daniel Casey;
Carlos A. Cuadra; Marian Leith;
Bessie B. Moore; John E. Velde, Jr.;
William Welsh (for Daniel Boorstin);
Julia Wu; Mildred Younger; and
Frederick Burkhardt, Presiding
- STAFF PRESENT - Alphonse F. Trezza; William Mathews;
Douglas Price; Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar;
Carl Thompson; and Barbara K. Cranwell,
Recording Secretary
- WHC STAFF PRESENT - Kevin Flaherty; L. Heather Nicoll;
Mary Power; and Jean-Anne South
- GUESTS PRESENT - Andrew A. Aines, Former NCLIS Member;
Henriette Avram, Network Development
Office, Library of Congress;
Robert Frase, National Commission on
New Technological Uses of Copyrighted
Works;
James Haas, President, Council on
Library Resources;
Ed Shaw, Chairman, Steering Committee,
Library of Congress' Network Advisory
Committee;
S. Stamenkovich, National Agricultural
Library;
Bob Willard, Director, Washington Office,
Data Processing Management Association

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Burkhardt at
9:00 a.m.

Mrs. Wu requested that the Minutes of the December 5 and 6, 1977,
meeting be corrected as follows:

- (1) Page 14, -third line. Add the following sentence:
ESEA, Title IV B, should also authorize that funds
can be used for personnel.
- (2) Page 14, fifth line. Add the following sentence,
after the words, library needs: and, in particular,
of the special bilingual collections in public,
school, and college libraries.

It was MOVED by William Welsh, seconded by Marian Leith, and Voted, That the Minutes of the December meeting be approved with the two corrections requested by Julia Wu. Passed unanimously.

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION

Mr. Trezza stated that final clearances by the White House for the five new Members have not been completed; however, this process should be completed very shortly and, hopefully, the new Members will attend the May meeting.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

Mr. Trezza introduced four members of the White House Conference staff who were attending as observers. A packet containing informational WHCLIS material was distributed to all.

ALA Involvement in the White House Conference

The Members agreed that informational material produced by ALA for public distribution should be cleared with the White House Conference staff for accuracy--not content. Mr. Trezza stated that ALA is fully committed to helping and, in fact, has offered its staff assistance if needed. Mr. Trezza further stated that ALA is trying to make a major contribution but cautioned, "We must be careful not to make other organizations feel as though they are being neglected."

Mr. Wedgeworth, in discussions with Mr. Trezza, agreed to make a presentation to the Commission and the Advisory Committee which would review the areas where ALA could be most helpful. (This presentation has since been scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, in New Orleans, during the joint NCLIS/WHCLIS meeting.)

Theme Areas Requiring Consideration for Input as National Issues

Four specific issues have also been identified for use in special "theme conferences":

- (1) Funding;
- (2) Impact of New Technology on Library and Information Services;
- (3) Governance of the Proposed National Network of Library and Information Services; and
- (4) Resources and Access to Library and Information Services.

To accomplish study #1, Mr. Trezza stated that he has met with Mr. Rodney Lane of the Government Studies and Systems, Inc. An invitational conference which focuses on the Federal Government's role in funding libraries was proposed. At this conference, experts at the Federal level (which would include the Office of Management and Budget, the Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, the Congressional Budget Office, etc.) would identify, analyze and evaluate sources of funding for a nationwide program of library and information services.

It was MOVED by Daniel Casey, seconded by Julia Wu, and Voted, That funds, not to exceed \$15,000, be authorized for conducting the study and conference centered on the Federal Government's Role in Funding Libraries. Passed unanimously.

No method has yet been determined for study #2. Mr. Mathews spoke briefly to the Members on this issue, stating: "At present, there is a lack of focus among the library and information science community as to the nature of the impact of new technology." Additional thought will be given to this issue, and a paper will be developed and presented to the Commissioners for their reactions, suggestions, and input. Mr. Casey suggested, and the Members and staff agreed, that it would be helpful if this paper could be double-spaced with two copies provided each Commissioner.

In an effort to accomplish study #3, Mr. Trezza stated that the University of Pittsburgh is planning a major conference titled, "Toward the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The Structure and Governance of Library Networks in Light of a Developing Technology." The Commission is being asked to cosponsor the conference. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to the NCLIS cosponsorship.

A major objective of the 1978 Pittsburgh conference is to identify and develop issues relating to the technology and governance of library and information networks for the 1979 White House Conference. Five major position papers will be prepared and distributed to all participants before the conference. Mr. John Bystrom's related paper titled, "New Federal Authority and Locus of Responsibility," will be one of the papers to be considered.

Mr. Trezza noted that only very preliminary thought has been given to determining the method to be used for the fourth theme area. More information would be provided to the Commission in May.

ACTION

White House Conference Advisory Committee Meeting

The Advisory Committee met in Orlando, Florida, on February 9 and 10. One difficulty, in particular, is setting the appropriate pace in moving toward the planning for the National Conference. The Advisory Committee feels it should move very rapidly, while the staff feels this would not be the best procedure and could create many problems.

Suggestions for structuring the National Conference were discussed at the meeting and are reported in detail in the official Minutes of the WHCLIS Advisory Committee meeting.

At the request of Mr. Casey, it was MOVED by Marian Leith, seconded by Julia Wu, and Voted, That former NCLIS Members be invited to the National White House Conference on Library and Information Services as non-voting delegates. Their expenses will be paid by NCLIS. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Becker stated, "There are a number of statements, questions, and reactions I am receiving from the field, and I am not sure I am evaluating them correctly:

- "(1) Guidance to the states. The states want clarification on what is expected substantively so that the end product of their conference can be useful. (See WHC Advisory Memorandum #5.)

- "(2) Who is making decisions relative to the Conference?
- "(3) There is need for advance planning, particularly on structure and process.
- "(4) Concern about public relations build-up. It is not too early to begin to think of who to invite and to line them up. The President should present the keynote speech, and it is not too early to make the request. Spread the word through regional workshops. Should we have a fair? Are there to be films prepared?
- "(5) There is a feeling that more emphasis is being given to the library side than to the information side. How do we involve all of the other associations, e.g., National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services, Special Libraries Association, American Association of Publishers, American Federation of Information Processing Societies, etc?
- "(6) What is expected in relation to the National Program Document?

Everyone wants the Conference to be a success and is concerned about the failures of past White House Conferences."

In response to Mr. Becker's concerns, Mr. Trezza replied, "We have requested the President's participation, and we were told that it was much too early and that we should pursue the matter again, three to six months in advance of the National Conference. We are looking for a full-time public relations person. An information fair will be planned. Some preliminary thinking about the Conference schedule and program structure is contained in the Minutes of the WHCLIS Advisory Committee Meeting held February 9 and 10, 1978, in Orlando, Florida. A more detailed design of the Conference will be developed later this year. States are receiving considerable and continuing guidance through staff consulting via visits, issuing of advisory memoranda, issuance of a Planning Guide, correspondence, telephone, etc. Attention to non-library groups is also a concern of the staff."

ACTION At the suggestion of Dr. Burkhardt, a checklist and a timetable for planning the White House Conference will be developed by the staff for discussion at the May meeting. Hopefully, Dr. Burkhardt stated, this document would give the Commission a sense of direction and an opportunity to understand the complexities involved in planning and conducting a White House Conference.

Other White House Conferences

A White House Conference on the Family will be held in December 1979. A White House Conference on the Arts and one on the Humanities is also being proposed by Congress, possibly for 1979.

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON BALANCED GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Moore highlighted the recent National White House Conference on Balanced Growth and Economic Development which she attended in Washington, D.C., January 29 - February 3, 1978. In particular, she noted that the conference was one of high priority with the Administration and was planned in eight months. Eight regional meetings were held. Mrs. Moore was a delegate to a regional conference, but attended the national conference as an observer. The conference was structured in a workshop format so that debate and resolutions could be channeled in specific issue areas. Individual workshops, with participants meeting in groups of 20 to 30 persons over a three-day period, focused on six major themes:

- (1) Strengthening Local Economies;
- (2) People and Jobs;
- (3) Government and Budgets: The Fiscal Dimension of Growth and Change;
- (4) The Geography of Growth;
- (5) Government and the Management of Growth; and
- (6) Streamlining Government.

There were 500 official delegates and, perhaps, as many as 4,000 observers when the President spoke. A carefully-prepared set of discussion materials and a summary of the regional conferences were distributed.

Press coverage of the conference was primarily in local newspapers. This was not due to lack of preparation at the national level. While the delegates were meeting, two panels listened to testimony from hundreds of organizations and individuals. This testimony will be a part of the official record. Mrs. Moore suggested the WHCLIS may want to consider this technique.

In discussing our White House Conference, Mrs. Moore cautioned the Members that she felt the Conference should be tailored and not over-long in duration. She felt the participants should arrive on Sunday and the Conference adjourned by Thursday at noon.

The President's State of the Union Message

Mr. Casey suggested that we request President Carter to make a reference to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services in his State of the Union Message for 1979. The possibility of this is very remote, as the President--as a matter of policy--avoids such specific references. The staff will explore the possibility, however.

A draft manual titled, "Planning the WHCLIS, A Guide for State Planning Committees," prepared by the White House Conference staff was distributed for information and comment. It was the Commissioners' opinion that this was an excellent and very useful document. Mrs. Leith and Mrs. Moore expressed interest in the manual and urged that the final document not be delayed and be released to the states as soon as possible.

NCLIS BUDGET

Mrs. Moore reported that she appeared before Senator Brooke to testify on behalf of NCLIS' budget. She reported that it seemed to be the feeling of some people that NCLIS was organized to conduct a White House Conference on Library and Information Services and there is, therefore, no need of its existence after the Conference. This notion must be dispelled and Members are urged to help.

The hearing seemed to go well, Mrs. Moore said, and it is expected the amount requested will be appropriated.

PROJECT, TASK FORCE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Task Force on the Role of the School Library Media Program in Networking

A final draft report is being prepared by the Task Force and, hopefully, will be ready for presentation to the Commissioners in May. Some of the principles and recommendations in the current draft are:

- (1) It is the basic right of each individual to have equal opportunity of access to information to meet that user's need.

- (2) Networking is not free. There must exist a basic level of local services and support for networking.
- (3) There must be equitable representation in the governance of the network.
- (4) There must be minimum standards established for full support participation.
- (5) Networking supplements services, not supplants.
- (6) Effective communication among members is essential.

Recommendations of the Task Force are:

- (1) Each member of a library network must provide a system for internal transfer of resources and information and must provide basic communication tools for contacting other members of the network.
- (2) Data bases which identify the resources of an area, state, region, etc., must be developed and made available with a general universal compatibility.
- (3) The network coordinating agency in each state and in the Federal Government should provide support services--regulatory, financial, technological and consultative--that will lead to full development of the means of communication and delivery of information.
- (4) Compatible technology needed for inter- and intra-state sharing must become widely available and accessible to all members of a network. Federal and state governments must provide fiscal support needed.
- (5) The organization of schools into area or regional configurations within the state in order to effectively involve the large number of school library media programs existing.
- (6) At the state level, there be established a unit, responsible for network leadership, development, and services. This unit would be liable for the coordination of state funded cooperative programs among different types of libraries.

The fourth meeting of the Task Force was held at ALA in January. The next, and probably final, meeting will be held on March 20-21 in Arlington, Virginia.

Mrs. Leith praised the work of the Task Force stating, "This has been a tremendous and very hard working group."

Task Force on Project Mediabase

At the December 5 and 6 Commission meeting, the Members voted to defer acceptance of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology's Report of Project Mediabase until it has been revised.

Mr. Trezza reported that a meeting has been held with Mr. Howard Hitchens, Executive Director of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology, and a revised manuscript is being prepared to be presented to the Commissioners at the May meeting for their consideration and action.

National Periodicals System Advisory Committee

A press release announcing the Advisory Committee membership was issued and a copy included in each Commissioner's meeting folder. Staff liaison to this Advisory Committee will be Mr. Eugene Palmour and Mr. Trezza.

There seemed to be concern on Mr. Trezza's part that the Library of Congress may not now be able to assume the responsibility for the planning and design of a National Periodicals Center, as recommended by the Task Force. Mr. Welsh reacted to Mr. Trezza's comment by stating, "There is no basis for any concern. The major question is one of funding."

Both Messrs. Welsh and Trezza agreed that a meeting among representatives from the Council on Library Resources, the Library of Congress, and the NCLIS could prove useful in clarifying the misunderstanding and confusion.

Z39

The Z39 report has been published and widely distributed, accompanied by a press release. An annual meeting of the Z39 members will be held in April or May. The members are expected to vote on the recommendations during that meeting.

DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED NEW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The President's Commission on Reorganization is working on a recommendation for the establishment of a Department of Education. Mr. Willis Hawley, who is heading up the project, was expected to be a guest speaker at the Friday morning session of the Commission meeting but, unfortunately, could not attend that morning. In telephone conversation, Mr. Hawley had reported that the recently completed recommendations by the President's Commission on Reorganization for a Department of Education did not include the National Commission. A reexamination of the Commission's status would probably occur in 1980 or 1981.

NETWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Ed Shaw, Chairman, Steering Committee, Library of Congress' Network Advisory Committee, discussed the background which led to the establishment of the Steering Committee. The National Advisory Committee, which has been advising the Library of Congress on national networking priorities and initiatives, has been reexamining its role and position vis a vis the Library of Congress, and has decided that a Steering Committee could help bring into focus relevant issues. Members of the Steering Committee are: Frederick Kilgour of the Ohio College Library Center, representing the bibliographic utilities; Ronald Miller of the California Library Authority for Systems and Services, representing network service centers; James Riley of the Federal Library Committee, representing the Federal sector; and Mr. Trezza, representing the NCLIS. Mrs. Avram, as a representative of the Library of Congress, is an ex officio member of the Steering Committee.

PROPOSAL FROM CLENE

Mr. Trezza presented a proposal for a meeting to discuss the development of a Voluntary Continuing Library/Information/Media Education (CLIME) Recognition System to be sponsored by CLENE and NCLIS. CLENE would be responsible for planning and conducting the meeting.

Dr. Burkhardt expressed his opinion that this is a grant-seeking proposal, and that NCLIS does not fund proposals. Mrs. Moore disagreed, stating: "This is not a grant. This is a continuation of the goal which we set for CLENE to begin with. It is the same as financing a meeting." Mr. Trezza agreed with Mrs. Moore, adding: "This is one of our priorities and this would be implementing one of our objectives. In my professional judgment, this is a good sound proposal."

After further discussion, it was MOVED by John E. Velde, Jr., seconded by Marian Leith, and Voted, That the proposal from CLENE that NCLIS cosponsor a Recognition Conclave meeting be rejected. The motion was carried. Bessie Moore and Daniel Casey voted against the motion.

Mr. William Knox

Mr. Joseph Becker drafted a resolution on behalf of the Commission honoring Mr. William Knox. He is very seriously ill.

WHEREAS, William T. Knox made many and significant contributions to the development of information science in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, he successfully promoted innovative changes in the processing of information throughout the Federal establishment; and,

WHEREAS, he actively furthered the flow and exchange of scientific and technical information internationally,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science commends William T. Knox for his important work and expresses its deep appreciation for his many outstanding achievements to the field.

It was MOVED by Bessie Moore, seconded by Joseph Becker, and Voted, That the resolution, drafted by Joseph Becker, recognizing and complimenting Mr. William Knox for his many years of dedicated and effective work in the field of library and information science, be adopted. Passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

John E. Velde, Jr. - Hope we do a good job with the White House Conference. It is a once in a lifetime shot.

IFLA is offering individual membership which the Commissioners may wish to consider.

William Welsh - The theme for the IFLA meeting in August in Czechoslovakia will be Universal Availability of Publications (UAP).

Mr. Welsh also stated, "The outcome of the White House Conference should be recommended legislation."

Several reactions to Mr. Welsh's statement were voiced:

Mrs. Younger replied to Mr. Welsh's remark by stating, "I endorse mock legislation rather than actual legislation. The states are very sensitive about being told what to do and they will think this is a rubber stamp."

Dr. Burkhardt's opinion was that we should "start with 20 questions, define them, and then proceed to bills or legislation, if needed. What can be done with the present Executive powers? A lot can be done without having to have new legislation!"

Dr. Cuadra stated, "I am opposed to mock legislation. Take some of the recommendations of the first ten states and try to start at that point. The states need to generate what they see as legislation."

In summarizing the around-the-table discussion, Dr. Burkhardt suggested some next steps:

ACTION (1) Develop a more definite set of questions; and

ACTION (2) Produce a list of implementation legislation.

Mr. Becker offered the services of two students who have recently been assigned this task as part of their study. Their findings could prove helpful and beneficial to the Commission.

Julia Wu - Involved in the bilingual program at her school which is being funded by the Federal Program Bilingual Act.

Mildred Younger - Very much concerned about the White House Conference. Material must be well developed ahead of time which pretty much determines the course of the Conference. We have to avoid being too open-minded about the way we conduct the White House Conference.

In response to Mrs. Younger's concern, Mr. Trezza stated, "There will be eight to twelve major issues developed before the National Conference. There is time to start meshing the program. When we get closer to the Conference, we will have the issues and programs developed. There will be ample public relations before the Conference. There should be some direction to the libraries on how to use their current fiscal and human resources. Change in legislation is the one thing we want to accomplish."

Mrs. Younger continued by stating that she attended a meeting of the National Endowment for the Humanities in California. She urged the Commissioners to think about the potential of public libraries being used as a supplementary means of upgrading education levels with degrees based upon tests conducted cooperatively between education systems and libraries. "This could prepare people for career opportunities," she said.

Joseph Becker - Will be meeting with the White House Conference staff soon to discuss the National Program Document and how it can be incorporated in the program planning for the state conferences.

LIBRARY SERVICES TO CULTURAL MINORITIES

As requested by Mrs. Wu at the last Commission meeting, staff (William Mathews) prepared a brief outline of the current status of library services to cultural minorities.

ACTION Mr. Mathews' report was accepted and the following next steps will be taken by the staff:

- Contact the ethnic groups within the library community, elicit their informal comments, and determine if any of these groups have formulated ideas for action which might be of wider use.
- Explore the possibility of developing some relationship with the program at Kent State, and especially their proposed conference, as a means of obtaining insight on the problems facing library educators regarding this topic.
- Investigate and report on the history, substance, and impact of the legislation which established the Ethnic Heritage Studies program. Determine if parallel strategies and objectives might be useful in a library-oriented program.
- Compile descriptive background information on a small selection of the ethnic programs presently operating to gain more perspective on current practices.

This study will be of continuing interest and fits into Objective #2 of the National Program Document:

Provide adequate special services to special constituencies, including the unserved.

PROGRAM FUNDS

ACTION Dr. Burkhardt requested that the staff produce a financial statement showing program funds available. It would be valuable in assisting the Commissioners to decide which studies, task forces, programs, etc., recommended by the staff could/should be funded.

ESEA, TITLE I AND IVB

ACTION Mrs. Wu recommended that the Commission send a resolution to Congress supporting that library media services be mandated in Titles I and IVB of the Higher Education Act. This suggestion will be carefully considered, and the Members will be informed of the staff's findings.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the full Commission will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Thursday, May 25, and Friday, May 26, 1978. A joint NCLIS/WHCLIS meeting is planned for Wednesday, May 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Committee meetings, if requested, could be held in the afternoon of Wednesday, May 24.

Mr. Velde requested, and the Chairman granted, that an Executive Session be held at the meeting in May to discuss personnel problems. (Since then a review of the Commission's regulations--in conformance with the Sunshine Act--has caused this action to be reconsidered. Subsequently, Dr. Burkhardt and Mr. Trezza have developed a method which met the requirements of the Act and permits an Executive Session.)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.