



**National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science**

FORMAL MOTIONS AND ACTIONS
Atlanta, Georgia
June 5-6, 1980

- (1) It was MOVED by William Welsh, seconded by Frances Naftalin, that the Minutes of the March 8-9, 1980, meeting be accepted as corrected. Passed unanimously.
- (2) It was MOVED by Clara Jones, seconded by Robert Burns, Jr., that the Commission accept the offer from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to place Gerald Sophar on detail to the National Commission for an indefinite period of time. Passed unanimously.
- (3) It was agreed that the Commission invite South Dakota to participate in the September meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on WHC Follow-Up and Implementation as official observers.
- (4) It was MOVED by Carlos Cuadra, seconded by William Welsh, to accept the proposed party platform statements on library and information services, as drafted by Commissioners Burns, Moore, Tate and Warden. Passed unanimously.
- (5) It was MOVED by Clara Jones, seconded by Helmut Alpers, to authorize the Chairman to send a letter to the appropriate Federal departments and agencies endorsing the concept of developing three to four community information center models, as proposed and outlined by Marilyn Gell. Passed unanimously.
- (6) It was MOVED by Marian Leith, seconded by William Welsh, that the Commission name Andrew Aines, former NCLIS Member and currently Director, Office of Scientific and Technical Information, Department of Energy, to serve as Interim Executive Director. Passed unanimously.
- (7) The Commission agreed to establish an NCLIS Task Force on International Cooperation in Library and Information Services.
- (8) It was MOVED by Horace Tate, seconded by Robert Burns, Jr., that the Commission accept the report of the International Relations Planning Group; but, that further planning for the Task Force would be tabled until after the retreat. Passed unanimously.

- (9) It was MOVED by Frances Naftalin, seconded by Horace Tate, that the Commission accept the membership proposed by the Special Libraries Association for the NCLIS Task Force on the Role of the Special Libraries in the National Program. (Funding of the Task Force would be shared with SLA assuming the cost of the Task Force members and NCLIS the cost for Commissioners and staff.) The first meeting is scheduled for October 22, 1980, in New York. Passed unanimously.
- (10) It was MOVED by Horace Tate, seconded by Joan Gross, that the Commission approve the membership of the Cultural Minority Task Force as agreed to by the Commissioners. Passed unanimously.
- (11) It was MOVED by Bessie Moore, seconded by Clara Jones, that the Commission accept the fiscal year 1980 budget with the two "caveats" as discussed. Passed unanimously.
- (12) It was MOVED by Horace Tate, seconded by Marian Leith, that the fiscal year 1981 budget be accepted as presented. Passed unanimously.
- (13) It was MOVED by Frances Naftalin, seconded by William Welsh, that the fiscal year 1982 budget be accepted as presented with the understanding that changes may be necessary as a result of the July meeting. Passed unanimously.
- (14) It was MOVED by Carlos Cuadra, seconded by William Welsh, to schedule an Executive Session, on July 16, 1980, for the purpose of discussing personnel. Passed unanimously.
- (15) An Ad Hoc Committee for Law Libraries was established. Messrs. Alpers, Tate and Benton agreed to serve as members.
- (16) By general agreement, the Chairman established two committees and their membership, as follows:
- Retreat Committee
- Helmut Alpers, Chair; Philip Sprague; William Welsh
- WHC Ad Hoc Committee on WHC Follow-Up and Implementation
- Frances Naftalin, Chair; Marian Leith; Margaret Warden
- (17) By general agreement, it was decided that the NCLIS staff would attend the retreat as resource persons. The Retreat Committee was instructed to develop the agenda, the meeting format, and to decide whether a facilitator would be needed during the retreat.

23 June 1980



**National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science**
NCLIS Commission Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

June 5 and 6, 1980

Members Present: Helmut Alpers (Thursday only); Robert W. Burns, Jr.; Carlos A. Cuadra; Joan H. Gross; Clara S. Jones; Francis Keppel (Thursday only); Marian P. Leith; Bessie B. Moore; Frances H. Naftalin; Horace E. Tate; Margaret Warden; William Welsh (for Daniel Boorstin); and Charles Benton, Presiding

Staff Present: Alphonse F. Trezza; Douglas S. Price; Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar; Ruth L. Tighe; Ruby O. Woods-Robinson; Carl C. Thompson; and Barbara Whiteleather, Recording Secretary

Guests/Observers Present: Marilyn K. Gell, WHCLIS Director; C. E. Bolden, American Association of Law Libraries; Marian Gallagher, American Association of Law Libraries; Virginia Lacy Jones, Dean, School of Libraries and Information Studies, Atlanta University; Lorene Brown, Faculty, AU; Steve James, Faculty, AU; Gerald J. Sophar, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Thomas W. Cole, Jr., AU; Julie Hunter, AU; Cleveland L. Dennard, President, AU; Charles Bauer, Lockheed/AU; Penelope Bullock, Faculty AU; Paul Mills, Student, AU; John Stalker, AU; Diann Scales, AU; Chin Wang: AU; Barbara H. S. Martin, Multi-Media Center; M. Elaine Hughes, AU; Joseph Troutman, recent graduate, AU; Joyce White Mills, Faculty, AU; Eleanor Hinton Hoytt, Faculty AU; Richard Ceuce, Library Development Program, Emory University/Interim Board, Friends of Libraries, USA; Ted Johnson, Director of Libraries, Emory University; Gloria J. Mims, Faculty, AU

Thursday, June 5, 1980

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The morning's session of the meeting was held at Atlanta University, School of Libraries and Information Studies. Many faculty members and students attended the meeting. Mrs. Virginia Lacy Jones, Dean of the Library, was especially praised and thanked for her hospitality.

Dean Jones, when asked if she would like to make a comment, stated, "We are honored and pleased to have the Commission visit. We are hopeful that the Commission will work with Congress to gain a greater appreciation for library school students. Minority librarians are in great demand. We are experiencing a tremendous problem with financial aid; however, there is a great need for financial aid to help us provide qualified candidates." Mr. Benton pointed out that in the White House Conference Summary Report elements of a new proposed Library and Information Services Act include a Title which could provide funds and increased support for education and training. This provision is based on one of the resolutions passed by the delegates to the White House Conference.

Mrs. Jones noted that 90 percent of the nation's Black librarians were, in fact, trained at the University--most of them under Dean Jones, who has been with the University since 1945. Mrs. Jones commented that she, too, was a graduate of Atlanta University.

Library of Congress Budget Request

Mr. Welsh reported that the Library of Congress has just received a base cut of 120 positions and a budget cut of \$7.5 million. "This," he noted, "is just the first step of the process, as recommended by the Subcommittee. There is a very serious economy drive within the Congress."

Chairman's Activity Report

Mr. Benton reported on the recent trip to China on which he accompanied Mrs. Benton, U.S. Ambassador to UNICEF. A complete account of this trip, as written by Mr. Benton for publication in the ASIS Bulletin, is Attachment #1.

Mr. Benton expressed his sincere appreciation to Mr. Welsh for the letters of introduction which he prepared on behalf of the Bentons which, he said, set the environment and the stage for the visit and tour.

Other major activities of the Chairman since the last Commission meeting included:

- (1) The Special Libraries Association Network meeting in Detroit sponsored by General Motors. Dr. Cuadra and Mr. Trezza also attended and participated in that meeting.
- (2) The official dedication ceremonies of the Department of Education held on May 7.
- (3) The American Society for Information Science (ASIS) meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, during which he and Ms. Gell presented a report of the White House Conference and showed the videotape.

- (4) A day in Washington, D.C. on May 23, when he visited, mostly at the White House, to discuss the upcoming Aspen Institute meeting.
- (5) Attendance at the Aspen Institute meeting held July 1-3, 1980, at the Wye Plantation.

NCLIS Annual Report

The Chairman stated that, thanks to both Ruth Tighe and Martha Quigley, the 1978-79 Annual Report of the Commission presents a good, full and comprehensive account of NCLIS activities. Mr. Benton stated that he was especially pleased with the decision to include, for the first time, pictures in the Annual Report.

Minutes

After noting two minor typographical errors:

It was MOVED by William Welsh, seconded by Frances Naftalin, that the Minutes be approved as submitted. Passed unanimously.

AALL

Mr. C. E. Bolden, President, American Association of Law Libraries, was invited by the Commission to present his views on the present status of law libraries in the United States. The text of his presentation is Attachment #2.

Mrs. Marian Gallagher, Law Librarian, University of Washington, and Member of the original White House Conference Advisory Committee, spoke to the Commission reiterating the plight of the law librarians.

After discussion, Mr. Benton stated, "As a next step, I wonder if there is anyway in which NCLIS could serve a useful purpose later this year, on the assumption that funding can be obtained. We are, at present, under serious budget constraints. Perhaps we could provide a useful service in convening a meeting of the three law associations plus, perhaps, other forces which would reflect the constituency which is to be reached. It would be helpful, politically, to analyze how the National Library of Medicine gets its support. Who does their backing? How can we apply it to this situation? Perhaps we can set up a mechanism. Do you, Mr. Bolden, feel it would be useful for the Commission to play a modest role in convening a conference of 8-12 people-- after the Library of Congress study is completed, because then we would know more about options and planning?" Mr. Bolden agreed and stated, "As far as funding is concerned, I am reasonably confident that the AALL would help."

Mr. Benton then appointed an NCLIS Ad Hoc Committee for Law Librarians. Messrs. Alpers, Tate and Benton agreed to serve as members.

OMB Circular A

Draft OMB Circular A, "Improved Management and Dissemination of Federal Information," was recently issued, Mr. Benton said, and should be carefully reviewed by each Member because of the potential it contains for the Commission. (See Attachment #3.) NCLIS staff has responsibility for preparing the response to the Circular.

In this connection, the Chairman announced the willingness of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to detail Mr. Gerald Sophar, on an indefinite appointment, to the NCLIS. Mr. Sophar's project with the Denver Public Library is demonstrative of what public libraries can/should do to broaden services to meet consumer needs, Mr. Benton explained.

It was MOVED by Clara Jones, seconded by Robert Burns, Jr., that the Commission accept the offer from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to place Gerald Sophar on detail to the National Commission for an indefinite period of time.
Passed unanimously.

Mr. Benton noted the close relationship between the aims of Mr. Sophar's project to that of the Community Information and Referral Task Force.

Aspen Institute Meeting

Mr. Keppel began by pointing out that the Aspen Institute prefers to play a facilitator role, and generally provides forums for non-experts, rather than experts, to exchange views and ideas. No notes are taken or recordings made during the discussions, allowing dialogue to be more free and open.

Three items made up the agenda for the meeting held at the Wye Plantation on June 1-3, 1980: the proposed national library act stemming from the White House Conference and the NCLIS program document; research and development policy; and OMB Circular A, the purpose of which is to promulgate policies and responsibilities regarding the management and dissemination of information held by the Executive Branch of the Federal Government which is produced or created with Federal funds.

The questions posed to the attendees, according to Mr. Keppel, were: (1) given the clear recommendation by the WHC delegates that control over the provision of library services should be maintained at the local level, was this possible in light of the technology-driven trend toward centralization?; (2) The WHC recommendations maintain that existing library structures and mechanisms should be utilized in developing and implementing new services; how well can the existing structures and mechanisms perform such tasks?; and (3) What is the U.S. capability for performing research and development in this field? Who are the people, and where are they?

While Mr. Keppel reported that no formal conclusions were articulated, he offered the following as his own sense of how the sentiments of the group could be summarized:

- (1) While there will be erosion of strength at the state and local level, there will not be a dramatic collapse of strength.
- (2) While an increase in the level of Federal expenditure for libraries is not likely during the next three to four years, the Administration is interested in finding ways to reallocate monies within existing Federal allocations; an example would be interrelating funding for Federal Information Centers with funding for libraries.
- (3) There is an interest in expanding research and development activity, but through existing mechanisms, such as that provided by the National Institute of Education.
- (4) There is considerable doubt that local and state libraries could manage major programmatic changes in the present climate.
- (5) There is interest in using libraries as linkages in community development (as described on page 25 of the White House Conference Report) though this seemed stronger on the part of the Executive Branch.
- (6) Library groups should seek funding for trial information network programs similar to that of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A list of the attendees forms Attachment #4.

White House Conference--Update

Ms. Gell provided each Commissioner with a packet of information on the status of WHC staff and activities. Ms. Gell announced that the final report of the White House Conference (808 pages) has been completed. A waiver to permit "outside" printing has been requested; however, no word, as yet, has been reached.

A position paper, prepared at the request of Mr. Benton, entitled, "Priority Recommendations, WHCLIS," was distributed. It listed the following five areas as activities which might be considered as priorities for action:

- (1) Meeting personal needs;
- (2) Improving lifelong learning;
- (3) Governing society;
- (4) International understanding; and
- (5) Research and development

Ms. Gell also reported that the evaluation form (included in the information packet) will go to the delegates and alternates, and may be published in library publications. A condensed version of the evaluation is being worked on, she added.

WHC Follow-Up

Commission Document #80-61, "WHC Follow-Up," was distributed which provided pertinent details on the upcoming WHC Follow-Up and Implementation Ad Hoc Committee meeting. During discussion:

It was agreed that the Commission invite South Dakota to participate in the September meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on WHC Follow-Up and Implementation as official observers.

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee, State Library Agency Heads, Chairs of the State/Territorial WHC Delegations, etc., have all, again, been reminded that several states have not responded and were, once again, urged to do so immediately.

Note: Ms. Tighe was delegated the major staff responsibility in this area with assistance from Mrs. Reszetar, and, as needed, from Mr. Price and Mrs. Woods-Robinson.

Party Platform Statement

It was MOVED by Carlos Cuadra, seconded by William Welsh, to accept the proposed party platform statement (See Attachment #5) on library and information services, as redrafted by Commissioners Burns, Moore, Tate and Warden. Passed unanimously.

Search and Screening Committee

Mrs. Moore, Chairman, Search and Screening Committee, reported that present plans call for interviewing candidates for the position of Executive Director during the ALA conference, June 30 - July 5, 1980. The vote for selection of Executive Director is expected to be taken on July 15. She reported that 24 applications have been received. The ad for requesting applications for the position has been placed in a variety of magazines, journals, etc., and, at the suggestion of Mrs. Gross, will now be placed in the New York Times.

Community Information and Referral

Mrs. Jones reported that the Task Force on Community Information and Referral did meet and agree on "concepts." However, she pointed out, the Task Force is just beginning; and questions which it hopes to determine are NCLIS' role in this area and what, in fact, NCLIS can accomplish.

Ms. Gell stated, "Libraries are not providing the kinds of information people need as well as they need to." She talked of the need to develop models to stop the downward spiral: lack of support = lack of service = lack of support. This was discussed at the recent meeting held at Aspen Institute, she said, and various agency heads present seemed excited at the high-visibility potential.

After brief discussion,

It was MOVED by Clara Jones, seconded by Helmut Alpers, to authorize the Chairman to send a letter to the appropriate Federal departments and agencies endorsing the concept of developing three to four community information center models as proposed and outlined by Marilyn Gell. Passed unanimously.

Interagency Task Force

The Commission invited Mr. Dick Hays, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Libraries and Learning Technology, to talk about the Interagency Task Force recently established by the White House to review the WHCLIS resolutions and to make recommendations to the President. He was also asked to review the latest developments in the organization of the Department of Education. Mr. Hays spoke during the luncheon; a summary of his presentation is attached. (See Attachment #6.)

Friday, June 6, 1980

An Executive Session was held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. The Chairman called the full meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Executive Session

Mrs. Moore reported that during the Executive Session the Members discussed personnel needs for the future; heard a report from the Search and Screening Committee; and heard the Executive Director's final report. The matter of an Interim Executive Director was discussed.

It was MOVED by Marian Leith, seconded by William Welsh, that the Commission name Andrew Aines, former NCLIS Member and currently Director, Office of Scientific and Technical Information, Department of Energy, to serve as Interim Executive Director. Passed unanimously.

Note: It was reported later in the day that Col. Aines had, indeed, accepted the offer and "would serve with enthusiasm."

Mrs. Moore noted for the record that on Thursday evening at a reception hosted by Senator Tate, the Commission presented Mr. Trezza with a resolution expressing the Commission's appreciation to Mr. Trezza for his tenure as Executive Director. Mrs. Moore also expressed the Commission's appreciation to Barbara Whiteleather for her loyal and dedicated work with the Commission during the past nine years and wished her well in her new assignment as Special Assistant to Mr. Trezza.

Public/Private Sector Task Force

Dr. Cuadra presented a brief update on the Public/Private Sector Task Force. He reported that there have been four meetings of the Task Force thus far, with a fifth meeting planned for the following week. As a result of the previous meetings, a report is being prepared which "tags" disagreements to be focused upon during the next meeting. Dr. Cuadra also mentioned that the third phase of a Delphi study is in progress. If funds allow, tentative plans call for a total of seven meetings. He stated that the members of the Task Force were most effective, reflecting favorably on the Task Force selection process. (Mrs. Moore added that, in her opinion, Bob Hayes was proving to be an excellent Chairman.) Dr. Cuadra encouraged the use of telephone and letters rather than additional meetings. Mr. Hayes was authorized, by vote, to hire a writer to help with the final report. Both Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Leith, members of the Task Force, agreed with Dr. Cuadra's assessment of the group and stated that they expect an "excellent" report will be produced.

International Relations Planning Group

Mr. Trezza reported that, as a result of the International Relations Planning Group meeting held May 12, it is recommended that the Commission authorize the establishment of a Task Force for the following proposed functions: (1) To foster library information work as it relates to UNESCO; (2) To provide a forum for discussions of mutual concerns between countries engaged in international information cooperation; (3) To serve as an information clearinghouse for all U.S. public and private agencies interested in international information cooperation; (4) To recommend policies to the Department of State which represent the best interests of the United States in the information age; and (5) Educational and awareness activities.

Commission Document #80-34.1 containing a cover letter reporting on the May 12 meeting, a position paper (revised May 30) prepared by Joseph Becker and Brigitte Kenney, and a list of the members of the Planning Group were distributed at the meeting.

After discussion, the Commission agreed to establish an NCLIS Task Force on International Cooperation in Library and Information Services.

It was then:

MOVED by Horace Tate, seconded by Robert Burns, Jr., that the Commission accept the report of the International Relations Planning Group; but, that further planning for the Task Force would be tabled until after the retreat. Passed unanimously.

Library and Postal Services Committee

Mrs. Warden presented a brief update on the Library and Postal Services Committee. Commission Document #80-44 was prepared and distributed which contained a paper on electronic mail, which, it was felt, would be useful and informative to the members of the Public/Private Sector Task Force. Mrs. Warden stated that she intends to pursue the possibility of a series of stamps commemorating library service with Mr. Kennedy of the U.S. Postal Service. "Because of funding, if this Committee can use the mail service instead of meeting, it will be done," Mrs. Warden stated.

Special Libraries Task Force

After a very brief report by Mr. Trezza:

It was MOVED by Frances Naftalin, seconded by Horace Tate, that the Commission accept the membership proposed by the Special Libraries Association for the NCLIS Task Force on the Role of the Special Libraries in the National Program. (Funding of the Task Force would be shared, with SLA assuming the cost incurred by the Task Force members and NCLIS the cost for Commissioners and staff.) The first meeting is scheduled for October 22, 1980, in New York. Passed unanimously.

After the motion, Mr. Benton stated, "This gives us another outreach to the private sector, and it is a very important activity. How the special libraries fit into the national network, in general, is an exciting area in which we are now involved."

Note: Commissioners serving on this Task Force are Helmut Alpers and Robert Burns, Jr.

Cultural Minorities

Commission Document #80-63 was distributed which listed suggested/recommended persons to serve on the Cultural Minorities Task Force.

It was MOVED by Horace Tate, seconded by Clara Jones, that the Commission approve the membership of the Cultural Minority Task Force, as agreed to by the Commissioners. Passed unanimously.

The membership of the Task Force is Attachment #7.

Note: Commissioners serving on this Task Force are Joan Gross and Horace Tate.

Mr. Benton stated that the work of this Task Force is a priority for the Commission.

Committee Assignments

By general agreement, the Commission established two committees and their membership, as follows:

Retreat Committee - Helmut Alpers, Chair; Philip Sprague; and William Welsh

Ad Hoc Committee on WHC Follow-Up and Implementation - Frances Naftalin, Chair; Marian Leith, and Margaret Warden

NCLIS Budget

Commission Documents #30-55, 55.1, 56, and 57 detailing the NCLIS' budget situation for fiscal year 1980, 1981 and 1982 were distributed.

After considerable discussion of the fiscal year 1980 and 1981 budgets, the staff was instructed to, first, cover in the fiscal year 1980 budget the obligations for Commissioners' pay for the September meeting and the Commission's participation in the WHC Follow-Up and Implementation meeting. The second obligation will be the outstanding postal bill to the extent that the funds will allow. The balance of the postal funds will be the first obligation to be paid in fiscal year 1981.

It was MOVED by Bessie Moore, seconded by Clara Jones, that the fiscal year 1980 budget, with the two "caveats" as discussed, be approved. Passed unanimously.

It was MOVED by Horace Tate, seconded by Marian Leith, that the fiscal year 1981 budget be accepted as presented. Passed unanimously.

It was MOVED by Frances Naftalin, seconded by William Welsh, that the fiscal year 1982 budget be accepted as presented with the understanding that changes may be necessary as a result of the July meeting. Passed unanimously.

Executive Session Scheduled

It was MOVED by Carlos Cuadra, seconded by William Welsh, to schedule an Executive Session on July 16, 1980, for the purpose of discussing personnel. Passed unanimously.

Note: The recent decision to delay until September interviews of final candidates for the position of Executive Director by the full Commission has resulted in the cancellation of this Executive Session.

Retreat

By general agreement, it was decided that the NCLIS staff would attend the retreat as resource persons. The Retreat Committee was instructed to develop the agenda, the meeting format, and to decide whether a facilitator would be needed during the retreat. Mr. Price will have major staff responsibility for the retreat with assistance from other members of the staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

A BEIJING JOURNAL

Charles Benton, Chairman
National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

This past April I had the pleasure of a first visit to the People's Republic of China. I travelled with a UNICEF delegation to Asia, but colleagues in America, notably Dr. Ching-Chi Chen of Simmons College and Mr. William Welsh of the Library of Congress, had paved the way with letters of introduction, so I was able to use the opportunity to meet independently with leaders of China's library and information science community. Our conversations were a promising step towards establishing increasingly close cooperation between Chinese and American library and information professionals.

I arrived in Beijing on the afternoon of March 31st carrying, among my other luggage, numerous copies of the program book and delegate preparation materials for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. I also brought with me 25 copies of the Summary Report to the President, which I had presented to representatives of the President in Washington just ten days earlier, complete with recommendations for legislative and administrative initiatives and proposals for a National Library and Information Services Act. Our host organization, the Chinese People's National Committee for the Defense of Children, welcomed our delegation and installed us in our guest house, and that evening I had my first visitor. Mr. Tan Xiang-Jin, Deputy Director of the National Library in Beijing, graciously stopped by to introduce himself and to help me plan my schedule for the week. We agreed to meet for lunch the following day and to tour the National Library together.

When we met the next day, Mr. Tan was accompanied by Mr. Li, head of International Relations at the National Library, and by Miss Chiao, an interpreter. With me were my wife, Marjorie, who is the U.S. Representative to UNICEF, and Helen Jacobson, a member of the UNICEF delegation and a former chairman of the trustees of the San Antonio

Public Library. After the usual tea we applied ourselves to the restaurant's outstanding Hunan-style cooking while Mr. Tan explained the structure of library systems in China. He also recounted pertinent history of the Chinese library field, particularly the setbacks suffered during the Cultural Revolution. I was struck by his story of Zhou Enlai's personal intercession on behalf of the National Library. "If Zhou had not ordered the army to defend the Library from attacks by the Red Guards," Mr. Tan said, "I dread to think what might have happened to the National Library."

China is now pursuing a national program to close the gap stretching between it and the developed nations. The Four Modernizations--in agriculture, in industry, in science and technology, and in defense--all depend upon the collection and dissemination of an ever-growing mass of information. China's leaders recognize that extensive use of library and information science will be crucial to the success of the modernization drive. As evidence of the nation's commitment to the library and information field, both the National Library and the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China are scheduled to receive enlarged facilities and increased resources during the coming years.

As we toured the National Library that afternoon I noticed that every reading room was filled nearly to capacity with library users. The highlight of the tour was a visit to the rare book room in the building's basement. This room contains the collections of the Imperial libraries dating back to the Ming dynasty. One of the first cooperative projects agreed upon by China's library community is the creation of a national union catalog of these ancient and priceless documents.

Throughout my week in Beijing between visits to the city's cultural attractions I repeatedly made side forays into the world of library and information specialists. A most instructive meeting was my

lunch with Mr. Lin Zixin, Director of the Institute for Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC). Founded in 1956, ISTIC today has a staff of nearly 1,200 serving interests in library and professional services, publishing, and research. Mr. Lin and I discussed the possibility of bringing a delegation of ISTIC members to the ASIS meeting in Anaheim this September. (For more about ISTIC see Dr. Chen's article in this issue.)

The week culminated in a meeting on Friday April 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with about 25 leaders of China's library and information science community. We met to discuss the role in America of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), the results of the recently held White House Conference on Library and Information Services, and the potentials for liaisons between our countries.

I began by describing the structure of the American library system, the roles of state and local administrations, and the nature of school, community, academic, public, government, and special research libraries. I explained that the duties of the National Commission are to serve as a coordinating body among these and other organizations, to research and suggest plans for the development of Federal policy relating to the library and information science community, to report to both the President and Congress, and to serve as an advocate at the Federal level for the various constituents in the field. I then related the events leading up to our White House Conference, beginning with the 57 state and territorial meetings to assess user needs and concluding with the national conference in Washington last November to formulate resolutions for legislation. The manifest need for a national coordinating body in the American library and information science community, I suggested, may perhaps be every bit as pressing in China.

In addition to serving a population five times as great as ours, China's library and information services are administered through an even more fragmented system. School libraries are under the administration of the Ministry of Education, academic libraries fall under the separate Ministry of Higher Education, public libraries are the charge of the Ministry of Museums and Archeological Data, special or government libraries are tended by any of various other Ministries according to the nature of their specialty (for example, an agronomy research center would be under the Ministry of Agriculture), ISTIC comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the China Society of libraries is under the National Academy of Social Sciences. Finally, to compound the complexity, the nature of the Chinese language itself poses unique problems in setting standards for coding and cataloging.

I proposed to the assembled leaders that they consider the value of a national coordinating commission to serve these scattered organizations. I noted that my host in China, the National Committee for the Defense of Children, served a similar function in its field, the welfare of children, bringing together the expertise of specialists in public health, education, science, culture and art, jurisprudence, physical culture, welfare and relief, religion, minority nationality affairs, women, youth, and trade unions. Such a centralized coordinating agency might concentrate the energies of China's library and information science professionals and help them better to meet the challenges of the modernization programs.

One of the first tasks such a new agency might set for itself would be an assessment of China's information-user needs, perhaps in part patterned after our own White House Conference. China has 30 provinces and autonomous regions and cities, so conferences at the provincial level would be a good starting place for this national assessment. The Chinese evaluation of user needs and national priorities would probably be organized in a manner somewhat different

from the U.S.'s pre-White House Conferences, but surely some materials and procedures from the American experience might be applicable in China as well.

I therefore volunteered the services of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science to help the Chinese should they decide to undertake such an effort in their country. NCLIS could be helpful to them in providing technical advice and procedural models. I have already sent to both the National Library in Beijing and ISTIC the Commission's by-laws and the legislation mandating the White House Conference for their review. I also pledged whatever help I or the Commission might be able to offer to encourage the exchange of delegates between our two countries. In addition to the ASIS meeting this September, the ALA-sponsored delegation from America to China following the meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions will be another important opportunity for sharing ideas and proffering advice.

The assembled professionals in their blue and grey jackets received my suggestions and offers most warmly, and the meeting ended with expressions of goodwill all around. Leaving my Beijing friends to continue my tour of Xian, Shanghai, and other Chinese cities, I reflected on the dedication evident in the Chinese people I had met. I feel sure that China, as it forges ahead with its programs for the future, is a country that merits our close attention. Both our nations have much to learn from each other.

Statement by
C. E. Bolden

Mr. Chairman and Ladies and Gentlemen of the National Commission:

On behalf of the 3,000 plus members of the American Association of Law Libraries, Mrs. Gallagher and I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the National Commission this morning.

That public law library service in our nation is in serious trouble, there can be no legitimate debate. It is in trouble because, as presently constituted, law libraries are increasingly unable to become more responsive to the legitimate needs of the public. Unquestionably, one of the greatest birthrights of our nation's people is its law. This legacy has guided the actions of our people in time of national and personal crisis. Tragically, however, the law of this nation is being effectively denied to large sections of our nation's people.

At the recently-concluded White House Conference, it was evident that there is a growing realization that the nation's need to know the law cannot be satisfied by law libraries as presently constituted and funded. The delegates to the White House Conference recognized the need to improve legal information resources and services. Forty-three resolutions, from 13 states, regarding the need for improved legal information services and access were presented to the White House Conference as part of the total package of resolutions coming from the Governor's Conferences. The resolution sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries, recognizing the need for a national policy to ensure equal access to necessary basic legal information for all people was adopted in 3 of the 5 theme areas and approved by the delegates on the paper ballot.

Law libraries presently are maintained by courts, governmental agencies, bar associations, law firms, corporate legal departments, individual lawyers and law schools. By far the greater number of law libraries are private in nature and, therefore, not available for public access.

Collections dedicated to the support of governmental functions and responsibilities, while being publicly supported are rarely funded beyond demonstrated needs of state or federal government or educational units. While some law libraries in this group have accepted public library service responsibilities in the absence of a definite legal mandate, more often than not the public has been excluded. While some state law school libraries have opened their doors to the public, many judicial law libraries, state and federal, have been frequently closed to the public. The true public law collections are uneven in geographical distribution and usefulness. While many private law libraries have extensive legal research collections available for their personal use, most public law collections fall far short of providing equal resources for public use. For example, virtually all states support county law libraries at the county seats. Most are funded by court filing fees and thus the collections and service vary in size with the volume of litigation in the county. Consequently, the resources cover the complete spectrum from a set of statutory code housed in a judge's office in Oregon to the magnificence of a 617,000 volume collection of the Los Angeles County Law Library.

The fact that these county law libraries may not exclude the public does not satisfy the public's need for access to legal information. Entry to even the smallest law collections, inadequate as they are, still demands

a choice among a wide selection of search tools. Very few of the county law libraries are professionally staffed. For example, only 2 of 39 county law libraries in Washington State have professional staffs. By far, the greater number of county law libraries have no staffing at all except for the most casual supervision and occasional housekeeping by employees with other primary responsibilities. A lack of knowledgeable guidance in the use of the law collection is a principal barrier to the citizens' use of the open collection.

Understandably, most of the nation's public libraries have not responded to the new demand for legal information services. This should in no way be interpreted as a criticism of the public libraries. It is not necessary here to dwell on the problems facing public libraries today. They are only too well understood. The demand for basic legal information has been sudden and the establishment of legal research collections is expensive. Their establishment further carries an unusual commitment to continuous supplementation accompanied by ever-increasing costs. Whatever the reasons, the public in many areas of our country cannot turn to their public libraries for legal information.

What can be done to address this problem? Law libraries need help in their transition to greater public service. The American Association of Law Libraries, the organization most concerned with the improvement of law library services and principally responsible for implementation, needs the support of NCLIS. If law libraries and law collections are to become

more responsive to the public, there must be a coordinated restructuring of financial support. AALL strongly urges the National Commission to endorse and support federal legislation to begin a systematic and coordinated program of upgrading legal resources and services in all areas of our nation, coordinating these efforts with the national legal associations such as the American Bar Association, the Association of American Law Schools and the American Association of Law Libraries.

The legislative skeleton to support this program already exists. The assistance of NCLIS, however, is essential if these programs are to become effective vehicles for providing basic legal information to the nation's people.

The American Association of Law Libraries strongly urges the endorsement and support of the National Commission relating to the following acts and proposed legislation:

Public Libraries - In the area of assistance to state law library and county law librarians

Library Services Act--20USC §351 et seq.

Federal Funding for Public Library Programs:

FY 1979--\$67,500,000

FY 1980--\$67,500,000

1957-1977--\$790,000,000 to public libraries through LSCA

Law libraries received practically nothing through LSCA during this 21 year period because regulations from 1956-1978 states:

(1978) 45CFR § 130.3 - "Public Library" for purpose of the Act does not include law, medical, school or academic libraries, which are organized to serve a special clientele or purpose.

(1978) 45 CFR § 130.3 - Practically all definitions as in the Act...

Still undertain as to whether law libraries are included-- should be spelled out.

The American Association of Law Libraries strongly urges:

NCLIS support for expanded emphasis on law libraries under the National Library and Information Services Act, or the Library Services and Construction Act if continued beyond 1982; provide legislative definition of public law libraries as "public libraries" for the purposes of both acts; authorize funding in support of library resources and services of law libraries of all kinds that provide access to the public.

In the area of College and University Libraries - Assistance for Law School Libraries

Higher Education Act - Title II - 20 USC § 1021 et seq.

Federal funding for college and university libraries under Title II, Higher Education Act:

FY 1979--\$18,975,000

FY 1980--\$11,987,000

Institutional grants and consequently very little monies flowed to law school libraries.

Act should be changed to allow direct funding to law school libraries.

The American Association of Law Libraries strongly urges:

NCLIS support for legislation making direct funding available to law school libraries under Title II of the Higher Education Act. Presently, these are institutional grants and the law schools receive little funding as a result.

State Justice Institute Act of 1980 - Assistance to Local, State, County Libraries/County Law Libraries/State Law Libraries (S. 2387 - 96th Cong., 2d Sess.)

Purpose is to assist the state courts and organizations/agencies which support them to improve the quality of justice available to the American people.

Encourages education for support personnel of state court systems, as well as judges.

Development of legal information resources should be specifically spelled out as proper activity within the intent of the Act.

National Libraries - Assistance to ALL Law Libraries

U.S. Department of Agriculture:

FY 1979-- \$7,527,000

FY 1980-- \$7,835,000

Library of Congress:

FY 1979--\$174,646,300 (Don't know what part law libraries get)

FY 1980--\$177,491,000

National Library of Medicine:

FY 1979--\$32,444,000

FY 1980--\$33,375,000

Law libraries have no national library and establishment is long overdue.

The American Association of Law Libraries strongly urges:

NCLIS endorsement and support of legislation to transform the Law Library of Congress into a viable national leader in law librarianship similar to other national libraries such as the Library of Congress, the Library of the Department of Agriculture, the National Library of Medicine. The Law Library of Congress is the logical nucleus for developing national law library services.

The Law Library of Congress is not acting in national leadership, and this is long overdue.

AALL requests permission from NCLIS to submit specific proposed legislative changes to effect these general changes.

Medical Libraries

Medical Library Association Act--42 USC § 280 et seq.

Federal funding for medical library programs: FY 1979--\$41,431,000;

FY 1980--\$44,000,000

Law libraries received nothing in comparison. Funding limited to Federal court and agency libraries and Law Library of the Library of Congress.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

Attachment #3

DRAFT

CIRCULAR NO. A-

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: Improved Management and Dissemination of Federal Information

1. Purpose. This Circular promulgates policies and responsibilities regarding the management and dissemination of information held by the Executive Branch of the Federal Government which is produced or created with Federal funds; establishes a comprehensive index of Federal scientific and technical information; and provides guidance on the establishment or expansion of information centers by Executive Branch departments and establishments.

2. Applicability. This Circular applies to all departments and agencies whose budgets are subject to Presidential review in accordance with OMB Circular No. A-11.

Nothing in this Circular is intended to supersede existing law and regulations, including, but not limited to the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act. Where applicable the provisions of current law or regulation shall take precedence over the policies and provisions of this Circular.

3. Definitions. For the purposes of this Circular, the following definitions shall apply:

a. "Information" - The term "information" as used herein is generally intended to mean publications and other documents, such as reports, studies and brochures, which are available in a paper or microform media. However, agencies are encouraged, as appropriate, to apply the policies and principles contained in this Circular to information which is available in other media, such as computer data bases.

b. "Public information" - Information which is collected, produced or created by or for the Federal Government, with Federal funds, primarily for the purpose of

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communicating with, educating or informing one or more segments of the public. The distinguishing characteristic of public information is that the agency actively seeks, in some fashion, to disseminate such information or otherwise make it available to the public.

c. "Scientific and technical information" - Data or knowledge resulting from the conduct of federally funded research and development, or required for organizing, administering or performing research and development. Such information is used primarily by scientists and engineers engaged in research and development work.

d. "Information center" - A formally structured organizational unit financed partially or totally with Federal funds and established for the purpose of acquiring, maintaining, retrieving, and synthesizing a body of information and/or data in a clearly defined specialized field or pertaining to a specific mission with the intent of compiling, digesting, repackaging or otherwise organizing and presenting pertinent information and/or data in a logical, timely and useful form.

4. Background. Many Federal agencies have a statutory responsibility to disseminate information to the public. To carry out this responsibility, agencies currently employ a multitude of mechanisms, including the Superintendent of Document sales and depository library programs, the National Technical Information Service, clearinghouses, agency information centers and sales programs, journals and periodicals, private industry dissemination services and similar activities. Many of these mechanisms are also used to provide public access to other information produced in connection with the performance of agency missions, although such information is not specifically developed for the purpose of public dissemination.

Unfortunately, the growth in the amount of information collected and maintained by the government, coupled with agency desires to provide access to this information, has

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resulted in a continuing proliferation of dissemination mechanisms. The very number of such mechanisms has resulted in unnecessary duplication and overlap in the information collected or created by the Federal Government; inefficient and overlapping methods of disseminating information; diminished public access to Federal information; and increased costs to the taxpayer. Four particular problems have been identified.

First, the large number of highly specialized mechanisms for disseminating information has inhibited general public access to information held by the Federal Government since many of these mechanisms are designed or intended to serve a particular community of interest and are highly specialized as to subject matter. While such mechanisms may serve their own community of interest well, persons outside that community may not be aware of the existence of the information being disseminated. Furthermore, while an individual agency may appropriately use a variety of mechanisms and activities to disseminate information, there is frequently no single office within the agency which can identify all the information dissemination activities used by the agency. As a result, persons who desire information from a particular agency must frequently identify and contact a large number of sources.

Second, in response to legislative requirements or program needs, many Federal agencies have established information centers for the purpose of collecting information on a particular subject and making it available to interested parties. Currently there are almost 300 such centers which were either totally or partially federally funded. There is evidence which suggests that there has been unnecessary duplication and overlap in the establishment and expansion of such centers.

Third, each year the Federal Government acquires a great deal of scientific and technical information through its involvement in research and development. Although much of this information could be used to support activities in the public and private sector beyond the immediate mission of the sponsoring agencies, it is frequently not readily accessible. Individuals and organizations who are interested in locating scientific and technical information held by the Federal Government must frequently contact a large number of different sources. The lack of a central index inhibits public access to this information and reduces the potential value, through wider usage, of the information.

Finally, there are a multitude of activities in both the public and private sectors devoted to the dissemination of information. While some of these activities have been established by law, Federal agencies often have a great deal of flexibility in determining how information will be disseminated. Unfortunately agencies frequently do not consider all viable options when deciding how to disseminate information and, as a result, sometimes establish new dissemination activities instead of taking advantage of existing activities. This results in increased costs to the government and the public, increases the size of the Federal workforce, contributes to the proliferation of information activities, places the government in unnecessary competition with the private sector and inhibits the ability of the private marketplace to provide information goods and services.

5. Policy Principles. The following principles are established:

a. Public information held by the Federal Government shall be made available to the public in an effective, efficient and economic manner.

b. All other information shall be subject to release to the public unless exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, other law, or potentially subject to claims of privilege in litigation. However, even information which is exemptable may be released unless prohibited by law, executive order or regulation.

c. Information is not a free good; however, no member of the public should be denied access to public information held by the Federal Government solely because of economic status. In particular, the Federal Government shall rely upon the depository library system to provide free citizen access to public information.

d. Information available through a mechanism other than the depository library system shall, unless required by other law or program objectives, be made available at a price which recovers all costs to the government associated with the dissemination of such information. Information released in accordance with the Freedom of Information or Privacy Act shall be made available at such fees as required by the appropriate law. Fees for information shall be waived or reduced when in the public interest and permitted by law.

e. The Federal Government shall, in accordance with OMB Circular No. A-76 and where not inconsistent with law, place maximum feasible reliance upon the private sector to disseminate public information.

f. The head of each executive department and establishment, consistent with existing laws, has primary responsibility for determining what information will be made available to the public, the methods to be used in making it available and the price to be charged.

6. Information Dissemination. The head of each executive department and establishment is responsible for assuring that public information held by his or her organization is made available to the public in an efficient, economic and effective manner and in accordance with existing laws. He or she is also responsible for assuring an appropriate degree and method of public access to other information which is held by the agency and which is subject to release. To carry out these responsibilities, each department and establishment shall issue policies and procedures which:

a. Implement the principles established in section 5 of this Circular.

b. Identify a single office within the department or agency to:

- (1) Monitor and coordinate the information dissemination activities of the agency.
- (2) Assist persons and organizations external to the agency in identifying and locating information held by the agency.
- (3) Assure that the list of government publications required by Section 1902 of Title 44 of the United States Code is provided to the Superintendent of Documents each month.
- (4) Maintain an inventory of agency sources, including information centers, bibliographic data bases and similar activities, which have information that may be of interest and is releasable to the public.
- (5) Be cognizant of alternative dissemination activities, both public and private, and assist agency managers in selecting the appropriate activity to use.

c. Establish guidance to be used by agency managers in their:

- (1) Review of information held by the agency to determine if it may be released to the public.
- (2) Evaluation and selection of the most appropriate method for disseminating agency information.
- (3) Determination of what price, if any, will be charged for information.

d. Assure that the requirements of Title 44 of the U.S.C. and the regulations issued by the Joint Committee on Printing, U.S. Congress are fulfilled. In particular, each agency shall assure that two (2) copies of those types of government publications cited in Section 1902 Title 44 U.S.C. are provided to the Superintendent of Documents for inclusion in the depository library program and preparation of the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government publications.

e. Assure that the requirements of Title 31 of the United States Code, Sections 483a, and 636(a), and OMB Circular No. A-25, regarding the imposition of charges for agency services, are appropriately and uniformly applied to agency information services. In particular, each agency will establish mechanisms which permit agency managers to identify the costs of disseminating information. All direct and indirect costs associated with the dissemination of information, including the printing, processing, and retention, shall be identified. The costs of producing or creating the primary information should not be included.

7. Information Centers. It is the responsibility of each agency head to assure that agency resources are being economically and efficiently managed. In order to avoid the establishment of unnecessary or duplicative information centers and to preclude the unnecessary expenditure of taxpayer dollars, each agency head shall implement the following policies:

a. No Federal funds will be requested to establish a new information center, or significantly expand an existing one, until the agency has reviewed and evaluated existing information activities and sources to see if they will meet the agency's requirements. At a minimum, this review will include:

- (1) Publication of a notice in the Federal Register which indicates the agency's intent to establish or expand an information center, the purpose of the center and the subject matter to be included. This notice will permit at least 60 days for comments and suggestions on alternative ways to meet the agency's requirements. A copy of this notice will be provided to the Director, OME at the time of publication.
- (2) Completion of any analysis required by OME Circular No. A-76.
- (3) Certification by the agency head, or his designee, that the agency review and public comments have not identified viable alternatives to meeting the agency's requirements and the proposed center is the most cost-effective approach.

b. Compliance with the above requirement does not relieve agencies of their responsibility to submit and justify such requests for the establishment or expansion of information centers through the normal budget process.

c. Information centers required to be established by law shall adhere to the above procedures to the extent not inconsistent with the law.

8. Scientific and Technical Information. It is hereby established that the National Technical Information Service of the Department of Commerce, which is a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information, will develop and maintain a comprehensive index of scientific and technical information available to the public from the Federal Government. More specifically:

a. The National Technical Information Service shall:

(1) Establish and maintain an index of unclassified scientific and technical information which is produced or created with Federal funds and which is releasable to the public.

(2) Identify, in conjunction with the executive departments and agencies, those categories of scientific and technical information that will be maintained in the NTIS index and the method of submission.

(3) Work with the Superintendent of Documents and other appropriate organizations to eliminate unnecessary duplication and overlap in the indexing and dissemination of information.

b. The head of each executive department and agency shall:

(1) Identify, in conjunction with NTIS, those categories of scientific and technical information that will be maintained in the NTIS index.

(2) Provide one copy and a bibliographic description of each scientific and technical report, study or similar document, identified in accordance with Section 8(b)(1) above, to NTIS. The manner and method of submission will be developed jointly by NTIS and the agency.

Agencies are reminded that compliance with this section does not relieve them of their responsibilities to comply with Title 44 U.S.C. and the printing and binding regulations of the Joint Committee on Printing. Each agency should, where permitted by law, continue to evaluate all viable alternative methods for disseminating or providing access to information, including but not limited to NTIS and activities in the private sector.

9. Reports.

a. Within 60 days of the effective date of this Circular, and annually thereafter, each agency shall publish a notice in the Federal Register which provides information to the public on how they can contact the office identified in Section 6(b) of this Circular. At the same time, this information shall be provided to the Office of Management and Budget.

b. Within 180 days of the effective date of this Circular, each agency shall provide a one-time report to the OMB which identifies what steps the agency has taken or is taking to implement the requirements of this Circular and improve public access to agency information.

10. Supplementary Information. This Circular is being issued in order to develop a framework within which public access to information held by the Federal Government can be improved. It is intended to provide agencies with maximum flexibility in order that they may develop policies, procedures and systems which will meet agency requirements

and the requirements of this Circular without imposing an unnecessary burden. For that reason, specific guidelines on implementation are not being issued at this time. However, such guidelines will be issued if it becomes evident that they are needed. In the meantime, questions about this Circular should be referred to the Office of Management and Budget, Assistant Director for Regulatory and Information Policy (202) 395-3785.

11. Effective Date. This Circular is effective upon issuance and will remain in effect for three years thereafter, unless superseded or rescinded prior to that time.

James T. McIntyre, Jr.
Director

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*Denotes that they were not in attendance



**National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science**

11 June 1980

TO : NCLIS Members

**FROM : Alphonse F. Trezza
Executive Director**

SUBJECT: Platform Statement

Attached is a copy of the statement which was officially adopted by the Commission on June 6, 1980. According to our notes, this statement will be used with both the Republican and Democratic Committees. A copy of this statement will be delivered to each of the Committees with a brief cover letter signed by Mr. Benton. In addition, Dr. Tate has agreed that he will make an attempt to personally deliver the statement to the Democratic Platform Committee, urging its consideration of including a statement on libraries in the final platform.

It was also suggested that the Chairman talk with Mildred Younger concerning the possibility of having someone make a personal effort, similar to Dr. Tate's, at the Republican Convention.

Enclosure



**National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science**

**RECOMMENDATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL PLATFORM DOCUMENT**

Library and Information Services

As a result of the recommendations of the recently-held White House Conference on Library and Information Services, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science urges that the Republican Party reaffirm its belief that it is in the best interest of the people of the United States to have unimpeded access to full library and information services, provided in each community for every individual, regardless of individual beliefs, social position, financial condition or location. In affirmation of its desire for an informed and more productive citizenry, the party pledges its support to adequately meet the needs of the population, a significant portion of whom are unserved or underserved by libraries in communities throughout the nation. In order to accomplish the above, the party pledges its support of measures to make the libraries of our community, our schools, our institutions of higher education, our business, and government libraries increasingly strong.



**National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science**

**RECOMMENDATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PLATFORM DOCUMENT**

Library and Information Services

As a result of the recommendations of the recently-held White House Conference on Library and Information Services, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science urges that the Democratic Party reaffirm its belief that it is in the best interest of the people of the United States to have unimpeded access to full library and information services, provided in each community for every individual, regardless of individual beliefs, social position, financial condition or location. In affirmation of its desire for an informed and more productive citizenry, the party pledges its support to adequately meet the needs of the population, a significant portion of whom are unserved or underserved by libraries in communities throughout the nation. In order to accomplish the above, the party pledges its support of measures to make the libraries of our community, our schools, our institutions of higher education, our business, and government libraries increasingly strong.

Remarks by Dick Hays
June 6, 1980

Dick Hays, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Libraries and Learning Technology, Department of Education, reported on the plans and present status of the Interagency Task Force appointed by the White House to assist in formulating the President's response to the WHCLIS recommendations. A major goal of the Task Force, he said, was to develop an integrated and systematic response, rather than an agency-by-agency one, as is so often the case. Its job is to show the President how the report can be used advantageously. The Task Force recommendations will go to the Domestic Policy Staff and then to the Office of Management and Budget before they reach the President; since this will take time and since the Task Force did not hold its first meeting until mid-May, a formal request will be made of Congress to extend the time allowed for the President's report to Congress. The appointment of an Interagency Task Force in response to a White House Conference, he noted, is a precedent-setting event.

The Task Force, which is a working group (a point difficult to establish, Mr. Hays said), hopes to submit a comprehensive report within guidelines which demand that the recommendations be realistic and observe current budget constraints. It is serving as staff to, as an arm of, the White House, he stressed; it is a "creature of the selectors," though members are representing their own perspectives as well as the Cabinet-level positions they represent.

One of the challenges the Task Force faces is to distill meaningful form from the wording of the resolutions. Its members realize that not all resolutions can be taken literally, he said, and will strive to sharpen their responses and perceptions.

He concluded by pointing out two positive impacts the WHCLIS has already had: it was instrumental in keeping library programs together in the Department of Education (and has moved the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources up to be on a level with NIE, the Office of School Improvement, and the Office of Dissemination and Professional Development), and it has generated discussion of the LSCA "as it might not have occurred otherwise" in response to the proposals for a national library act stemming from the Conference.

In response to questions, Mr. Hays added that he expects the President's response to be at the level of endorsements in principle, rather than specific programs, that it will set the President's policy regarding libraries, library science and technology, and that it will be responsive to the Conference attendees.

He also reminded his listeners that it was important to remember that key Domestic Policy staff were involved in the Conference, and that that interest is being sustained.

CULTURAL MINORITIES TASK FORCE

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