



National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 13, 1982
Washington, D.C.
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Attending: Carlos A. Cuadra; Bessie B. Moore; Philip Sprague;
Margaret Warden; William A. Welsh; Gordon Ambach (one-half
day); and Charles Benton, presiding

Guests : Congressman Paul Simon; Jeanne Hurley Simon; Maryln McAdam
(on Congressman Simon's staff)

Staff : Toni Carbo Bearman; Douglas S. Price; Mary Alice Hedge
Reszetar; Carl C. Thompson; and Barbara Lee Whiteleather,
Recording Secretary

The agenda for the meeting was discussed and approved.

Mr. Benton announced that the Executive Committee was meeting rather than the full Commission because of the difficulty in providing a quorum due to the conflict in new appointments to the Commission. Because the Administration is cutting short the terms of three Commissioners (Gross, Jones and Naftalin), Congressman Paul Simon intends to hold hearings to discuss the constitutional issue involved; Congressman Kastenmeir's Subcommittee plans to hold hearings on a similar question concerning the Federal Parole Board. The President has appointed three people to fill the remaining portion of the terms expiring July 19, 1982.

Mrs. Warden and Mr. Welsh suggested concentrating on obtaining funding for the future of the Commission and on the current 'business' of the Commission. Mr. Benton raised the question of difficulties in arranging a meeting of the full Commission at this time. Problems include obtaining a quorum, determining who can vote, and the delay in confirming Commissioners appointed to replace Robert Burns, Jr. and Horace Tate whose terms expired July 19, 1981. It was pointed out that there has not been any direct communication to date with the White House on this matter.

It was agreed by all Members in attendance that the hearings on the constitutional question should be held as soon as possible.

Dr. Bearman stated, "We are doing everything we possibly can to get into the President's Budget for fiscal year 1983." Appropriation hearings are scheduled before the Senate on February 11, 1982, and before the House on April 20, 1982. Biographies of members of appropriate Subcommittees in both the Senate and House were prepared and distributed.

NEW
APPOINT-
MENTS

BUDGET
REVIEW/
APPEAL

Numerous letters of strong support on behalf of the Commission have been sent to the President, Mr. Stockman, various Senators and Congressmen, etc., from our constituents in the library and information science communities, Dr. Bearman reported. Mr. Benton stated, "We are absolutely at peak strength. The help and services we are providing are genuinely needed. Our cost-effective record shows that we save the Administration much more than we are appropriated."

The discussion centered around the newly-appointed Members and the 'clout' they could have with the Administration and the White House. In general, it was agreed that the support of the new Members was indeed needed and should be sought.

Dr. Bearman reported on the possibility of receiving a research grant from the System Development Foundation. The Foundation is presently focusing on the following specific research areas:

- (1) Principles of information science, including spatial and content information theory, classification, and information structures;
- (2) Principles of representation in biological and machine information processing;
- (3) Principles underlying the man-machine interface including engineering and cognitive approaches to human factors in individuals and groups.
- (4) The interface between the computer and artistic endeavor.

Dr. Bearman reported that after attending a meeting of the SDF Board Members and after several discussion groups established to study SDF's proposal, she feels that NCLIS could serve as a "customer" in the library/information field, identifying areas of research, channeling funds to researchers and overseeing their work, assisting in evaluating research results, managing editorial and publications work, and publicizing research results." In summary, she said, SDF needs our help in: (1) communications; (2) harmonization; and (3) development. Dr. Bearman has been asked by SDF to prepare a proposal which she will do as soon as she has Commission approval to proceed.

After considerable discussion of the pros and cons of such a proposal, it was decided that:

By unanimous agreement, the Executive Director is encouraged to continue discussions with the System Development Foundation on NCLIS research projects. Further, at the request of

SYSTEM
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FOUNDATION

MOTION
ADOPTED

the Executive Director, the Chairmen of both the Planning/Futures and Budget/Finance Committees will provide guidance and assistance to the Executive Director, as needed.

At the recommendation of Dr. Bearman and by general agreement:

Mr. Gerald Sophar will continue to work on the Rural America project by agreement between NCLIS Chairman and Richard Farley, Director, National Agricultural Library.

Dr. Bearman reminded the Members that Ruby Woods Robinson has been offered a position with the Department of Army as a Librarian in Panama. In addition, Dorothy Burgess, Secretary to the Associate Director, retired at the end of December 1981.

There are many tasks to be done, Dr. Bearman urged, e.g., compiling material for LSCA Hearings, analyzing hearing testimony, and presenting recommendations; assisting in the writing of the Annual Report (due April 30, 1982); assistance in preparation of speeches and articles; searching of databases for background information; completion of NCLIS library/information center; liaison with on-going task forces; etc. She requested the authority to hire interns on a short-term basis to assist with these tasks. With the uncertainty about the budget, she expressed her feeling that it would not be appropriate to seek permanent employees.

It was MOVED by Bessie B. Moore, and seconded by William Welsh that the Executive Director be given the authority to hire interns for six-month appointments (with the option to renew to end of fiscal year). The motion was carried with Carlos Cuadra abstaining.

Dr. Bearman reminded the Members that when she was hired she was told that she needed the approval of the Personnel Committee before hiring or firing professional staff. There is no official written policy at this time, and Dr. Bearman requested that one be written.

At the request of Dr. Cuadra, the Members were reminded that in compliance with the NCLIS Governance Document, approved March 9, 1979:

Members are to prepare a brief trip report to the Chairman and the Executive Director after each trip, other than for Commission meetings.

PERSONNEL/
STAFFING

RECOMMENDA-
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ADOPTED

MOTION
ADOPTED

TRIP
REPORTS

The Executive Director offered to prepare trip reports when traveling at Government expense. It was agreed that copies of the trip reports would be sent to the Chairman, Dr. Cuadra, and other Members, as requested.

Dr. Bearman informed the Members that Dean Robert Hayes, Chairman of the Public/Private Sector Relations Task Force, has requested, in writing, that the Task Force be officially dismissed as completing its charge. After discussion, it was agreed that the Task Force (and Dean Hayes in particular), had completed its work and were to be commended. It was the general feeling of the entire group that the report was one of the most significant pieces of work the Commission has produced. There have been many positive responses to the draft report. Dr. Bearman offered to prepare an appropriate letter to Dean Hayes and the members of the Task Force for Mr. Benton's signature.

PUBLIC/
PRIVATE
SECTOR
TASK
FORCE
REPORT

As a result of discussion pertaining to the publication and distribution of the report, it was decided that a statement other than the standard one placed on all NCLIS publications was necessary in order to elicit greater response and comment.

By unanimous agreement, the following statement will appear on each copy of the report prepared by the Public/Private Sector Task Force entitled, "Public Sector/Private Sector Interaction in Providing Information Services":

This report was prepared by an independent Task Force assembled and funded by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. The Commission has reviewed the report and determined that the Task Force has fully and effectively met its charge.

MOTION
ADOPTED

Although the Commission as a whole has not yet formally acted upon the report, it is being released at this time for review and reaction by policymakers and citizens, generally, and by members of the library and information services community, as they participate in the emerging national debate on the appropriate role of the public and private sectors in the United States.

The report, its findings and implementation, and official acceptance of the report by all Commissioners, will be one of the major items on the next meeting's agenda.

Mr. Welsh referred to an article appearing in Library Journal, entitled, "Libraries and the 'Fourth Debate'" (January 15, 1982). Quoting the article, he read:

"At three pivotal periods in the American republic, there have been prolonged and profound debates on the future of the nation..." Gus Tyler, in the November 30, 1981 New Leader, begins his provocative series, 'Charting America's Future,' with those words. The three previous debates were that over the ratification of the Constitution, the slavery debate leading to the Civil War, and the radical and reformist critiques that resulted in the New Deal. At each of those turning points, Tyler points out, the role of the Federal government was enlarged. 'A fourth debate has now begun over whether to reverse the trend toward an expanded presence of the Federal government in the nation's affairs,' says Tyler. The 'Fourth Debate' intensifies a continuation of the information policy discussions that got their impetus in the Carter White House. Fundamental information issues will be argued in the Fourth Debate, issues basic to the future of libraries..."

Because of the importance and timeliness of the report, it was suggested that, if funds are available, a firm be hired to assist in disseminating and promoting the report. Comments from the entire library/information community and related groups are needed, so that the Commission will have this information before its review of the Report at the next Commission meeting.

After Dr. Bearman's presentation of recent activities in the international area:

It was MOVED by Philip Sprague, and severally seconded, that, at the request of the Executive Director, the following ad hoc group be established to study the role of the Commission in the international area of library and information services. Specifically, the group's charge is to recommend NCLIS' role in this area and to recommend response to the following requests:

INTER-
NATIONAL
ACTIVITIES

- (1) NCLIS' support of the U.S. membership in the Federation Documentation Internationale (FID) in the amount of \$6,000, for 1982 only.
- (2) NCLIS' assistance in sponsoring a Congressional workshop on computer-based information systems and services for rural America.
- (3) NCLIS assume responsibility for the U.S. National Committee for the UNESCO/PGI Program.

The membership of the ad hoc group is: Carlos Cuadra, William Welsh, John E. Velde, Jr. (a former NCLIS Member to be invited to serve by NCLIS Chairman), and Toni Carbo Bearman. Passed unanimously.

MOTION
ADOPTED

In addition, Dr. Bearman reported that ASIS and the Institute of Information Scientists (IIS) will co-host their first joint international conference at St. Patrick's College, Dublin, on 28-30 June 1982. The theme for the conference is "Information and the Transformation of Society." The session which Dr. Bearman will be chairing is "Information Management in the Industrial Firm." The session will examine various aspects of information management and the impact the expanded management role is having on the tradition information professions.

The Commission has been requested by the House Postsecondary Education Committee to assist with its oversight hearings on the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). The Commission's assistance is part of the implementation of our first priority for FY 1982 of developing specifications for legislation in the library/information field. Commission staff will: (1) Review all materials pertinent to LSCA reauthorization including the current LSCA; ESEA and HEA, NCLIS issue papers and reports, proposed legislation, comments and opinions of library and information science organizations, and other available materials; (2) Prepare a draft list of specifications for new legislation for review by NCLIS and others; (3) Revise list; and (4) Assist in presentation of legislative specifications to Congressman Simon's staff.

LIBRARY
SERVICES
AND CON-
STRUCTION
ACT

Dr. Bearman reported that the Commission has been asked to assume responsibility for holding and conducting a meeting to discuss the Department of Education's "Research Agenda for the 80's." This request was raised at a meeting of representatives from library/information associations convened by the Department of Education, Division of Library Programs. The Executive Committee decided to postpone discussion of this request until the next Commission meeting after the project report has been completed and reviewed.

RESEARCH
AGENDA FOR
THE 80'S

Dr. Bearman said that the draft report of the NCLIS/LC Federal Library Committee Project which will be completed March 12, 1982, has been received.

NCLIS/LC-FLC
PROJECT

New classification and qualification standards for Federal librarians and technical information specialists were proposed on December 8 by the Office of Personnel Management. Suggestions for revision of the draft standards are due by February 6, 1982. Significant changes include: (1) restructuring of the GS-1410 and GS-01412 series. Greater emphasis is placed on experience vis-a-vis education as a basis for specialized development and grade-level progression in LIS management and bibliographic-information analysis work; (2) Revision of the MLS requirement and related experience requirements; (3) Reduction of the present GS-1410 entry grade levels; (4) Updating of coverage of computer-related and other occupational developments; and (5) Clarification of kinds of work and knowledge/skills required. Language in the proposed standards could exclude managers in the GS-1410 series from heading science, engineering and technical library-information centers. Vague language could make it difficult to hire the handicapped.

FEDERAL
STANDARDS
FOR
LIBRARIANS

Dean Betty Stone, Chairman, ALA, has requested NCLIS' assistance in extending the deadline. The staff will work with ALA and other associations to ensure that the community's comments are heard.

It was reported that Dr. Moore, a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging, played a key role in passing the following resolution (excerpt):

WHITE
HOUSE CON-
FERENCE ON
AGING

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the White House Conference on Aging charges the NCLIS to take the actions necessary to identify the special needs of senior citizens and to develop programs for meeting those needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NCLIS provide leadership in promoting the incorporation of special services for senior citizens into the basic, ongoing programs of libraries, rather than as an add-on; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NCLIS exert its best efforts to promote the use of senior citizen volunteers to assist and supplement the efforts of library professionals in providing library services and programs to all persons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLIS provide the widest possible dissemination to its findings and programs to promote increased public awareness of the special needs of senior

citizens and the means for meeting those needs.

Mrs. Warden suggested that a copy of the resolution be placed in the ALTA Newsletter.

The need for orientation for both new and current Commissioners was emphasized. It was suggested that one day of orientation be scheduled during the August meeting. Orientation should include the history of the Commission, a briefing on specialized topics of interests, administrative policies and procedures, biographies of past and present Commissioners, NCLIS accomplishments, plans for the future, etc.

NCLIS staff were given primary responsibility for preparing the orientation materials, working closely with both Frederick Burkhardt (Chairman-Emeritus) and Bessie Moore in preparing the historical material. The Planning/Futures Committee will also work with the Executive Director on the orientation.

Mr. Ambach requested that budget information be available at the next meeting of the full Commission. Mr. Benton suggested that Literacy be added to the list of projects to be considered for funding.

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30 April 1982