

MINUTES FOR ACTION COUNCIL MEETING AT ALA CONVENTION

CHICAGO, JUNE 28, 1972

(Recorder's Note: The cassette tape recorder did not work adequately for the first part of this meeting. There is no record nor does the recorder recollect what was covered in this time missed)

Action Council and membership attending discussed comments from the spring SRRT questionnaire. Three members of Action Council were present (Dick Akeroyd, Tyron Emerick and Ellis Hodgin) Tyron Emerick stated that even though the goals or objectives of SRRT will be discussed at the general membership meeting that night, the membership attending the Action Council meeting could discuss it for awhile if they wished. A member present suggested that the questionnaire results indicated that the two major objectives of the membership are: 1. providing a forum and platform for movement groups and, 2. being a catalyst in ALA.

Tyron stated that Action Council assumed this is what Action Council has been doing so possibly the question is has Action Council been assuming too much? He asked if the membership felt they were accomplishing their goals. There was no response from the membership attending this meeting.

In response to comments that SRRT was not active or vocal enough at the ALA membership meeting, Joan Goddard stated that SRRT members were active even though not in the name of SRRT but as individuals. She accepted the fact that individual members were not always adequately prepared to carry out the things that they wanted accomplished and suggested that Action Council should provide leadership but that Action Council needed to encourage the membership to continue working on projects and doing things on their own and not count on Action Council to do everything. It was suggested by a SRRT member that possibly when individuals stand to promote an issue or resolution they could identify themselves as a personal member of ALA or of SRRT. Dick Akeroyd asked, "What does this accomplish? Is SRRT only out to get headlines or out to accomplish change and decent library service?" "So what," he said "if you don't know SRRT is doing it if the end results are just the same?" The SRRT member said it was members who were complaining. Dick said that members just don't see "SRRT people getting up acting like fools. Maybe that is better for SRRT rather than worse" Miriam Crawford agreed but stated that we need to keep the face of SRRT out there, or it will go under; and ALA and library service will be the loser if SRRT is not a continuing force. Joan Marshall said we do need better PR but some things do do better without the SRRT label on them.

Liz Futas pointed out that a large portion of the membership of some of the large Task Forces don't belong to SRRT, don't know what it is and have no feeling for us. They don't know that the Task Forces are part of the federation of SRRT and they don't really care. Tyron Emerick wanted to know if Task Force membership

really knows what SRRT does for the Task Forces. He suggested that maybe the Task Force coordinators have not made them aware that without SRRT they could not exist. Ada Jackson, a Task Force coordinator, agreed that this might be true. Liz Futas stated she did not object to having Task Force members who were only interested in the work of their Task Force and did not care to join SRRT but that she felt that they should help provide financial assistance to the Task Force so that national SRRT is not paying their whole expenses while they are not even members of SRRT.

Tyron stated that all Task Force coordinators have to be members of SRRT and ALA and that some of them at the beginning of the year did not know this. He said that there has to be a link (through the coordinators), and we should promote this link because Task Forces are a very vital part of our program. It was noted that the vitality of Task Forces are easily shown by the number of Task Forces that have been approached by other sections of ALA who wanted to incorporate them into their programs.

A member commented that some people wanted to join SRRT but not ALA, and they didn't know who to give their money to during the convention. It was suggested that an announcement should be posted in the suite, at the booth and on the convention bulletin board. Liz Futas agreed to see that this was done.

Brian Neilson suggested that AC/CH names and addresses could be on the newsletter masthead and also information on how non-ALA members can join SRRT. He also suggested that CH might provide SRRT membership forms for Task Force mailings. Tyron Emerick asked if every library school in the United States and Canada received the SRRT newsletter. The answer was "no". Tyron felt that each library school should have one whether it was paid for or not. Liz Futas suggested that SRRT send them to someone responsible enough to see that they are openly displayed for the students. She thought it was up to a Task Force, affiliates or the special projects person on Clearinghouse to get the name of someone in each library school. They did not have to be a student. It could be a teacher.

Miriam Crawford reported that the questionnaire results will be published in the post conference newsletter. Joan Goddard wondered if the newsletter could be sent in bulk to affiliates, thus extending its readership.

Ellis Hodgkin spoke regarding the Ellsburg Defense Fund suggesting a resolution and possibly a contribution be given. He felt this was a classic example of intellectual freedom and that we should support it. Ellis suggested a contribution of \$500. Dick Akeroyd suggested that the fund be granted. Tyron said that he and Pat Schuman felt this proposal should be held over for membership decision that night and also that a resolution be presented to the ALA membership meeting requesting matching funds from ALA.

Miriam Crawford spoke regarding a resolution dealing with library employment, which she hoped to propose to the Friday ALA membership meeting and wished the SRRT membership to support. Also, she mentioned a resolution regarding library funding and exploration of a different financial base. Martin Zonlight strongly favored this former resolution and cited the California legal decision on property tax support.

Joan Goddard suggested that Miriam Crawford join with those working on a Job Resolution from the Task Force on Jobs. Miriam asked if SRRT would support the resolution they came up with. This was agreed to. Tyron stated that if copies were made available to Action Council in advance, they could do a better job of supporting the resolution.

Dick felt that the archives situation should be determined at this time. Ellis agreed stating our decision will be affected by ALA's action regarding archives. Tyron explained what was included and that ALA would like all archives to be brought together. Miriam noted that part of the agreement that ALA was developing with the University of Illinois Library required easier access to archival material. She favored the arrangement that ALA had in mind and did not feel stipulations will be necessary. Some had expressed a fear that ALA might limit the use of SRRT materials. Most present at the meeting disagreed with this line of thinking. Action Council agreed to leave the archives with ALA without stipulations. Miriam Crawford asked to be authorized to follow this up and to serve as liaison between SRRT and ALA regarding the archives. Action Council agreed.

Tyron D. Emerick
Recorder