

SRRT

ACTION COUNCIL

JUNE 29, 1980

MINUTES

The meeting took place at the O'Henry Room of the New York Hilton between 2-4 p.m.

It began with a discussion culminating in an unanimous condemnation of the "Survey of the Priorities of Members of ALA." Betty Turock said she had been hearing a lot of talk about ALA being better off if there were less diversity of opinion within the membership. Herb Biblo felt the survey findings had been tilted so it would appear that ALA members were growing less concerned with the issues of social responsibility. Jackie Eubanks observed that this was an insult to the ALA membership who had created SRRT in the first place. Jim Dwyer suggested that the seemingly low priority assigned by members responding to issues of social responsibility in the survey resulted from an erroneous classification of what does and does not constitute "social responsibility." Herb asked, "Who determined what social responsibility is?" Jackie further commented that the result of the survey findings, if accepted as valid, would subvert democratic processes within the ALA. Michael Diodati suggested that an ALA resolution be drawn up criticizing the survey findings, and Mary Biblo proposed that a questionnaire be distributed at an ALA membership meeting asking for interpretations of "social responsibility." An Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Betty Turock, Jim Dwyer and Brad Chambers was then set up to prepare an analysis of the survey and survey findings and to develop implementing strategy.

The next issue discussed was ALA conference streamlining and new schedules. A number of objections to the streamlining plan were raised, and the consensus was that the plan would be self-defeating. How to keep SRRT's flexibility in the face of this plan was a special concern. Brad Chambers commented that the streamlining proposal and the Survey of Priorities were part of the same manipulative package, of a right-wing tightening up process within ALA to give more control to headquarters.

Jim Dwyer presented the text of the SRRT brochure that had been assigned to him. Betty Turock, in revealing a balance in the SRRT treasury of over \$10,000, suggested that SRRT could afford a professional layout and printing job for the brochure.

The proposal for a promotional campaign to increase SRRT membership is to be presented at the coming combined SRRT Action Council and SRRT membership meeting to be held June 30, and members will be asked for suggestions on implementing it.

Since Marjorie Joramo is unable to attend the joint Action Council and membership meeting scheduled for July 30, Brad will serve as chairperson.

Other suggestions were that SRRT take advantage of the free page advertising available to ALA independent groups. Another was that a special introductory issue of the SRRT Newsletter be prepared and sent to the entire ALA membership. Another suggestion was that this special Newsletter be sent to the students at all schools of library science and that particular pains be taken to reach student associations. There was also a suggestion that machinery be set up to establish spare branches of SRRT, similar to the spare branches of IFC.

Brad Chambers proposed that SRRT prepare a letter criticizing an article in the Blue Klam in the May issue of Junior Scholastic magazine. The article amounts to a "balanced" view of the Klam and results in a grossly distorted