

LIBRARY
JUN 22 1970

ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter

HEADQUARTERS
LIBRARY

JUN 22 1970
AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

June 1, 1970 No. 5

DETROIT

There will be a very busy SRRT Hospitality Suite in Detroit. Sheraton-Cadillac Detroit. We don't know the room number yet; we will try to get the desk to answer to SRRT, if they don't, ask for Jackie Eubanks.

Everyone drop in anytime--a tentative schedule:
Sunday, June 28--meet after first general session to make plans for the week
Monday, June 29--5% party; SRRT meets with members of Council to discuss proposed bylaws revisions.
Tuesday, June 30--plan for general membership meeting.

All meetings will probably be late; information will be circulated from the Suite. Any suggestions for actions during the week? It was suggested in Philadelphia that we have an

SRRT NEWSLETTER IN DETROIT

Joan Marshall and Betty-Carol Sellen have agreed to put out a daily convention newsletter in Detroit. It will highlight the coming day's events of special significance to bodies in or in sympathy with "the movement." Newsletter headquarters will be the SRRT hospitality suite. Any suggestions before we meet in Detroit should be sent to Joan Marshall, Bklyn College, Bklyn, N.Y. 11210.

SRRT program

ALLIANCE FOR ACTION; RADICALS IN THE PROFESSIONS

Speakers:

- Hank Malone--psychiatric social worker and poet, Detroit.
- Terry Rudinski--NUC women's caucus, Chicago.
- Robert Morrison--inner city clergyman, Detroit.
- Annie Reid--sociologist, member of the

library school faculty University of Maryland.
Allen Houseman--Neighborhood Legal Services, Detroit.

Moderator:

John N. Berry, III.

Mixed Media Presentation:

Don Roberts.

...toward an alliance of radicals, revolutionaries, and rebels in the professions--exposing new and old tactics--new ideas and possibilities for actions together--inside and outside and inspite of our institutions.

IN SEARCH OF SOUL--the organization of this conference has run into some difficulty, but it now looks as if it is going to get off the ground. There will be a mailing with more definite information. For anything definite before the mailing, contact Skip Rosenthal, Henry Ford Community College Library, 5101 Evergreen Ave., Dearborn, Mich. 48128.

SRRT PRE-DETROIT MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA

About 135 librarians met in Philadelphia May 15-17 to discuss plans for Detroit. A number of decisions and resolutions were made which, having been accepted by those meeting, are to be presented at the SRRT Business Meeting in Detroit June 30, 4:30-6:00pm.

It has been impossible to get the exact text of some of the resolutions. What follows is, in some instances, the general sense of what was passed.

National Issues

Whereas the American Library Association has a long term commitment to intellectual freedom, human welfare, faith and reliance on the open access to information and the democratic process, and the civilizing influence of libraries and

Whereas we witness now such tragic events as the murder of students on our

campuses, blacks in our cities, and innocent citizens of other nations, and the growing repression of the traditional right to dissent and the subversion of our institutions for other than peaceful means and

Whereas the American Library Association can exercise its responsibilities by utilizing its prestige and resources in every way possible to bring about immediate change in the domestic and foreign policies of the United States.

Be it resolved that the membership and Council meeting in Detroit June 27-July 3, 1970 adopt and act on the following:

1. That the American Library Association go on record condemning American involvement in Southeast Asia and call for the immediate withdrawal of all troops and all military aid from Indochina. To this end the Association will instruct its Washington Office to use its energies and the resources to lobby for said objectives and inform the Federal Government that it refuses to pay the telephone Federal Excise tax which is committed to financing the war.

2. That the American Library Association commit itself to a vigorous program to assist in ending all forms of political repression in the United States and to publicly support those who work to end repression against such groups as the Black Panther Party. Further, the Association must seek out and expel those librarians and libraries who aid the Federal Government by making available circulation records and allowing their premises to be used for surveillance and wiretapping.

3. That the American Library Association go on record condemning military complicity in universities and other public institutions. Further, the Association must examine its own investments and relations to financial institutions to insure that its funds are being used to promote the betterment of the human condition.

(Resolution to be introduced by Richard Akeroyd, Member ALA, Veteran of Vietnam, University of Connecticut Library.)

The following resolution was passed with five abstentions. It was agreed that this be released immediately to the local press with the request that it be passed on to the wire services; it was also to be sent to members of

Congress and to SRRT's Action Council.

Whereas we are opposed to the Vietnam War and in particular the expansion of the war into Cambodia; and

Whereas we support the Cooper-Church amendment and other amendments designed to cut off funds for the war; and

Whereas we are opposed to the President's arbitrary use of his power as Commander in Chief to expand this war;

Therefore, we, the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table, urge the United States Congress to assert its rightful authority to restrict the Presidential power to intervene militarily in other countries without the consent of the United States Congress except in response to a direct attack on the United States.

Association issues

The librarians meeting in Philadelphia voted to endorse the Curley/Alfred ACONDA Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee Report (included in the Newsletter) and to press for its adoption by the Association. In support of the report the following resolutions were passed:

Be it resolved that ALA resolve to dedicate 1/5 of its total budget to implement the support of intellectual freedom in the program described in the Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee Report to be submitted to ACONDA.

Be it resolved that SRRT advocates that it be ALA policy that no Association funds be allocated at this time or in the future to the Freedom to Read Foundation.

The librarians meeting also provisionally adopted (the text is still being worked upon to include specific mention of the Code of Ethics and the fact that this document is not meant to supersede or infringe upon that one) a Librarians Bill of Rights which is to serve as the basis of the librarians intellectual freedom.

LIBRARIANS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the U.S. Bill of Rights, the librarian has the right and the responsibility without jeopardy to his employment, person, or professional status:

1. to include in library collections any informational or recreational material from any source and to make it available to the public.
2. to protect the librarian-client relationship by withholding information

which may infringe on the rights of individual privacy.

3. to privately or publicly actively pursue his personal, social, political, and religious beliefs.

4. to exercise any of his human, civil, and constitutional or legal rights, privately or publicly.

The librarians meeting also voted to support the ACONDA recommendations on the composition of Council:

Be it resolved that the SRRT support the proposal of the New Directions Committee that there be 96 members of Council elected at large.

Keith Doms, who gave an oral report on the progress of the Dix-Mix, said that he is particularly concerned about the recommendation that Council be limited to 96 positions all elected at-large. While eleven of the twelve Dix-Mix members voted for it, he believes there will be a lot of static in Detroit. Doms urges that we get off statements of support to Katherine Laich, present Chairman of the Dix-Mix, Assistant City Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, Calif.

A resolution on the proposed changes in ALA's Constitution and Bylaws also passed.

Be it resolved that SRRT is opposed to the proposed changes in Article 2, Sec. 2, 5, 6 and Article 3, Sec. 3B of the Bylaws of the Association and that this opposition be communicated to ACONDA and to the ALA Council.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee (inspired by Nixon?) is attempting to impose the tyranny of the silent majority upon the active minority that began to make its voice heard at Kansas City two years ago.

I (the editor) tried to gather some statistics. I didn't try too diligently, but I did find that statistics are not readily available--for instance: neither ALA Bulletin, LJ, nor WLB published along with the the list of new Council members in 1969, the number of votes cast.

Without statistics however, a quorum of 25% for a valid membership mail vote, in an association whose membership is notoriously unresponsive, is quite high. If the association membership this year is, as is reported, 28,000, 7,000 members would have to vote in order to have the vote counted. Is this, from

past association experience with mail votes, a reasonable number of responses to expect? A quorum of 500 for a valid membership meeting--28,000 members?-- seems quite low; however, in Atlantic City last year, with 10,000 members attending the Conference, a vote counted on the floor at the extended membership meeting tallied less than 500 votes.

Is it possible that, if these bylaw revisions are approved, membership will not, in the future, even be given the dubious privilege of recommending its wishes to council?

The bylaw revision recommended to Section 3(b) is the most odious of those proposed. The present bylaw provision merely allows a small group of members to put a persons name in nomination for Council. It does not give them the power to elect--the members alone, through their vote, can elect. For the first time in ALA history, the bylaw provision allowing members to put additional names in nomination for Council has been used--did the clerical labor of adding additional names prove so onerous that a bylaw revision impeding this membership prerogative had to be proposed?

ROUNDTABLE ON LIBRARY SERVICE TO THE BLIND SPONSORS ROCK CONCERT

Who's gonna beat the skins?

Who's gonna slap the base?

Who's gonna tickle the ivories?

Come to Ballroom A of Cobo Hall Monday afternoon at 2pm, June 29, and find out. On that date you will hear today's sound as only it can be played in Detroit. Providing the music for this concert will be some mystery guest artists. One of the artists is a talking book reader who has surmounted a handicap to make a name in the music world.

There will be no speeches, we promise. You will be treated to two hours of music, including rock n' roll, blues, soul, jazz, and ballads. This great extravaganza will start your week in Detroit out properly. It will send you swinging through the rest of the week.

Tickets for the concert will be available from the ALA ticket desk for \$1.00 each; or, they may be purchased in advance by writing to Miss Susan Haskin, Regional Librarian, Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Michigan State Library, 735 East Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48913.

If you purchase a ticket to the Francis Joseph Campbell Awards Luncheon, which will precede the concert, the cost of the luncheon ticket will include the admission fee to the concert. Tickets for the luncheon are \$5.00 and must be purchased in advance from Miss Haskin. Tickets for the luncheon will not be sold at the ALA ticket desk.

The Campbell Award Luncheon honors an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to library service for the blind. The luncheon is attended by many librarians--**PUT JUNE 29 ON YOUR CALENDAR.**

WOMEN, ALA, AND THE PROFESSION

Two groups interested in the place of women in the Association and in librarianship are forming:

Women's Caucus

If you are interested in helping organize or support a group formed to investigate and publicize facts about the status of women in the library field, please contact Ruth Beasley, 816 E. Hunter, Bloomington, Ind. 47401. We have a promise of booth space and funds for Detroit. We need employment and salary statistics, documented personal experiences of discrimination against women, suggestions for other areas of investigation, and your help.

SRRT Task Force on Women's Liberation is meeting in Detroit on Monday evening, June 29. Check at the SRRT hospitality suite at the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel for time and place.

The Action Council of SRRT has written to library schools urging them to support their students attendance at annual ALA conferences. Atlanta University, which had taken twenty students to Atlantic City last year, told Bill DeJohn that they have made arrangements to do the same thing this year (and have funds for next year as well). Virginia Lacy Jones, Dean of the school, said: "The experience of our students in Atlantic City last year was most gratifying. We feel that because of the experience that these students and others are becoming more vitally interested in the directions taken by our professional association."

The University of Texas at Austin GSLS is sending one student to Detroit. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, is chartering a bus to bring students to the first general session, Sunday

evening, and for other meetings during the week. The University of British Columbia replied that they are unable to send a student. They do not have the funds, and since their students are all full-time, and since their school-year ends in May by the time of the convention their students have dispersed to homes and jobs. Margaret Burke, who replied to Bill's letter, suggested that something be done to interest employers in an equitable distribution of travel money. Administrators should provide funds and/or time for recent graduates to attend conventions.

WANTED; EVERYONE!!

To spy, interrogate, snoop, report, and in the process, we hope, inspire. Whenever you can, ask other librarians what they are doing that is "socially responsible" and tell them we want to let others know about it through the ALA/SRRT Newsletter. Please make this a continuing responsibility--asking people might just get them to do something.

We want to cover all areas, so please let us know if you will be responsible for asking around and keeping track of your town, section of the state, or some other area. Do some questioning and let us know what other librarians are doing even if you don't want to be on file as a reporter for "unorganized" socially responsible programs and activities (those not part of organized SRRT group efforts--which are reported by the groups).

Report to Mrs. Joan Goddard, 121 Mc Baine, Columbia, Mo. 65201. ALA/SRRT Clearinghouse.

CAMPUS STRIPE

During the recent crisis situations (student strikes over Cambodia, Kent State, Jackson State, Atlanta, etc.) did you use your training and technology as a librarian to provide information service to meet special needs?

Please send descriptions of your actions to: Bette Wilson, 1430 Kanawa St. Apt. 102, Hyattsville, Md. 20783. Deadline: June 15. Use: distribution at Detroit to all who attend. If you can't make the deadline, bring information to Detroit and drop it off at the SRRT Hospitality Suite at the Sheraton-Cadillac, or mail it to Joan Marshall at the Sheraton-Cadillac marked hold for arrival June 25.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE

American Library Association

ORGANIZATION AND ACTION:

How to Play Socially Responsible Round Table Games

1. The name of this organization shall be the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association.
2. The purpose of this Social Responsibilities Round Table shall be:
 - (a) to provide a forum for the discussion of the responsibilities of libraries in relation to the important problems of social change which face institutions and librarians;
 - (b) to provide for exchange of information among all ALA units about library activities with the goal of increasing understanding of current social problems;
 - (c) to act as a stimulus to the Association and its various units in making libraries more responsive to current social needs;
 - (d) to present programs, arrange exhibits and carry out other appropriate activities.
3. Membership will consist of personal members and of affiliate members who will be free to act using SRRT.
 - (a) Any personal member of ALA may elect to become a personal member of the Round Table upon payment of annual dues, with the right to vote and to volunteer to serve as a member. A personal member is free to act in three ways: 1) as an individual, through discussion and action at the annual meeting, through volunteering to committees which serve the Round Table, through correspondence, publication and other appropriate activities; 2) by working in a group on a national task force or project group, through studies and surveys with reports and recommendations and other appropriate activities; 3) by organizing and working with local Affiliate Member groups.
 - (b) Any group organized regionally or locally to work on problems of social responsibilities of librarians or libraries will be welcome to associate with the Round Table as an Affiliate Member. Affiliate membership shall entitle the group to receive publications of the Round Table and to participate by reporting on activities for dissemination to all the membership; it shall not entitle members of the group who are not Personal Members of the Round Table to vote or hold office in the Round Table. An Affiliate Member group is free to take advantage of SRRT communications via newsletters, and can ask for advice and support or other appropriate activities from the Round Table.
4. Working groups will be established in the areas of activity. Members are encouraged to volunteer to act on the issues with which they are concerned in any of these groups.
 - (a) Personal Members can volunteer to be elected to two committees serving all the Round Table members.
 - (1) An Action Council of ten members shall be elected by mail following procedures outlined below, and shall take office immediately after the annual conference. At the annual conference, prior to the business or program meetings of the Round Table, the new Action Council will meet under the auspices of the outgoing Coordinator, and a Coordinator, a Treasurer, and a Recording Secretary will be selected by the new Council from volunteers in its membership. Action council shall have the responsibilities of (1) determining the program at the next annual conference, (2) submitting projects or endorsing projects of volunteer task forces of the Round Table, (3) soliciting volunteers and appointing members to ALA unit positions which accrue to the Coordinator ex-officio and to committees to help the Council to meet their organizational responsibilities, (4) coordinating the dissemination of information to the general membership in conjunction with the Clearinghouse. No member of Action Council will accept appointment from more than one other group (committee, Council, etc.) in ALA.
 - (2) A Clearinghouse of six members shall be elected by mail following procedures outlined below, and shall take office immediately after the annual conference. At the Annual conference, prior to the business or program meeting of the Round Table, the new Clearinghouse will meet under the auspices of the outgoing Secretary and select a Secretary from its membership who will serve as editor of the newsletter and who will report to the Coordinator of the Action Council. The Clearinghouse shall have the responsibility of coordinating and disseminating information of the progress of national task forces and of Affiliate Member groups and other news of importance to the Round Table through newsletters and through correspondence; and of advising the Action Council of matters from members that may be included in the annual conference program or may be referred to appropriate national task forces. No member of Clearinghouse will accept appointment from more than one other group (committee, Council, etc.) in ALA.
 - (3) The term of office for both committees shall be for two years, with five members being elected each year for the Action Council and three members being elected each year for the Clearinghouse.
 - (4) Individual members who wish to volunteer to serve on either elected committee will submit their names, their committee preference, a statement about policy and action on social responsibilities of librarians, and a short biographical note to the Recording Secretary of the Action Council by November 1. No candidate will accept appointment or nomination from more than one other group (committee, Council, etc.) in ALA. The names of all the volunteers

will be submitted to the Personal Members for election.

- (5) Elected members of either committee will be considered disqualified and their positions vacant if they (1) accept appointment from more than one other group (committee, Council, etc.) in ALA, (2) fail to respond to two consecutive communications from the Coordinator or Secretary, or (3) fail to attend meetings without approval of their committee. The Action Council Coordinator and Clearinghouse Secretary will inform committee members of status of the members in these aspects of eligibility from time to time.
 - (6) Positions on either committee left vacant because of incumbent's disqualification, as described in 5.a.5. above, shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the next runner-up in the most recent election. The Action Council Coordinator or Clearinghouse Secretary will welcome any new member and inform the member of progress of the committee.
 - (7) Outgoing members of either committee will not be eligible to volunteer for either committee for a period of one year.
 - (8) In the meetings of the new Action Council and Clearinghouse before the general membership meetings at the annual conference, if there is more than one volunteer for the office of Coordinator, Recording Treasurer, or Secretary, and no decision can be made by the respective committees, the membership present at the annual business meeting may be asked to select from the volunteers the one who shall serve in the office.
- (b) Personal Members, at their own will or by volunteering to projects proposed by the Action Council, may choose to form into groups for specific projects.
- A short statement of members, purpose, goals, and duration of operation shall be submitted by the group to the Coordinator of the Action Council to establish the group. Summary communications on progress of the group will be made in writing for the duration of the project; these summary communications will be sent to the Coordinator for consideration and/or endorsement of the Action Council and for dissemination to the general membership. These project groups may meet as frequently as necessary for their stated duration.
- Project groups may decide, or may ask Action Council to decide, on some control of their membership, that is, the amount of action considered necessary to remain a member of the project group.
- (c) Personal members and/or non-members may choose to form groups and to join the Round Table as a group Affiliate Member.
- Groups who elect affiliate membership in the Round Table should submit a short statement of members, purpose, goals and duration of operation to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse. Summary communications on progress of the group and recommendations in brief written form will be made at intervals for the duration of affiliate membership; these summary communications will be sent to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse for the newsletter and/or referral to the Action Council.

5. There will be some meetings at all activity levels of the Round Table.
 - (a) Personal Members can act as individuals at the annual meeting of the Round Table which shall take place during the annual meeting of ALA. As individuals, they are also welcome to midwinter group meetings.
 - (b) Personal Members in groups, including Action Council, Clearinghouse, and task forces or project groups shall meet during the midwinter meeting of the ALA. Action Council and Clearinghouse shall also meet during the annual meeting of ALA to elect officers in accordance with the O-A.
 - (c) Members of Affiliate Member groups will be welcome to attend any Round Table meeting as guests.
6. Finance of the activities of the Round Table will come from dues of the general membership and from voluntary contributions to groups.
 - (a) Dues for the personal and for affiliate members shall be required.
 - (1) The dues for personal members shall be \$5 per year.
 - (2) The dues for affiliate members shall be \$1 per year.
 - (b) If money is needed by any project group or by any affiliate member, the group may ask that such a notice is printed in the newsletter. The group will include in its notice the amount of money needed and the purpose for which the money is needed, together with a petition for donations and a mailing address. The group will send this notice to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse to be printed in a newsletter.
 - (c) The Treasurer is the officer authorized to approve requests for reimbursement and payment of bills for funds in the custody of the ALA Executive Board. Any requests for more than \$50.00 from a single source in a year will require Action Council approval prior to Treasurer action.
7. This statement of Organization and Action may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Round Table in attendance and voting at any annual meeting, provided notice of the proposed revision has been sent to members or printed in the ALA Bulletin at least 30 days prior to the meeting. It may also be amended by a majority vote in a mail referendum to personal members provided notice of the proposed revision has been sent to members or printed in the ALA Bulletin at least 30 days prior to the referendum.
 - (a) Proposals for revision may be sent by any member to the Coordinator of the Action Council for its consideration and, upon approval, referral to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse for dissemination to the membership.
 - (b) Any personal member(s) may send a proposal for revision to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse for printing in a newsletter, with an accompanied form indicating support which can be returned by supporters to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse. Upon receipt of 25 (twenty-five) supporting signatures from personal members, the Secretary of the Clearinghouse will proceed with dissemination of the proposal to the membership and will notify the Coordinator of the Action Council for placement on the agenda.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Perhaps no principle of library service has been so honored in theory and so violated in practice as has the principal of Intellectual Freedom. The Library Bill of Rights has long been considered a cornerstone of American librarianship, yet many librarians either misunderstand or ignore its implications, those courageous few who uphold its precepts often lose their jobs (while their colleagues look the other way), and the general public seems supremely unaware of the significance of this supposedly basic freedom. At this point in time, the American Library Association must strongly reaffirm its belief in the principle of Intellectual Freedom, it must spell out in unmistakable terms the implications of translating principle into practice, it must undertake an extensive informational campaign aimed at both librarians and the general citizenry, and it must spare no effort or reasonable cost in defending librarians who are attacked for supporting - or for practicing - Intellectual Freedom. The integrity of our libraries and of our library association, as well as the survival of this fundamental principle, are at stake.

To implement an effective program in support of Intellectual Freedom, action must be taken in the following areas:

Education: The Intellectual Freedom Office should be provided with funds, staff, and authorization sufficient to engage in an active, nationwide informational program and campaign in opposition to all forms of censorship and in full support of intellectual freedom through the press, television, radio, and any other appropriate media.

The Intellectual Freedom Office should conduct regular workshops at the national and regional level to be attended by representatives of state intellectual freedom committees, so that these groups can in turn develop programs locally and serve as the bases of a nationwide network for rapid communication and concerted action. A staff of consultants from the IFO should be free to travel around the country as speakers and advisors. Programs specifically aimed at library trustees must be developed. Library schools must be persuaded to include in their curricula courses, seminars, and research projects on the implementation and defense of the principles of intellectual freedom.

Films, posters, radio and television spots, leaflets must be developed and distributed widely. Booklists and bibliographic articles focusing on controversial items which librarians might otherwise be tempted to avoid should be distributed and featured in the library press.

Defense mechanisms: Librarians will defend the freedom to read in far greater numbers if they know that their stands will be supported legally, financially, and morally by the prestigious American Library Association. Most censorship attempts are tactically amateurish, irrational, and even illegal, and they will collapse when confronted by a determined resistance. But the response must be immediate and unwavering. ALA backing must be made evident before, not merely after, the librarian has been fired or politically outmaneuvered.

Investigation: The procedures for initiating ALA action are much too cumbersome. The "Request for Action" form, in its present design, is likely to intimidate many an already-harassed librarian and to discourage him by the prospect of immersion in a bureaucratic and jurisdictional morass. A simple phone call should be enough to put the response machinery in motion. Policies established by the Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Executive Board should be sufficient as guidelines to enable the Director and staff of the Intellectual Freedom Office to provide on-the-spot advice, gather needed information, and determine quickly whether to dispatch a consultant, initiate specific action, or extend the scope of the investigation. If jurisdiction lies properly within the realm of some other agency (such as LAD), this will emerge as the investigation progresses and transfer of authority can be enacted at such time. But rapid response is essential, and the advice and moral support of experts in the earliest stages of a controversy may render more decisive actions at a later time unnecessary.

Legal and Financial Support: Librarians engaged in defending the Library Bill of Rights have a right to expect legal assistance through ALA, and those fired or forced to resign from their jobs because of efforts to defend intellectual freedom (or in violation of their own rights to freedom of opinion, expression, or action in the private sphere) deserve meaningful assistance from ALA toward meeting the costs of legal battles and the costs of living while unemployed. Such assistance should be in the form of grants, not loans, for the basic justification for such support is not sentiments of charity but a recognition that these individuals, in defending themselves, are defending all of us. Certainly, no declaration of "poverty" should be required.

The Freedom to Read Foundation represents recognition, in principle, of the urgent need for a support fund. But, in several important respects, the Foundation is an inadequate response to the need for a

major Association program in defense of Intellectual Freedom.

- a) Reliance on voluntary contributions is not sufficient. If intellectual freedom is to be a major priority of the Association, then support for intellectual freedom merits a major portion of the Association's regular income. To the many ALA members who have complained that their dues do not support worthwhile programs of action, it is not enough to say that now there is a separate foundation to which they can contribute additional funds.
- b) A successful nationwide program in support of intellectual freedom requires both educational and defensive measures, and the basic interrelationship of these is such that both must be coordinated by one strong Office for Intellectual Freedom.
- c) Intellectual freedom is so fundamental to library service and so crucial to every practicing librarian, that the national library association itself must assume responsibility for its defense. This is essential for the moral health of the Association as well as for the success of an intellectual freedom action program.
- d) To present librarians with a paternalistic fait accompli, and to structure the Board of Trustees carefully so as to prevent any possible "takeover by extremists," can only undermine the confidence and support of many concerned ALA members. A defense fund must be a part of ALA, so that its members may democratically influence its purposes and uses.
- e) Fear of possible loss of tax-exempt status cannot be allowed to determine the policies and practices of the American Library Association, just as a practicing librarian should certainly never succumb to the censor for fear that his own salary or the library budget will suffer. If we believe in the importance of intellectual freedom, we must be willing to take risks in order to defend it.
- f) The scope of intellectual freedom encompasses considerably more than just the freedom to read. Support must also be rendered to the librarian who is fired for sporting a beard, for expressing unpopular opinions as a private citizen, for engaging in civil rights activities, etc., etc. And he should not have to claim "poverty" in order to receive it.

The functions of the Freedom to Read Foundation should be brought within the American Library Association, where they should receive a major portion of the budget and reflect the wishes of the total ALA membership.

Sanctions: The invocation of sanctions against an institution or person who violates the principles of intellectual freedom is not an act of vindictiveness. It is a legitimate pressure toward satisfactory resolution of a specific situation, a device for discouraging violations in other situations, a means of establishing a body of precedents defining the scope of intellectual freedom, and a vehicle for publicizing the principles for which the Association stands. Librarians themselves are perhaps the worst censors. And the librarian who attempts to provide public access to materials of a controversial or unconventional nature is frequently weakened in his defense of this freedom by the widespread failure of neighboring libraries to provide such materials. Those who strive to defend freedom of inquiry cannot succeed unless those who do not uphold this freedom are discouraged and their actions condemned.

Those libraries, librarians, trustees, or other members of the American Library Association, who by their actions do not support the Library Bill of Rights should be suspended from the Association. Wide publicity of such action should be taken through the journal of the Association and through paid advertisements in the regular library press. Invocation of sanctions against an institution should also be publicized through the local press, and ALA members should be urged to refuse employment in such institutions. The right of that institution to receive state and federal aid, or to enjoy accreditation (where applicable), should be challenged.

Intellectual Freedom Office: The Intellectual Freedom Committee, the Executive Board of ALA, the Trustees of the Freedom to Read Foundation, and the members of the library profession have the responsibility of defining the scope of Intellectual Freedom and establishing broad guidelines for the implementation and defense of its principles. But the chief administrative responsibility for the execution of ALA policies and the effective implementation of a strong Association program in defense of intellectual freedom must be vested in the executive arm of the Association and in a strong Office of Intellectual Freedom, headed by a lawyer who is strongly committed to and experienced in civil liberty cases. Broad policy guidelines should provide a framework within which great reliance can be placed on the discretion of the Director of the OIF to implement these policies, to act quickly and decisively when circumstances require, and to speak with the force of Association backing. The OIF merits a major portion of the Association's resources. Its staff and budget must be increased significantly and the scope of its authority should be set in proportion to the importance of intellectual freedom to the functioning of librarianship.

George Alfred
Arthur Curley, Chairman

What is happening regionally

ILLINOIS--CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SRRT

The Champaign-Urbana SRRT has fifty-five members who are primarily from the library science faculty. Their tentative objectives are the answers to the following questions. What can we as librarians do to encourage needed changes within our own institutions, to help improve our own communities, to help members of minority groups, to help the poor, to improve our environment? What are librarians' responsibilities to society as a whole?

They have written a circulated a statement calling for an increase in minority representation in the Library School and suggesting specific steps to attain that goal. The LS faculty is presently considering the statement and should act on it soon. They are also investigating the status of minority groups and women in the University Library. During the Strike, they sponsored Liberation classes and distributed excerpts from relevant public documents to interested members of the University community. They are also most concerned about the recent move to remove faculty representation from librarians.

The group enlists the support of public, school, and special librarians. For more information, contact Linda Crowe, 328 Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 61801.

ILLINOIS SRRT

The ISRRT, formed since September 69, has a membership of about fifty (mail-list of about 500) librarians from all types of libraries. Their purpose is to provide a forum and a working force concerned with social responsibilities as they relate to libraries. Local task forces have been formed on intellectual freedom, LS curriculum, and service to minorities. Contact Gordon McShean, Coordinator ISRRT, Dundee Township Library, Dundee, Illinois 60118.

MICHIGAN

The Detroit Area SRRT has met every month since September, 1969. They have a mailing list of one hundred plus. The group has emphasized a two-fold thrust. They are seeking to improve the communications with their election professional association representatives, and are determined to make a meaningful confrontation with some vital social issues

having particular relevance to libraries. Contact Skip Rosenthal, Henry Ford Community College Library, 5101 Evergreen Ave., Dearborn, Michigan 48128.

MISSOURI

The MLA-SRRT has a membership of seventy librarians from all types of libraries. They have been organized since October 1969 as a Round Table of the Missouri Library Association; their coordinator serves as a non-voting member of the MLA Executive Board. They have taken action in the Joan Bodger case; their member on the MLA reorganization committee is pushing for a grievance committee. A program is being planned for the September 1970 MLA Convention; Service to Minorities. Contact Bernadine Hoduski, MLA-SRRT, 515 N. Florence, Lee's Summit, Mo. 64063.

NEW YORK--LONG ISLAND SRRT

The LISRRT met for the first time in April 1970. They have a membership of about twenty public, school, and college librarians. Their goals are not yet clearly defined, but they are organizing to consider and act upon problems facing librarians in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Contact Martin J. Zonlight, 34-24 77th St., #3a, Jackson Heights, N. Y. 11372.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

SRRT OF THE FINGER LAKES--which has been formed since November 1969 to support regional librarians who wish to involve themselves as professionals in the important social issues of today--has a membership of fifty academic, public, and school librarians. They have an action group on library technicians which is establishing programs for library technical assistants in the area. This group is gathering information about the problems and successes of such programs, and determining ways in which the Round Table can be effective in promoting acceptance of such programs.

The Action Group on Environment worked with organizations and institutions of the Finger Lakes area on activities for April 22. SRRT librarians compiled one page bibliographies of relevant inexpensive paperbacks and recent government documents which were given wide distribution.

The Action Group on Black Recruitment is considering the problems and possibilities for action in recruitment of

blacks to all levels of library work, for better service to and representation of the group in our profession.

The SRRT co-sponsored a special National Library Week Program devoted to the theme Librarians and Social Change.

They are considering affiliation with the South Central Reference and Research Council, one of New York State's "3R's" Councils. Contact Janet Williams, 527 State St., Ithaca, N. Y. 1495.

OHIO

The ALA-SRRT in Ohio urges the support of individual librarians of the economic boycott proposed by students at hundreds of colleges and universities as an alternative to violent forms of dissent. You are asked to boycott: Coca-Cola and its subsidiaries (Minute Maid, Fresca, Sprite, Tab, Tekoa, Fanta, Duncan Hines, Hi-C, Snowcrop, Butter Ground Coffee, Real Gold Fruit Punch), and Philip Morris and its subsidiaries (Marlboro, Alpine, Benson & Hedges, Virginia Slims, English Ovals, Parliament, Players Navy Cuts). They further urge your support of the passage of the McGovern-Hatfield amendment to cut off war funds. Letters, petitions, telegrams, and phone calls NOW.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Philadelphia SRRT has been formed since July 1969. At their April meeting, Betty Breedlove outlined the plans of the recently formed Task Force on Recruiting Minorities. These include working with "Operation Soul," a local job conference aimed at black college graduates, collecting information on job and scholarship opportunities in the northeastern U.S. that might provide ways for those with limited financial means to earn while they get their degrees, and investigation of the job possibilities locally for library technicians, or those with library associate degrees.

The Philadelphia Chapter hosted a pre-Detroit conference of SRRT affiliates on May 15-17 in Philadelphia. The results of the conference are reported elsewhere in the Newsletter.

For information on the Philadelphia SRRT contact Miriam Crawford, 4240 Parkside Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104.

WASHINGTON STATE

A small group of concerned librarians, brought together through the efforts of

Agnes Griffen, met several times prior to the annual Washington Library Association meeting, 8-9 May at Richland, to discuss plans for formation of a SRRT group in Washington. The group asked the WLA president for a spot on the agenda of the first business meeting on Friday afternoon in which to make an announcement calling for a SR caucus that evening after the usual banquet. Flyers on SRRT, membership forms, and the "Librarians for 321.8" statement were assembled and distributed prior to the meeting.

The request was granted; they had also alerted the secretary to the fact that they intended to offer a number of motions under new business. They presented a resolution, similar to the one ruled out of order at NYLA (LJ, 2/15, p.607), which was ruled out of order by the chair. Unlike New York however, the chair did agree to reconvene the meeting--which was running very late--later in the evening. At the reconvened meeting, the rules were suspended so that the substance of the resolution could be discussed and arguments for and against overruling the chair could be raised. The chair was sustained 50-4 to 38. The resolution, rewritten as a petition to Nixon, was signed by a number of individual librarians and sent to the President.

The rationale employed to keep the Vietnam resolution from the floor was also used to bar consideration of a resolution regarding transportation of nerve gases across the State of Washington.

A motion in favor of geographic distribution and proportional representation of library constituencies in ALA Council was approved; Following that the motion "that instructions 2-5 of the 'Librarians for 321.8' statement be used as guidance in council meetings at Detroit by ALA councilors from the State of Washington" was approved.

The SRRT group also presented to the membership, for their information, the text of a manifesto which has been signed by thirty-one members of the University of Washington School of Librarianship: "We...condemn: 1. the unconstitutional and inhumane war in Vietnam, 2. the expansion of that war into Cambodia. 3. the murder of Kent State students protesting that expansion. 4. the repression of dissent being carried

out by the Nixon administration. 5. The lack of an official statement by the University of Washington condemning the afore mentioned actions. Therefore, we support and are participating in the nationwide student, faculty, and university staff strike.

After the business meeting adjourned, the SRRT caucus met. There was agreement on the need for forming a Washington SRRT; the following protest assignments were agreed upon: Jim Holly, Clerk, Agnes Griffen, Custodian/Editor (spark plug), Bill Larsen, Secretary; SRRT representatives on the WLA new directions committee: Rosemary Bloomfield, Bill Larsen, Susan Tait (alternate).

NATIONAL FREEDOM FUND FOR LIBRARIANS--

Everyone on the SRRT mailing list--including non-ALA SRRT people--has been sent a notice that a Danville, Va. jury found against Ellis Hodgin, the librarian of the Martinsville, Va. Public Library, who was fired three days after he had joined with other parents in a suit against the local school board for teaching bible classes to children in the schools.

Around Ellis's case and his dismissal by City Manager, Thomas Noland, the National Freedom Fund was built.

Bob Dvoskin, Ellis's attorney, has filed an appeal with the next higher federal court in Richmond, but to conduct such an appeal successfully, funds for the purchase of transcripts and many other legal expenses are needed. Ellis has been advised by the ALA Freedom to Read Foundation that "no funds can be disbursed until after the May election of Trustees and after procedures are established." The courts won't wait that long. Please send contributions to: National Freedom Fund for Librarians, P.O. Box 10174, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232.

MARSHALL E. WOODRUFF LEGAL DEFENSE

FUND--Mr. Marshall Woodruff, owner of the Joint Possession in College Park, Md., was convicted and sentenced to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine by Prince George's County Circuit Judge Roscoe H. Parker on March 20, 1970. Mr. Woodruff is now free on bond, awaiting an appeal to a higher court. The charge on which he was convicted was distributing an "obscene" issue of the Washington Free Press.

We hold that Mr. Woodruff's civil liberty--freedom to disseminate expression--was violated and that legal censorship has been perpetrated in the community. Mr. Woodruff's legal expenses are considerable, despite free counsel furnished by the Prince George's County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

We concerned librarians and other citizens believe that we have a right and duty to do all within our power to see that justice is rendered in this case. We are fighting also the growing menace of censorship in our community. To that end we have established the Marshall E. Woodruff Legal Defense Fund. Donations will be accepted payable to the Committee for the Legal Defense of Marshall E. Woodruff, P.O. Box 1635, Hyattsville, Md. Any monies received in excess of Mr. Woodruff's legal expenses in this case will be remitted to the Prince George's County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union for furthering its wide-reaching defense of civil liberties.

Prince George's County Problem with the Washington Free Press has been reported in the ALA Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom, 3/70, p.25; LI, 3/15/70, p.966, 4/15/70, p.142; American Libraries, 4/70, p.335. Donations are earnestly solicited. Could we possibly exceed Mr. Woodruff's defense expenses?

LIBRARY EDUCATION

Students from Syracuse, Albany, and Geneseo held an Upstate New York Library School Conference in Syracuse, February 7-8, 1970. The purpose of the conference was to evolve ideas for action to change library education. Emphasis was on strategies for change, rather than on discussion of the problems. The discussion groups which met were: recruitment, entrance requirements/exemption texts, curriculum/courses outside library science, comprehensives/theses, extension programs, course evaluation.

Copies of the reports from the discussion groups are available (I believe) from Pete Geiger, 266 Croly St., Syracuse, N. Y. 13224.

Some conclusions reached:

On the subject of course evaluations the students concluded that they "are a benefit to faculty, students, and the

curriculum of the library schools. Course evaluations serve as a communications medium for all members of the school, as a guide for courses, and as an ongoing mechanism for curriculum change. Evaluation forms should be a joint effort by faculty and students, and the results should be available to all members of the three library schools.... We have formed a committee of representatives from the three schools which is charged with developing a model form for use in course evaluation.

They have proposed, as a substitute for comprehensives, "that a week of seminars and group discussions be established after final examinations and before graduation. These seminars and discussions should be jointly organized by students and faculty to crystallize the aims, objectives, and experiences acquired during the period of study."

Peace!

SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE
Joan K. Marshall, Secretary
Brooklyn College Library
Bedford Ave. & Ave. H
Brooklyn, New York 11210



American Library Assoc.
Headquarters Library
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, ILL. 60611

JOIN or START an **SRRT** and get involved.