LIBRARY DOLLARS FOR WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE?

By Steve Seward

$3½ million in federal funds is enough to guarantee that the White House Conference on Libraries will be an event we'll be hearing more about in future months. Your SRRT Newsletter will be covering developments leading up to the 'main event'. Of particular concern are such issues as library service to the disadvantaged (urban and rural) and free access to information—and the importance that they be raised at every step of the process. Every SRRT reader could add a couple more issues, though no one can be sure how effectively they will be raised.

It certainly remains to be seen whether the conference can include any real grass-roots participation, but that problem is endemic in such national conclaves. There is some evidence that state conferences will address some of the problem areas of concern to all librarians. We're all concerned with increasing library funding. But what must be raised in addition to the size of the pie is how it is to be sliced, and who's to make the decisions.

Libraries are big business. But for library service the tail will be wagging the dog if we allow decisions on funds and future projects to be determined by users and suppliers of the most modern technologies. The White House Conference is a showcase event, but it needn't mean that only the rich get richer.

We urge participation on the issues by everyone and hasten to add that that includes individuals not officially participating in state meetings or

(continued on page 3)
This camera blinked...

It will hardly be a surprise to learn that the SRRT Newsletter is unhappy with CBS coverage of the Speaker debate at midwinter. Anyone who saw the April telecast on "Sixty Minutes" will share our disappointment that there was no presentation of that apparently very elusive position between squelching the film as unfit for human consumption and a 'civil liberties' stand that it must be shown as produced, with the ALA 'seal'.

Dan Rather seemed simply amused that a freedom of speech debate could revolve around a film concerned with freedom of speech. And he didn't go much deeper in his coverage. "Sixty Minutes" crews made a media event of the Council session at midwinter, and the network called the shots in establishing priorities for the week-long meeting—which is a problem in itself.

But the televised result was worse. Rather introduced the segment by suggesting that ALA was wavering on freedom of speech ("the ALA, you would think, would be the last..."), Opposition to the film was considered "an about-face" and according to the report, "also of members thought the film was too hot to handle."

A much clearer view recording the distinctions which need to be made appeared in the April 1, 1978 issue of Library Journal, p. 720, where John Berry noted that the important point here is the artificiality of the conflict between "awareness" and "promotion". Civil liberties deserves better than a position in defense of this film; if that were the choice it would all be best ignored. But ALA members have a responsibility to challenge the film, and its production as an official publication of the association. We have done so over the past year, in some cases articulately.

It's time now to turn, however, to the impending debate on awareness and the library bill of rights, where the discussion will take a somewhat less dramatic but equally telling form... and for that reason we've done some digging in the preliminary schedule of ALA meetings for this month's conference...

(see below)

WHERE THE ACTION IS THIS YEAR AT ALA

or, the meeting they'll be talking about for the rest of the week...

Saturday, June 24
12:00 noon-4:00 p.m.

In the past year, the SRRT Newsletter has uncovered some items which seemed worth attention in regard to the operations of the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee. Here's a final one which shouldn't be missed, but from the design of the preliminary program and, in particular, the entry quoted in full above, it would seem that missing this one would be very easy to do. But what is referred to in the notice of a 'hearing' is the long-awaited discussion of the racism and sexism resolutions to be held on the first day of programming at this year's conference.

I can't explain what "statement of responsibility" means to those who've called this meeting, but I do want to pass on the information about the session, and urge everyone who can attend that Saturday session to do so.

S.S.

chicago, June 24-30

SRRT ACTION COUNCIL MEETINGS:

June 24, Sat., 8:30 pm, Palmer
June 25, Sun., 7 am, Pick-Congress (breakfast)
June 25, Sun., 12:30 pm, Palmer
June 28, Wed., 4:30 pm, Blackstone

SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE MEETINGS:

same as scheduled Action Council meetings.

SRRT SUITE OPEN HOUSE:

5:30 - 7:30 pm every day
Pick-Congress Hotel
All are invited!

TASK FORCE ON WOMEN:

June 25, Sun., 2 pm, Palmer
June 26, Mon., 10 am, Blackstone
June 27, Tue., 8 am & 2 pm, Palmer
June 28, Wed., 8 am, Palmer

OPEN HOUSE FOR SRRT MEMBERS
MONDAY AFTERNOON, SEE PAGE 6.
selected as delegates. We remain hopeful on the issues.

Less so, though, in the area of conference funding. There seems, in fact, to be cause for some hard questions on the subject of funding. Of the $3½ million in designated federal funds a little over one million dollars is earmarked for state conferences. Over a half million goes for national conference expenses and $5 million dollars has been designated to cover "administrative costs" for the entire operation. Those involved acknowledge that this won't cover expenses. So...

In addition to the $3½ million in federal funds allotted directly to the conference, Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds can be used to pay for state conferences. Even the ALA conference newsletter "Cornerstones" recognizes that "many states will find it painful to allocate those funds for this purpose when the need for funds is so great." (June 1977, p. 42)

But the alternatives they offer range from the pathetic to the misdirected. For LSCA funds they suggest a plan to "draw on two years of LSCA funds instead of draining one year's allocation." For other sources of money, the committees suggest tapping legislative funds, contingency funds of governors or other officials, and foundation support. It is here that the price tag on the White House Conference looms largest. Not only as an obstacle to needed funds and energy.

Historic occasion or not, we are most interested in how NCLIS spends allotted funds, and how the conference can become as substantive as possible. Toward that end we offer the following paragraphs on the subject of such understandings.

The comments are Roger Rosenblatt's, in the July 2, 1977 New Republic, and though the subject isn't libraries the thoughts are applicable.

"First, this project is conspicuously a big project, presenting a big report written by several big hands to other big people used to hearing big ideas and big plans.

Second, there is the style of the presentation, which in part explains the shapelessness of the recommendations...

...the panelists who hail from Maine to Hawaii, from Texas to Minnesota; this calculated breadth of appeal; the onusc to press conference spokes with movies and stars—it all beeps

First, this project is conspicuously a big project, presenting a big report written by several big hands to other big people used to hearing big ideas and big plans.

Second, there is the style of the presentation, which in part explains the shapelessness of the recommendations...

...the panelists who hail from Maine to Hawaii, from Texas to Minnesota; this calculated breadth of appeal; the onusc to press conference spokes with movies and stars—it all beeps not an idea but a method of promulgating an idea, a style which finds the method before it understands the problem, and then proceeds with all good intentions to solve the method instead of the problem. Here, once again, we have a national 'change'—to do what? By the time this effort fails, as it is almost bound to, in its present form, no one will remember how it started. The professional panelists will be issuing their reports on the preservation of historic buildings—a report that states in no uncertain terms that historic buildings must be preserved—and a school janitor will be worrying where to dump the play-doh." (p. 42)

Don't dump play-doh on the White House Conference yet—but let the sticky stuff stand for what's important as the plans are constructed.

I don't accept the argument that "it's the only game in town," nor am I attracted by the glamour. At least, neither reason is sufficient to spend all the time and money which will be spent over the next year. But the wheels are turning and we are underway. There will be a blue-ribbon report, and it will be an expensive one. Let's see to it that the famous are raised, explained and fought for in the coming months.

In this newsletter, you won'tage reading of arrangements, we end up with wide-angle photos of the marble that is Washington. The ALA Yearbook will have both in quantity. Look instead to the SRRT Newsletter for the issues and discuss them with us.

Rosemary Rasmussen

If you like any item in this issue, please photocopy it and send it out to five non-SRRT or librarians you know. Let them know how to subscribe and join SRRT (you don't have to belong to ALA).
Cultural pluralism implies respect for the values, cultures, and viewpoints of Third World groups, as well as for the values and mores developed by the American majority. The library profession is having extraordinary difficulty in translating this principle into action. Many of us seem unable to shift our cultural perspective, or to understand why our professional responsibilities require so much historical and sociological background. We are only beginning to see why white librarians cannot "stand in" for members of the Third World in the same way they represent the pervasive culture.

These seem to be hard questions for many: how can a white librarian's consultation with Third World advisers be justified as part of the book selection process? Would such a joint analysis of Third World materials introduce censorship into the process? How can a library's relationship with other community groups be seen and understood as equally fair?

The much publicized "preferred status" of the First Amendment doesn't rule out a synthesis of our highest ideals: freedom of expression and the freedom of identity which thrives only in a non-racist, non-sexist climate. Self-fulfillment and a progressive community depend upon this synthesis, and court cases reveal a whole series of connections between the values of civil liberties and civil rights. Historically the Constitution has been accommodating these joint goals with increasing clarity (see Harry Kalven's The Negro and the First Amendment, which traces Supreme Court opinions that support the Black American protest movement.)

The film "The Speaker" (which fails in illuminating free speech theory, but succeeds in maligning the group identity of blacks) was a direct stimulus to the creation of the new task force. The Intellectual Freedom Committee's continuing effort to rescind a key point in the Racism and Sexism Awareness Resolution was another. These retrograde actions point to the fact that pluralism is often misunderstood and needs to be made more explicit in ALA policies.

The foregoing is a brief description of what lies behind the formation of the new task force. The central issue is the pervasive stereotyping of women and Third World groups in the mass media, and the libraries' posture in relation to this massive influence. Other concerns include the relationship between aesthetic and sociological criteria, and the need for Third World/feminist cooperation in the effort to combat racism and sexism.

The 1978 convention meeting of the Task Force will include the following program, on Wednesday morning, June 28, 9:00 am—Noon:

Speakers: Marva DeLoach (Doctoral student, University of Pittsburgh and member of the Black Caucus); "The State of Anti-racism in ALA".
Diane Kadanoff (Coordinator, Task Force on Women); "The State of Anti-sexism in ALA".

Also planned is a sampling of AV materials: "A Minor Altercation" (film), "Understanding Institutional Racism" (filmstrip), and others; and a group discussion: "Next Steps in Developing Consciousness-raising Activities".

A Catalogue of Political Magazines

The Political Publications Group offers the magazines pictured here, with subscription information for each in their catalogue. Request information from PPG, #13D, 320 Riverside Dr., New York, NY, 10025.
Mimi Penchansky and Jackie Eubanks, Senior Editing, the Task Force on Alternatives in Print material as well as attend several bookfairs. The grant is for the eleventh edition, on which work began in April 1. The funds have enabled the task force to hire a full-time compiler, to do comprehensive research and mailings, to attend bookfairs and make contacts in order to prepare a comprehensive listing of independent publishers.

Temple University’s Contemporary Culture Collection is the center for the compilation. It is one of 40 alternative press collections loosely connected in the "Collector’s Network" and serves as the redistribution point for duplicates which the collections freely exchange. This should serve as an added advantage in the compilation. Judy Koroljow has been selected to compile the book under the direction of Elliott Shore, Task Force Coordinator, Mimi Penchansky and Jackie Eubanks, Senior Editors.

The basis for the award was the contention that although Alternatives in Print is a fine reference, it could be improved and become self-supporting with astute editing. The Task Force believes that the production of authority sustaining with sufficient funding. The Task Force. Mimi Penchansky will research the possible cover publishers for inclusion into the current edition, and to set up a regular system for reporting the existence of new publishers to the Task Force. Mini Panchensky will research the possible use of computers for future editions, in addition to attending the Atlanta ABA convention. Elliott Shore will oversee the day-to-day collection of material as well as attend several bookfairs. More work than ever is needed from SRRT members. The principal task that we can each set for ourselves is the cogent reporting of movement publications and established periodicals for notices of new small presses. In this area, task force members can make the greatest contribution to the success of the project. In this end, we urge everyone planning to be at ALA to attend the ADP meeting on Monday, June 26. If you cannot be there, please let us know which titles you will be reading as soon as you can, so that we will be sure that none are being neglected. The other area in which help is needed is in attendance at small press bookfairs. We know of the major ones: Minneapolis, San Francisco, Kansas City and New York. But we want to know about others in order to assign someone charge to the Task Force. If you are interested in monitoring periodicals and/or have information about fairs, please write to me at:

Elliott Shore
Task Force on Alternatives in Print
Temple University Library
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Tel. (215) 787-8667

The Board of Trustees of the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund (Joan Goddard, Joan Marshall, Betty-Carol Sellen) met during ALA midwinter meetings in Chicago in January. Two cases involving discrimination against black individuals were reviewed and grants of financial support awarded. The most frustrating situation that the trustees face is the small, really small list of contributors-members of the fund. There has been plenty of evidence in the past that although librarians care about their colleagues who are treated unjustly and/or take personal risks to demand justice for themselves or others: witness to this is the generosity of the many people who contributed to the Folio Horn support fund and Peter Doiron support fund in the past. Now when the national climate has changed and there is less public outcry over injustice, people seem to think the oppressors have gone away. Unfortunately the "styles" of oppression that are so frequent and insidious now is such that the victims often fear publicity—the kind of publicity that rallies supporters to reach into their pocket books and offer help by contributing to the Merritt Fund. The Trustees wishes to assure everyone that there are still racists, and sexists, and anti-gays, and censors, and despotic employers out there—and there are victims who need our help when they stand up for human rights and justice.

Looking for Puerto Rican cultural material? Be sure to write to the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, Oficina Comercial, Apartado 4184, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00905, for their fifteen page catalog of hardbound and paperback books, disc reading, exhibition catalogs, and magazines. Prices are very reasonable and some titles are available free of charge. "Con el propósito de divulgar en el país y en el extranjero las diferentes manifestaciones de la cultura puertorriqueña, el Instituto desarrolla un exento programa editorial que comprende la publicación de obras clásicas agotadas y la compilación de obras puertorriqueñas." (Programa del Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña.)

PRIVACY JOURNAL is a monthly newsletter on "privacy in a computer age." Wide-ranging coverage includes privacy and confidentiality issues, uses and abuses in both the public and private sector, and current awareness items. For lively coverage of the dangers of databanks and other issues regarding privacy and civil liberties, it's a one of a kind publication. Subs are $65 per year from PJ, Box 8844, Washington D.C. 20003.
When it is needed, building up a reputation is the key. Getting the material to them sounds because information is the staple of political life, and, while talking to a legislator, you are right again. But there's another part to the picture. Some lobbyists (who may prefer the more elegant term "legislative representative") look like your colleagues and probably are.

Without large sums or the influence that comes from socializing with the big boys, they do a surprisingly effective job. Their stock in trade is information. Whether testifying for a Congressional subcommittee on a particular bill, locating an agency with grants to dispense for a visiting colleague, doing the cheese and wine reception circuit or patiently combing the Congressional Record, they accumulate facts and data, present them to the right people at the right time, and if they are good at it, build up credibility and some modest clout over the years.

When I needed to know more about how to influence legislation at various levels, I decided to follow the apprenticeship method of learning. ALA's Washington office agreed to take me on as an intern for three months. Because SRRT members work to change certain aspects of political life, my experiences and observations may be helpful.

The first thing I learned is that lobbyists spend a great deal of time looking to each other, and relatively little time talking to legislators. This is not as futile as it sounds because information is the staple of political life, and, while talking to a legislator is important at a particular moment, it can be a waste of time unless action is needed. But talking to other lobbyists produces all kinds of information that no staff could dig out on its own. At some point, a particular group's interests coincide with some other group's and they can work together; at other times they are in fierce competition for the same slice of the pie. So a judicious amount of trading goes on and a wise lobbyist makes friends, not enemies.

The second lesson was to understand the role and importance of the legislative aides and the staffs of the various Congressional committees. These are the people who receive the lobby's daily budget report by e-mail and make sure it gets to the right people at the right time. Unlike Senate aides, who often have a wide range of responsibilities, House aides are more specialized. Just as in the Senate, the House aide is a dedicated advocate for their particular group, who may prefer the more elegant term "legislative representative." They often show a willingness to listen and a good memory for past help.

The annual battle for appropriations is a major concern. The Congress that blithely authorizes millions for a program haggles over appropriating the money to operate it. Since members of the Appropriations Committees have the power, they can generally point out that the fellows who authorized the expenditure didn't have to take the taxpayer's heat.

What will induce a legislator to spend money? Much of the lobbyist's time is eaten up with finding ingenious ways to explain what terrible things will happen if his project isn't funded, and great things it has done in the past. Hearing from grassroots constituents is still a strong motivation; trading with other legislators the traditional way to get things done. So the lobbyist must instigate these grassroots messages, and accept the trading process as the mechanism that makes it all work.

Is any of this hard-earned knowledge applicable elsewhere? You bet it is. Whether writing a budget justification for the mayor, negotiating a union contract (on either side), campaigning for state aid or just working with people, the principles apply; be sure of your facts, give them to the right people, learn to compromise when necessary, and smile, smile, smile.
SRRT MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:

To join, subscribe, or renew, please send this coupon— with payment— to:
***ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE, 60 REMSEN STREET, #10E, BROOKLYN, NY 11201.***
Please make checks payable to ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE. THANKS!

Name:_____________________________________________________________________________
Street:_________________________ City:__________ State:_________ Zip:________

Is this a new subscription? _______ A renewal? _______ Amount enclosed: _______
______$5(ALA Personal Member) _____$3(Affiliate, non-ALA Member) _____$20(Institute-

tion. Back issues are available at $1 each. $ _____(numbers_____________________

SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE
Steve Seward, Editor, 324 Seventh Street, Union City NJ 07087
Jim Dwyer, 1943½ Onyx Street, Eugene OR 97403
Bonnie Isman, Williams Public Library, 49-50 King Street,
Christiansted, St. Croix VI 00820
Michael R. O'Brien, 1497 West 38th Street, Cleveland OH 44113
Rick Speer, Warren Library Association, Box 489, Warren PA 16365
Barbara Zang, 5 High Street, New Brunswick NJ 08901

SRRT ACTION COUNCIL CO-ORDINATORS
Elizabeth Morrissett, Auraria Libraries, University of Colorado-
Denver, Lawrence and 11th, Denver CO 80204
Mary Biblo, 5225 South Blackstone, Chicago IL 60615
Nancy D'Amico, SRRT Treasurer, Roger Williams College Library,
Old Ferry Road, Bristol RI 02809

ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE
60 Remsen Street, #10E
Brooklyn, New York 11201