



Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter ALA

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LIBRARY DOLLARS FOR WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE?

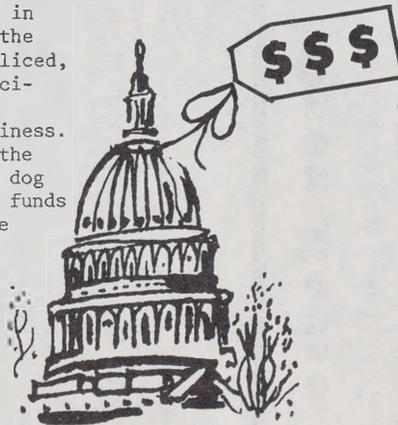
By Steve Seward

\$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)

INSIDE:

SRRT MEETINGS
IN CHICAGO - p. 2

NEW TASK
FORCE - p. 4

ALTERNATIVES
IN PRINT - p. 5

press watch

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, "a lot 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.

Intellectual Freedom Committee

Hearing-on statement of responsibility

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 resolution: 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, Falmer
- June 25, Sun., 7 am, Pick-Congress (breakfast)
- June 25, Sun., 12:30 pm, Falmer
- 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, Falmer
- June 26, Mon., 10 am, Blackstone
- June 27, Tue., 8 am & 2 pm, Falmer
- June 28, Wed., 8 am, Falmer

TOOLS FOR CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING TASK FORCE:

June 28, Wed., 9 am, Blackstone

GAY TASK FORCE: FILM SHOWINGS

- June 25, Sun., 8:30 pm, Pick-Congress
- June 26, Mon., 2 pm, Falmer
- June 27, Tue., 2 pm, Conrad Hilton
- June 27, Tue., 8:30 pm, Blackstone
- June 28, Wed., 10 am, Blackstone
- June 28, Wed., 2 pm, Blackstone

ETHNIC MATERIALS INFORMATION/EXCHANGE TASK FORCE:

June 26, Mon., 8 am, Falmer
 June 27, Tue., 8 am, Conrad Hilton

ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT:

June 25, Sun., 6:30 pm, Blackstone
 June 26, Mon., 10 am, Falmer

OPEN HOUSE FOR SRRT MEMBERS
 MONDAY AFTERNOON, SEE PAGE 6.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

(continued from page 1)

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 1½ 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 them is so great." (June 1977, p. 1) 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 committee suggests 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 successful meetings, but as a diversion of 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 undertakings.

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 stately press conference spiked with movies and stars--it all bespeaks 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 'charge'--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 wondering 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 issues are raised, explained and fought for in the coming months.

In this newsletter, you won't be reading of arrangements, or 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.



drink all your orange juice
all winter all summer all
that vitamin C will keep
you from becoming unhealthy
the vitamin C will keep
you from becoming sicko
the vitamin C will keep
you straight
look at Anita Bryant
she drinks OJ all day long
not just for breakfast
you see, all that mixing
and serving and sipping
and singing and sitting
on the toilet keeps
her too busy to meet
any fearful fantasy

could it be that
the forbidden fruit
was actually growing on a
glossy-leaved orange tree
the serpent singing
for Eve to taste in citrus
the unnatural knowledge
of naked fig leaves
as well as shameful sodomy
and whatever it is women do--
Eve, too full of oranges
to be able to reach
through the tree to Lilith
Adam's first wife Lilith
who would not put up with
little inequalities like
his constant lying atop her
Lilith who flew away shrieking
into a demon into a bitch into
a serpent singing
to Eve the painful way out
of the rib cage and
the unnatural knowledge
of naked fig leaves

Rosemary Rasmussen

If you like any item in this issue, please photocopy it and send it out to five non-SRRT'er librarians you know. Let them know how to subscribe and join SRRT (you don't have to belong to ALA).

AIP WINS NEH GRANT

By Elliott Shore

After more than a year of hard work and waiting, the Task Force on Alternatives in Print received a \$25,000 grant to produce a definitive edition of Alternatives in Print. The grant is for the sixth edition, on which work began 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 Koroljov 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-sustaining with sufficient funding. The Task Force believes that the production of authority files, the establishment of contacts with bookstores, publishers, and other representatives of the alternative press movement, both in this country and abroad, and the anticipated distribution of a much larger edition will lead to putting Alternatives in Print on a self-supporting basis. To this end, Jackie Eubanks will be making an extended tour of European bookfairs and bookstores in an attempt to both uncover 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. Mimi Penchansky 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 monitoring 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. To this end, we urge everyone planning to be at ALA to attend the AIP 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 Memphis. But we want to know about others in order to have someone there to represent the Task Force. If you are interested in monitoring periodicals and/or have information about fairs, please write to me at:

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

WOMEN'S HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER offers a list of 200 libraries in 8 countries which have some or all of their library available--send 25c and a stamped self-addressed envelope to receive the list. (2325 Oak St., Berkeley CA 94708)

LEROY C. MERRITT FUND

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 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 Zoia 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 "style" of oppression that is 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 Board of 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.

Please, for people's sake, send contributions to the LeRoy Merritt Humanitarian Fund, c/o Roger Funk, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago IL 60611. Also, the Board would like help in compiling mailing lists of potential contributors. Please send any names or lists to Betty-Carol Sellen, Brooklyn College Library Brooklyn NY 11210.

Betty-Carol Sellen

SOURCE - BOOK

Looking for Puerto Rican cultural material? Be sure to write to the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriquena, Oficina de Ventas, Apartado 4184, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00905, for their fifteen page catalog of hard-bound and paperback books, disc reading, exhibition catalogs, and magazines. Prices are very reasonable and some titles are available free of charge. "Con el proposito de divulgar en el pais y en el extranjero las diferentes manifestaciones de la cultura puertorriquena, el Instituto desarrolla un extenso programa editorial que comprende la reedición de obras clásicas agotadas y la compilación de autores puertorriquenos." (Programa del Instituto de Cultura Puertorriquena.)

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 \$45 per year from PJ, Box 8844, Washington D.C. 20003.

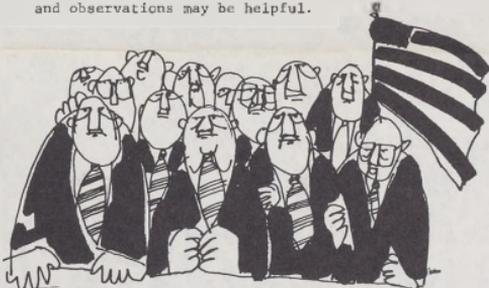
Report From An Apprentice Lobbyist

By Nina Ladoff

There are alot of lobbyists in Washington right now; it's the peak of the legislative season. If your vision of a lobbyist is the sleek man with the plain envelope filled with crisp new bills, you are partly right; if you think of a group as rich and prestigious as the American Petroleum Institute, 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 funds 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 peopel 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 talking 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 toher 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 groups' 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 to whom information is fed, who then may incorporate it into the boss's speech, or his action on a bill. Good staff are invaluable to the legislative process. Getting the material to them when it is needed, building up a reputation for accuracy and reliability are important functions of the lobby. So, if you make a date with your legislator and see his aide instead, don't be miffed; it could do your cause more good in the long run. A surprise to the novice is the youth and enthusiasm of most staffers. They often show a willingness to listen and a good memory for past help.

More women are moving into these jobs, away from purely secretarial duties. (Overheard in the Senate Office Building elevator: "The Senator doesn't let the women go for coffee." It's a nice change to see the men fetching and carrying.)

Another lesson learned the hard way was patience. From a bill's introduction to hearings to mark-up to voting, to the other chamber, to conference to Presidential signature--and then start all over again for the appropriation, and repeat the cycle at intervals. On a shorter scale, patience is required to sit or stand through hours of hearings as an endless parade of witnesses drones on. Often a single committee member presides; his mind is plainly elsewhere. The questions he asks are often devised by his aides, and entirely new to him. Like legislators at all levels, he may focus on a small item in a large bill; perhaps it is easier to grasp something small than the anonymous millions of dollars on which they pass. Librarians who have presented budgets and been hassled about the postage item while major expenditures are passed over will recognize the situation. We all buy postage stamps.

Taking extensive notes at the hearings can pay off. Little loopholes may appear in a bill into which an alert lobbyist can suggest putting a favorable item. Or changes in wording may save an unfavorable situation. Sinking a bad bill may be as important as passing a good one.

The annual battle for appropriations is a major concern. The Congress that blithely authorized 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 lobbyists time is taken up with finding ingenious ways to explain what terrible things will happen if his project isn't funded, what 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 those 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.

Open House

Monday, June 26 4:00-7:00 p.m.
5 South Wabash Room 1508
ONE BLOCK NORTH OF PALMER HOUSE

The Jane Addams Bookstore specializes in new and out-of-print books by and about women, and non-sexist, non-racist books for children. Proprietors Flora Faraci and Nancy Pinke welcome SRRT members and ALA participants at the store where coffee, tea, and wholesome pastries are served; and to their exhibit in the Pick-Congress Hotel, Booktable #6.

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