

Resolution on McConnell

- WHEREAS on June 24, 1970, the University Attorney advised McConnell that the Board of Regents had voted to revoke his contract without stated reason, and
- WHEREAS on August 5, 1970, McConnell appeared in Federal District Court, represented by the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, to contest the breach of contract and fundamental violations of constitutional due process, and
- WHEREAS on advice from his attorneys, McConnell waived for court purposes only, remedies to which he would have been entitled with regard to the University's breach of contract in order to press more strongly his rights for denial of constitutional due process, and
- WHEREAS on January 12, 1971, McConnell filed with ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom a request for action under the program of action in support of the Library Bill of Rights, and
- WHEREAS the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee voted at Midwinter 1971 to transfer McConnell's request for action to the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) for action, and
- WHEREAS the ACRL refused to take substantive action with regard to McConnell's request for action, and
- WHEREAS on June 25, 1971, the ALA Council adopted the Program of Action for Mediation, Arbitration and Inquiry, to be supervised by the Staff Committee on Mediation, Arbitration and Inquiry (SCMAI), but with the restriction that "no formal inquiry will be made into cases which are in litigation", and
- WHEREAS the jurisdiction for the McConnell request for action was thereafter conferred upon SCMAI, and
- WHEREAS SCMAI has made no formal inquiry into McConnell's request for action during the continuance of litigation which ended with a denial of review by the U.S. Supreme Court in October 1972, and
- WHEREAS SCMAI has made no formal inquiry into McConnell's request for action since the conclusion of litigation, particularly with regard to the University of Minnesota's bad faith conduct, and
- WHEREAS SCMAI's final published report (American Libraries, January 1974), insofar as it states that SCMAI "has been precluded from taking meaningful action toward mediation and arbitration of this case", is not supported by said "report of the facts", and

WHEREAS ALA Council on January 25, 1974, passed an Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, committing the American Library Association to "a policy of equality of opportunity for all library employees, or applicants for employment, regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, individual life style, or national origin", Now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the McConnell request for action be referred back to SCHAI for immediate formal inquiry into all issues that affect fundamental fairness in accordance with the principles of intellectual freedom, and the policy of equal employment opportunity.

Submitted to ALA Council
By Miriam Crawford,
Councillor-at-Large

Resolution on the J. Michael McConnell SCMAI Case (CD #62) - Exhibit 24. In submitting the Resolution for Council adoption, Mrs. Crawford struck from the Resolution, paragraphs 7 and 8 as presented, omitting reference to IFC and ACRL, and pointed out that the question in point is whether or not SCMAI conducted a formal inquiry. Mrs. Crawford was granted a point of privilege in asking Barbara Giddings, coordinator of the SRRT Gay Liberation Task Force to speak for Mr. McConnell. The Executive Director responded briefly as to the procedures SCMAI follows under the program of action endorsed by Council, and pointed out that if Council directs, SCMAI's funds would adequately support an inquiry, whereupon the Resolution was put to a vote and was ADOPTED.

Equal Pay for Equal Skills (CD #68) - Exhibit 25. Councilor at large Schuman, moved, and Council ADOPTED the Resolution with an editorial change changing the word "membership" to "Association in the Resolved paragraph.

Resolution #70 encouraging a deliberate policy of nominating women to ALA committees, Council and executive positions, originally placed on the agenda by Councilor Schuman, was withdrawn.

Child Care for Library Employees (CD #71) proposing that ALA "as a step towards correction of the disproportionate burden of child care provisions borne by women, direct its Washington Office to lobby towards the governmental funding and establishment of child care centers" and "support the implementation of affirmative action mandates by recommending that individual libraries provide child care services to parents in their employ, was MOVED by Mr. Josey. Councilor Duggan without prejudice to the intent of the resolution suggested that the progress made in Washington has been due to the concentration of the Washington Office on library matters and she cautioned against burdening the Office with more and more diffuse matters. The motion was DEFEATED, and the President expressed the feeling that the action probably was because of the financial implications and not out of prejudice about the principle the resolution involves.

Sexist Terminology in ALA Publications (CD #72) to eliminate the use of nouns and pronouns denoting masculine gender to describe the membership and specific positions and titles which the SRRT Task Force on Women termed discrimination against women, was placed before Council for adoption by Councilor Schuman. Mrs. Shepard and Miss Molz felt that this action may be as distasteful to others approaching invasion of privacy as the terminology the SRRT Task Force seeks to eliminate. Treasurer Sessa moved an amendment to change the resolved paragraph directing the revision of ALA publications to read, That future publications and official documents of ALA avoid sexist terminology and forms of address that indicate marital status; this was defeated. Ms. Schuman accepted Councilor at large Kilgour's proposed the substitution then in the Resolved paragraph of Therefore be it Resolved that the future publications and official documents of ALA avoid sexist terminology,