

PROCEEDINGS
of the
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Membership II Meeting

July 14, 1982
Convention Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MD#12. The resolution on Senate Document 2372 and on the House of Representatives Document 6455.

Sarah Pritchard will please place your motion on the floor. It has been seconded by Diane Davenport.

Microphone No. 9.

MS. SARAH M. PRITCHARD: I would like to read the whereas clauses in addition in order to clarify.

I would like to read the entire motion. It is very brief and it makes the resolved clauses more clear.

WHEREAS, the American Library Association is deeply concerned with the increasing encroachment on First Amendment freedoms, and

WHEREAS, an overarching principle of our profession is the concept of intellectual freedom, and

WHEREAS, there are now two bills before the Congress, S.2372 sponsored by Senator Hatfield and H.R. 6455, sponsored by Representative Masoli which seek to deny Federal funds to agencies which perform, reimburse, or refer for abortions, and

WHEREAS, this would hinder the access to any abortion information such as might be provided to patrons of libraries and information centers, and

WHEREAS, legislation that restricts access to legal, public information is a threat to constitutional guarantees of individual rights,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the ALA Washington Office closely monitor this legislation, whether it is in the form of a separate bill or as an attachment to any other bill, and therefore

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Library Association vigorously work for the defeat of this proposed legislation.

PRESIDENT STONE: Do you wish to speak to it?

MS. PRITCHARD: Yes. This bill is a very short bill which has already been placed on the Senate calendar and which may be coming up for vote this summer.

The language of this bill does not explain at all what is meant by refer for abortion. Therefore, it is quite possible that libraries which even passively have in their vertical file information whether it is