

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



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RESOLUTION ON LOYALTY OATHS

- WHEREAS,** *A democracy must preserve freedom of thought and expression if it is to survive; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Librarians have a unique responsibility to provide information on all sides of controversial issues, but cannot do so if intellectual conformity becomes a factor affecting their employment or tenure; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Loyalty tests can easily lead to the violation of the constitutional rights of library employees by allowing inquiries into their personal affiliations and beliefs; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Requiring library employees to sign loyalty oaths contributes to an atmosphere of suspicion and fear and places constraints on intellectual freedom by implying that it is hazardous for library employees to hold or express views other than those condoned by the employer; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Loyalty tests or oaths are sometimes required as a condition of employment requirements in libraries, thus effectively compelling many potential employees to sign meaningless and ineffective affirmations of allegiance; therefore, be it*
- RESOLVED,** *That we, the American Library Association, protest conditions of employment predicated on inquires into library employees' thoughts, reading matter, associates, or membership in organizations. We also strongly protest compulsory affirmations of allegiance as a condition of employment of librarians. We call on libraries not to impose loyalty tests or oaths as conditions of employment.*



**ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA)
July 1, 1992**

Peggy Sullivan

**Peggy Sullivan
Secretary to ALA Council**

RESOLUTION ON HR 1300 AND S. 2320, THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT (CD#57). Councilor Bernard Margolis, Resolutions Committee Chair, presented CD#57, and Council then

VOTED, That the American Library Association endorse H.R. 1300 and S. 2320, the Universal Health Care Act; and that copies of this resolution be sent to Representative Russo, Senator Wellstone, and the library press.

RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE COUNCIL TO REAFFIRM ALA'S OPPOSITION TO LOYALTY OATHS AND TESTS (CD#58). Councilors Regina U. Minudri and Gordon Conable moved, and it was

VOTED, To substitute CD#58 with CD#18.1.2.

Council then

VOTED, That we, the American Library Association, protest conditions of employment predicated on inquiries into library employees' thoughts, reading matter, associates, or membership in organizations. We also strongly protest compulsory affirmations of allegiance as a condition of employment in libraries. We call on libraries not to impose loyalty tests or oaths as conditions of employment.

RESOLUTION ON THE DEPORTATION OF BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN OMAR SAFI (CD#59). Council wanted to know whether Mr. Al-Safi was a librarian. Council granted David Williams, sponsor of the resolution, an opportunity to answer the question. Mr. Williams said that each country determines its own criteria for what constitutes a librarian, and in the occupied West Bank of Gaza, a person holding a masters degree in Arabic qualifies. He said that Mr. Al-Safi had been employed as a librarian at the Bir Zeit University for ten years.

**COUNCIL MINUTES
Annual Conference
June, 1992**

**ALA MEMBERSHIP MEETING I
Monday, June 29, 1992, 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Marriott, Buena Vista**

INTRODUCTIONS. President Patricia Glass Schuman introduced newly elected 1992-93 President-Elect Hardy R. Franklin, Treasurer-Elect Ann K. Symons; 1991-92 President-Elect Marilyn L. Miller, Parliamentarian Edwin C. Bliss, Executive Director Peggy Sullivan, ALA staff members assisting with these meetings, and guests.

President Schuman also announced that ALA Honorary Membership had been bestowed on Joseph Becker. Mr. Becker worked to involve ALA in two World's Fairs (Seattle in 1962 and New York in 1966) and played a crucial role in developing concepts for ALA's participation in the design of the exhibits. He was also instrumental in incorporating computer technologies into them and in obtaining participation of corporate partners. Mr. Becker played a similar role in gaining corporate participation in the 1979 White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services. He has authored several books introducing computer-based library and information operations and services to the field and to the general public. Recently, he has played an important role in the development of the National Information Network, now coming to fruition in NREN. He has been a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and has served the profession in positions of responsibility in several library and professional associations.

QUORUM. A quorum was established at the beginning of each meeting.

AWARDS. Diane Gordon Kadanoff, chair, ALA Awards Committee, conducted the awards presentation. A list of the award recipients follows:

David Clift Scholarship

Donna Marie Majchrzak, part-time employee for WNED-TV in a Children's Educational Television Program, "Reading Rainbow," West Seneca, NY; and Paul Scott Piper, technician at the University of Montana Mansfield Library, Missoula, MT.

RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE COUNCIL TO REAFFIRM ALA'S OPPOSITION TO LOYALTY OATHS AND TESTS (MD#5, Exhibit 26C). ALA Member Bill Fisher moved that "We, the membership of the American Library Association, strongly encourage the Council of the American Library Association to reaffirm its opposition to loyalty oaths and to prohibit recruiting at the placement centers by employers who require loyalty oaths." The motion was amended to read: "...and to prohibit recruiting at the Placement Center *and advertising in association journals* by employers who require loyalty oaths." The resolution was ADOPTED as amended.

RESOLUTION ON THE DEPORTATION OF BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN OMAR SAFI (MD#6, Exhibit 26E). ALA Member David Williams moved and it was

VOTED, That the American Library Association protest the deportation of Omar Al-Safi from his homeland. Al-Safi, a librarian at Bir Zeit University in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, is being subjected to an "administrative deportation," under which the Israeli military authorities are not required to present any evidence or afford the accused the right to a trial. We note that such deportations are strictly prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 by a foreign occupier. We call on the Israeli Supreme Court and the Israeli Attorney General to stop or reverse all deportation proceedings against our colleague, and to either release him from "administrative detention" or afford him the right to a formal trial with the public presentation of any evidence against him.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE COUNCIL TO REAFFIRM
ALA'S OPPOSITION TO LOYALTY OATHS AND TESTS

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has a long history of opposing loyalty oaths as a condition of employment in libraries; and

WHEREAS, A democracy must preserve freedom of thought and expression if it is to serve its people; and

WHEREAS, Loyalty investigations of library employees contribute to an atmosphere of suspicion and fear and place constraints on intellectual freedom by rendering it hazardous to hold or express other than popular views; and

WHEREAS, Librarians have a special responsibility to provide information on all sides of controversial issues, but cannot do so if intellectual conformity becomes a factor affecting their employment or tenure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Membership of the American Library Association, strongly encourage the council of the American Library Association to reaffirm its opposition to loyalty oaths and to prohibit recruiting at the placement centers by employers who require loyalty oaths.

-- Moved by Bill Fisher
Illinois