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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ALA COUNCIL 3

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2005 - 8:00 a.m. -- 12:30 p.m.

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>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Good morning, Council. I'd like to call the third Council of the ALA Annual Meeting to order. Would all Councilors take the reserved seats at the tables in the front? At this meeting, we will follow the rules approved in the ALA Council 1 meeting. Please turn your cell phones off or to silent if you need to take a call, please leave the Council area. Please watch the motion screen to see what to vote on your voting card and please use only that descriptor. Your voting record is at your place and you should have a blue card for this morning's meeting. If you must leave before adjournment, and we will be sorry to see you go, please take your card to Lois Ann Gregory-Wood.

A quorum for Council meeting is 75 Councilors. We have well over 75 Councilors present and therefore we have a quorum. The Chair would like to ask that people submitting reports be as brief as possible since today's agenda is very full. Written reports should not be read and when resolutions are presented, only the resolved

Resolution on Disinformation, Media Manipulation and the Destruction of Public Information, ALA CD#64

I now refer you to Council Document 64, a Resolution on Disinformation, Media Manipulation and the Destruction of Public Information. Would Councilor Elaine Harger please go to the microphone and read only the resolved clause of ALA Council Document 64.

>> ELAINE HARGER: Councilor-At-Large. The projectionist should have an amendment a couple days ago. In conversation with the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, we changed the resolveds. It should read -- well, I'll read what I have and it'll get up onto the projector.

"Resolved that ALA encourage its members to teach and nurture 21st Century information literacy skills among the American public to help them detect disinformation, media manipulation and missing information; and be it further resolved that ALA encourage libraries to actively seek and acquire alternative information resources that provide a broad context for public understanding and evaluation of news and opinion."

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Do we have a second?

>> ELAINE HARGER: Actually, the amendment was moved by Carolyn Caywood and I was the seconder.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: All right, very good. Thank you. Do you wish to speak to the amendment?

>> ELAINE HARGER: Yes, I do.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: All right.

>> ELAINE HARGER: As we are beginning to learn now, and given that we just passed the resolution that we did, our country is often drawn into very difficult situations because we have been misled by people in positions of authority. A number of people in this room knew before we went into Iraq that there were no more weapons of mass destruction because we had been listening to other media outlets where there were people who had been involved in the United Nations' weapons inspectors' teams who were reporting that virtually all of the weapons in Iraq were gone.

A lot of people knew that Saddam Hussein didn't pose any threat, military threat to the United States. And a lot of people knew that there were no relations between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. That information was known to people.

However, our mass media wasn't conveying that information to a lot of people because the powers that be were interested in pursuing their agenda to go to war in

Iraq. So here we were. We were misled into supporting a war, some of us. Other people didn't support the war from the beginning. And this is a tactic that has been used for a very long time.

If you'll notice on the back of the resolution, there is a very brief bibliography --

>> Point of order.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Yes, Microphone 5. How does this go to the amendment? Am I lost?

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Well, let me clarify because I was just discussing this with the parliamentarian. My understanding is that because this amendment -- resolution was not presented to the body before, the mover and seconder still owned it and could amend it however they wanted.

So what they're really presenting to us right now is the full resolution that we can consider that way. We do not have to consider this as an amendment.

>> Thank you.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Is there objection to considering the resolution as it has been presented to us this morning? Okay. So she is basically speaking to her amendment and we can show it as it has been amended.

>> ELAINE HARGER: So actually, I mean, if the screen got rid of the delete part and just presented the add, that would be great.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Exactly. That's what we're saying. Thank you.

>> ELAINE HARGER: Anyway, the purpose behind this resolution is that the use of disinformation, the manipulation of the mass media and the disappearance of information that the public needs to know in order to make decisions in a democracy are all threatened by those tactics.

And since the American Library Association, one our main goals is to help the citizens of this country be informed -- accurately informed, and I would just like to quote something that Senator Obama said the other night

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>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: You have 20 seconds.

>> ELAINE HARGER: Just to end with Senator Obama's quote, the other night or day he said "liberty depends on our ability to access the truth."

And this resolution puts librarians on Board to making information available so we can do just that.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: Time is up.

>> ELAINE HARGER: Thank you.

>> PRES. BREY-CASIANO: All right. Additional