SRRT Action Council Meeting  
Monday, January 19, 1970

The first item of business was electing the SRRT representative to the Freedom to Read Foundation. It was agreed that, in order to involve new people, someone other than a member of Action Council should be elected. Dale Canellas was selected to serve as the SRRT representative of the Freedom to Read Foundation.

A letter requesting money from publishers and library suppliers will be sent out on SRRT stationery asking for $500.00, instead of the original sum of $250.00. Publishers and others who contribute will be recognized in the library press and will be invited to the SRRT meeting in Detroit to have their gift acknowledged.

A correction was made on page 3 of the 1970 SRRT Program. The words "for use at our annual conference" were added, in order not to limit the statement to Detroit.

Lengthy discussion about decision-making and communication followed. Bill DeJohn said that only a few people responded to his letters, and in most cases the same people responded to each letter. He said he was not getting full response from members of the Action Council. Those people with secretaries answered faster than others. Sellen and Streamer said they would like to know what other Action Council members were thinking. Several ideas were suggested to speed communication:

1. Telephone conference calls.
2. Telephone credit cards for all members of Action Council to Bill DeJohn's phone number.
3. Use of tape cartridges.
4. Each person in answering a letter from DeJohn should send a copy to every member of the Action Council.
5. Use post cards to get a vote response.

Although telephone conference calls are too expensive, it was agreed that some business might be conducted by phone in the evening when rates are lower. It was suggested that SRRT might make money available for xeroxing to those people who do not have facilities available at work. Pat Schuman urged that money not be spent in great quantities on administrative details, but rather that SRRT funds be channeled to the Task Force - working groups.

Jackie Eubanks presented the final report of the Task Force on the Chicago meeting. It was suggested that the statement be amended to read "all communities in which conferences are scheduled", not just Dallas. If SRRT would schedule its meetings in Black-owned and Black-operated facilities, librarians would have to go to the Inner City to get to the meetings. It was moved and seconded that Council recommend that the ALA Conference Arrangements Office investigate and include accommodations in Black, or other minority, owned and operated hotels as regular convention facilities for all future ALA meetings. Motion passed.

Fay Blake, Coordinator of the SRRT Task Force on Institutional Racism, presented that group's proposal for a two-day pre-conference in Detroit. Since much help would be needed to make this pre-conference a success, it was suggested that the group contact Skip Rosenthal, Coordinator of the Detroit SRRT. That group is attacking the problem of racism in Detroit. Dolores Vaughn, ALA staff member, informed the Action Council that pre-conferences for Detroit were scheduled at Atlantic City. She suggested that the Pre-conference on Racism be scheduled for Dallas. The group felt that Detroit was the place for this particular pre-conference and decided to go ahead with planning for it. John Foreman suggested that Action Council investigate the possibility of having ALA send out publicity on this pre-conference with the regular pre-conference mailing.

At this point the meeting moved to another room, according to the schedule.

SRRT Clearinghouse - Action Council Joint Meeting  
Monday, January 19, 1970

The Task Force on Recruitment of Minorities reported on the pre-conference which it is planning for Dallas.

Dave Weill announced that the Task Force on the Reorganization of ALA would meet at 2:00 Monday afternoon. He urged everyone to attend.

Bill DeJohn asked for a report from the 321.8 Committee. SRRT said that the statements of nominees would be made known, but how? Printed in American Libraries? Send out statements in May with the ballots? This question was deferred temporarily.

It came to the attention of Action Council that the Cadet program in Pennsylvania has few, if any, representatives of minority groups. Margaret Turanski requested that ALA-SRRT
send an official letter protesting this practice. In New York, too, no active attempt is made to recruit Black students for the Intern program. Bill DeJohn will send a resolution to the American Association of State Libraries.

Pat Schuman reported for the Task Force on Reprinting of Minority Group Literature. She told the group that Ray Barzey, Coordinator of the Task Force, was told by his employer that if he attended the meeting he should not bother to go back to work. (He is in charge of microfilming the Schomburg collection.)

The Task Force on Reprinting of Minority Group Literature has three areas of concern: (1) Selectivity of material. (2) Absence of reviews. (3) Same reprints available at various prices from different publishers. The Task Force received a letter from the ALA Reprinting Committee asking if SRRT thought this Task Force had anything to do with what the ALA Reprinting Committee was doing. When the Task Force answered in the affirmative, the ALA Committee responded that they would include a speaker from Greenwood Press on their program in Detroit.

A petition was presented to Action Council requesting that SRRT volunteers for Action Council and Clearinghouse Committee respond to the same letter that was sent to ALA Council members. It was decided that the letter sent to Council nominees would be re-written and sent to all candidates for SRRT office. SRRT must hold its own elections for Action Council and Clearinghouse Committee. Action Council will prepare a statement similar to the statement sent to ALA Council nominees.

Question was raised about why the blank in SRRT Newsletter requested the information it did. The blank was drafted by Jackie Eubanks to meet ALA requirements, in case ALA would handle the SRRT election. Clarification will appear in a future Newsletter.

Copies of the proposed Guidelines for Task Force Groups were distributed. They will be discussed at the Action Council meeting on Friday, January 23, 1970.

SRRT's plans for a program at the Detroit Conference were discussed. Pat Schuman suggested that disaffected professionals of other organizations, such as the American Political Science Association, the American Historical Association, the Modern Language Association, the New University Conference, etc., be invited to speak to show librarians that other people in other professions are working on the same things that SRRT is. Maybe if the groups work together, something will happen. Betty Carol Sellen suggested the topic The Alternative Culture—Is it available in your library? The majority of the group preferred the first topic. It was suggested that the title of the program be Human Misunderstanding.

Bill DeJohn told the group that he had requested Wednesday evening for SRRT's program in Detroit. Thursday morning, before the ALA Membership Meeting, is scheduled for the SRRT Business Meeting.

A Task Force, with Jim Wellbourne as coordinator, was set up to work on the Detroit program for SRRT. This is the Task Force on Radicals in the Profession.

It was moved and seconded that SRRT adjourn and move to a diner outside the city limits of Chicago to protest the oppression and violence which characterize Chicago. The motion was defeated. It was moved and seconded that the SRRT March to the Courthouse peacefully to protest the Conspiracy Trials. The motion passed. (Both motions were voted by those in attendance, not by members of Action Council and the Clearinghouse Committee who were the only eligible voters. Decision about the legality of the vote was to be reached by the Action Council in Executive Session.)

A petition urging that ALA file an amicus curiae on behalf of Mrs. Carrie Robinson, ALA member, School Library Consultant in Alabama, was circulated to the group. The NEA has filed suit against the state of Alabama and the Governor charging discriminatory practices in the case of Mrs. Robinson.

Jackie Eubanks brought up the case of a librarian in Florida who refused to sign a Loyalty Oath as a condition of employment. She requested support from ALA, and her request was referred to the Intellectual Freedom Committee. The IFC voted to change the word "government" to "Constitution" but to leave the rest of the statement stand. It was moved and seconded that Action Council use its influence individually and collectively to have the following introduced as a move to strike and insert "We approve the affirmation of allegiance to the Constitution of the U.S. when such an affirmation is not made under
duress as being a condition of employment" to the Intellectual Freedom Committee's recommendation on the Loyalty Oath question. The motion was passed by a 5 to 1 vote of the Action Council.
The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne A. Sweat
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