Present at the June 24 meeting:

Mills, England, Flynt-Greer, Neal, Joramo, Turock, Puryear, Berman, Goddard, Dwyer, MacCann; Crawford, Coleman, Chambers.

Considerable discussion took place on the request of Lyndon Flynt Greer, that a group she founded in 1969, the Coretta Scott King Award, be given a home within ALA as a SRRT task force. The group each year presents an award to an inspirational children's book dedicated to the beliefs of Martin Luther King. Some thought the Award should be presented to the ALA Executive Board for possible inclusion in the ALA awards structure but, then it was pointed out that the group promotes the ideas of Martin Luther King and is not just a book awards committee. Action Council voted to accept the Award group as a task force, to be called the Coretta Scott King Award Task Force. Coordinator is Lyndon Flint Greer, 2914 Moss Rd., N.W., Huntsville, Alabama 35810.

Janette Neal reported that the SRRT budget is in a good financial shape, but that the Peace Information and Tools for Consciousness Raising task forces have requested increased amounts. She said that since the conference program is the only flexible item in the budget, SRRT may want to reduce conference program expenditures in order to increase support to the task forces in the future. Somewhat more than $5,000 is available to SRRT from current membership dues.

Jim Dwyer noted that a task force on Cuba is requesting $50 seed money.

Marlene England proposed that since next Midwinter's meetings are to be held in Chicago, SRRT members might want to protest Illinois' failure to ratify ERA by boycotting the regular hotels and restaurants and seeking alternative accommodations.
Jim Dwyer proposed a resolution in support of the magazine The Progressive, which has been the target of censorship directed by the U.S. government. In discussing the resolution, members noted how revealing it is that none of the ALA intellectual freedom groups had considered the attack against The Progressive as a censorship issue. SRRT Action Council passed the resolution for submission to the full ALA membership.

A request by the Modern Times Book Store in San Francisco for purchase of the SRRT mailing list was approved.

The SRRT membership meeting June 25 began amid considerable laughter as the entrance of IFC member Richard Buck provoked the comment that at the IFC meeting earlier that day, Buck had sought to ridicule SRRT members by calling them “those responsibility types.”

Buck’s suggestion that Fourteenth Amendment concerns become the focus of a new organization within the ALA structure, thereby freeing the IFC from having to deal with apparent conflicts between First and Fourteenth Amendment issues was received with little enthusiasm. Buck had previously made the suggestion in a letter published in the SRRT Newsletter, but the Newsletter had not been distributed prior to the conference and so the suggestion had not received prior consideration. There were expressions that the Buck proposal was motivated by a desire of IFC to ward off mounting criticism and was a way to duck facing the seeming conflicts between First and Fourteenth Amendment issues. It was left for future discussion as to whether the “equal protection” clause of the Fourteenth Amendment should give rise to a new ALA organization or whether librarians’ concerns about equal protection of minority groups and women should be addressed by IFC. It was suggested that a new Fourteenth Amendment organization would have to be given powers similar to that already wielded by IFC and that under present ALA leadership, that would be out of the question. It was also noted that SRRT was originally founded on the premise that every part of librarianship must be concerned with equality and social responsibility, not just special groups.

A document prepared by the Tools for Consciousness-Raising Task Force for presentation to IFC and outlining proposed new interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights was endorsed in spirit by Membership. The proposals had been drawn up in response to IFC’s request for input from all ALA groups.

Membership also voted to support the spirit of the resolution to be brought before the ALA members urging that ALA contribute $1 per member to ERA America.
Membership expressed concern that the electoral procedure for Action Council officers be improved in the future by following established procedures, i.e., that Action Council candidates be required to state their concerns on the ballot sheet.

Minutes respectfully submitted
January 15, 1980, by
Bradford Chambers,
Secretary