Action Council members and guests present: see attached list.

Four Task Forces made their reports: 1) Task Force on Women, 2) Alternatives in Print, 3) Gay Task Force and 4) Task Force on Tools for Conscious-Raising. A representative of ERC Clearinghouse in New York proposed a cooperative program with all SRRT Task Forces. Another important issue the meeting addressed was a proposed revision of the Library Bill of Rights.

A (OLER) speaking on behalf of the Women's Task Force Karen Jackson expressed concern that the ALA administration has been taking steps to move the 1980 ALA Midwinter conference back to Chicago, a move generated by the threat of a $600,000 breach of contract suit by the Palmer House of Chicago. Herb Biblo reported his conversation just before this meeting with ALA lawyers to the effect that there seem to be no contractual agreement in existence. The following Action Council resolution was drawn up to support whatever action the Task Force on Women takes at its afternoon meeting:

"SRRT Action Council unanimously deplores the decision of the Executive Board to repudiate the decisions of both Council and of membership by considering meeting in Chicago for Midwinter, 1980."

Karen Jackson also reported that a team from the Task Force will be monitoring the Midwinter publishers' exhibits for evidences of sexism.

For Alternatives in Print, Elliott Shore reported that the catalog this year is being published with the aid of a National Endowment grant. He asked SRRT members to suggest ways by which the title of the publication can be changed to include the word "international," also, he reported that the publication will now provide annotations of films and other media. He would like suggestions on how to convey this fact in the title without markedly affecting the Alternative in Print title, which is already so well known.

Barbara Gittings presented information on the activities of the Gay Task Force, which she had previously given by letter. This letter is attached.
The General SRRT Program in Dallas: Joan Goddard announced that this program will deal with SRRT's impact on library users and non-users, as well as its impact on ALA. A budget of $1000 is available for this program, the date of which is not yet set. A tentative time slot is June 27th, Wed., from 2-4, but this overlaps with the Tools for Consciousness-raising schedule, and the "Tools" speaker has already been engaged.

Jackie Eubanks noted that "Tools for C/R" should re-schedule its program because the SRRT program is more important in budgetary terms, etc. The problem of program conflicts was discussed, and it was suggested that task force coordinators send time preferences to Marlene England, who would then prepare a tentative, conflict-free schedule.

Minutes by Donnarne MacCann (acting on behalf of the secretary)

Additional Minutes by Marjorie Jeramie

1) Margaret moved and Dorothy seconded a motion that we increase the following Task Force allocations for the current year:
   Gay Liberation from 200 to 500 (the extra 300 to be used only for travel expense for conference speaker)
   Peace Information Exchange from 50 to 250
   Tools for Consciousness Raising from 200 to 300

2) Jackie Eubanks informed us that she investigated the problems in London concerning repeated attacks on Black-owned and operated bookstores as documented in the "Black Scholar" July-Aug, 1978. She feels that the allocations are most certainly true and that every one possible should write about their concern to:
   Herlyn Rees
   Home Secretary
   Home Office
   Whitehall
   London, S.W.1

   Dorothy moved and Marlene seconded a motion that the Action Council write the Home Office indicating our concern about this deplorable situation and that copies be sent to Robert Wedgeworth, Ruth Frame, E.J. Josey of ALA. Dorothy will write this letter for the Action Council.

3) A request was made that Action Council endorse Alice Iriug for ALA president-elect. Since only 3 members were left Margie agreed to poll the Action Council by mail.
Gay Liberation (Barbara Gittings)

The tentative program for Dallas was announced: a panel including well-known gay authors (for example Christopher Isherwood), and authors who are less well known. (The subject: a comparison of the two groups' experiences.)

It was noted that the task force is also working in the area of non-print gay media.

For the Dallas program an extra allocation would probably be needed for travel expenses. It was suggested that $300 be laid aside for this purpose to be used as needed. The precedent for this plan: SRRT's appropriation for the travel expense of an award-winning author.

Barbara asked the Action Council to support a protest letter which requests ALA's re-negotiation of contracts for AV services. (A typical abuse in 1978 was the fact that the ½ hour set up and ½ hour disassembling of equipment was increased to 1 hour in the contract.) This motion was approved. Lois Mills will work with Barbara on the follow-through.

Ethnic Materials Information Exchange

Margie Joramo reported on behalf of David Cohen that the Ethnic Materials task force is considering a program in Dallas dealing with archive use and with sources of funding for ethnic group programs.

Other business before the Action Council was as follows:

White House Conference: John Barry reported that a SRRT paper on issues for the White House Conference in October will be circulated to SRRT for a mail vote.

IFRT-SRRT Joint Program: Joan Goddard (IFRT Program Chairperson) reported that plans for the program on "The Bill of Rights and Human Rights" are underway. This program is designed as a follow-up to the 1978 debates on the Racism and Sexism Awareness Resolution. Funds from the IFRT budget will cover the cost.

Possible program speakers include Thurgood Marshall and Ron Dellums; also Yvonne Braithwaite Burke together with Ira Glaser. Selected ALA members (such as Fay Blake, E.J. Josey, etc.) will be prepared to respond to the speeches. Time will be allotted for a few written questions from the audience, and discussion groups will form for brief sessions. It was suggested that ALA's pool of trained discussion leaders be utilized.
Two new "Interpretations to the Library Bill of Rights" were suggested as follows:

1) In order to carry out effective affirmative action (redressing the long-standing imbalance in library collections) it is essential for libraries and library systems to collaborate actively with those racial and cultural groups which have been traditionally excluded from the channels of communication.

2) In accord with every child's right to be unhampered by publicly supported social bias or abuse (and in compliance with many state regulations prohibiting racism and/or sexism in instructional materials) non-racist and non-sexist selection criteria should be among the policy guidelines for children's libraries.

It was moved by Margaret Collins that these be endorsed by SRRT and sent to relevant ALA units and groups for their endorsement.

The discussion on this motion included the following points:

Lois Mills noted that the proposed "Interpretations" were basically in conflict with IFC positions.

Herb Biblo noted that seeking this endorsement would be counterproductive if ALA units went on record as opposing the Interpretations. He suggested that someone in each ALA unit present the proposal and speak on its behalf.

Donnarae noted that the suggested new Interpretation #1 was somewhat parallel to section IV of the Library Bill of Rights (e.g., "Libraries should cooperate with... groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression..."), but that it added a focus on the 14th Amendment (equal protection and opportunity). Also she noted that a local affiliate of the ACLU expressed support for the idea. Replying to Herb Biblo, she stated that having any part of ALA behind the proposals would be useful in the field—would indicate a degree of support from the profession, and also indicate that ALA cannot claim one unanimous perspective on cultural pluralism or free speech theory.

Miriam Crawford noted that the moderate approach expressed the Interpretations might prove to be acceptable to the ALA Council; but if this isn't the case, no unit could advertise or promote its own dissident view.

The motion passed, and Dorothy Puryear and Margaret Collins offered to join Donnarae in a committee to carry out the motion.

Donnarae suggested that an opinion on the Interpretations be requested from the ACLU (national office). Lois Mills felt that SRRT could do this without asking ALA as a whole to do it. She believes that ALA Council would not wish to obtain consultation of this sort.