

ALA Social Responsibilities CONFERENCE Round Table Newsletter

June 28, 1970 Number 6

Today is the beginning of the ALA Conference. If you have just arrived, you should know that a lot of decision making has already gone on by ALA "leaders" that will affect the direction of our association in the future. We will report to you what we are able to attend and participate in.

FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION MET FRIDAY

The FTRF Board of Trustees met on Friday for an all day meeting. In the morning the interim Board discussed the points of service that should guide policy of the FTRF but deferred most decision making to the new Board which was at least in part elected by membership. In the afternoon, policies were discussed in the light of three applications to the FTRF for aid. As a result, the new official Board voted to establish a separate humanitarian fund of FTRF; money in this fund is to be given as non-tax deductible and can be distributed to applicants for subsistence. The applications before the Board were directed to Executive Committee for disposition up to \$500 in support of IFC decisions. The FTRF is trying to get IRS tax deductible status for moneys that directed to it for purposes other than support. One project of this type that the new Board voted to support with ALA is a legal struggle over the variable obscenity laws being introduced in many states. The Board elected Mr. Allain chairman again, Jean Marshall was present as the SRRT executive representative.

The decisions of the new Board show some hopeful trends in the establishment of the humanitarian fund, but Board's decision to struggle with the variable obscenity laws bears watching. ALA should bear the responsibility of educational programs on bad laws, and FTRF should concern itself with legal defense and support primarily. If they work together, fine, but the burden of education is mainly ALA's.

IN SEARCH OF SOUL

The SRRT Pre-Conference on institutional racism was a very successful consciousness-raising, struggle-producing happening. About 60 people participated; arrangements were well done by the SRRT people in and around Detroit. A post-Conference SRRT Newsletter will report in detail.

The SRRT SUITE, Room 2620, Sheraton Cadillac, is open to all for the duration of the annual conference. Come in and feel at home! The conference issues of the Newsletter will be distributed to SRRT membership after this conference so that all the membership can get a sense of SRRT participation in ALA.

BUDGET ASSEMBLY MET SATURDAY

ALA Council, meeting at Midwinter, directed COPEs to set aside in the budget recommendations they were to prepare in April a continuation of \$50,000 with which to implement any ACONDA proposals approved by Council and membership meeting in Detroit. This was done so that ACONDA's proposals could be funded in the 1970 operating budget.

COPEs has ignored this directive from Council. At their April meeting, they prepared a list of recommended expenditures which they claim implement ACONDA priorities and recommendations. In fact however, ACONDA does not recommend action on most of the items listed by COPEs, and COPEs' recommendations are merely to continue or increase funding of ongoing activities of the Association.

The Association's highest current priorities, as determined by ACONDA, are listed below; COPEs has recommended to the budget assembly the expenditures listed out of the so-called contingency fund.

Social responsibilities	\$ 4,100
Manpower	20,170
Intellectual freedom	11,500
Legislation	0
Planning, research and development	15,364
Democratization and reorganization	0

WHY was the instruction of Council--an instruction formulated in response to membership wishes--that COPEs set aside funds for the possible implementation of ACONDA recommendations not followed. The budget assembly must deal directly with this matter or it will be party to the kind of unresponsiveness to membership that led to the organization of ACONDA.

PUBLISHERS FOR PEACE is on the scene at Cobo Hall Exhibit Area, Booth 1405. Drop by and see them. They are distributing a statement on the Southeast Asia War signed by over 700 publishers.

Have you joined a Convention Corrective? Check with the SRRT Suite for contacts. The JMR Orientation meeting was where they formed.