

# AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

50 EAST HURON STREET CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611 · (312) 944-6780



## RESOLUTION ON ETHNIC GROUPS AND THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, There are within ALA ethnic groups (Asian American Librarians Caucus, Black Caucus of ALA, Chinese American Librarians Association, Italian American Librarians Caucus, Jewish American Librarians Caucus, Polish American Librarians Association, National Association of Spanish-Speaking Librarians, SRRT Chicano Task Force, LSD American Indian People, etc.) concerned about services to racial, ethnic and religious minorities, and

WHEREAS, They require bilingual, multilingual and multicultural collections and staff sensitivity to ethnic groups for adequate library service, and

WHEREAS, The Deaf speak English as a second language, NOW THEREFORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Executive Director of ALA transmit to the state library agencies and to ALA's Chapters charged with discussing the content of the White House Conference ALA's concerns for consideration to ethnic groups, and that this communication urge them to seek wide ethnic representation from the communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the deaf constituency be considered for participation in governors' conferences and that their special communications needs be accommodated by the planners of those conferences.



ADOPTED BY THE  
ALA MEMBERSHIP AND COUNCIL  
June 22, 1977  
Detroit, Michigan  
TRANSMITTED BY

Robert Wedgeworth  
Secretary of the Council

Chair: Barbara J. Ford

Majority of meeting time was spent discussion/debating the issues surrounding the film, "The Speaker", including the resolutions and strategies for their passage at the ALA membership meeting.

ACTION Motion to endorse resolution sponsored by Nancy Kellum-Rose was moved, seconded and after discussion was passed.

Informa- Rick Speer reported on the press conference held by the Black Caucus--who asked  
tion for withdrawal of ALA's name from the film, "The Speaker".

Nancy Kellum-Rose spoke up against the resolution passed by SRRT membership (6/17/77) which was censuring the OIF and specifically the Director. Considerable "heated" discussion ensued around this issue.

ACTION Motion to reconsider resolution passed at SRRT membership meeting 6/17/77 was moved, seconded and passed.

After much discussion/debate, the following motion was passed:

ACTION SRRT moves to withdraw ALA membership resolution #6 at this time in order to focus the attention of the ALA membership on the primary task of insuring that the name of ALA is withdrawn from sponsorship of "The Speaker".

Several resolutions were then introduced on a variety of issues for endorsement by the SRRT membership:

ACTION Resolution submitted by Task Force on Alternatives in Print was referred to SRRT Action Council.

ACTION Resolution proposed by Gay Liberation Task Force concerning gay rights was moved, seconded and passed for endorsement by the SRRT membership.

ACTION Motion by David Cohen, Task Force on Ethnic materials information exchange, to endorse resolution proposed by Clara Jackson on prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination, ALA Council document #5, was moved, seconded and passed by the SRRT membership.

ACTION Resolution for ALA membership and Council submitted by the Merritt Fund Trustees, was endorsed by the SRRT membership.

*JBA*

On motion by Alice Ihrig, seconded by Alphonse Trezza, it was

VOTED, That the ALA Council adopts CD #49: RESOLUTION ON GAY RIGHTS - Exhibit 13, CD #55: RESOLUTION ON PREJUDICE, STEREOTYPING AND DISCRIMINATION - Exhibit 18, CD #63 & MD #14: RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE THE LEROY C. MERRITT HUMANITARIAN FUND IN THE ALA HANDBOOK OF ORGANIZATION AND WITH MEMBERSHIP SOLICITATIONS - Exhibit 19; MD #8: RESOLUTION ON ETHNIC GROUPS AND THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE - Exhibit 20, and MD #12: COMMENDATION TO BOOKLIST FOR ITS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF FEMINIST PRESS MATERIALS - Exhibit 21.

The original motion included CD #49: Resolution on Equal Access to Information, but was omitted by Council's request (see pp 9-10).

THE SPEAKER - Exhibit 22. E. J. Josey, with Suzanne LeBarron's second moved adoption of CD #61 (Exhibit 22(a)) and stated that the Resolution which seeks the withdrawal of ALA's name from the film, "THE SPEAKER..." speaks to a wide variety of the concerns of the majority of the Black members of the Association and a large number of other members of ALA. In view of the "extended and detailed and balanced membership debate this morning," Richard Darling moved with Ruth Tighe's second, and Council VOTED TO LIMIT DEBATE TO THIRTY MINUTES. Grace Slocum, as a member of the Intellectual Freedom Committee pointed out that a majority of the Committee supports both the method by which the film was produced as well as the end product and urged Council to vote against the Resolution; later in the discussion she stated the charge of the Committee to its subcommittee, "to produce a film that would provoke discussion and add to the enlightenment in matters of the First Amendment." Suzanne LeBarron reminded Council of the strong feelings on both sides of the issue expressed in Membership and the close vote which defeated the Membership Resolution; she asked Council to remember it was not addressing suppression but the question of removing the Association's name from the film. Council's attention was brought to "THE SPEAKER: A Minority's Minority Assessment" by Ella G. Yates who urged that ALA keep to its endorsement and direct IFC to solicit questions and statements from the Black Caucus which are indigenous to the concerns and sensitivity of all Black members and the membership as a whole for incorporation into the discussion guide; also to devise an introductory statement for insertion in the films that have already been issued and subsequent prints to clarify the purpose of the film in terms of its utilization for discussion and teaching purposes (Exhibit 22(b)).

Charles Bunge moved, with an unidentified second, to amend by substituting for Exhibit 22(a), Membership Resolution #2 (Exhibit 22(c)), with the insertion of, "Whereas in the portrayal of the races, the characterization of the Black is negative and stereotyped," from the Council Resolution (22(a)). Ruth Tighe and Richard Buck did not think the whereases are accurate reflections of the problems Council was concerned about and Ms. Tighe suggested waiving the Rules in order to incorporate the points made by Ms. Yates. The motion to substitute was DEFEATED.

Jean-Anne South noted passage by Council at the 1976 Annual Conference of the Resolution on Racism and Sexism with the charge to ALA units to implement a program of awareness of racism and sexism which would be not only for ALA but