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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ALA MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

ALA COUNCIL II MEETING

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>> LESLIE BURGER: You're welcome.

Okay. We will now take up New Business. The items are going to be discussed in the order in which they were submitted. I now refer you to ALA Council Document Number 34, Resolution to Advocate Ending Funding for the Iraq War. And I call on Microphone 6.

>> ALFRED KAGAN: I'm Al Kagan, I'm the Social Responsibilities Councilor. I'll read the "Resolved" clauses.

"Therefore be it resolved that ALA support efforts in the U.S. Congress to stop the Iraq War by withholding funds for military actions in Iraq, except for funds necessary for a safe, quick, and orderly withdrawal.

"Resolved that this resolution be sent to all members of the U.S. Congress and the library and national press."

And I'd like to say a few words to introduce the resolution.

The Social Responsibilities Round Table thinks this is a logical next step in terms of the actions we have previously taken around this issue. And it builds on previous Council Resolutions, including the resolutions we passed about the USA Patriot Act, the use of torture as a violation of intellectual freedom, the opposition to government, disinformation, media manipulation and excision of public information; and of course

the connection between the Iraq War and the libraries resolution.

Most of these resolutions are referenced in the whereas clauses.

When we think about the elections that were held in November, we see that there were many local referendums that called for ending the war in Iraq. We think the people are way ahead of the Congress on this issue, that we really need to get this war over now. And we need to put pressure on the Congress.

Now, there are many bills before the Congress right now, both in the Senate and the House. But we are in a situation where symbolic legislation may be passed, but not effective legislation.

The Congress has the ability to end this war by stopping the funding for this war. This is what happened in the war in Vietnam. This needs to happen again. We need to find ways to pressure the Congress. Individuals can do that, but organizations, more and more organizations need to come forward, local organizations, professional organizations, churches, unions. Unions are very active, by the way.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Al, you have one minute left since you can't see the clock.

>> ALFRED KAGAN: Okay. Let me briefly say last night at

the Council Forum, someone said this was a "feel good" resolution. It is not a feel good resolution. We're talking about people's lives here. People also said that it's not something we want to support because leaving Iraq now would mean more violence and chaos. But the reality is: The longer the U.S. occupation lasts, the more violence and chaos. Eventually the U.S. is going to get out of Iraq, and why not stop the killing of U.S. soldiers and U.S. -- and the maiming both physically and mentally of people?

So it's a question of either now or later. We need to do it now.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Your time is up, Al.

>> ALFRED KAGAN: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> LESLIE BURGER: I would like to invite discussion on this resolution. Microphone Number 4.

>> Beth Bingham, Councilor-At-Large. I am opposed to this resolution and I feel that this has absolutely nothing to do with the American Library Association. Your personal beliefs about governmental policies and actions are not part of what this body is supposed to be about.

I've been off Council for three or four years and the tone and the change of the Council documents disturbs me greatly, and

I think it disturbs an awful lot of people that belong to the American Library Association.

We have business to deal with about running libraries and providing quality service and trained librarians. We are not in the business of dealing with political actions and should not be second guessing. How we act in our personal lives is a totally different entity than what our professional associations should say. Thank you.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Microphone Number 3.

>> SUE KAMM: Councilor-At-Large. While I sympathize with the philosophy and reasoning behind the resolution, I speak in opposition. First of all, I'd like to remind you that the mission of the American Library Association is "to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and insure access to information for all."

I don't see that this resolution furthers that mission.

Secondly, passing resolutions of this sort damages ALA's credibility. People will say that when we come to them saying intellectual freedom or funding for libraries or salaries for library workers, they will look at resolutions like this and say 'hey, you shouldn't be talking about this. This isn't your

business. This isn't your venue."

And, finally, even those of us who are Councilors-at-Large have constituents, and our constituents get very upset because we are devoting what is their time and their money to support this Council's activities to resolutions that have nothing to do with librarianship. And I think that we need to stand up and say ALA is going to tend to its knitting, which is libraries.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Microphone Number 4.

>> THERESA TOBIN: Councilor-At-Large and I stand in support of this resolution. And to underscore that support with your permission, I'd like to read a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that was used yesterday morning during the Sunrise Celebration.

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death. America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in this revolution of values. There is nothing except a tragic death wish to prevent us from reordering our priorities so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war. There is nothing to keep us from molding a recalcitrant status quo with bruised hands until we have fashioned it into a brotherhood."

I think we need to think clearly about this organization's responsibility to state clearly the need to end this war.

Thanks.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 3?

>> SYLVIA TURCHYN: Council for Intellectual Freedom Round Table. First of all I'd like to state from the ALA Policy Manual Section 1, Organizational and Operational Policies under the Mission Priority Areas Goals. Under Introduction 1.1, Page 33 of your handbook.

"ALA recognizes its broad social responsibilities."

In this regard I think this resolution that was brought to this Council speaks to that very well. It is a logical progression of many previous Council documents that have been approved and disseminated by this Council. It is a very strong connection to our support of intellectual freedom and social responsibility to democracy, which is what allows us all to be librarians and to do our job effectively.

I would ask those Councilors who would consider this irrelevant or not appropriate to look at our educational role in going back to our constituencies and talking about how ending funding for this war has a direct link to how democracy can prosper in our countries and in our libraries and in our

communities and how well this is all linked and how it's another measure and an important measure to demonstrate how we can do our jobs well.

So on behalf of IFRT, I would like to announce that we do endorse this resolution. Thank you.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 2.

>> BERNADINE ABBOTT HODUSKI: Councilor-At-Large. In the state of Montana, we have convinced our two senators -- we the citizens of Montana -- to oppose this war, and our newest Senator ran on that platform and many of the librarians in the state, I know there are differences of opinion.

But in regards to whether this is a library issue, in my work with the federal agencies in the shutting down of the libraries, behind the scenes explanation given to me by many, many people was: We have to pay for the war. So federal libraries are one of the victims of our spending on the war. And I put aside the fact that I have two cousins in Iraq and Afghanistan and I have other friends who have died.

As a member of this community, of this country, we need to stand up and tell our members of Congress that they need to find a way to get us out of there as soon as possible. And I think this resolution does not just say tomorrow we'll be gone. It talks about a gradual reduction.

But this is affecting not just federal libraries but libraries on all levels because there's not going to be enough money for lots and lots of our programs. So even if you just look at this in a materialistic way for our libraries, this war is having a dramatic effect on the quality of life in our country.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 6.

>> ANN SPARANESE: Councilor-At-Large. That can't really be denied in terms of the effect that all this incredible drain of our national treasury is having on social -- all social services and social foundations of our country. It would be like ignoring, forgive the pun, the elephant in the room if we didn't understand that.

But going further on what the IRFT Councilor said, I think everyone needs to read that Page 33 of the Policy Manual because it goes on "the broad social responsibilities of the American Library Association are defined in terms of the contribution that librarianship can make in ameliorating or solving the critical problems of society ... including the willingness of ALA to take a position on current critical issues with the relationship to libraries and library services set forth in the position statement."

So, last night at the forum I heard somebody say "well SRRT

is not doing what SRRT is supposed to do by bringing these things to our attention." But SRRT, the Social Responsibilities Round Table, is also doing the business of the association by bringing forth these issues that also are included in what we're supposed to be about as a profession.

You know, when Martin Luther King took a position against the war in Vietnam, which by the way the American Library Association did also, he was very -- he was also criticized for speaking outside of his box. Oh, what does this have to do with Civil Rights? But he saw the connection between the poverty of people and what was going on with the United States devoting all its resources to dropping bombs on defenseless people in other parts of the world.

So when we talk about leadership in this, we can give lip service to it, but here's our opportunity to bring ourselves to the front of this. We already are. This follows according to things we have already passed and said.

Lastly I just want to end with a quote from -- there was an article in the New York times a few days ago when we got here, a column about how the money would be spent if it weren't being spent on the war. I didn't really catch the column but I caught a letter that was sent in response to the column. And the

letter writer quoted President Eisenhower, who seems to be prescient on a number of things that we regularly notice these days, but he said and I hope this is right. Anyway, this is who the writer quoted, "every gun that is made, every war ship launched, every rocket fired represents, in the final analysis, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed and who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone, it is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 4.

>> FRANCIS BUCKLEY: Member of the Executive Board. And I rise to speak in terms of what I feel is the social responsibility of us as a professional association. I think we have, as an organization, taken positions in the past, speaking out for Civil Rights, for equal rights in voting and other issues of overarching concern in our society. And I think we do have a responsibility to speak out in this instance.

I am aware that the American Historical Association has recently adopted a resolution calling for the ending of the war.

So I think I would encourage us all to support this resolution. Thank you.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 4.

>> PAMELA SIEVING: Councilor for the Reference Service

Organization. It is the consensus of the RUSA Board that ALA should address issues directly affecting libraries, our members and those we serve. It is the consensus of the RUSA Board that this resolution is not concerned with such an issue. And by vote against that resolution is against that in that context and I ask you to understand that. It is not an understanding of support or lack of support for the ideas expressed in this resolution by this Councilor, by the Board Members and the RUSA members individually. Thank you, colleagues.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 6.

>> ELIZABETH ANN RIDLER: Councilor-At-Large. I, too, attended the Council Forum debate last night, which was very spirited. As a Councilor-At-Large, as one of the previous speakers indicated, I feel my constituents are the people I speak to at conference or those I hear from elsewhere. People I spoke with at the conference are, I would say, 99.9 negative to this kind of resolution. The division seems to be coming forward as negative to this kind of resolution.

I believe that the place for this action is political action on an individual basis. I, too, have a concern. I have opposed the war in Iraq since before its inception. I now have a greater concern about the innocent Iraqis who have been

involved in this mess because it happened. And I think fast withdrawal would contribute rather than help individual Iraqis.

I also feel that this particular kind of stance by our organization will torpedo our efforts to get bipartisan support for library issues on the Hill and also for us to work behind the scenes with government agencies.

I also feel that our support for this particular motion is going to hurt our efforts as Council to help further enthusiasm for Council. We're trying to recruit to Council. We're trying to get enthusiasm for what Council does. And all we hear about is these political motions and negative reactions to them from members.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 4.

>> BERNARD MARGOLIS: Councilor-At-Large. Generally I would rise to oppose this resolution, and I would suggest to my colleagues that it's inappropriate for ALA to have a foreign policy; that in a representative democracy, we leave that to our government to do. But today I rise to speak in support of this resolution.

I think the situation in Iraq is a compelling situation that indeed we need to respond to with our professional hats on.

And by professional, I mean looking at the word 'professional librarian' in the context of what that means,

which for me means the ability to save someone's life. We do that in our libraries by giving reliable information to people, and that's why I think we are considered professionals.

I think in the case of the funding for the war in Iraq, the deprivation of I think now over \$300 billion from the federal budget that could in fact be used to help support libraries around our nation as well as other services that would provide an adequate opportunity for education so that people can, in fact, practice what democracy is all about, I don't think that this element will in any way deprive us of an effective voice in Congress and, in fact, I think asserting our role as a professional organization will help us in the arguments we make to support better funding, better support in all sorts of different ways for libraries across the nation.

I would hope that all of you would in fact vote for this resolution. I would encourage the movers of the resolution, just on a fine point, to as a point of good information referral also have copies of this sent to the President of the United States, the Secretaries of State and Defense. Thank you.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Microphone Number 5.

>> JAMES CASEY: Councilor-At-Large. I speak in opposition to this resolution, not because I'm in any kind of disagreement with the general thrust of it. This body and many of us have

expressed our opposition to the war. But this is not just an expression of opposition to the war, it's a specific recommendation on how to bring that war to a close by withholding funds, which may or may not be effective. We, the majority of the American people, have spoken. They want to see the war brought to an end. They've elected Congress persons. The Congress has the purview of purse strings and responsibility to take action because the American people have said to do so. I think we should let them do their jobs so we can do ours.

I'm also concerned with some of the remarks made before about our relationship with this new Congress. Do we want to clearly enunciate our own position for key issues on libraries at this time or do we want to begin our relationship with this new Congress in a way that joins a much larger chorus already wanting the war brought to an end in trying to specify how that's to be done? I'm in opposition to this resolution. The spirit behind it bringing the war to an end I think we can all agree is very important to this country. Thank you.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 2.

>> JACKIE GRIFFIN: Chapter Councilor for California.

There's not a single whereas in this resolution that I don't on a personal level agree with deeply and have felt with for many, many years beginning when I didn't want to return from Toronto

after we entered the war. However, I would like to see a resolution that said, as we have elected a Congress that is clearly determined to remove us from Iraq, we ask that they look at those dollars that will no longer be needed as funding for a war and we ask that they use those dollars towards educational, cultural means, since clearly we have \$300 billion we don't know what to do with, that this would be a useful thing.

For my perspective, for me, this is an intellectual freedom issue. When people walk into my libraries, I expect that they will be free and comfortable to ask questions, to search for information regardless of their political point of view and without knowing our political point of view.

For me, for when the American Library Association takes these kinds of positions, we've entered into a debate that from my understanding of intellectual freedom we should not be doing. I don't want to be a chilling effect on my users. And I believe that these kind of resolutions are chilling effects.

If we could craft a resolution that says somehow we use our national dollars in a more effective way that leads to education, that leads to a broader understanding of the world, I would be happy to support and lead that kind of resolution. But I will vote against this. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 7.

>> Kay Roberto, Councilor-at-Large. I'm speaking in favor of this resolution. Captionist, it's K. R. not Kay. No offense.

I think there are very few people in this room that have not been affected by the war on a professional level. Whether it's because we had budget cuts, decreased level funding or whether it's because our colleagues or patrons have had military service in Iraq. Also earlier in this morning, we passed a revised Section 60 of the ALA Policy Manual, part of which states that libraries are a microcosm of the society as a whole. This is obviously a very important and hugely covered issue in our society. Up to 70% in people in general polls are opposed to the war, so I think we have a responsibility to reflect the attitudes and concerns of the users who we serve. Thanks.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 3.

>> JOY LOWE: Louisiana Chapter Councilor. I stand in opposition to this resolution. Not because I don't believe that the statements in it are true. I am just as appalled as everyone else at what is going on in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

But my constituents in Louisiana are disturbed at the number of things that we discuss and vote on that have nothing

to do with their lives in the libraries. I think we have so many things we need to discuss and accomplish as librarians and pro-librarians. I think that we have got to focus more on what it is that is very important to our lives professionally.

Individually we must stand up against things that are wrong in the country, but politically we do not need to do that in ALA. Thank you.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 3.

>> JONATHAN BETZ-ZALL: Chapter Councilor from Washington state. I take my responsibility as representing the people of my chapter very seriously and I've been polling them for a couple of years now on what is an appropriate issue for a professional association to take on? I have to tell you the division is about 50/50 between those who feel that we should really focus very narrowly on issues that are named as libraries: Funding, governance and so on, and those who want a national association to define the values of librarianship and to demonstrate how to reply to public life.

The other point I want to make is that I'm not aware of a lot of issues that we need to focus on that we don't have time to focus on because of these issues. If there are some, why do we occasionally end Council early?

>> LESLIE BURGER: Microphone Number 4.

>> MICHELLE CLOONAN: Councilor-At-Large. I stand in support of this. I believe that as librarians we have a strong moral obligation to support our colleagues in Iraq. Some of our librarian colleagues are risking their lives to continue to provide library services for the Iraqis.

Through our ill considered invasion of Iraq, we have borne enormous responsibility for the destruction of a number of libraries and other cultural institutions. And I believe that this is very relevant to our mission. The destruction of any libraries in the world should be of concern to us all because what is at risk is the preservation of the cultural historical record, which is a universal record. Thank you.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 6.

>> GLADYS SMILEY BELL: Councilor-At-Large. I stand in support of this resolution. I feel -- I believe personally that we should withhold and support the efforts of Congress to stop the Iraqi war. If you believe that we should stop, you should support this resolution.

I think withholding funds is an action that takes notice. Anything else, I believe, will weaken this resolution.

The action that we need to take is, one, if you believe in withholding or stopping the Iraqi war, then you should support this resolution, if that's what you believe.

But I understand the political and all that stuff, but if you believe in this, you have ALA now believing with you, too, if this motion goes through. Thank you.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you.

Microphone Number 4.

>> ROBERT LIPSCOMB: Councilor from Mississippi. As an Army veteran, I support this resolution and I urge everybody in the room to support it. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> LESLIE BURGER: Microphone Number 2.

>> JANET SWAN HILL: Member of the Executive Board. We've heard a number of people discussing whether or not we should support -- whether ALA's Council should even consider or support resolutions of this kind. And speaking personally, I am generally opposed to resolutions of this kind. But occasionally a resolution of this sort rises to a level that it simply must be supported. And I think this is one of those. There will be other resolutions that are political that I will say "this is not ALA's business."

Sometimes things get so extreme that you must weigh one principle against another. And in my case, I'm surprising myself. I've been persuaded by this extremely orderly discussion that we have had today to say that this is one that I

will support.

I believe that it is not in the best interest of the Association for Council to be afraid of its constituents, to be afraid of what Congress might or might not feel about our taking a principled stand on an issue of great importance to our entire society in addition to great importance of libraries.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 6.

>> Sue Mctavish, LAMA Councilor. The LAMA Board has directed me to oppose resolutions of this type that are not related to library business, and so I speak in opposition to this resolution.

Last night at the forum, there were several people speaking about their divisions and meetings that had happened at their boards where people were adamant that they did not want this type of resolution and particularly this one and the next one we're going to talk about to come forward and be passed by the Association.

Some of the other issues that were brought up at the forum last night included the fact that ALA is not really an expert in the what will happen in foreign affairs. We have no committee that studies that for us. And so to get into the actual direction of where funding is for foreign activities was out of line.

I would agree with Councilor Casey that this is the wrong kind of a resolution to have in the front to go to Congress right now for the American Library Association.

And with the Councilor that spoke earlier talking about a resolution that talked about moving the funds to libraries and other kinds of social activities would be a positive approach on this. I think it's a very strange jump to conclude that when they stop funding the war that they would automatically start funding libraries.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 2.

>> Michael Miller, Councilor-At-Large. I, too, state about fear and politics. I stand in support of this resolution and I just want to bring to mind for everyone that professional fear of reducing communication, the free flow and the misuse of information is in my opinion unfortunate and now useless. These things are already happening. I urge this body to be bold with its strong socially responsible voice.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you.

Microphone Number 3.

>> MELORA RANNEY NORMAN: Maine Chapter Councilor. Several people have already mentioned our broad social responsibility as expressed in our policy, so I won't repeat that.

I share Jonathan's experience with my chapter. When I polled the members, usually I get about a 50/50 response, but on this Iraq situation I actually got more like 70 in favor of out passing this kind of thing.

You know, what always surprises me is that we do a vast quantity of purely library business, awards, scholarships, goals, and we're concerned about public awareness when it comes to these kinds of resolutions; and I just hope that we can go ahead, pass this sort of resolution, feel like we've done the right thing and then go back and talk about all the other wonderful things instead of kind of talking about the murder, instead of all the great little articles in the back that are more community-related. Thanks.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 6.

>> STEPHEN MATTHEWS: Councilor-At-Large. Why should I oppose this? We are on record opposed to this war and favoring the withdrawal of troops. What this is asking us to do is get involved with the micromanaging of what's become a situation that's totally -- it's in chaos. And the fact that it used to be Iraq now there are Al-Qaeda operatives in Iraq, to be able to say that all we're going to do is load the ships and planes and bring people home, what results from that could be a blood bath, ultimately, of Iraqis and of the people who are left. It's not

that simple. I think this is a very idealistic resolution, but I think it's not thoughtful. We don't have any group within ALA who is looking at this who is looking at strategy. We're in this mess. To think we can just turn our backs and walk away is not a very realistic approach to this. I oppose this because it puts us on record for what results from this could be worse than what's happening now.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. I see four more people at the microphones. I'm going to encourage us to hear from those four people and then to move on. Microphone Number 2.

>> MARIO GONZALEZ: Member of the Executive Board. Before I was elected to the Executive Board I was a Councilor-At-Large, which means that I represented a broad Spectrum of members. And I think it's regrettable that the membership is not here to listen to this very intelligent deliberations that are happening in regard to this resolution. Because when this message gets out to the membership, they're saying "Council is voting again on a political issue that has nothing to do with libraries."

It's also regrettable that the movers of the resolution did not take the time to go through each of the divisions and units to get buy-in so that our general membership understands why resolutions like this come to the Council floor.

I'm still undecided on how to vote for this because I

personally oppose the war, but I have to look at this in my hat as an ALA member.

I would encourage that resolutions like this get really better buy-in from our full membership and have it discussed at each of our representative bodies so the membership as a whole could understand why these come to the Council.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 7.

>> MICHAEL McGRORTY: Good morning. ALA Councilor-At-Large. Veteran in the United States Navy. I'm considering an abstaining vote and the reason is because the part of this business that goes out to the public and speaks is the bottom paragraph. Regardless of the intent of the authors, it makes absolutely no specific reference to libraries, either in this part of the world or the ones that we have probably caused to be blown up.

It's extremely hard for me to support something whose main flaw is that it is poorly crafted. And that's without regard to the content and the intent.

I wish that we had something in this that we could -- that would encourage us to do something ourselves, but there's nothing in there that's specific to either actions we can take or anything that we can encourage libraries to do that would affect -- there's simply no mention at all. I wish that the

thing could be recrafted somehow to give us an opportunity to support this. But as it stands right now, there isn't anything that on its face it is primarily too inspecific.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 3.

>> SHELLEY BRIGHTMAN WALCHAK: Colorado chapter. My statement has to do with my role as a representative of my chapter as well as ALA members. The democratic system calls for us as leaders to be representatives of the people's opinions that are passed on to us. For those in favor of this resolution, I agree that the resolution fits into the broader mission of ALA. But to me the question is not just about whether it is right or moral or appropriate for us to bring forward to the Council but more importantly are we representing those who we represent?

I have heard many of the Chapter Councilors say that this is not appropriate business to be going forward with because of the information being passed on to us. I wonder if there isn't a better way to make sure that we are properly representing our constituents and not just our heartfelt beliefs.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 6.

>> MARY BIBLO: Councilor-At-Large. I'm speaking because I was concerned about some of the remarks I heard at the "council caucus" last night and some of the remarks that I've heard here

this morning. Some of the remarks that the people are making are out of fear of losing jobs and not really facing reality of what we really are losing is young people, and young people are losing their lives by the hundreds during the day.

I think we have to look at it from this perspective. We were concerned about Katrina not too many months ago, where this war has affected the ability of the government to go in and help the people of that area to rebuild, not only rebuild their homes but to rebuild their libraries.

And last night, we heard that the war is affecting our democratic rights. It's enslaving us into thinking that there's only one way to look at this war, and that's to go along without thinking and without questioning. And if anybody questions, then you are a traitor.

But you're not a traitor if you're asking about your freedom, your freedom to think, your freedom to express yourself and to go forward.

Another thing I've heard here is that in this document there's nothing that says -- tells us what to do as librarians. Do we have to be told what to do and how to react to such a situation as this war? We are creative people. And librarians above all are very creative. Like the speaker last night from North Carolina says what can I tell my Board? What can I tell

my Board? I can only tell them about the resolution that we are passing and they don't agree with the Iraqi war. He's creative enough to go in and tell them well the Intellectual Freedom Committee did this, APA passed a bill on increasing salaries, which they're not going to like, anyway.

(Laughter.)

Because you're raising the question of money. And we all know where money fits into the political picture of life. And we all should recognize that we should take a stand --

>> LESLIE BURGER: Mary, your time is up.

>> MARY BIBLO: One minute.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Your time is up. Everybody got three minutes. You got three minutes. Microphone Number 3.

>> JOSEPH EAGAN: Maryland Chapter Councilor. I'm opposed to this resolution because I'm looking at it purely from the viewpoint of the resolve clause. There is no mention of the word libraries, library workers, library customers, intellectual freedom, privacy -- and any of our core values. They're not mentioned in that particular resolve clause. That is the resolve clause that we will be sending to the Congress and to the library and national press. If there were such a thing in there, I could possibly support this, but there's not and I will oppose it.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Microphone Number 5.

>> LARRY ROMANS: Councilor-At-Large. The results in November gave us an idea of what the American people feel about the war. And opinion polls do that, as well. And I find it difficult to believe that librarians are considerably more conservative than the public at large. I think having prestigious associations like the American Library Association make a strong stand, makes it easier for the people in Congress to do the right thing.

To me, this is not a political issue. This is a moral issue. And I can't imagine that this is not the business of this Association.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. Both of the speakers at the microphone have already spoken on this issue. Do you have anything new to add?

>> Yes.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Of course. Okay. Microphone Number 6.

>> About one sentence. This should probably be referred to the Legislative Committee because it has grave implications for legislative activity.

>> LESLIE BURGER: Thank you. And Microphone Number 4.

>> FRANCIS BUCKLEY: Member of the Executive Board. I just wanted to clarify. It is my understanding that the complete

resolution is sent, including the whereas clauses, which of course make many references to ALA policies that have already been adopted.

>> LESLIE BURGER: That is correct. Okay. We're ready? No further discussion. We will proceed to the vote.

Will all those in favor please raise one of your hands? Will all those opposed please raise one of your hands? All right. It looks like we're going to have to count. All those in favor, would you please stand? Okay. You may be seated. And will those opposed please stand? You may be seated. The motion is defeated. There were 98 opposed and 48 in favor. Please mark your ballot Council Document Number 34.

I'm sorry. Microphone Number 7.

>> BETH BOYSON: I'm the Montana Chapter Councilor. A lot of people mentioned they might abstain. Did we call for that?

>> LESLIE BURGER: I don't think we have to. The decision was clear.

I now refer you to ALA Council Document Number 35, Resolution for Impeachment of President George W. Bush. I invite Al Kagan to come to the microphone and read only the "Resolved" clause.

>> Point of order. Dale Ross, Iowa Chapter Councilor. Madame Chair, I believe that this resolution is well outside the