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A.L.A. MID-WINTER MEETING, A REPORT by MARK GRUM

Miami Beach was cancelled as a site for the summer conference in 1954 "due to the inability of Miami Beach to meet the A.L.A.'s anti-discrimination policy." (The announcement of this action was applauded by the audience.) Instead, Minneapolis, Minn. is to be A.L.A.'s host from June 20 to 26, 1954.

The pre-conference sessions for state and regional library association officers were very good. Mostly panel type programs, they yielded several valuable ideas for improvements. According to the thinking of those present, priority should be given the following functions or activities by state and regional library associations during 1953: 1) censorship 2) recruitment 3) elevation of professional standards 4) passage of library services' bill.

In discussing the question whether an association should have an executive board or a planning committee or both, it was pointed out that only nine states do not have some kind of a planning committee and that the chief advantage of such a committee is the continuity which it provides. District meetings within a state were discussed. Iowa was cited as one state which has an exemplary system of district meetings attended by the vice-president and president-elect of the association.

The problem of attracting and encouraging the participation of teacher librarians in state associations was also discussed. Proposed methods for solving the problem included: a workshop for teachers at the state association meetings; devotion of issues of state association publications to dif-

ferent types of libraries, including school libraries; appointment of school librarians to committees and as officers in the state associations.

Another subject of interest to us was discussed---the paid secretary for the association. Michigan, California, and Ohio have part time paid secretaries. Their duties are usually editing the publication and handling memberships. One delegate said that having a paid secretary made it easier to get a president because duties were less.

Regional associations were discussed briefly and the conclusion was reached that they ought to exist only if there are common problems requiring a joint solution. Among the responsibilities of the state association was listed that of having representatives present at non-library but related activities.

The second of the three pre-conference sessions for library association officers began with a consideration of the problem of a delegate to council representing the membership adequately. It was recognized that in many cases the delegate received no instructions, nor did he know his constituency intimately enough to reflect its wishes accurately. The process of reporting back to the association was acknowledged to be equally poor. An association manual was looked upon as one place where instructions to councilors might be profitably set forth.

In considering the relationship between A.L.A. and local associations one speaker pointed out that field workers from A.L.A. were needed as well as a headquarters file of resource people to be used on programs. The state association should keep its members informed about legislation of interest to the profession, including

detrimental legislation. Concerning joint efforts in public relations the desirability of a nationwide campaign for improvement in libraries similar to the current one for public schools and teachers was mentioned. National Library Week, educational T-V, and the UNESCO gift coupons were also mentioned as possible publicity projects for joint cooperation.

The regularly scheduled portion of the Midwinter meeting began on Tuesday, following the above described workshop. The action taken by Council is perhaps the most important business to be reported here.

The president's report indicated that the financial condition of our national association is the healthiest that it has been for years. One important problem which continues is that of a fair distribution of dues between the general and divisional interests of the association. The list of notable books for 1952 were presented to Council in the form of a report from the Public Libraries Division. (A.L.A.Bull., Mar. 1953, p. 106-7 --Ed.) Reports were had from other boards and committees, but little new legislative action was taken by Council.

The Insurance for Libraries Committee announced a new set of values on books and certain other library materials. These are the first fresh figures for general application since those published by a previous committee in 1935 and repeated in Miss Singer's 1946 pamphlet on The Insurance of Libraries. These figures were published in the A.L.A. Bulletin, February, 1952, p. 61.

President Downs reported that the character of the Midwinter meetings is changing away from programs towards business sessions. Whatever the character of the meetings, it is a thrill to be there, to see the leaders in action, perhaps to participate a little, and to see the machinery of A.L.A. in motion.

LIBRARY SERVICES BILL TO BE INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS. YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED.

The 83d Congress is well underway. The Library Services Bill will soon be introduced in both Houses of Congress. Among the sponsors, who will introduce the bill, is West Virginia's Democratic Congressman, Cleveland M. Bailey. Congressman Bailey is also a member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, to which the Bill will be referred after introduction. In the Senate, a Republican sponsored bill will be re-introduced, and referred to the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. Democratic Senator Matthew M. Neely, W. Va., is a member of this Committee.

The Library Services Bill provides: 1) for an authorized appropriation of \$7,500,000 a year for a 5-year period, 2) for allocation of the appropriated money to the states on a matching basis. Each state would receive an original allotment of \$40,000, with the exception of the Virgin Islands which would receive \$10,000, plus additional funds based on the rural population of the U.S. This money is matched by the state on the basis of the per capita income of the state as compared to national per capita income, 3) that each state, to receive funds, must prepare a state plan for the further extension of public library services to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education, 4) that the Commissioner of Education shall administer the program under the Library Services Act. Librarians may write their Congressmen for copies of the Bill after its introduction to use in publicizing the bill.

Reports and discussions at the Mid-winter meeting of Coordinators, State Library Association Presidents, State Library Agencies Directors, and the Federal Relations Committee stressed the importance of this legislation. Director Julia D. Bennett of the A.L.A. Washington Office presented a comprehensive report on The Bill, and stressed the need for cooperative hard

