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LIBRARY SERVICES

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HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
UNITED STATES SENATE
EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 205

A BILL TO PROMOTE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF
PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE IN RURAL AREAS

AND

H. R. 2840

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF
PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE IN RURAL AREAS

MAY 23, 1956

Printed for the use of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare



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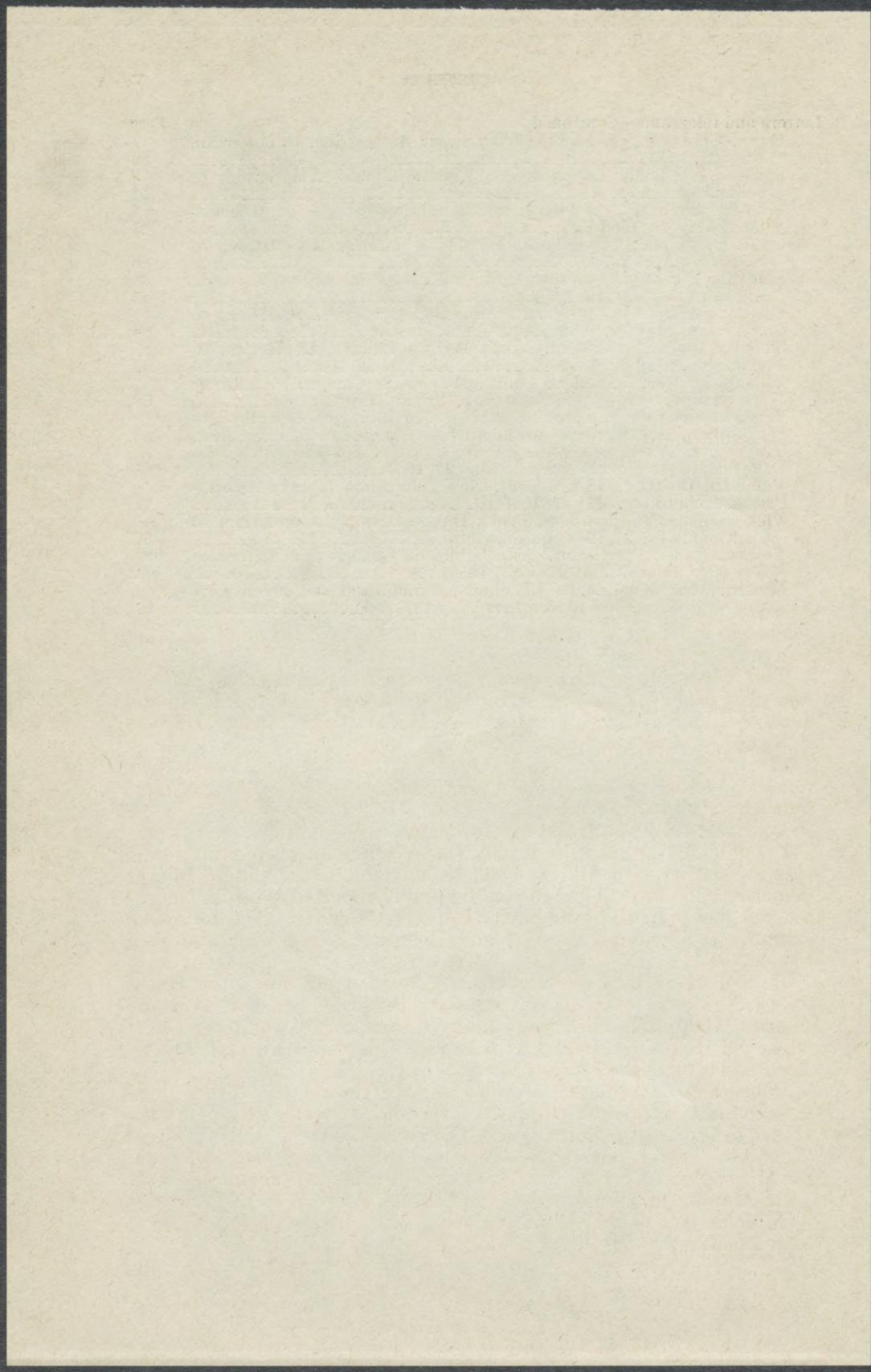
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LIBRARY SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1956

UNITED STATES SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE,
Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10 a. m., in the Old Supreme Court Chamber, United States Capitol, Senator James E. Murray presiding.

Present: Senators Murray, Hill, and Smith of New Jersey.

Also present: Committee staff members Steward E. McClure, John E. Forsythe, William G. Reidy, Michael Bernstein, and Mary Di Dio. Senator MURRAY. The hearing will come to order, please.

This hearing has been scheduled to take testimony relating to the Library Services bill, S. 205. This measure was introduced by my esteemed colleague, Senator Lister Hill, for himself and 12 other Senators.

The cosponsors of this measure are Senators George Aiken, Paul Douglas, Henry Jackson, Mike Mansfield, Frank Carlson, Irving Ives, William Langer, Dennis Chavez, Matthew Neely, Herbert Lehman, James Eastland, and Estes Kefauver.

Since the introduction, four other Senators have asked that their names be added as cosponsors: Olin Johnston, J. W. Fulbright, Gordon Allott, and Clifford Case.

To that list, I want to add my own name.

I should like to mention briefly Lister Hill's long time interest in this legislation. In March 1946, he introduced the public library demonstration bill. The bill was favorably reported by this committee, but it was passed over on the Consent Calendar. The following year, he reintroduced the bill and George Aiken joined him as a cosponsor.

In 1948 the bill passed the Senate, but did not reach the House floor. Again in 1949, the bill was introduced by Senators Hill and Aiken. The bill reached the Consent Calendar but was passed over when the House defeated it by 3 votes. The bill was completely revised and became the Library Services bill.

It has been introduced in each Congress since then. Twice more this committee favorably reported the bill, but the failure of the House to act caused the Senate bill to be passed over on the Consent Calendar. I am pleased to be able to say that Senator Hill and Senator Murray voted for the bill every time it came to a committee vote.

On May 8, the House passed the Library Services bill, H. R. 2840, by a voice vote with a good majority. This is the action we have been awaiting.

This bill is designed to stimulate the States to extend and develop public library services in areas now without it or in areas now receiving inadequate service. The bill is limited to the rural areas, that is, places no larger than 10,000 population, for this is where the need is greatest.

Some 27 million Americans do not have access to a local public library. Ninety percent of these people live in our rural areas.

There are also some 53 million more receiving very inadequate library service. This is not a sectional or regional problem, but affects every one of our States.

This is a truly serious problem and one which needs to be remedied. The legislation before us is limited to a 5-year period for it is designed to stimulate the States and localities to take more interest in and spend more money for public library services.

I will not go into any more detail of the legislation since I know our witnesses will cover the provisions thoroughly in the course of these hearings.

Before I close, I would like to say that the passage of this bill would mean a lot to the people of my own State. About 25 percent of the people of Montana do not have access to a local public library. Of the 75 percent of Montana citizens who do have access to a local public library, less than half could be considered as having adequate service. Our State library commission is ready and eager to have an opportunity to expand its services under the Library Services bill.

Our fine State superintendent of education in Montana, Miss Mary Condon, has told me that passage of this measure will mean a great deal as far as the education, not just of children is concerned, but of adults as well.

I also have a very able statement submitted by Miss Virginia Walton, who is the president of the Montana State Library Association. Her statement will be carried in the record.

(The statement referred to appears at p. 72.)

Senator MURRAY. I want to announce right now that I intend to vote and work for the passage of this bill.

(The bills referred to and the Departments views thereon are as follows:)

[S. 205, 84th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL To promote the further development of public library service in rural areas

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Library Services Act".

DECLARATION OF POLICY

SEC. 2. (a) It is the purpose of this Act to promote the further extension by the several States of public library services to rural areas without such services or with inadequate services.

(b) The provisions of this Act shall not be so construed as to interfere with State and local initiative and responsibility in the conduct of public library services. The administration of public libraries, the selection of personnel and library books and materials, and insofar as consistent with the purposes of this Act, the determination of the best uses of the funds provided under this Act shall be reserved to the States and their local subdivisions.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 3. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956, and for each of the four succeeding fiscal years the sum of \$7,500,000 which shall be used for making payments to States which have

submitted and had approved by the Commissioner of Education (hereinafter referred to as the Commissioner) State plans for the further extension of public library services to rural areas without such services, or with inadequate services.

ALLOTMENTS TO STATES

SEC. 4. (a) From the sums appropriated pursuant to section 3 for each fiscal year, the Commission shall allot \$10,000 to the Virgin Islands and \$40,000 to each of the other States, and shall allot to each State such part of the remainder of such sums as the rural population of the State bears to the rural population of the United States, according to the most recent decennial census.

(b) The amount of any allotment to a State under subsection (a) for any fiscal year remaining unpaid to such State at the end of such fiscal year shall be available for payment to such State under section 6 until the end of the succeeding fiscal year. No payment to a State under section 6 shall be made out of its allotment for any fiscal year until its allotment for the preceding fiscal year has been exhausted or has ceased to be available.

STATE PLANS

SEC. 5. (a) To be approved under this section, a State plan for the further extension of public library services to rural areas must—

(1) provide for the administration, or supervision of the administration, of the plan by the State library administrative agency, and provide that such agency will have adequate authority under State law to administer the plan in accordance with its provisions and the provisions of this Act;

(2) provide for the receipt by the State treasurer (or, if there be no State treasurer, the officer exercising similar functions for the State) of all funds paid to the State pursuant to this Act and for the proper safeguarding of such funds by such officer, provide that such funds shall be expended solely for the purposes for which paid, and provide for the repayment by the State to the United States of any such funds lost or diverted from the purposes for which paid;

(3) provide policies and methods of administration to be followed in using any funds made available for expenditure under the State plan, which policies and methods the State library administrative agency certifies will in its judgment assure use of such funds to maximum advantage in the further extension of public library services to rural areas without such services or with inadequate services;

(4) provide that the State library administrative agency will make such reports, in such form and containing such information, as the Commissioner may from time to time reasonably require; and

(5) provide that any library services furnished under the plan shall be made available free of charge under regulations prescribed by the State library administrative agency.

(b) The Commissioner shall approve any plan which fulfills the conditions specified in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The determination of whether library services are inadequate in any area within any State shall be made by the State library administrative agency of such State.

PAYMENTS TO STATES

SEC. 6. (a) From the allotments available therefor under section 4, the Secretary of the Treasury shall from time to time pay to each State which has a plan approved under section 5 an amount computed as provided in subsection (b) of this section, equal to the Federal share of the total sums expended by the State and its political subdivisions under such plan during the period for which such payment was made, except that no payments shall be made to any State from its allotment for any fiscal year unless and until the Commissioner finds that

(1) there will be available for expenditure under the plan from State or local sources during the fiscal year for which the allotment is made (A) sums sufficient to enable the State to receive under this section payments in an amount not less than \$10,000 in the case of the Virgin Islands and \$40,000 in the case of any other State, and (B) not less than the total amount actually expended, in the areas covered by the plan for such year, for public library services from such sources in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955, and (2) there will be available for expenditure for public library services from State sources during the fiscal

year for which the allotment is made not less than the total amount actually expended for public library services from such sources in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955.

(b) The Commissioner shall from time to time, but not less often than semi-annually, and prior to the period for which a payment is to be made, estimate the amount, within the balance of the allotments for each State, which may be necessary to pay the Federal share of the total expenditures for carrying out the approved State plan for such period. The Commissioner shall certify to the Secretary of the Treasury the amount so determined, reduced or increased as the case may be by the amount by which he finds that his estimate for any prior period was greater or less than the amount which should have been paid to the State for such period. The Secretary of the Treasury shall thereupon, prior to audit or settlement by the General Accounting Office, pay to the State, at the time or times fixed by the Commissioner, the amount so certified.

(c) For the purposes of this section the "Federal share" for any States shall be 100 per centum less the State percentage and the State percentage shall be that percentage which bears the same ratio to 50 per centum as the per capita income of such State bears to the per capita income of the continental United States (excluding Alaska), except that (1) the Federal share shall in no case be more than 66 per centum or less than 33 per centum, and (2) the Federal share for Hawaii shall be 50 per centum and for Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands shall be 66 per centum.

(d) The "Federal share" for each State shall be promulgated by the Commissioner between July 1 and August 31 of each even-numbered year, on the basis of the average of the per capita incomes of the States and of the continental United States (excluding Alaska) for the three most recent consecutive years for which satisfactory data are available from the Department of Commerce. Such promulgation shall be conclusive for each of the two fiscal years in the period beginning July 1 next succeeding such promulgation: *Provided*, That the Commissioner shall promulgate such percentages as soon as possible after the enactment of this Act to be effective until July 1, 1956.

(e) No portion of any money paid to a State under this Act shall be applied, directly or indirectly, to the purchase or erection of any building or buildings, or for the purchase of any land.

(f) No portion of any money paid to a State under this Act shall be used, directly or indirectly, to provide or improve library services in any area other than a rural area; except that nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit the utilization of such money by public libraries in nonrural areas, if such utilization has been provided for in an approved State plan covering the areas affected.

WITHHOLDING

SEC. 7. If the Commissioner finds after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing to the State agency administering or supervising the administration of the State plan approved under this Act, that the State plan has been so changed that it no longer complies with the requirements of this Act or that in the administration of the plan there is a failure to comply substantially with the provisions required to be included in the plan, he shall notify such State agency that further payments will not be made to the State under this Act until he is satisfied that there is no longer any such failure to comply. Until he is so satisfied, he shall make no further certification to the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to such State.

ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 8. (a) The Commissioner shall administer this Act under the supervision and direction of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such regulations as may be necessary for the administration of this Act.

(b) The Commissioner is also authorized to make such studies, investigations, and reports as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act, including periodic reports for public distribution as to the values, methods, and results of various State demonstrations of public library services in rural areas undertaken under this Act.

(c) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for expenses of administration such sums as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Secretary and the Commissioner under this Act.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 9. For the purposes of this Act—

(a) The term "State" means a State, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands;

(b) The term "State library administrative agency" means the official State agency charged by State law with the extension and development of public library services throughout the State;

(c) The term "public library" means a library that serves free all residents of a community, district, or region, and receives its financial support in whole or in part from public funds;

(d) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; and

(e) The term "rural area" does not include an incorporated or unincorporated town having a population of more than ten thousand persons.

[H. R. 2840, 84th Cong., 2d sess.]

AN ACT To promote the further development of public library service in rural areas

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Library Services Act."

DECLARATION OF POLICY

SEC. 2. (a) It is the purpose of this Act to promote the further extension by the several States of public library services to rural areas without such services or with inadequate services.

(b) The provisions of this Act shall not be so construed as to interfere with State and local initiative and responsibility in the conduct of public library services. The administration of public libraries, the selection of personnel and library books and materials, and, insofar as consistent with the purposes of this Act, the determination of the best uses of the funds provided under this Act shall be reserved to the States and their local subdivisions.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 3. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957, and for each of the four succeeding fiscal years the sum of \$7,500,000 which shall be used for making payments to States which have submitted and had approved by the Commissioner of Education (hereinafter referred to as the Commissioner) State plans for the further extension of public library services to rural areas without such services, or with inadequate services.

ALLOTMENTS TO STATES

SEC. 4. (a) From the sums appropriated pursuant to section 3 for each fiscal year, the Commissioner shall allot \$10,000 to the Virgin Islands and \$40,000 to each of the other States, and shall allot to each State such part of the remainder of such sums as the rural population of the State bears to the rural population of the United States, according to the most recent decennial census.

(b) The amount of any allotment to a State under subsection (a) for any fiscal year remaining unpaid to such State at the end of such fiscal year shall be available for payment to such State under section 6 until the end of the succeeding fiscal year. No payment to a State under section 6 shall be made out of its allotment for any fiscal year until its allotment for the preceding fiscal year has been exhausted or has ceased to be available.

STATE PLANS

SEC. 5. (a) To be approved under this section, a State plan for the further extension of public library services to rural areas must—

(1) provide for the administration, or supervision of the administration, of the plan by the State library administrative agency, and provide that such agency will have adequate authority under State law to administer the plan in accordance with its provision and the provisions of this Act;

(2) provide for the receipt by the State treasurer (or, if there be no State treasurer, the officer exercising similar functions for the State) of all

funds paid to the State pursuant to this Act and for the proper safeguarding of such funds by such officer, provide that such funds shall be expended solely for the purposes for which paid, and provide for the repayment by the State to the United States of any such funds lost or diverted from the purposes for which paid;

(3) provide policies and methods of administration to be followed in using any funds made available for expenditure under the State plan, which policies and methods the State library administrative agency certifies will in its judgment assure use of such funds to maximum advantage in the further extension of public library services to rural areas without such services or with inadequate services;

(4) provide that the State library administrative agency will make such reports as to categories of expenditures made under this Act, as the Commissioner may from time to time reasonably require; and

(5) provide that any library services furnished under the plan shall be made available free of charge under regulations prescribed by the State library administrative agency.

(b) The Commissioner shall approve any plan which fulfills the conditions specified in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The determination of whether library services are inadequate in any area within any State shall be made by the State library administrative agency of such State.

PAYMENTS TO STATES

SEC. 6. (a) From the allotments available therefor under section 4, the Secretary of the Treasury shall from time to time pay to each State which has a plan approved under section 5 an amount computed as provided in subsection (b) of this section, equal to the Federal share of the total sums expended by the State and its political subdivisions under such plan during the period for which such payment was made, except that no payments shall be made to any State from its allotment for any fiscal year unless and until the Commissioner finds that (1) there will be available for expenditure under the plan from State or local sources during the fiscal year for which the allotment is made (A) sums sufficient to enable the State to receive under this section payments in an amount not less than \$10,000 in the case of the Virgin Islands and \$40,000 in the case of any other State, and (B) not less than the total amount actually expended, in the areas covered by the plan for such year, for public library services from such sources in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956, and (2) there will be available for expenditure for public library services from State sources during the fiscal year for which the allotment is made not less than the total amount actually expended for public library services from such sources in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956.

(b) The Commissioner shall from time to time, but not less often than semi-annually, and prior to the period for which a payment is to be made, estimate the amount, within the balance of the allotments for each State, which may be necessary to pay the Federal share of the total expenditures for carrying out the approved State plan for such period. The Commissioner shall certify to the Secretary of the Treasury the amount so determined, reduced or increased as the case may be by the amount by which he finds that his estimate for any prior period was greater or less than the amount which should have been paid to the State for such period. The Secretary of the Treasury shall thereupon, prior to audit or settlement by the General Accounting Office, pay to the State, at the time or times fixed by the Commissioner, the amount so certified.

(c) For the purposes of this section the "Federal share" for any State shall be 100 per centum less the State percentage and the State percentage shall be that percentage which bears the same ratio to 50 per centum as the per capita income of such State bears to the per capita income of the continental United States (excluding Alaska), except that (1) the Federal share shall in no case be more than 66 per centum or less than 33 per centum, and (2) the Federal share for Hawaii shall be 50 per centum and for Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands shall be 66 per centum.

(d) The "Federal share" for each State shall be promulgated by the Commissioner between July 1 and August 31 of each even-numbered year, on the basis of the average of the per capita incomes of the States and of the continental United States (excluding Alaska) for the three most recent consecutive years for which satisfactory data are available from the Department of Commerce.

Such promulgation shall be conclusive for each of the two fiscal years in the period beginning July 1 next succeeding such promulgation: *Provided*, That the Commissioner shall promulgate such percentages as soon as possible after the enactment of this Act to be effective until July 1, 1957.

(e) No portion of any money paid to a State under this Act shall be applied, directly or indirectly, to the purchase or erection of any building or buildings, or for the purchase of any land.

(f) No portion of any money paid to a State under this Act shall be used, directly or indirectly, to provide or improve library services in any area other than a rural area; except that nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit the utilization of such money by public libraries in nonrural areas for the exclusive purpose of extending public library services to rural areas, if such utilization has been provided for in an approved State plan covering the areas affected.

WITHHOLDING

SEC. 7. If the Commissioner finds after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing to the State agency administering or supervising the administration of the State plan approved under this Act, that the State plan has been so changed that it no longer complies with the requirements of this Act or that in the administration of the plan there is a failure to comply substantially with the provisions required to be included in the plan, he shall notify such State agency that further payments will not be made to the State under this Act until he is satisfied that there is no longer any such failure to comply. Until he is so satisfied, he shall make no further certification to the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to such State, *Provided*, That any State or State agency is entitled to judicial review in the United States District Court wherein the State or State agency is located of any such withholding determination in accordance with applicable provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 8. (a) The Commissioner shall administer this Act under the supervision and direction of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such regulations as may be necessary for the administration of this Act.

(b) The Commissioner is also authorized to make such studies, investigations, and reports as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act, including periodic reports for public distribution as to the values, methods, and results of various State demonstrations of public library services in rural areas undertaken under this Act.

(c) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for expenses of administration such sums as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Secretary and the Commissioner under this Act.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 9. For the purposes of this Act—

(a) The term "State" means a State, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands;

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(c) The term "public library" means a library that serves free all residents of a community, district, or region, and receives its financial support in whole or in part from public funds;

(d) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; and

(e) The term "rural area" does not include an incorporated or unincorporated town having a population of more than ten thousand persons.

Passed the House of Representatives May 8, 1956.

Attest:

RALPH R. ROBERTS,
Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
Washington, D. C., May 23, 1956.

HON. LISTER HILL,
*Chairman, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare,
United States Senate.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request of May 14, 1956, for a report on H. R. 2840, a bill to promote the further development of public-library service in rural areas, as passed by the House of Representatives, with certain amendments, on May 8, 1956.

H. R. 2840, as introduced, would authorize an appropriation of \$7½ million annually for 5 years beginning with fiscal year 1956, in order to "promote the further extension by the several States of public-library services to rural areas without such services or with inadequate services." Allotments to the States would be made by the Commissioner of Education, on the basis of State plans, with a minimum of \$40,000 to each State, plus additional amounts based upon the ratio of the rural population in each State to the rural population in the United States as a whole. State matching of Federal funds would be required, varying inversely with State per capita income, but with the Federal share never more than 66 percent nor less than 33 percent.

The three amendments which were attached to H. R. 2840 on the floor of the House would (a) change certain dates to make the bill current, (b) provide for judicial review before any withholding determination becomes final, and (c) limit the kinds of reports which the Commissioner of Education may require under the bill to "reports as to categories of expenditures made under the Act * * *."

In a letter to you dated May 20, 1955, the Acting Secretary of this Department indicated the Department's position on S. 205, an identical bill to H. R. 2840 as originally introduced. This letter stated in part:

"This Department is in accord with the broad objective of S. 205; namely, to improve the public-library services available to the rural areas of the Nation. However, having regard to budgetary limitations, and in view of other more urgent needs for Federal funds in the fields of education, health, and welfare, we would not regard this as a priority measure."

Although this Department has not regarded H. R. 2840 as a priority measure, certain of its general provisions are in accord with principles that previously have been endorsed by this Department; namely, (a) a plan of administration to be developed by each State to meet certain requirements specified in the bill, (b) an equalization formula whereby those States with low per capita incomes would provide relatively less matching funds than those States with high per capita incomes, and (c) a specific termination date.

With respect to the three amendments which were attached to H. R. 2840 on the floor of the House, this Department has no objection to the one which merely changes certain dates to make the bill current or to the one which would provide for judicial review before any withholding determination becomes final. The third would limit the kinds of reports which the Commissioner of Education may require under the bill to "reports as to categories of expenditures made under the act * * *." We strongly prefer the language of the bill as reported by the House committee in this regard, although we would not object to a clarification of the provision (sec. 5 (a) (4) of the bill) to limit the reports to those reasonably necessary to enable the Commissioner to perform his duties under the bill. The House floor amendment would prevent the Commissioner from requiring reports necessary to carry out his duties under section 8 (b) of the bill, and even prevent him from getting the information he needs to assure that the States are complying substantially with the various Federal conditions set forth in the bill, e. g., clauses (1) and (5) of section 5 (a), and section 7.

In summary, although this Department has not regarded this bill as a priority measure, we believe its administrative provisions, apart from section 5 (a) (4), to be sound and workable, and are prepared to carry out these provisions with dispatch if the bill should be enacted.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that it perceives no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

M. B. FOLSOM., *Secretary.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D. C., May 23, 1956.

Hon. LISTER HILL,
*Chairman, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This will acknowledge your letter of May 14, 1956, requesting the views of the Bureau of the Budget on H. R. 2840, a bill to promote the further development of public library service in rural areas.

This bill would provide for an appropriation of \$7.5 million each fiscal year for 5 years, beginning with fiscal year 1956, to promote the further extension by the several States of public library services to rural areas without such service or with inadequate services.

Provision for adequate library services throughout the country is a worthy objective. Traditionally, however, this has been a State and local responsibility and we question whether the need for Federal action in this area is of such high priority to warrant embarking on a Federal aid program at this time.

While H. R. 2840 generally seems to be an adequate measure to accomplish the objectives of better rural library service, amendment of section 5 (a) (4) as suggested by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is recommended if the bill is favorably considered by your committee.

Sincerely yours,

A. R. JONES, *Deputy Director.*

Senator MURRAY. Our first witness this morning is our very distinguished friend, Senator Aiken.

Senator HILL. Mr. Chairman, may I say just one word?

I am delighted that Senator Aiken is here this morning. No one has been more interested in this bill or has done more on behalf of the passage of it than Senator Aiken.

He and I have worked relentlessly on behalf of the passage of this bill. When Republicans have had control of the subject, he has introduced the bill for himself and myself; and when the Democrats have been in control, I have introduced the bill for him and for myself.

He and I have worked together for the passage of this bill through the years, and I certainly am delighted and rejoice that he is our first witness here this morning.

STATEMENT OF HON. GEORGE D. AIKEN, UNITED STATES SENATOR
FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT

Senator AIKEN. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, as you have stated, this bill has been of great interest to me, and, as Senator Hill states, I believe that it has provided an opportunity to demonstrate a perfect example of bipartisan effort for a worthy cause.

We have in the past achieved partial success in getting this bill through the Senate only to see it stop in the House. Now that the House has enacted it first, I hope that at last it will become law.

My interest in this rural library service goes back about 20 years when Vermont pioneered in extending rural library service to the people of our State.

We are almost wholly a rural State. In fact, there are only about six more States that are more rural than my State of Vermont.

We had something of an uphill job getting this work started, but finally in the middle thirties, I believe about 1937—I cannot remember the exact year—we started out with what we called bookwagons traveling into the rural areas, taking books to the small communities

which were without any library service or without adequate library service.

So I have had as good a chance as anyone in the country to observe what can be done by extending rural library service to the people of our small communities.

Even in Vermont, however, we have not done as much as we would like to have done, because we are not a rich State and have been somewhat limited by funds. I realize that in the larger parts of this country of ours there is an adequate rural library service today.

This bill should go very far toward giving us universal improvement in rural library service.

I think it very important to point out that in this legislation the States have almost complete autonomy in determining the need for this service, the manner in which it shall be provided, and the type of material which shall be provided.

That is very important when we are in this day and age trying to turn back some forces that would undertake to deprive the communities and States of rights which are inherently theirs.

I am confident that we will get a favorable report out of this committee, and I hope very strongly that the Senate will see fit to pass the bill so that this great service which has been so long delayed may at last be put into operation and have its 5-year trial. I am sure this will result in improvements not only in library service but through improved library service lead to improvements generally in our smaller communities of the country.

After all, Mr. Chairman, our community is the basis of our country anyway. The whole country is founded on the strength of the communities.

So I just again reiterate my hope that this bill will at last become part of the law.

Thank you.

Senator SMITH. Mr. Chairman, may I ask—pardon me.

Senator MURRAY. Proceed.

Senator SMITH. I am sorry I did not hear all of your statement, Senator Aiken. After giving this bill a rather quick glance, the only question that occurs to me is whether it is necessary to bring the Federal Government into the picture.

Can't we do it in our States without Federal aid? I want to have your view on that. Why are we bringing the Federal Government into it?

Senator AIKEN. Some States could, Senator Smith, and others could not. I think the ones that could not, or possibly some that would not, are the ones that need this service most.

Of course, in your State everybody is highly educated, anyway. You have considerable urban areas, you have many famous colleges there—one particularly famous one—and you have opportunities which are not given to the people living in other States.

Senator SMITH. Of course, I am very much in favor of the extension of library services all over the world. I favor the extension of our library services abroad, even in countries where they do not have adequate literary opportunities.

I am just trying to see in my own mind whether the Federal Government should move in. Whether it might not more or less take control of the thinking of the people. As you say, the States are going to

have control of that and determine what books are to be selected and so on. If this is so I think I will not have any objection. However, if the Federal Government is going to try to dominate the picture—

Senator AIKEN. It is not quite so easy for the Federal Government to dominate the thinking of the States as that.

I well remember a period of 20 years when the Federal Government did not dominate the thinking of the State of Vermont economically, socially, or politically.

Senator SMITH. My experience has been that Vermont has been an original State. It was an independent State, always remained so, and is ably represented in the State body by two able Senators.

Senator AIKEN. I would not for a minute favor any bill which permitted the Federal Government to dictate the type of literature which should be used in a State, or do anything that would lead to Federal domination of the thinking of the State.

I do not think they can do that, anyway. I think that there are those perhaps who feel that the Federal Government should have great authority, great power. But on the other hand, we have resisted that very well up to date.

I realize, too, that there are a few States in the Union that possess great wealth, wealth which was not created, however, in those States, but which was created in other States.

For instance, much of the wealth created in Montana gravitates to northern New Jersey, and the only way that you can get some of—

Senator SMITH. That is news to me. I am very glad to hear that.

Senator AIKEN. I am not specifying cases, but I think they could be found all right.

And I think that it is perfectly proper, through the Federal Government, to put some of that money back into the rural areas of Montana.

Senator MURRAY. I thoroughly agree with you.

These Eastern States, like New Jersey and New York, have always exploited the Western States and treated them as though they were colonies and stripped them of all of their wealth while they neglected to let those Western States develop a balanced economy.

Now we are beginning to accomplish that. As the result of these programs of power development we are attracting industries into our States, developing the States as they should be developed.

Senator AIKEN. Sometimes I have felt that the State of Vermont has been regarded almost as a colony by certain urban areas of our country.

Senator MURRAY. I think I agree with everything you say, Senator.

Senator HILL. Senator, isn't this true, that this bill fortifies and protects in every way the rights and authority of the States?

Senator AIKEN. Yes.

Senator HILL. That is, they make the determinations, they make the decisions, the States themselves?

Senator AIKEN. They make the full determinations. They do not even have to accept the funds if they do not desire to do so.

Senator HILL. And from our experience with reference to Federal aid, isn't it true, too, that even in States that do not necessarily have to have the Federal aid, a little Federal aid does a tremendous amount in stimulating those States to do a lot for themselves?

Senator AIKEN. I think it would serve as a stimulant.

Senator HILL. In other words, a bill of this kind does help those States that very much need the help, and then, perhaps, as to those who do not need the help so much, it gives greater stimulation to them and causes them to do much more for themselves?

Senator AIKEN. I think you will find that even the wealthier States like New Jersey and New York will not refuse the \$40,000 a year and as much more as might be their share of the remainder of the funds available.

Senator SMITH. Just one more question, Mr. Chairman?

Do you know the position of the administration on this—I do not know whether the administration favors participation by the Federal Government in this project?

Senator AIKEN. I have not consulted any top officials of the administration in regard to this bill. I assume that they may have reported to the committee.

Senator SMITH. I just do not know.

Senator AIKEN. I do not know. I will say this, no top-flight official of the Government has indicated to me that he opposes the bill.

Senator SMITH. I do not know one way or the other.

Senator AIKEN. No top-flight official of the Government has indicated to me that he or she opposes the bill. Maybe I had better put it that way.

Senator MURRAY. Thank you, Senator Aiken.

Senator AIKEN. Thank you, sir.

Senator SMITH. Mr. Chairman, I have just had handed to me a statement by Senator Allott on this subject, which he asks to have put in the record. I think it is appropriate to have that incorporated in the record.

Senator MURRAY. Yes; I ask that this statement by Senator Allott be incorporated in the record at this point.

(The statement of Senator Allott referred to is as follows:)

STATEMENT BY SENATOR GORDON ALLOTT, OF COLORADO

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to appear before you this morning in support of S. 205, the library services bill that was introduced by the distinguished chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare for himself and many of our other colleagues. I have studied the bill and can say without reservation that it is totally desirable from the standpoint of the welfare of the entire Nation.

Its purpose of stimulating the extension of library services to the rural areas is an unquestionably desirable one. The 5-year program on a demonstration basis whereby Federal funds would be matched by State funds is one that has proven effective in other fields including vocational education, health, and agricultural programs. The conditions prescribed which would require an effective State program for expanding library services are in my view intelligent.

The need for such a program as is contemplated by S. 205 has been affirmed from all quarters of my State. Literally several hundred people have written me of their belief in the importance of this legislation including ranchers, teachers at all levels, housewives, city managers, school superintendents, chamber of commerce managers, students, librarians, and businessmen. I was particularly impressed by the fact that many of my correspondents were from the metropolitan centers which could not share in any of the direct benefits of this measure; people who firmly believe, along with me, that the future of the Republic will in large measure be determined by the effectiveness of our educational system; people who firmly believe, as I do, that good library facilities are a vital part of any educational system.

Of particular interest to me, and I believe it would be to the committee, was a letter from one of my constituents in Denver who is a foreman for an industrial operation here. I should like to make a part of the record his letter in which he observes a low educational level on the part of the young men from some of our rural areas and expresses the need for men educated to hold their own in modern industry.

It has been brought to my attention that there are 27 million people in this country who are without any public library services, and that 90 percent of these neglected citizens are in rural areas. Of the 3,000 counties in this country, 404 have no public library. In only three States are public library facilities available to everyone. In my State the situation is better than in most, but there is room for extensive improvement before the situation could be deemed adequate.

Although I firmly believe that the program is primarily one for the several States to cope with, it is vividly clear to me that a Federal program of the type outlined by S. 205 is justified because of the importance to the Nation as a whole of a program which will assist in making available to each of our citizens the basic texts of our great culture and heritage.

In this age, when we find it necessary to spend billions for our military defense, history will certainly write us off as niggardly if we fail to spend \$37.5 million on a 5-year program to make the world's great literature available to those who would otherwise have to do without.

Senator HILL. May I say that I have read Senator Allott's statement and it is a splendid one.

Senator SMITH. I assume, Senator Hill, that any statement Senator Allott would make would be a very well thought through and fine statement.

Senator HILL. I agree with you that he always makes a well thought through and able statement. I would say this is a particularly fine statement.

Senator MURRAY. Our next witness will be Mr. John S. Richards, librarian, Seattle Public Library.

State your full name, please.

STATEMENT OF JOHN S. RICHARDS, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Mr. RICHARDS. Mr. Chairman, members of the Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Welfare Committee, I am John Richards, director of the Seattle Public Library, the largest public library in the State of Washington, and one which would not benefit directly under this legislation.

I am here as the official representative of the American Library Association in my official capacity as president of the association. The American Library Association, a nonprofit organization, has a membership of over 20,000 librarians, trustees, and friends of libraries, and has, since its founding in 1876, worked for the development of libraries throughout the United States.

Of course, I am appearing here today in the interest of S. 205 which is generally known as the library services bill, and I should like to start out very briefly with some significant features of the bill, that is, features that the American Library Association feels are good features.

First of all, of course, it is designed to aid the improvement and development of public library service to rural areas of the United States now without such service, or with completely inadequate service. We know that approximately 27 million Americans do not have at present access to local public libraries. There are 53 million more who receive only inadequate public library service. Most of these

people live in rural areas, or on the fringe areas around larger cities and areas affected by defense activities and other Federal projects. For instance, of approximately 3,000 counties in the United States, 404 do not have a single public library within their borders.

Second, this legislation authorizes a modest amount, \$7,500,000 annually for a period of 5 years.

Third, it has a definite termination date of 5 years.

And I want to speak more about that a little later, because we feel that is a very important point in this legislation.

After the initial allotment of \$40,000 each State's potential additional allotment is determined by the percentage of the total national rural population living in each State, including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, but only \$10,000 to the Virgin Islands.

Senator SMITH. Wouldn't your State of Washington get that initial allotment of \$40,000 referred to?

Mr. RICHARDS. I take that up later. There would be additional amounts.

Senator SMITH. I thought you said at the opening that your State would not benefit directly from this bill?

Mr. RICHARDS. Excuse me. The Seattle Public Library would not benefit directly.

Senator SMITH. Oh, the library?

Mr. RICHARDS. That is right. I come from the large urban center which would have no direct result from this bill.

It requires the States to match each Federal dollar on the basis of the ratio of State's annual per capita income to the United States annual per capita income, based on an average of the latest 3 years being taken.

It stipulates that the States shall have control over the formulation of the plan for each State.

And may I say there that many of the States, if not most of them, have their plans ready and the others can ready them in very short order if this legislation were to pass, so that they could immediately take advantage of it.

It stipulates that the States shall have control over the selection of books and periodicals, appointment of library workers, management of library operations, determination of areas to be served. It stipulates the Federal Government shall check the State plans against the specifications in the act and verify the nonreduction of State and/or local funds.

Now, let me say that the American Library Association believes that this bill is wisely drawn, provides for Federal administration through the United States Office of Education, and for State administration by the State library agencies, but there are adequate limitations on Federal control written into the law to insure State autonomy.

I should like also to stress the point that we have already in the Office of Education a Library Service Section now functioning, which means that they would be in a position, this Section would be in a position, to handle the administration of the bill.

The crux of the matter is that each State, through its own State plan, will have an opportunity to attack and solve its individual problems in its own way. Our States are widely diverse in their approach to libraries as to other matters. They have different histories, and they are in different stages of development. It would be

most unfortunate to try to establish an overall pattern into which each State would have to fit.

In many cases the State plan will include the organization of local and county libraries into larger units.

I will have more to say about that a little later on because it is very fundamental in the application of this legislation to the need of libraries throughout the country.

It may also follow the demonstration plan, which has been so successful in Louisiana, where the State library agency promotes demonstrations of good library service in the parishes for 1 year, after which the local governmental agency takes over.

In addition, there are other plans which the States may deem appropriate for their particular needs.

Because each State will develop its own plan to suit its own individual needs and must match the Federal funds provided under the bill, we believe there will be greater opportunity to foster, in these rural areas, pride in the development of local libraries, which will have an excellent chance to become completely self-supporting, from State or local funds by the termination date of the bill.

And now, why is this legislation of immediate urgency? And, I would like to speak briefly of the place of the American public library in our society.

The American Public Library has been recognized as an integral part of public education. The library supports and works with public schools to the end that all children may have an integrated reading program in school and out the year round. Modern education does not depend on one or a few textbooks but has come to encourage the use of a wide variety of books and printed source material. As a result, school libraries and public libraries face an increased load from all levels of public education.

A good library service provides a first line of defense against juvenile delinquency and a positive program to counteract the destructive forces of the comic-book problem. Most public libraries now offer specialized services to young people, including those who leave formal education after elementary or high school.

The public library provides the one opportunity for all adults, regardless of formal education, to carry on a continuing education throughout life. And I think I can say that never in the history of the Nation have adults needed unbiased information more than they do today. A well-stocked library is a kind of headquarters for ideas available to all our people, now faced with many complex problems on the national and international scene.

Just a word about the development of the mass media of communication, including radio, television, and cheap print, which has greatly increased business of the public library. Almost everyone today has access to statements and opinions which bombard him from newspaper headlines and loudspeakers.

Since much of this is confused and contradictory, the citizen is often compelled to think for himself and make his own decisions. The public library increasingly becomes a chief source of information.

This tremendous increase in the educational level in this country sends more and more people to libraries. And I might just mention that increased enrollment in high schools (7,690,000) and in colleges (2,500,000) multiplies annually the potential users of public

libraries and the demand for good library service. This, of course, is increasing all the time and each year it multiplies.

As I have already noted, many Americans are without this essential educational tool. While there are a number of reasons for this, perhaps the basic one is the difficulty of securing an adequate tax base in rural areas to support public library service. After long and careful study, the American Library Association has found that it takes a dollar and a half per capita to render even minimum library service and that this minimum applies to communities having at least 25,000 population and that a public library administration cannot render satisfactory service to its community unless it has an operating budget of at least \$60,000 per year. Of the 7,500 public library systems, approximately, in the United States, 29 percent are struggling along with less than \$1,000 to spend per year; 60 percent have less than \$4,000, and 77 percent have less than \$10,000.

This is in addition to the 27 million Americans without library service in any form. We must also consider the other millions who are patrons of the 5,700 small undernourished libraries with incomes below \$10,000 per year.

The State, through their library extension agencies and local communities, have been striving to remedy this poor coverage. They have been working valiantly on it. Some of the State agencies go back 60 years in their efforts to improve library standards within the States.

The American public library is a small service agency of the Government as compared with the large policymaking and law enforcement agencies, and by the very nature of its service does not attract or provide reasons for pressure group legislation in competition for the tax dollar.

Thus, while the large urban areas can provide for good library service because of their greater taxing ability, the rural areas are left with little or no service because of their inability to provide for themselves. Since this bill is designed to assist communities of less than 10,000 population, it is necessary to point out that communities of this size would usually be unable to finance adequate service themselves. For instance, even \$3 per capita in a community of 10,000 population could not support minimum library service. And the value now of this legislation is that under this bill it will be possible to organize a small local county library into larger regional service units, thus making it possible to broaden the tax base and to bring small weak libraries into a stronger library system. It also allows the use of a large urban library to receive assistance if it will extend its service to the rural areas around it.

And just for a minute, I would like to speak of this as it affects my own State of Washington. As a matter of fact, this so-called large area service is not untried. We know that it works. In the State of Washington, for instance, for purposes of planning our 39 counties have been divided into 12 regions. Several of them, of course, combine two or more counties.

We know from study that every one of these 12 regions can be made to be self-sufficient and can ultimately handle its own resources as far library service is concerned.

Now, actually we have been working on this in Washington for several years, and at the moment only four of these regions are in

operation in whole or in part. And they are not the weakest regions in the State. In other words, it is difficult to get these rural areas that have never had good library service, first of all, to appreciate what good library service is. And as a result, we need help at this point in giving them the picture of what good library service is through demonstration, through an understanding of what the problem is, and then we feel that with this opportunity to demonstrate, at the end of 5 years, we will be in a position—I am sure this is true in my State—to carry through an organization within these regions which will have the strength to carry their own program.

Recent studies of libraries and library needs on a national scale have helped to clarify the condition of library service today and show the need for Federal aid to libraries. Along with numerous State and local surveys, they drive home the fact that, as someone has said, "while the United States has some of the best library service in the world, it has a good deal that is almost the worst." A large proportion of our rural people have been denied the opportunity to develop an educational resource which is becoming increasingly indispensable. This means that while we have a multitude of separate libraries of varying degrees of effectiveness, we have no library system in the sense that we have a system of public education.

The special value of this legislation is that it spotlights the unserved rural areas in each State, by financing demonstrations of good service and ultimately making possible regional libraries with an adequate tax base, we feel that this limited Federal aid will in 5 years stimulate the State to solve more quickly many of the rural library problems. The American Library Association feels that the 5-year termination date of this bill is a strong point.

We are not anticipating asking for its renewal. We feel that with this help we can do a job and organization which will make it possible for the State and local people to carry the support for the program later.

On May 8 the House passed H. R. 2840. This bill was originally identical to S. 205, but was amended on the House floor.

And I want to just touch briefly on these amendments. The initial authorization date was changed from June 30, 1956, to June 30, 1957, in section 3 in order to allow the act to be effective for the full 5 years. In section 6 (a) the two dates of June 30, 1955, involving fiscal comparisons were changed to June 30, 1956. In section 6 (d) the effective date of the initial promulgation was changed from July 1, 1956, to July 1, 1957. The association concurs with these changes.

The two additional amendments provide further safeguards to the State library administrative agencies. Section 5 (a) (4) to read:

* * * provide that the State library administrative agency will make such reports as to categories of expenditures made under this Act, as the Commissioner may from time to time reasonably require;

Now in the colloquy during the House debate over this amendment, it was made clear that there was no intent to prevent the Commissioner, in cooperation with the State library agencies, from making studies on the values, methods, and results of the library demonstrations, but that the administrative reports should be limited to categories of expenditures. The association concurs in the amendment but would like to stress the absolute necessity of having the studies made during the life of the bill so that the experience of one

State may become available to all the other States—we feel that is most important—to the Congress and to the public. We are reassured of this function since it is provided for in section 8 (b). The Office of Education is the only central source for obtaining and reporting such information.

The final amendment deals with section 7, line 14, after the words "such a State," adding the following language:

* * * *Provided*, That any State or State agency is entitled to judicial review in the United States district court wherein the State or State agency is located of any such withholding determination in accordance with applicable provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

The association feels that this is an appropriate safeguard.

In closing, I should like to point out that adequate library service represents an important contribution to the strength and stability of the Nation. During the last war the libraries played an important part. Men and women serged into our technical departments for material which would assist them in training for work in the war industries, and the governmental agencies stepped up their use of libraries. Most important of all, when libraries were available, the rank and file of our people were able to keep themselves informed with regard to the war and its conduct and so were able to support the Government in a time which called for the mobilization of our total strength.

Now today the need for libraries is greater than ever. This country has had to assume the leadership of the free world, and to carry this responsibility our Government must depend on an informed citizenry. Our free libraries, together with our free system of education, are tremendously important in keeping the spirit of America strong during the troubled times through which we are passing. Can we afford to let 27 million Americans continue without any library service or another 53 million Americans continue with their inadequate library service?

The Senate passed a similar library extension bill in the 80th Congress. We sincerely hope that the Senate will again take favorable action on the library services bill in the very near future.

I appreciate very much this opportunity to present this statement before the subcommittee.

Senator MURRAY. Thank you very much for your able statement.

Senator SMITH. I would like to ask just a few questions.

First of all, do you have in your State any rural library service program now? Do you have one on the way?

Mr. RICHARDS. We are working on it through our State Library Agency, yes. As a matter of fact, we have at the present time a limited amount of State aid which we try to use for establishment grants, for instance, but it is not adequate. It is not enough to do the job. And we feel that with the help of this Federal legislation, through what we would have for matching with the Federal help, it would be possible for us to mark out some of these regions which are underprivileged as they now stand because of lack of taxing resource, taxing base—first probably through demonstrations and then through organizations of the regional library we would be able to get the thing functioning within the 5-year period of this bill.

Senator SMITH. I am rather surprised the public education group in the various States have not included this with the public schools

and gotten under the tax issue by that route. You have to have taxes for your public schools; why don't those taxes include this?

Mr. RICHARDS. In our State, we work closely with the schools—the schools work with us. As a matter of fact, the State superintendent of public instruction is ex officio chairman of our library commission. However, the two things have been completely separate. There has never been any attempt on the part of the schools to provide for the public library service which is so necessary. They are two separate categories.

Senator SMITH. How do they handle the library problem in the schools?

Mr. RICHARDS. Well, they of course are working on their school libraries, yes; and we are cooperating very closely with the school libraries. There is good cooperation there.

Senator SMITH. I am glad that you emphasize the point, namely: "The American Library Association feels that the 5-year termination date of this bill is a strong point."

In other words, this is just to get the thing going—

Mr. RICHARDS. We feel very strongly about it.

Senator SMITH. In this manner so the schools can pick up their responsibility of adding this program to the educational program.

Mr. RICHARDS. We feel this is limited Federal aid, and we do not anticipate or intend, anyway, to make it a permanent feature. We feel it is not necessary.

Senator SMITH. I have been advised, as to the amendment you referred to at the top of page 6:

Provided, That the State library administrative agency will make such reports as to categories of expenditures made under this Act, as the Commissioner may from time reasonably require:

thrt our Department of Health, Eeducation, and Welfare is recommending that the language in the bill as presented is preferable from their standpoint. Now I do not know anything about that. What is the advantage of this particular wording as distinguished from the language on page 4 of the bill, which says, under paragraph (4):

Provided, That the State library administrative agency will make such reports, in such form and containing such information, as the Commissioner may from time to time reasonably require:

Mr. RICHARDS. The House amendment does not preclude the other reports, but this is a safeguard which it was felt was worthy.

Senator HILL. Mr. Richards, you have brought us a splendid statement. Of course, this library service is contemplated for adults in rural areas as well as for children in the rural areas?

Mr. RICHARDS. Very definitely so; yes, sir.

Senator HILL. So even though we had libraries in rural schools, which we do not today, you would still have this problem of library service for adults; isn't that true?

Mr. RICHARDS. That is right.

Senator HILL. Now you and the American Library Association, in supporting this measure, contemplate that this measure, over a 5-year period, will provide the leadership, the stimulation, and the financial assistance that will give to us something that we do not have today, which is a library system, so to speak, for all the people, that is, for the rural people, children and adults in the rural areas, as well as the

library services we have today for adults and children in our urban areas?

Mr. RICHARDS. That is right. And you see, the situation is this: Once these systems are in force, once the rural area has a system, it can then take advantage of what other libraries are doing so that it will get much more than what is provided locally through our system of interlibrary loans, which is being extended regularly from libraries all over the United States.

Senator HILL. I think one of the most important points that you made in your speech is the one you are speaking to now, your regional service units. You tie in the stronger with the weaker, so to speak?

Mr. RICHARDS. That is right.

Senator HILL. That is not a new principle in government. We started many years ago with the insurance of bank deposits, you recall.

Mr. RICHARDS. That is right.

Senator MURRAY. Does that conclude your statement?

Mr. RICHARDS. It does, sir, unless there are further questions.

Senator MURRAY. Thank you very much.

The next witness will be Mr. Roger H. McDonough, director of the New Jersey State Library.

Senator SMITH. Mr. Chairman, I am very glad, indeed, personally to welcome Mr. McDonough, representing the sovereign State of New Jersey.

Mr. McDONOUGH. Thank you, sir.

Senator MURRAY. We all welcome him here. I am sure he will give us very valuable advice on this problem.

You may state your name and your official position.

STATEMENT OF ROGER H. McDONOUGH, DIRECTOR, NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY

Mr. McDONOUGH. I am Roger H. McDonough, director of the division of the State library, archives, and history in the New Jersey Department of Education, and I am here today to speak for the library services bill.

I speak primarily on the viewpoint of a State library and library extension director who, for 9 years, has been intimately associated with the problem of trying to improve library services in New Jersey. I am also officially representing today the National Association of State Libraries, an organization which includes the chief library officers of the 48 States.

Mr. Richards, I believe, has amply covered the background of the bill and where the American Library Association stands on this measure. It seems to me that it would be more useful for me to address myself directly to certain questions that have come up, both today and in the past.

Senator SMITH. I assume you would like us to include your entire statement here in the record, whether you read it all or not?

Mr. McDONOUGH. I would like that very much.

Senator HILL. We will do that. We will put the entire statement in the record, and then you proceed in your own way, sir.

Mr. McDONOUGH. Thank you, sir. I am trying to save your time this morning, too.

Senator HILL. It will appear in full with any other statements or additions that you may make, sir.

Mr. McDONOUGH. Thank you, sir.

(The statement of Mr. McDonough is as follows:)

STATEMENT OF ROGER H. McDONOUGH, DIRECTOR, NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY

I am Roger H. McDonough, director of the division of the State library, archives, and history in the New Jersey Department of Education. I am here today to speak for the Library Services bill—Senate bill 205—from the viewpoint of a State library and library extension director who has been intimately associated for the past 9 years with the task of improving public library services in the municipalities and counties of New Jersey. I am also representing the National Association of State Libraries, an organization which includes the chief library officers of the 48 States. On the basis of my experience, I am convinced that Federal assistance to libraries, in the manner proposed in Senate bill No. 205, is both desirable and necessary.

You are aware, of course, that 27 Library Services bills, identical to Senate bill 205, have been introduced in the House of Representatives and now H. R. 2840 has been passed by the House. Last year, the House Education and Labor Committee held public hearings on the Library Services bill. During those hearings, it was successfully argued, I believe, that our free public libraries are an integral part of our whole general scheme for public education in America and, as such, are basic to our democratic way of life. At the same time, it was indisputably shown that free public library facilities and services are completely lacking in large areas of our country and that in many other areas they are woefully inadequate in the light of present-day standards. I shall not attempt to review all the evidence presented in support of these conclusions; that is a matter of record. I should, however, like to state briefly several basic facts significant to this discussion:

1. More than 27 million people in the United States have no access to local free public library services of any kind, approximately 90 percent of whom reside in rural areas.

2. Approximately 53 million more people have available to them only free public library services that are seriously inadequate on the basis of generally accepted standards. In 1948, the American Library Association proclaimed that an annual expenditure of \$1.50 per capita was necessary for minimum or limited service in service areas of 25,000 people or more. On the basis of this modest standard, since then revised sharply upward by the association, a total expenditure by all levels of Government of at least \$240 million is needed. Our local and State governments are now spending \$160 million, leaving at least \$80 million additional to be raised if we are to meet this modest standard for minimum service.

3. While the lack and deficiency of library services are predominately a problem of our more rural States, there are serious voids and deficiencies in all our States. For example, in my State—New Jersey—one of the more urban States in our country—a joint legislative study commission has just completed a 2-year study of the library situation. Its final report revealed that more than 200,000 people live in 72 rural municipalities that do not support library services of any kind whatsoever. Furthermore, more than one-half of the entire population of the State live in 459 municipalities that are served by inadequate libraries, i. e., libraries expending less than \$1.50 per capita per year. Most of these municipalities are rural communities as defined by Senate bill No. 205.

4. The House hearings also emphasized the fact that the support of our free public libraries is primarily a local responsibility. There was no argument with this basic concept of library financing. At the same time, it was pointed out that in recent years a number of our States have begun to assume a greater part of this obligation.

5. We can reasonably conclude from the testimony presented at the House committee hearings that our communities and States can—without any Federal aid—increase their present support of local and regional libraries so that they can reach this minimum standard of library service.

Why, then, in this period of unparalleled national prosperity, is Federal aid desirable and necessary?

In spite of their capabilities, it is clear that our States, counties, and the majority of our municipalities have not provided adequate library services in their

jurisdictions. There are a number of reasons for this, but I believe that the most important are (1) the competing demands from schools and other public services for the tax dollar, (2) the general reluctance to raise State and local taxes, and (3) the lack of public understanding of the value of libraries. Of these three, I believe that the last is, by far, the most important to us today. It has been my experience as the director of a State library and a State library extension agency that much of the deficiencies of library services in many areas of our Nation stem from the fact that the majority of the people in those areas have never been exposed to good library services and, therefore, do not appreciate their value to themselves and to their communities. Fundamentally, there can be no appreciation without understanding.

Permit me to illustrate this with two examples from New Jersey where widely contrasting local libraries were recently dedicated. The first, in a community of 4,000 to 5,000 residents, was started by a group of well-intentioned, public-spirited citizens, who labored valiantly to provide their town with a library. They collected several thousand books—donated generously by fellow citizens in response to a public appeal—arranged them on the library's shelves and opened for business under the direction of untrained, volunteer help. Unfortunately, however—as is frequently the case in such instances—the vast majority of the books were out-of-date and lacked any appeal for the modern reader—young or old. There were no modern encyclopedias; there was, instead, a five-volume engineering encyclopedia of 1907, as well as other similar antiquities. Such a library might draw the average reader to its rooms once or twice but that would be the end, because it has little or nothing to offer him.

Contrast this with the second library recently dedicated. Here an attractive branch of a city library was opened with professionally trained supervision and with a fine collection of well-selected books and other materials, including hundreds of inviting new children's books. The results were immediate and enormously gratifying. The branch is doing a booming business and it is apparent that it is genuinely established in the neighborhood. In addition to serving the needs of the people, it has successfully demonstrated the value of a good library to them and to the community. I doubt that they will ever again want to be without the services afforded by a good library, and I believe that they will continue to tax themselves for these benefits so successfully demonstrated.

The first library, on the other hand, will never prosper without some outside assistance. The residents of that community have what I call an illusion of library service. They would almost be better off without any. Because their concept of library service is based primarily on what they have, there will be no strong disposition to tax themselves for more of the same.

It is because of such situations and because of the many rural areas throughout each of our 48 States that are lacking in library services that I believe Senate bill 205 to be both desirable and necessary. As I see it, this bill will, with a very modest expenditure of \$7½ million in Federal funds for a limited period of only 5 years, spark the immediate establishment of demonstration centers in those areas most in need of them. At the same time, by requiring matching funds by the States and their subordinate jurisdictions, it will move them to increase their present inadequate appropriations. I firmly believe that an area in which such a demonstration library is established, supported, in part, by Federal funds for the first 5 years, will, with the beginning of the sixth year, find some other source of support to supplant the withdrawal of Federal funds. The demonstration technique has been used successfully in the State of Louisiana for many years. What has been done there can, I am sure, be done everywhere if S. 205 is enacted into law.

The question has been asked: "If the library services bill becomes law, are the States in a position to use Federal funds effectively?" It was established during the House hearings that 46 States have passed enabling acts permitting them to accept Federal funds for library purposes. Moreover, a vast majority of the States have strong State library extension agencies providing various forms of assistance to the municipal and county libraries ranging from consultative and advisory services to direct financial grants. Other States are working hard to improve existing agencies. I know the State library extension directors from coast to coast, and the vast majority of their agencies are now in a good position to formulate and administer a program of rural library development such as is envisioned in the library services bill.

Let me outline briefly for you the New Jersey situation and how the proposed Federal program would fit into it. Just recently there was introduced in the legislature a series of bills to implement the report of a legislative study com-

mission, which, after several years of study in conjunction with the State library association and the State library agency, recommended a joint municipal, county, and State program for library improvement, including State financial assistance.

New Jersey is now spending approximately \$7 million annually for public-library services, and we need to spend \$4 million more annually if we are to reach the required minimum of \$1.50 per capita throughout the State. Our proposed program calls for an increase of \$2 million from local sources plus an annual expenditure of approximately \$1½ million to \$2 million annually in State aid. This State money would be allotted in such a way as to encourage increased local expenditures, to promote consolidated and federated library services in those areas too small to provide them effectively and efficiently on an independent basis, to encourage the improvement of local library facilities where they are inadequate, and to promote the establishment of such facilities where they are lacking. In addition, the proposed legislation would provide additional funds for strengthening the State library extension service, which will play a major role in the proposed program, and for the library school in the State university. Professional standards would be improved by requiring certification by the State of all professional librarians employed in municipalities of 10,000 in population or larger.

This program, I believe, is a far-reaching one, which will help solve many of the deficiencies in our present situation. Whether this program will be adopted or not at this time, when the legislature is finding it extremely difficult to provide present services without the adoption of a major new tax, I do not know. I cannot ignore the fact, however, that it has been traditionally difficult to sell the idea of expending large sums of money for libraries. Libraries do not have the popular appeal that schools and other public services have. The Federal funds accruing to New Jersey under the library-services bill—a maximum of \$103,000 annually for 5 years, to be matched by an annual State expenditure of \$158,000 in its rural areas—would be of immediate and direct benefit to us. It would permit us to demonstrate to the municipalities, the counties, and the State what good library service can do in our rural areas.

With these Federal and matching State funds, we could immediately establish regional library centers at key points where there are now large, unserved populations. These libraries would be staffed with professionally trained librarians who know the needs of the people and how to serve them most effectively and efficiently. These libraries would be stocked with carefully selected collections. There would be bookmobiles filled with good children's and adult books to serve the people in the outlying regions. These library centers would also provide existing library units in the area with new and attractive books to supplement their present collections and with professional guidance and technical assistance in library management.

The State library extension service agency has seriously considered its role in anticipation of the enactment of S. 205. It has drawn up a definite plan for its implementation. New Jersey, in short, is ready to move ahead as soon as Federal funds are available.

We have worked diligently to develop a broad plan which would provide the people of New Jersey with the kind of library services they should have. We are convinced that the program we have helped to devise and which is now in our legislature is a good one. We are equally convinced that the library services bill will help us achieve our objectives much sooner than we can reasonably expect otherwise. The library services bill could, in fact, mean the difference between the acceptance or rejection of our proposed State program. As a New Jersey librarian and as a representative of the State library agencies throughout our country, I urge that you act favorably on the bill under consideration.

Mr. McDONOUGH. Let me call attention, if I may, to the basic problem of why at this period of unparalleled national prosperity our States and counties and municipalities are not able to provide library service that we deem necessary.

It seems to me that there are basically three reasons for this.

One, we have the competing demands from schools and other public services for the tax dollar. This is accompanied by a general reluctance to raise State and local taxes.

Third, and by far, the most important, I think the lack of public understanding about the value of good library service is the real reason why we have not been able to engender wide public support.

It has been my experience that much of the deficiencies of library service in many areas of our Nation stem from the fact that the majority of the people in those areas have never been exposed to good library service. Therefore, they do not appreciate the libraries' value to themselves and to their communities.

Permit me to illustrate this with two examples from New Jersey where widely contrasting local libraries were recently dedicated. For obvious reasons I will not name the first one.

The first, in a community of four to five thousand residents, was started by a group of well-intentioned public-spirited citizens, who labored valiantly to provide their town with a library. They collected several thousand books—donated generously by fellow citizens in response to a public appeal—arranged on the library's shelves, and opened for business under the direction of untrained, volunteer help. Unfortunately, however—as is frequently the case in such instances—the vast majority of the books were out of date and lacked appeal for the modern reader, young or old. There was no modern encyclopedias, for example; there was, instead, a five-volume engineering encyclopedia dated 1907, as well as other similar antiques. I recall vividly calling attention to this encyclopedia to Dr. Hamilton, then president of the board of trustees of Newark Library and president of the Library Trustees Association of New Jersey, who was present at this particular occasion. Dr. Hamilton looked at this 1907 engineering encyclopedia, looked at the other books, and said, "Mr. McDonough, these things are worse than useless, they are misleading and will give wrong information."

I think, obviously, that such a library might draw the average reader to its rooms once or twice, but that would be the end, because it has little or nothing to offer him.

Contrast this with the second library recently dedicated—and I am very happy to mention the town of Elizabeth in this connection. Here an attractive branch of a city library was opened with professionally trained supervision and with a fine collection of well-selected books and other materials, including hundreds of inviting, new children's books. The results were immediate and enormously gratifying. The branch is doing a booming business and it is apparent that it is genuinely established in the neighborhood. In addition to serving the needs of the people, it has successfully demonstrated the value of a good library to them and to the community. I doubt that they will ever again want to be without the services afforded by a good library, and I believe that they will continue to tax themselves for these benefits so successfully demonstrated.

The first library, on the other hand, will probably never get off the ground. The residents of that community have what I call an illusion of library service. They have some books and they have a space, but as far as the impact of that library is concerned, they would almost be better off without any. Because, if their concept of library service is based primarily on what they have, there will be no strong disposition to tax themselves for more of the same.

It is because of such situations and because of the many rural areas throughout each of our 48 States that are lacking in library services

that I believe Senate bill 205 to be both desirable and necessary. As I see it, this bill will, with a very modest expenditure of \$7.5 million annually in Federal funds for a limited period of only 5 years, spark the immediate establishment of demonstration centers in those areas most in need of them. At the same time, by requiring matching funds by the States and their subordinate jurisdictions, it will move to increase their present inadequate appropriations. I firmly believe that an area in which such a demonstration library is established, supported in part by Federal funds for the first 5 years, will, with the beginning of the sixth year, find some other source of support to supplant the withdrawal of Federal funds. The demonstration technique has been used successfully in the State of Louisiana for many years. What has been done there can, I am sure, be done everywhere if Senate 205 is enacted into law.

The question has been asked: "If the library services bill becomes law, are the States in a position to use Federal funds effectively?" It was established during the House hearings last year that 46 States have passed enabling acts permitting them to accept Federal funds for library purposes. Moreover, a vast majority of the States have strong State library extension agencies providing various forms of assistance to the municipal and county libraries ranging from consultative advisory services to direct financial grants. We lend books that supplement the resources of every local and county library in New Jersey. We send out traveling libraries of books and special collections on various subjects.

Senator Smith, I think you may remember that that service began in New Jersey as far back as 1905 when the Public Library Commission was first organized. And for half a century we have been carrying on that important work.

I know the State library extension directors from coast to coast, and I know that the vast majority of these people are in a position to put these funds to immediate and effective use.

Now I would like to tell you very briefly about our New Jersey situation and how this bill would fit into it. It just happens that for the past few years we have been actively engaged in the business of making a study of our New Jersey library situation. This February we produced this report that I hold here, Better Libraries for New Jersey, which is the report of an 11-member study commission, including 6 legislators and 5 lay citizens appointed by the Governor. I listened with great interest to the earlier remarks when Senator Aiken was testifying, and I wish we were in as good a position in New Jersey as one would think we should be after a half a century and more of efforts. Quite frankly, however, this report reveals to us pretty serious shortcomings, and I would like to take just a moment to tell you about them.

We are now spending approximately \$7 million for public library services in the State. On the basis of the accepted standard of \$1.50 per capita, we need to spend about \$11 million. The report recommends that the counties and municipalities raise their support of libraries by approximately \$2 million per year and that the State participate in the program of public library service by a program of assistance to the counties and municipalities of \$1.5 to \$2 million. This State assistance would be used to encourage the development of

larger units to provide stimulation grants for the establishment of country libraries and the like.

The report also recommended additional field staff be provided for our State library extension agency, and I am happy to report to you that as of this moment the appropriations bill in our State legislature includes \$50,000 for this purpose. This will be a great boon to us and will strengthen our services enormously.

This program, I believe, is a far-reaching one which will help solve many of the deficiencies in our present situation. Whether this program will be adopted or not, however, when the legislature is finding it extremely difficult to provide present services without the adoption of a major new tax, I do not know. I cannot ignore the fact, however, that it has been traditionally difficult to sell the idea of expending larger sums of money for libraries. Libraries simply do not have the popular appeal that schools and other public services have. As one of my educators says, one of our difficulties with libraries is that you cannot waive the child, and there is an emotional appeal for more classrooms, and so forth, that we cannot match.

The Federal funds accruing to New Jersey under the library services bill, a maximum of \$103,000 annually for 5 years, to be matched by an annual State expenditure of \$158,000 in its rural areas, would be of immediate and direct benefit to us. It would permit us to demonstrate to the municipalities, the counties and State what good library service can do in our rural areas.

With these Federal and matching State funds, we could immediately establish regional libraries at key points where there are large, unserved populations. These libraries would be staffed with professionally trained librarians who know the needs of the people and how to serve them most effectively and efficiently. These libraries would be stocked with carefully selected books geared to the need of the communities involved. There would be bookmobiles filled with good children's and adults' books to serve the people in the outlying regions. These library centers would also provide existing library units, local libraries with new and attractive books to supplement their present collections and with professional guidance and technical assistance in library management.

The State library extension service agency has seriously considered its role in anticipation of the enactment of S. 205. It has drawn up a definite plan for its implementation. New Jersey, in short, is ready to move ahead as soon as Federal funds are available.

We have worked diligently to develop a broad plan which will provide the people of New Jersey with the kind of library services they should have. We are convinced that the program we have helped to devise and which is now in our legislature is a good one. We are equally convinced that the library services bill will help us achieve our objectives much sooner than we can reasonably expect otherwise. The Library services bill could, in fact, mean the difference between the acceptance or rejection of our proposed State program. As a New Jersey librarian and as a representative of the State library agencies throughout our country, I urge that you act favorably on the bill under consideration.

Senator SMITH. I have just one question, Mr. McDonough.

I assume from what you and Mr. Richards said that this is properly a 5-year priming proposition to get the program underway. You are

not contemplating a continuous request of Federal aid to the States; is that correct?

Mr. McDONOUGH. That is correct, Senator. I like your term "priming." I thought of it as triggering our State program.

We have a lot of goodwill for our program in New Jersey. A great many groups are interested; the State department of education has backed it, the New Jersey Education Association is supporting it, as well as other groups. But still, when we are competing with these other demands, it will be difficult for us to put across a program involving \$1.5 million in State aid and \$2 million more in local aid.

I can show you counties, however, in New Jersey, Senator, where there is—well, there are two counties—I prefer not to mention them—where there is not a single trained librarian in the entire county. However, where you have hundreds and hundreds of trained and certified teachers, there is no one to carry on the education of our citizens after they leave the school doors behind them.

We have 12 county libraries in New Jersey that were started by Miss Eskew, and the public library commission from 1920 on, and yet some of those county libraries are still trying to operate service to both schools and to the general public at a level of about 37 cents per capita or less in some instances. We do not do that any more. Libraries are not inexpensive, but it has been demonstrated that where you do provide good library service, the people are willing to pay for it.

Senator SMITH. The only question that I have as previously indicated here is to the extent to which the Federal Government should intercede. However, I think your idea of starting this program as a means of extending the educational facilities of residents of rural areas is important. I also believe that getting the States to participate with the Federal Government is a good method.

From that standpoint, I am very grateful to you for your contribution here.

Mr. McDONOUGH. I thank you, sir; I am grateful for the opportunity.

Senator HILL. Mr. McDonough, you brought us a good picture of the situation in New Jersey. New Jersey, fortunately, is one of the high-income States of the 48 States. You strongly feel, then, that this bill would be most helpful even to the States of high income, that the fact is that there is a real need for this bill in those States; is that true?

Mr. McDONOUGH. I do, sir.

Senator HILL. Thank you, sir.

Senator SMITH. I might note, Senator Hill, a great deal of that income you are talking about comes right here to the Federal Government.

Senator MURRAY. Well, I will tell you, the truth is that in this day and generation, a lot of that income comes from all over the United States. I mean, it comes to New Jersey from all over the United States.

Thank you very much, Mr. McDonough.

The next witness will be Mrs. George Wallace.

Mrs. Wallace, you may state your name, your residence, and the official position you occupy.

STATEMENT OF MRS. GEORGE WALLACE, FITCHBURG, MASS.

Mrs. WALLACE. Mr. Chairman and Senators, I am Mrs. George Rodney Wallace, of Fitchburg, Mass. I will give you a statement of my background only because I hope by so doing you will have a greater confidence in what I have to say.

I am serving my 27th year as trustee of the Fitchburg Public Library. For the past 3 years I was president of the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association. I am a member of a five-member Massachusetts Library Commission, appointed by Gov. Christian A. Herter, to make a study and to report on the financial situation and general condition of public libraries in Massachusetts. I am also serving as first vice president of the American Association of Library Trustees, a national organization working within the American Library Association and its Public Libraries Division. My associations with libraries are enjoyed on a strictly voluntary basis.

Senator HILL. That means also on a nonprofit basis, I take it?

Mrs. WALLACE. Yes, nonprofit basis.

I am going to adhere to the text because I know that time is precious, and I would welcome any interruptions at any time that you wish to make.

I appear before you in favor of the library services bill, speaking from the result of my own experience, from what I have seen with my own eyes, and from what I feel in my heart.

May I just say, that according to the report, Massachusetts appears as 1 of 3 States providing for all people and that their tax per capita for library services is high. That is a very misleading statement. It is about as misleading as saying a group of men have \$25,000 a year salary, another group has \$5,000 a year salary and, therefore, the average is \$15,000 a year. We have a high tax per capita through several of our urban areas, like Boston, Worcester, and Springfield; as high as or over \$4.50 per capita in Boston and in the city of Fall River 73 cents per capita. In fact, 94 percent of our public libraries in Massachusetts are substandard on the basis of this American Library Association standard of annual operating expenses of \$1.50 per capita.

I favor this bill because it would focus the need for better library service within the 48 States and thousands of communities where 27 million people have no local library service of any kind. The bill is designed to stimulate State and community thinking as to the ways and means to meet the need of one of the Nation's most vital services.

This library services bill is, I believe, a good, sound, modest bill. It recognizes what every tax expert knows, that a rural community, because of its limited tax capacity, cannot maintain adequate public library services for its people. The tax base in rural communities has long been recognized as inadequate for schools, public health, welfare services, and public highways; State and Federal funds supplement local resources for these purposes, and similar action must be taken on behalf of public libraries.

Librarians, library trustees, and friends of libraries in Massachusetts who are interested in equalizing library opportunities in our Commonwealth are eager to see favorable action on this bill. We look to it as a way to finance projects which will demonstrate how, through federation, cooperative, and contractual agreements, and

regional service centers, our small libraries in our rural communities, without sacrificing local autonomy, may improve their overall library services; and how such services may be extended to areas which are not totally deprived of them.

May I say here that although I appear before you as a citizen of Massachusetts my interest in the bill derives from my concern for the people not only in the rural areas of my own Commonwealth, but in every State of the Union. They are all Americans wherever they live, hungry with the same hunger for good book services. And I will add at once that Massachusetts needs this bill as urgently as other States do.

Ninety-four percent of our public libraries in Massachusetts are substandard on the basis of the American Library Association standard of annual operating expenses of \$1.50 per capita; and 250 of the 357 libraries of the Commonwealth are in communities with a population of less than 5,000 souls. It has long been apparent that financial assistance was needed in the rural communities. It is equally apparent that in this challenging mid-20th century world, the day is past when a public library, be it in the largest or smallest community, can remain a mausoleum of stuffed bluejays, rusty muskets, and shelves filled with old Harper's and Youth's Companions. The good public library today, wherever it may be—located on a hustling, bustling, thoroughfare or a bookmobile traveling over the snowy or dusty lanes of a rural district, is an information and cultural center; and part of a great bulwark of national security and progress.

I envision the public libraries in our great Republic as a network of information and cultural centers, of vital importance to our survival and advancement. America's well-supported public libraries, most of which are in our large metropolitan areas, have long been among the most admired symbols of democracy in a world torn by fundamentally opposite concepts of how to achieve human progress. The opportunity of the individual to have access to the accumulated knowledge of mankind by way of the public library is one of the greatest tributes to democracy yet conceived. Today we are excluding 27 million Americans from this opportunity.

In 1950 a grant of \$36,500 was made by Marshall Field 3d to the Massachusetts Division of Library Extension to conduct a 2-year demonstration of regional library service in 12 western rural communities. In 1952, 2 years later, when the funds for this highly successful demonstration terminated, a citizen group known as the Franklin-Hampshire Rural Library Association, was formed; and through their concerted efforts and working through their local representatives, the general court appropriated funds to extend this western regional library center which today includes 38 rural communities. Now, this is an example of what can be done under the library services bill. It shows how citizen interest can be aroused and how funds can be obtained for continuing the program. But we must educate all people.

I give you this picture of Massachusetts State participation in library services in order to show that the stimulation from Federal funds can do this same thing throughout the country and further to show that we have a library division in our State department of education already set up to handle the much-needed funds and to implement the legislation proposed in this bill.

If I and others who favor this bill were to come before you and produce statistics to show that 27 million people—men, women, and children—were physically starving, were hungry for food—16 out of every 100 persons in America—we would need no more elaborate pleas. You, I assume, would make prompt recommendations for speedy legislation to alleviate the hunger.

Yet I have seen with my own eyes breadlines, as it were, men, women and children, standing in line awaiting their turn to enter the bookmobile and there choose their mental sustenance for the next 11 weeks. Lines of children eager for the chance to satisfy a profound hunger for books, and for all the sustenance and inner satisfaction that good books bring as they open the door to a new world of understanding. We must meet this hunger for food for the minds if we are to make America secure and strong in this mid-20th century world of harsh realities.

The \$7½ million a year for 5 years which this bill proposes in the way of Federal funds is 5 cents a year for each person in the United States. It is the cost of one jet bomber. It is less than one-twelfth of what America, in a strange and rather sad manifestation of a deep hunger, spends annually on comic books.

In the fiscal year ended June 30, 1954, \$109,044,000 of Federal funds was allocated for school lunches. The funds assisted in providing food for 9,362,000 pupils in the peak month—a most worthy area of Federal aid to fulfill a demonstrated need costing about \$12 per pupil. This library services bill would allocate a modest 7½ million annually for 5 years—something like 28 cents each for the 27 million children and adults in our rural areas who need mental sustenance.

If we are convinced that good books of information and fiction and poetry and all the adventurings of man are a major part of the foundation of this Republic, and of the universal republic of mankind—

If in this conviction we so liberally use books in our United States Information Services abroad—

Would it not be strange were we to delay overlong in providing access to books for Americans in the rural areas, whence has traditionally come leadership for our urban centers?

If we translate this question of Federal aid into human terms, each dollar means a something in the way of providing for the people in our rural areas that which is their rightful inheritance as Americans, as individuals of human dignity and worth. Each dollar means that in some of the loneliest areas there shall be new and great and good companionship; that in some of the fairest sections of our land, and yet perhaps most economically retarded, there shall be planted new orchards of knowledge.

Gentlemen, public libraries today are facing a great challenge! They are being called upon to sell a vital product, and they need funds to set up the sample. The purpose of this library services bill is to set up the sample, to demonstrate, through consideration of certain specific examples, the immense power wielded by books. The aim is to see that books, which have the most profound influence on our history, our economics, our culture, and our civilization, be made accessible to the children and adults living throughout our rural areas.

I wish to thank you for this honor of appearing before you, and I most fervently appeal for your support of this bill.

Senator MURRAY. You have made a very able presentation of the case in support of this legislation, and we thank you.

Are there any questions?

Senator SMITH. Just the question I have asked the other witnesses.

Mrs. Wallace, I assume that you favor the 5-year termination of this bill; in other words, using this legislation as a prime in order to get our people education?

Mrs. WALLACE. I certainly do. I think that is one of the strongest things in the bill because it just puts the responsibility back where it belongs. However, we have to bring our States up to this responsibility.

Senator SMITH. Thank you. I think it was a very able statement.

Senator HILL. I want to join with the chairman and Senator Smith in expressing my appreciation. You brought us a very able statement, another splendid presentation of the case.

Senator SMITH. Your Honor, I have a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Mr. Folsom, addressed to the chairman. I assume this letter will be incorporated in the record.

Senator HILL. Yes; that has been done.

(The letter referred to appears on p. 8.)

Senator SMITH. That deals with some of the amendments.

I am sorry I have to go, but I have a very important engagement. I am leaving Senator Hill a proxy for Senator Ives and myself.

Senator HILL. Fine.

Senator MURRAY. The next witness will be Mr. Robert Brown, of Hamilton, Ohio. You may state your name and state your position.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT BROWN, HAMILTON, OHIO

Mr. BROWN. I am Robert J. Brown, a businessman from Hamilton, Ohio. I have been a trustee of Wayne Public Library in Hamilton for 21 years. I have been its president for 14 years. I have been interested in the organization and promotion of State Library Trustees Association for a number of years, and I have been its president for 2 years.

My activities on behalf of the State Library Trustees Association has taken me to every part of the State of Ohio, and I know from first-hand information and deliberate observation the wonderful effect that the passage of this bill would have in many parts of our State. I have talked with people in these underprivileged areas, people who are desirous of the benefits of a library in their locality, of services that a mobile unit could offer in those areas, and they are very anxious that some sort be established.

We have 1 county in Ohio where only 14 cents per capita is given for the operation of 2 libraries. We have another county where the Government has established a large atomic plant. They have not established a library service in that county. They have brought in hundreds of people, with no library service.

I have also had an opportunity to observe our neighboring State of Kentucky, across the river, and we are sending from our library books over into the mountainous regions of that State. We had a bookmobile that was ready to be discarded, and we advertised it for sale and had a number of inquiries from over in Kentucky for the purchase of this bookmobile.

So, I have tried in my endeavor to be of service to libraries, and it has been a great satisfaction to help libraries. I feel it is of most importance that this bill receive favorable consideration.

I have some notes here which I hope will be of interest. Today we have libraries in 12 counties in Ohio, who have received less than 50 cents per capita to operate their services in 1955. Libraries in 21 counties received between 50 cents and 99 cents for service in the same area. So, while you might think that Ohio is a highly industrialized State, we do have very fine libraries in our larger cities, but we need extra and adequate and more library service in many of the rural areas in our State.

I hate to repeat, gentlemen, all the things that have been repeated so many times in behalf of this bill and items over which there can be no controversy, but just appeal to you, as a businessman in a typical Ohio city who is very much interested in the establishment of library service in so many of our underprivileged areas, not only in Ohio, but over our Nation. Our library will gain nothing from this bill. My only interest in this bill is giving the service that is so essential in preserving all that America stands for.

Senator MURRAY. Any questions, Senator Hill?

Senator HILL. Mr. Brown, how large a city is Hamilton?

Mr. BROWN. It is a city of 70,000, sir.

Senator HILL. Well, you brought us another strong statement on behalf of this bill. It was very good of you to come here, and I just want you to know we appreciate your statement.

Mr. BROWN. Thank you very much, sir.

Senator MURRAY. Do you have any libraries in small towns with a population of 5,000 or 10,000?

Mr. BROWN. No, sir. From our library we have two bookmobiles operating in which we service those parts of our county that have no established library.

Senator MURRAY. Do you think this bill would be of great help in stimulating development?

Mr. BROWN. It would be a godsend to people all over the United States.

Senator MURRAY. Thank you very much for your statement.

The next witness will be Kathryn C. Culbertson.

**STATEMENT OF KATHERYN C. CULBERTSON, REGIONAL LIBRARIAN,
WATAUGA REGIONAL LIBRARY, EAST TENNESSEE STATE COL-
LEGE, JOHNSON CITY, TENN.**

Miss CULBERTSON. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Kathryn Culbertson, regional librarian, Watauga Regional Library, and I have here a copy of a map which I would like to give each of you, if I may, to let you follow as I speak with you.

I have traveled through the mountain areas of east Tennessee on my bookmobile, taking books to the rural areas where they have no access to public libraries. Many of these people in several of the counties are in sections that are completely cut off from any towns or communities, and in one county there is not a mile of railroad. The people in these counties sometimes are there for months on end and do not leave. The roads are very bad in most cases, and although we

can get our bookmobile in and out in bad weather, it is impossible to take it. So, we mail books to people in this particular county.

That county is somewhere around 65 or 75 miles from our headquarters, which is in Johnson City, Tenn. As we start on one of our trips into this particular county, we try to load up the bookmobile with books of varied interest and reading levels because the people we meet there will be of all types of interest level, reading level, and educational backgrounds. We want to be sure before we leave that some attempt has been made to find any books which people have requested on our last trip.

As we start out, we also want to include in our bookmobile some little items of food and water and milk, because we do not know when we might have an accident on one of those roads, and as remote as they are it is difficult for us to get some help.

On the trip into this county, one of our first stops is at a small county store which serves about 75 or 100 people. People have been notified about 10 or 12 days in advance that we will be there, and all of those who are interested have been invited to come to the bookmobile and help us select books. The storekeeper is one of the first persons to come out and greet us, because he has been interested in this program for a long time. He has had the books for many years, and he asks us for a book which he read many years ago that has a setting in a town nearby. Then there is a farmer's wife who wants a book for him on chicken raising. There is a young farmer's wife who needs a cookbook. They realize that they can get these books from the bookmobile. They also tell us that we will probably have requests for certain items as we go along through the county because there has been siege of chicken raising in this particular county and everybody is going to want to know how to do it and what can be done to protect their interests.

We find after going back to the bookmobile that those who are there have selected about 60 or 70 books. Our deposits range anywhere from 50 to 150 books. They have picked out something on juvenile delinquency, which is a problem even in those rural areas; they have something on the history of World War II; and one young man who was there asked us very urgently if we could not get something for him to write a paper. At that time we did not have it, but we tell him we will bring it back to him as soon as we return to our headquarters.

After everybody has gone through the bookmobile and selected what he would like to have, somebody in the group ordinarily will ask us to come to their home for a little while. Often in the summertime, it is very hot and dusty, and if the storekeeper has not already offered us a cold drink, someone will say, "Come down and have a cup of coffee, a cup of ice tea or cake," and we sit and visit with these people. During that visit we find out from them a lot of information which we would never have known otherwise. We know better how to stock our bookmobiles. We know the kind of material which they might want the next time if we did not have it this time, and we get that in this informal conversation with them where they might sometimes hesitate to ask for fear we do not have it. But then as we talk on, they will come across with some new idea and say, "Well, could you get that," or "is it available," and we do have a slogan along our bookmobile track that "we can get any book for any person from any place on any subject," and we do try to live up to that.

The next place that we go to on this trip is what is called a county library. However, there is no building in this particular county, and in back of 1 of the larger drugstores, 1 of the 2 drugstores, I might say, there are 4 or 5 sections of shelving which is labeled the Hancock County Library. On those shelves we place anywhere from six to seven hundred books which are from other participating counties, because this is a particularly poor county and has a very small appropriation. They have tried to raise it a little each year. However, it is not quite adequate because we have not been able to reach all of the people because of our inadequate funds. There is no trained librarian in this library, and nieces of the woman who owns the drug store help us select the books and serve as librarians in that little community. The girls take turn about going out and helping us select the books.

And while we are there working in that drug store, people will come in, if we are inside, or they will step into the bookmobile, and ask for all kinds of things. We had a gentleman not too long ago who was working on a puzzle having to do with automobiles. He wanted the history of automobiles with pictures. That we were able to send him later.

A very elderly gentleman asked us for a book of the life of Will and Jesse James. We were able to find that. As a matter of fact, I had to write to a book store here in Washington and it came to me not too long ago.

They are aware that if we do not have a book on the bookmobile, and if they want a book to keep, we can purchase for them any book that they would like to have. And in most cases there is always something available for those people. Regardless of what they want, we try to find something available for them.

Many of the people come in and just sit and visit with us while we are working on the books.

The treasurer of the library board is there and plans on a board meeting while we are in that county. We must stay 4 or 5 days because it is so far away from our headquarters, and she plans the board meeting at a time when it will be convenient for us. Then we discuss what we can do for that little area library. We bring in book jackets, place them in the windows of the drug store, scatter them around on little bulletin boards which they have there.

After we get through over there, we go in around the corner to another drugstore where we have a room which has been reserved for us. There is no hotel in that little town, and there are no group eating places. However, the druggist's wife saves a room for us each time that we go. We often, and always, I should say, eat our meals there in the drugstore. But we have fairly good meals, and sometimes when little cans of pork and beans get a little bit tiresome, I buy a frozen chicken and I am permitted use of the deep frier in the drugstore.

They are very friendly people. They want us in their community. They realize what we are trying to do for them in the way of books. We would like, the 3 of us, as we are now in that region, to travel further and stay longer with them, but in trying to cover the 5 counties in my region, which you will note in the upper right-hand corner of the map, we have 116 deposit stations, in order to cover all of them, we have to do as many as possible in a certain time. So we cannot stay

as long as we would like and we cannot continue to move out into the areas where we know they need the service. We must stick to our regular stations.

During the time that we are there in the evenings, people come into the library—we park the bookmobile just outside the drugstore—and they will sit and chat with us. They give us their ideas, and we get any number of items from them which we know will be of interest the next time. We bring the books back to them, and we try to get from them any ideas which we can in any way improving the service.

As we go on in this county, in the next 3 or 4 days we go into grocery stores, people's homes where they have the book-deposit stations and in schools. And in those schools we find the children are carrying books home to their parents, and those are the places we are reaching that we ordinarily cannot get to in our bookmobiles.

At one particular time there was a very, very elderly gentleman who got on the bookmobile at one place and asked me if we had Pilgrim's Progress. Now we were just lucky that day and we did have it. I asked him if he had read it before, and he said, "Yes, many times," but that he was reading it at that time to his wife who was nearly blind. I was very pleased at that time. It gives you a good feeling inside to know that you have done something for someone who is in that area.

As we go along we sort of feel that we have helped a bit toward the education and development of these people because otherwise they would have no access to books.

The passage of this Library Service bill at this time would mean that in this county and other counties which we service, we could expand our services, we could move out, we could talk to people and could determine where we are needed more.

I have here some pictures of my bookmobile, and some of the places we may travel, if I may move here for you to see them for just a moment.

I think perhaps you would like to see the material, the way in which we travel and the inside of the bookmobile. It is wide open and you can step right in and we have often 8 and 10 people at each place we stop.

Senator HILL. Waiting for you to arrive?

Miss CULBERTSON. That is right, they are waiting for us to arrive and they go through and make their own selections. We have it divided for the interest of the public. It is not exactly like the everyday library.

We are asked to appear in parades at various times to represent the schools and to represent the libraries.

Senator HILL. Excuse me. What does a bookmobile of that type cost today?

Miss CULBERTSON. Approximately \$6,500.

Senator HILL. \$6,500?

Miss CULBERTSON. Yes, sir.

And you can see from this some of the roads where we travel. As I mentioned, they are bad in many cases.

These are some of the children as they work on the bookmobile in the mountainous country through which I travel.

Senator HILL. It is beautiful country but it is very rugged in many places; is that right?

Miss CULBERTSON. Yes. In fact, here is a picture where one winter we got up to the top of the mountain and did not know there was ice, but it was 3 or 4 inches thick. We did get down all right.

These are other deposit stations in various counties.

Here is one thing I particularly would like you to see; over here in this small county I have been talking about, Hancock County.

There is one of the bridges which we originally took our bookmobile across. We do not do that any more since we almost fell through. We have thought better of it.

Senator HILL. Is this a creek here running through the road?

Miss CULBERTSON. Yes, sir, running through the road. We just go right on through them.

These are other roads. This is a winding road down the mountain of Hancock County and across the ridge—it is straight up and down.

There are other pictures of the various places we travel.

Senator MURRAY. Do these bookmobiles also carry important magazines and periodicals?

Miss CULBERTSON. No, sir, we have not carried periodicals because they are obsolete at the time we reach these places and many of our people do have access to periodicals.

Thank you very much for the privilege of coming here.

Senator MURRAY. Thank you for your statement. I think you have made a very fine statement, and we appreciate it.

Senator HILL. Your statement was most informative and, I might say, most interesting.

The next witness will be Mrs. Genevieve Osland.

You may state your full name and the organization you represent.

STATEMENT OF MRS. GENEVIEVE OSLAND, LEGISLATION ASSISTANT, GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Mrs. OSLAND. I am Mrs. Genevieve Osland, legislation assistant on the staff of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. I am representing Mrs. R. I. C. Prout, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an organization of 5½ million women in the United States, which was chartered by Congress in 1901.

We welcome the privilege of expressing before this committee the views of our organization in regard to the need for development of modern library services in rural areas. Since its inception in 1890, the General Federation has realized the importance and necessity of good library service. The volunteer work of our clubwomen through the years in establishing and maintaining libraries in areas where there were no facilities, has been of inestimable value in enriching the lives of the people of this country. Indeed, so devoted have clubwomen been to this end that the American Library Association has credited our organization with having started 85 percent of the libraries in the United States. Our 15,600 clubs are continuing their activity in this field.

We are shocked to learn of the present estimate of Senator Lister Hill that 90 percent of the 26 million people who live on farms or in small communities are without access to adequate library services. This is neglect of a basic ingredient of our democratic way of life—equal educational opportunities for all. Schools cannot function adequately without the supplemental services of libraries. Our young

people need the stimulation provided by up-to-date technical literature to increase their quest for the scientific knowledge so urgently needed in many careers today. Adults need libraries in order to continue the educational process, all too often dropped with the conclusion of formal schooling. A circulating source of books, magazines, and newspapers spurs communities to keener awareness of the responsibilities of citizenship and a broader interest in and understanding of world events, the need for which is greater now than it has ever been in our history. We are living in a world which challenges our ability to produce citizens who can grapple with the gravest problems the world has ever known.

We believe the library services bill, S. 205, is an excellent one and will meet the most pressing need for extension of library services to rural areas. We further believe that the Federal Government should offer leadership in service and in grants in order to stimulate interest and action within the States. The record has proven that certain grants have done just that; for instance, in the field of crippled children's grants over a period of 15 years, the Federal Government's share decreased from 40 percent to 26 percent, and the States now appropriate 3 times as much. This is a good example of the use of Federal grants to stimulate State programs which we applaud. The rights of the States in S. 205 are fully protected within their own library plan, and a definite limit to 5 years removes the danger of this becoming a permanent Federal responsibility.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs derives its legislative policy from resolutions passed by the delegate body at annual conventions. Our resolution urges State federations and member clubs to continue to support existing libraries and to encourage extension of library service and use. We urge this committee to act favorably and promptly on S. 205, and we pledge to you the support of our 15,600 clubs in every State and the District of Columbia in encouraging interest in, and wise use of, the appropriations.

I would like to add that the theme of our new administration is "Knowledge is power," and it is very fitting that this first statement of a new administration should be in support of the library services bill.

Thank you very much.

Senator MURRAY. Thank you very much for your concise but very effective statement. I think it will be very helpful to us.

Senator HILL. I want to join you, Mr. Chairman, in that; it is precise but very effective.

In fact, if I may say this, this has been a very high order of testimony, starting with Mr. Richards and coming on down through all the witnesses. The testimony has been very able and very fine, splendid presentations of the case for this bill.

Senator MURRAY. If you cannot win with this kind of backing, it will be amazing.

Senator HILL. That is right.

And I think, in this connection, while we are speaking of the very exceptional and fine presentations this morning, we should also express our appreciation to Julia Bennett of the Washington office of the American Library Association, who has worked so long and so hard and so wonderfully on behalf of the passage of this bill.

Senator MURRAY. That concludes the testimony this morning. We thank you.

(Typical statements and communications addressed to the committee follow:)

STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

HUNTINGDON COLLEGE LIBRARY,
Montgomery 6, Ala., May 19, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor
and Public Welfare Committee,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: We are so glad that you are spearheading our library services bill.

As past president of the Alabama Library Association, I wish to make the following statement to be filed with the Senate Committee for the hearings on the scheduled bill:

Under the present conditions, Alabama would be eligible for its maximum allotment of the basic \$40,000 plus the matching amount of \$169,000, for a total of \$209,000 for each of the 5 years.

In Alabama, we are rural and very poor. We have at present only 5 regional (2 counties each) libraries with bookmobiles. We have 11 counties without any service and 34 with very inadequate service. Only 11 county libraries have bookmobiles, and 7 county libraries have none at all. We have 28 counties with town libraries only and no countywide service.

In all this broad expanse of 67 counties and a population of 3,061,000 people there are 25 bookmobiles of which 22 belong to county or regional libraries and 3 belong to the public library service division.

I think that our Senators, one of which is responsible for introducing this bill, realizes in what sad shape our people are for library service. It is little wonder that Alabama ranks low in the educational standard.

We, the members of the Alabama Library Association, and we are over 500 strong now, will appreciate any assistance that we can render our people from the passage of the library services bill. We thank you for your interest and we will be delighted to help in any way possible.

Yours very sincerely,

WILLA M. ROYSWORTH,
Past President, Alabama Library Association.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
February 25, 1955.

Hon. LISTER HILL,
*Chairman, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I enclose herewith a copy of a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, and I would appreciate your including it in the hearings on the library services legislation.

With cordial regards, I am
Sincerely,

J. W. FULBRIGHT.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8 (RIALES AND MILUM)

Whereas there is an immediate need for the extension of public library service to the rural areas of the State of Arkansas; and

Whereas the State of Arkansas does not at present have sufficient funds with which to supply public library service to the rural areas of this State; and

Whereas there is now pending in the Congress of the United States Senate bill 205 which authorized the appropriation of funds to the various States for use in extending public library services to rural areas without such services, or with inadequate services; and

Whereas Senate bill 205 would permit extension of public library services to the rural areas of the State of Arkansas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the 60th General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein, does by this resolution endorse said Senate bill 205, and urge that immediate hearings be held by Congress toward its passage, and further urge the immediate passage of the same; be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State is hereby instructed to transmit within 5 days after receipt thereof, a certified copy of this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the 84th Congress, and to each Member of the Congress from the State of Arkansas.

STATEMENT OF JAMES G. HODGSON, PRESIDENT, COLORADO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

RURAL LIBRARY CONDITIONS IN COLORADO

Rural people are not different. They are simply separated by distances from other people. Nowhere is this more strikingly true than in Colorado where the bulk of the heavily populated areas are in a long line just east of the high mountains that divide the flat plains of the eastern part of the State from the deep river valleys of the West. Sparsely settled plains and mountain valleys, between high divides, all in the same State, make for very unique library problems. It also convinces the people that they have problems which are different and that any kind of library service that may be talked about as successful in other parts of the United States will not work in Colorado because "conditions are different." Actually there is just enough truth to that belief to make it necessary for Colorado to have demonstrations of types of library service best suited to its varying needs right within the State if other sections are to see what can be done and work out their own local library systems.

One of the greatest values of a concerted nationwide series of demonstrations of library service to rural areas is its cumulative effect on rural areas as a whole. The mere existence of a great many different demonstration projects in all the separate States will have a greater impact on thinking in rural areas about the benefits of library service than that which could come from any single demonstration no matter how well carried out. The impact of good library service in parts of any single State, reinforced by the reports carried in magazines and newspapers of what is being done in other States, would have an intensifying effect in opening the eyes of rural people to the fact that they too can have the library advantages of the metropolitan areas if they but want to go after them.

Only through such a plan as the library services bill can such a multiplying of results be obtained. Colorado is not alone in feeling that its conditions are unique and that types of service found successful in other places are not necessarily adequate guides to what is needed in its own situations. But Colorado is also typical in that if demonstrations, which will work in Colorado, are also a part of a national movement, then the good results from other States will add to the impact which demonstrations within the State will make.

It is for this reason, in addition to the great good that will come to the rural people of Colorado directly, that the Colorado Library Association has long been on record as favoring the national and concerted approach which the library services bill provides.

DELAWARE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
April 20, 1956.

HON. LISTER HILL,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: At the annual business meeting of the Delaware Library Association, held March 24, 1956, in Georgetown, the following resolution was voted upon and approved:

"Whereas libraries are vital agencies for insuring education and information for the people of Delaware and of the United States; and

"Whereas present libraries are inadequate to meet the need for educational and informational services, particularly in rural areas; and

"Whereas the library services bill, H. R. 2840 and S. 205, provides a means of extending library services to rural areas of the country: Therefore

Resolved, That the Delaware Library Association supports the purposes and provisions of the library services bill and urges its passage by Congress.

Sincerely yours,

HELEN R. BELKNAP, *Secretary*.

FLORIDA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Tallahassee, Fla., May 21, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee,
Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: The Florida Library Association strongly endorses the library services bill, S. 205, on which your subcommittee will hold hearings this week.

Approximately two-thirds of the rural population of Florida is now without access to any kind of library service. What service is available to our rural people is definitely substandard. In contrast, nine-tenths of the urban population has library service, and that service is generally good or superior in quality.

We do not believe that rural and urban people are essentially different in their intellectual, educational, and recreational needs. Nor do we believe that persons should be penalized for living on the land. Yet it is a fact that unless rural people have assistance beyond the local level, they will never have adequate library facilities.

The State of Florida does not at present give direct monetary aid in support of libraries in rural areas. Provision of such aid had been an objective of this association for the last 5 years, and we are confident that passage of the library services bill would be followed by the desired State legislation.

We urge that Senate bill 205 be given favorable consideration as a means of encouraging the States to accept their responsibility for equalizing library opportunity.

Respectfully,

DOROTHY DODD, *President.*

GEORGIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Athens, Ga., May 22, 1956.

Hon. JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee,
Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: I am writing to you in behalf of the library services bill, S. 205. Library service throughout the Nation will be greatly strengthened by the passage of this bill. Nearly 27 million people in the United States are still not within the reach of a public library. These people are not concentrated in any one section of the country. Many of them are in your State and in mine. Many of the rural people migrate to city centers. Many boys and girls grow up in one State and move for one reason or another to other parts of the country to work and to rear their families. Thus the problem of reaching these people with library service becomes a nationwide one, the concern of all of us regardless of whether we live in the city or the country, in the East, the West, the North, or the South.

It seems to me that it is just as important and necessary that the Federal Government assist the people in establishing library service as it is to assist in the building of highways and hospitals, and the furnishing of school lunches, vocation, health, and welfare programs.

An informed and well-educated citizenry is essential in a democratic society. The public library is the people's university and through its facilities and services citizens can and will continue to learn how better to understand and cope with the problems of an ever-changing world. No other publicly supported institution can do for all the people of all ages the educational service that is rendered through public libraries.

Inasmuch as the passage of this legislation means so much to the people of our country, I hope that you will do everything in your power to have it reported out of committee favorably.

Yours respectfully,

W. P. KELLAM,
President, Georgia Library Association.

BOISE, IDAHO, *May 22, 1956.*

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

The benefits of library services bill will be great boon to Idaho. Recent State legislation permits districts to organize and vote supporting levy but no State extension division exists, and only Federal money can enable us to stage demonstrations of serviceable and economical large units of library service to our rural population. Please incorporate above statement in record of hearings on library services bill, S. 205.

IDAHO STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
 RUTH McBIRNEY, *President.*

IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
May 20, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee of the
 Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
 United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: As president of the trustees' section of the public libraries' division of the American Library Association, and as president of the Iowa Library Association, I have had many opportunities to talk to men and women from all parts of the country in regard to existing library facilities, and the needs for future development in areas where there are no libraries at all. People everywhere are conscious of the need for books, magazines, and newspapers to keep them informed so they may vote intelligently. Children need books to help them with their schoolwork, young people need vocational information, businessmen require statistics, men and women of all ages need materials for continuing their education after formal schooling ends.

Here in Iowa nearly 40 percent of the people have no library service of any kind, and many more Iowans have inadequate service. Many of our people live in small communities or in rural areas without easy access to a large city. Yet folk living in villages, small towns, and on the farms are entitled to the same educational and recreational advantages that city dwellers get from their well-developed library systems. Farmers today need up-to-date information on machinery and farm methods, on production, marketing, home management, and child guidance. But rural people cannot afford to buy expensive books (even if there were bookstores out in the country) for the use of only one family. If there was a county or regional library to lend them these vital books, the cost would then be spread over many families.

The passage of the library services' bill will enable people in rural areas to experience the advantages of libraries and encourage them to continue the service with local and State funds after the 5-year period. If Iowa receives grants under this bill, bookmobiles, stocked with books and manned by personnel who know both books and library problems, can be sent to rural Iowa communities; and one or more regional libraries can be established to serve as an example and inspiration to the remainder of the State.

We hope that you will see this bill is given favorable consideration in your committee and is given prompt and favorable action in the Senate.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK MILLIGAN,
President.

The library services bill, if passed, would bring library service to over 700,000 Kansans who do not have access to a library.

Demonstration libraries with branches, bookmobiles, and deposit stations could give these people a chance to read so they might be better informed citizens. A well-informed citizenry would be better for the individual, the town, the State, and the country.

Once libraries are established and people can actually see them functioning as educational institutions, citizens will demand and be willing to pay for better library service.

KANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
 CLAUDE L. SETTLEMIRE,
President.

LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Lake Charles, La., May 22, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Education Subcommittee,
Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: The Louisiana Library Association believes that the public library, adequately supported and efficiently administered, is essential to the education and recreational development of a community. In Louisiana today there are 400,000 citizens who live in rural areas without public library service; in the whole Nation there are 27 million persons with no access to a public library.

The library services bill (S. 205) which, we understand, your subcommittee will consider May 23, would be particularly effective in stimulating State and local governments to support adequately public libraries for their own people. This bill would accelerate library development nationally in a way that could never be done without Federal assistance.

The funds which would be made available to Louisiana under this act would make it possible to establish a parish (county) library in each of the 21 parishes now without library service. In other words, as a result of this legislation all Louisiana's people would have access to public library service.

Librarians and library-minded citizens throughout our State are vitally interested in the library services bill. We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this very important and worthwhile legislation.

Sincerely yours,

RUTH CLARK REEDY,
President.

MAINE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Waterville, Maine, May 21, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public
Welfare, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: Rural areas of the State of Maine are very badly in need of help, of the nature proposed in the library services bill, S. 205. As you know, Maine is large in area (32,562 square miles), but relatively light in population (29.4 persons per square mile). Its population of 913,774 (1950) ranks 38th of the 48 States.

Maine is still 59 percent rural, and has only 13 towns or cities of over 10,000 people. Its 1953 per capita income of \$1,369 makes it the 39th State in income, and Maine spends only \$181 per pupil for education (\$244 is the national average). Only 14 percent of Maine people over 25 years of age are high-school graduates. The median number of school years completed by our people is 10.2. Based on World War II Army rejections, the Maine illiteracy rate is 20 per 1,000, or the 35th of the 48 States in literacy. We need better libraries for better education.

In this rural State 657,085 people have some sort of library service, but 253,371, or nearly one-third, have none. Public libraries have only 3.39 volumes per capita. State library aid in 1953-54 was only \$12,724 (or 7.2 cents per capita). Most of our library facilities are inadequate. Library budgets for many towns are only \$100-\$200 per year.

We thoroughly need and want the educational and cultural lift the Federal Aid to Libraries Act will bring. Such a lift continued for the proposed 5 years will enable our people, both private citizens and legislators, to experience a more literate atmosphere. Even the most reluctant, the most niggardly, will see that library money is well spent. Better service will necessarily be continued in Maine after the termination of Federal aid, and for continued growth Maine needs first-rate educational facilities. Maine's problem is partly that of holdings its youth and attracting the better people from elsewhere. Good libraries will certainly help. Your cooperation and support of the library bill will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES HUMPHRY III, President.

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Lawrence, Mass., May 19, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,

*Chairman, Education Subcommittee, Senate Labor and Public Welfare
 Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: At its annual meeting in Amherst on May 3, 1956, the Massachusetts Library Association unanimously voted to support the library services bill, S. 205.

I have been instructed to write to you to inform you of this action by the association and to ask your support of this measure. The members feel very strongly that this bill will do much to equalize public library service throughout the country by bringing service to those who are now deprived of it. It should also encourage individual States and give them the necessary financial assistance to set up demonstration areas which will bring the need for library service into proper focus.

Any assistance you can give will be most appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD J. SULLIVAN,
President.

MASSACHUSETTS AND THE FEDERAL LIBRARY SERVICES BILL

Public-library service in Massachusetts needs the improvement which could be made possible with the passage of the Federal library-services bill currently under consideration.

There is a basic inequality in library service in Massachusetts because public libraries derive their chief financial support from local real-estate taxes. Eighty-eight percent of the cities and towns of Massachusetts are rural in that they have a population of under 10,000 people.

Over 90 percent of the State's public libraries are now giving inadequate library service according to nationally accepted library standards. Thus, it is unrealistic to take the State's seemingly fine overall library service per capita support of \$2.25 without considering its application to the numerous small towns in Massachusetts. For example, the inadequacy of \$2.25 per capita library support is obvious when applied to any one of the State's 98 towns which vary in population from 56 to 1,999.

The Massachusetts Division of Library Extension has attempted to equalize library service by developing State regional library-service centers. At present only 3 areas, comprising a total of 95 cities and towns, are so served.

While it is believed that Massachusetts can eventually provide adequate support for all its public libraries, the State as a whole—as well as its municipalities—desperately needs now the helping hand which the Federal library services bill would provide.

STATEMENT BY WILLIAM CHAIT, PRESIDENT, MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, ON S. 205, LIBRARY SERVICES BILL

The provision of library service for all the people of the State of Michigan is of grave concern to the members of the Michigan Library Association. Our members serve in all kinds of libraries and in all types of communities, both urban and rural. We are devoted to the principle that all of our people are entitled to access to tax-supported public libraries.

We believe that our whole Nation suffers when there are more than 20 million people in the United States, almost all of them in rural areas, who do not have library service. Our whole Nation is poorer because industrially wealthy Michigan has 800,000 people who do not have public libraries which they can call their own. Perhaps Michigan is financially able to take care of its own needs but the fact remains that we have not done so and our progress has been slow. However, we have taken some steps which may show how a program sponsored by the Federal Government can help improve the situation throughout the Nation.

About 4 years ago the Michigan State Board for Libraries established the first regional library in the State by extending service from an existing county library to a neighboring county which did not have a library. State funds were used for this demonstration which resulted, in April of 1955 in the people of these counties voting to set up the Iosco Arenac Regional Library supported by local taxes. At present, a similar demonstration, supported by State funds, is being carried on

in a five-county region around Traverse City. We expect that this too will be locally supported after another year of State help.

The experience of Michigan can be related to the national picture. When the Federal Government will make funds available to the States for the establishment of library service to rural areas, the people of these areas will realize what it means to have public libraries and will find the money to provide them for themselves. The only people who do not want to tax themselves for public libraries are those who have never had library service or who have had poor and inadequate service. Very few intelligent people who have experienced the opportunities of a good public library will ever again want to get along without library service. A 5-year program of stimulation by funds from the Federal Government may bring a great change in the educational and recreational lives of the people of rural America.

In Michigan we are beginning to make plans on how we can make the best use of the funds we will get for the public library demonstration when the library services bill is enacted. We expect to continue all projects started under State funds as a State responsibility. Our aim shall be to reach people in rural areas who have no public libraries or who have inadequate library service. The plan may include extension of services to rural areas from larger centers. We expect to encourage local responsibility by creating a local advisory committee and setting up the service at a level which can be continued on a permanent basis with local funds. Local support for each project should begin at the earliest possible time and be increased annually until it is self-supporting. Our experience has been that administrative, capital, and operating costs for the establishment of a regional library are such that we could hope to serve about 50,000 people a year with the funds available. This, added to the existing State program, would result in a significant decrease in the number of Michigan residents who do not have free access to books.

It has been said that a person who can read and doesn't is no better off than a person who cannot read. We are proud of our high rate of literacy in this country, but we must recognize that this does not result in any great benefit to us unless we make reading materials available to our literate population. Rural families should have the same access as urban residents to books, newspapers, magazines, audiovisual materials, and other sources of information which the large city library systems now provide for their patrons. Our American public-school system has made education available to most of the people in the Nation on an equal basis, but the opportunities to continue this education after school days or to supplement it while in school is not now available to people living in many rural areas in all parts of the Nation. S. 205 offers us a great opportunity to help bring library service to residents of rural America.

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Red Wing, Minn., May 19, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: On behalf of the Minnesota Library Association, may I urge your favorable consideration of the library services bill, S. 205.

Minnesota is interested in the availability of Federal funds for development of public library service because approximately two-thirds of its citizens are served, if at all, by small libraries substandard in budget, staff and books with no possibility of meeting even minimum standards of service.

The funds provided under the library services bill would make possible the immediate development of a regional library center, giving service to a six-county area in the west central part of the State where full library service has never been developed. This project is aimed at showing what excellent public library service can be given in a rural regional area where the people are now providing book service in a larger town in the county but where, with the exception of one county, no funds are expended for rural service. Another reason for choosing this particular area is that once library service is established, the area could raise sufficient funds for the continuance of the service.

The following testimony was given in behalf of the State-aid-for-libraries bill before a subcommittee of the Minnesota Legislature in the last session: "I grew up in a section of the State without benefit of public-library service. Three years ago my family moved to a southern Minnesota city where we discovered the

undreamed riches of such service. My sister still lives in an unserved area and I want her to have the opportunity of the service of an adequate public library."

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. J. R. SWEASY, *President.*

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
May 19, 1956.

The State of Mississippi needs the help that would be provided by the library services bill, S. 205. This request for financial aid in promoting library service is based on the following statements:

1. There are 1,218,951 people in Mississippi without library service of any sort.
2. There are 272,439 people whose libraries are so inadequately supported that they cannot technically be called libraries.
3. The people of Mississippi have been trying to help themselves. In 1949 the total spent for public libraries was only \$306,659.40; in 1954 the total spent was \$672,483.69. By December 1955 that figure had risen to \$768,246.
4. Eight years ago, the Mississippi Library Association, the library commission, the department of education, and the University of Mississippi, working together, formulated a sound plan for economical, practical library development throughout the State. Since that time these same agencies, with the help of other agencies and individual librarians, have been working to implement that plan. The library services bill would provide the necessary impetus to accelerate this program.
5. The personnel who would administer the funds provided by this bill, as well as other people concerned, are fully aware of the professional, educational, and social responsibility for the welfare of all of the people of the State. They would consider the handling of these funds as a sacred trust and would do their utmost to invest them wisely.
6. The terminal point of this legislation is well known. A pledge is made that sound building will be done so as to achieve lasting results. This aid will be considered as a boost in getting rural library service started where it is non-existent and in improving what already exists.

The case for Mississippi's need cannot be too strongly stated. The number of people without library service or with inadequate service shows the crying need for help. The fact that the people of the State are aware of the educational value of public libraries and of their financial inability to take the initial step in providing them and the fact that efforts have been made to extend library service on a very limited budget attest to the sincerity of this request.

The passage of this bill is strongly urged.

MARY LOVE, *President.*

STATEMENT OF NELLIE M. HOMES, PRESIDENT MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Missouri Library Association urges the approval and passage of the Federal library services bill, S. 205, as a means of extending the educational facilities of the State and Nation in making information available to citizens that they may be better equipped to meet the problems of an increasingly complex civilization.

On its own initiative Missouri has done much toward extending library service to the citizens of Missouri through the Missouri State Library, the agency which would administer the funds in this State. The Missouri State Library has demonstrated a splendid initiative in this endeavor through its State library bookmobile demonstration service.

The Federal library service bill would extend and stretch these funds and help speed up this service in Missouri. The Missouri Library Commission, the governing body of the State library has gone on record as favoring the bill.

The Missouri State Library bookmobile demonstration funds would be considered matching funds for the Federal funds.

While Missouri has about 25 percent of its population without library service many States have much higher percentages of population without service.

Since one of the major lines of defense of a country is an informed citizenry, the Missouri Library Association deems this a vital measure.

NEVADA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Carson City, Nev., May 19, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,

Chairman, Education Subcommittee of Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: Nevada Library Association urges enactment of the library services bill now before the Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. We are well aware of the need for this legislation on the national scene, but are acutely conscious of what it can do for our own State.

Library service in Nevada has been retarded because of geographical and population problems peculiar to Western States. We have 17 counties, and of these only 2 have sufficient population and assessed valuation to maintain adequate local library service. At the present time all 16 of the libraries serving population units of 10,000 are unable to give the minimum services of a good library because of inadequate funds for books, staff, and other essentials.

To meet these problems we have developed a comprehensive plan for library extension in the State. The main elements in this plan are the building of a strong book collection which will be available to all of the people of the State, the provision of direct service by bookmobile to those small communities with local libraries through the aid of a library consultant to work with local librarians.

We know that our State plan is the most economical and most efficient way of giving library service in this State.

That there is a need for these library services here no one can doubt after traveling over the State and talking with the people in communities with no libraries, with the rural teachers, and with the people and librarians in communities with undersupported libraries.

Not long ago rural teachers, citizens, and librarians from several counties testified before a legislative hearing on the great need for library service in Nevada. Teachers told of the effects good books have had upon the reading ability and interest of their pupils. Books can go into the very isolated and remote areas of our State, and can bring a realization of modern America to children who have had no previous conception of it. Sad to say, comic books have penetrated these areas before good books. We have children in our State and Nation who are wholly conversant with the diets of ghouls and vampires, and with the activities of murderers and thieves, but have never held in their hands the good books many of us take for granted.

At this same legislative hearing, another teacher from a northern mining town told of the people's interest in good books, and of their need for real library service. These people stress the need for the best in library service—informational and recreational books which are just not available on the newsstands in the quantity and range needed or afforded by the average citizen.

Citizens living in small towns or rural areas remote from the population centers of our Nation have interests no narrower than those of city people. The library as a center for the processes of self education, dissemination of information, and recreation, is as important to the citizens of Beowawe, Nev., as it is to the people living in the heart of Minneapolis.

Our Nation has pioneered in free public library service, and libraries are now considered an integral part of our public educational system. However, the larger number of our libraries are not equipped to carry on their work and nearly 30 million people remain without access to local public library service.

It is true that State and local governments, making the use of results of research in library economy, can afford adequate public library service, yet they have not. The library services bill will demonstrate the value of this public service so forcibly that it will be continued without Federal support after the 5-year period.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH F. SHUBERT, *President.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Portsmouth, N. H., May 19, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee of Senate Labor and Public Welfare
 Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: As the president of the New Hampshire Library Association I speak for the librarians of my State who are keeping their eyes on Washington these days and on the library services bill, S. 205. Our Representatives, Chester E. Merrow and Perkins Bass, have been loyal supporters of the bill when it was in the House for they know only too well how much its passage will mean to the rural libraries of New Hampshire.

Our Senators, Styles Bridges and Norris Cotton, are sympathetic toward the bill, for they, too, know how many small libraries we have in this State which need aid to function properly in their communities.

Enclosed is a statement which I hope you will make part of the record of the hearings on the library services bill, S. 205.

Most cordially yours,

DOROTHY M. VAUGHAN, *President.*

STATEMENT OF DOROTHY M. VAUGHAN, PRESIDENT, NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY
 ASSOCIATION

New Hampshire, the ninth State to enter the Union, blazed the trail for free public library service in America by establishing in 1833 the first tax-supported public library in the United States, in the town of Peterborough.

Today New Hampshire has 239 town libraries, most of them in need of funds to operate adequately. The library services bill, S. 205, would aid these small New Hampshire town libraries to give better books and services to the men, women, and children in their communities. The New Hampshire Library Association urges the passage of this bill, and hopes for speedy and favorable hearings.

STATEMENT OF HARRIET FORBES BURDICK, PRESIDENT, NEW JERSEY LIBRARY
 ASSOCIATION

For more than 10 years the New Jersey Library Association through its library development committee has been actively engaged in planning for the improvement of public library services in our State. These years of study by the association were climaxed in the past few months with the report of an officially created body—the Governor's Commission To Study Library Services in New Jersey. Their report, Better Libraries for New Jersey, was presented to the governor and the legislature on February 6, 1956. It recommends sharply increased expenditures for public library service for both municipal and county libraries. At the present time approximately \$7 million is being spent for this purpose and \$11 million is needed if we are to reach acceptable standards in all areas of the State. The report recommends that approximately \$2 million additional be raised locally and that the State, as part of its program of supporting local education, contribute up to \$2 million additional in State aid to public libraries.

It is the considered opinion of our association that the library services bill will, if enacted, tie in directly with our State program by providing us with the money to put on a demonstration of good library service in our presently unserved counties. By giving an example of good library service under professional direction we would be able to persuade local communities to establish tax-supported libraries in their respective jurisdictions. The library services bill would thus be a tremendous stimulus to New Jersey by dramatizing the great need for better libraries to serve the complex and shifting populations of our rapidly urbanizing rural areas.

NEW MEXICO STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION,
 STATE LIBRARY EXTENSION SERVICE,
Santa Fe, N. Mex., January 21, 1956.

Hon. DENNIS CHAVEZ,
The United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR CHAVEZ: We are delighted to learn that you are one of the cosponsors of Senate bill 205, the library services bill.

As you know, the rural areas of New Mexico are not reached by books except those people who will write to this library for what they want. We have many book-hungry people in the rural districts who would like to choose their books from bookmobiles. We also have too many nonreaders equally intelligent but who have never had access to books and have not formed reading habits. The comic-book and paper-back-book industries have proved that accessibility is one of the chief factors in their success. With bookmobiles something can be done for both groups. We want particularly to reach the children.

If the library services bill passes we believe it will be the means of extending library services to the 46 percent of our people who are now without book and other reading resources. We hope you will work for the passage of the bill this year.

Sincerely yours,

IRENE S. PECK,

Executive Secretary, State Library Commission.

LIBRARY SERVICE IN NEW MEXICO

In the rural State of New Mexico, fourth largest in area, thinly populated, one of the poorer States, the problems of library service to rural people are diverse and difficult. Of the State's 72 incorporated places only 1 has a population of more than 100,000. Only 5 are in the 25,000 to 50,000 category, the rest are small towns and villages. Only 29 of the 73 incorporated places were classified as urban by the last census, that is, with a population of 2,500 or more. The major trading centers are from 50 to 100 miles apart and it is in these that New Mexico's 38 libraries are located.

It is easy to see why 46 percent of the people are without access to local library service. The majority of the State's enormous counties have only 1 library, 5 counties have no local libraries. It is obvious that one library, in a county which is larger than many Eastern States, cannot serve the rural people in any adequate or satisfactory manner, if at all.

The north-central section of New Mexico is mountainous, beautiful, and very rugged. Throughout its valleys and on the mesas are countless little Spanish-speaking communities which make up some of the most heavily populated counties. They are adobe towns, picturesque and poor. The older people, descendants of New Mexico's first settlers, cling to their folkways and their language. Most of the children and young people write and speak English, though often not well. If these young people are to have a future most of them will be compelled to leave their villages and adapt themselves to other ways, competing in an unfamiliar world. A generous supply of well-chosen books is one of the greatest helps in teaching them to read with ease and in introducing them to worlds different from their own. In a majority of their homes there is not a single book or magazine.

Since most of the boys and girls attend small rural schools with meager or nonexistent libraries the only books they have are small collections borrowed from the State library extension service in Santa Fe. These children have eager young minds. One teacher wrote about a box of books received, "My pupils are literally devouring them as there is a pitiful lack of books in this community." "The books really are considered in our room as a God-sent gift," wrote another. Teacher after teacher has written about the improvement in reading abilities and in general studies brought about by access to suitable books, interesting to the children. School is out early in these rural places and in the long vacation months boys and girls have nothing at all to read, months when more fortunate city children do their widest and best reading.

There are the Indian children, Navaho, Pueblo, Apache. The Indian population is not dying out in New Mexico but is increasing. One of the State's outstanding educators retired 3 years ago but he missed his associations with young people and left his retirement to head a school for Navaho children. In speaking of them he said, "They are the most intelligent children I have ever worked with." Many are very gifted. They too deserve the chance which books help to give them.

Reaching the families in the ranching country, on farms, in the oil fields and mining areas is another problem. Library service to all these groups, Spanish speaking, Indian, Anglo, requires setting up more places where books are available and easily accessible, or, bookmobiles taking the books to the people who need them, which the State has not yet been able to do.

The State has not been unmindful of its responsibility. Each biennium since 1941 the appropriation for the State agency (State library extension service)

has been increased but the funds do not yet equal the needs. New Mexico has had grants-in-aid to local libraries since 1945, \$40,000 for this biennium. In addition to this, libraries are loaned supplementary book collections and assistance is given them through the advisory services of two field librarians.

Local recognition of the importance of books and libraries to their communities is evidenced by growing support for municipal libraries and by building programs. In the past 8 years 5 towns have erected new library buildings, 5 others have had extensive remodeling, 6 more now have plans for new libraries or for additions to old ones (and remember only 29 towns are classed as urban in New Mexico). People in these towns have known what books can mean and are willing to pay for more and better library service.

In the rural districts, however, the people need to be shown what good library service offers to meet their needs for information, study, and recreation. We believe that once they have known such service they will be willing and, with State aid, able to support it.

Several years ago a public health doctor in a remote badlands area of the State met a young boy living in an isolated spot with his aging grandparents. He had never been to school but he had been taught to read. She was impressed with the youngster's intelligence and with his eagerness to know about the stars he watched, the rocks he picked up, and bits of archeological remains he had found and she began to take him books and magazines to read. When her resources were exhausted she turned to the State library for help. It was arranged for him to receive books by mail on the various subjects in which he was interested. This unschooled boy could readily grasp books on a college level in the subjects for which his reading had given him background. Eventually it was arranged for him to attend school. He had curious gaps in his knowledge but the doctor paid to have him tutored for some months and with this help and his wide and voracious reading he was able to enter high school with his age group and is making an outstanding record there.

This was an exceptional boy who had luck. But there are many unknowns with capabilities and talents for whom books can also open up new worlds. They should have their chance.

If the library services bill is passed it will make possible the library stations and bookmobiles which are so badly needed in the rural districts of the State.

STATEMENT OF OLAN V. COOK, PRESIDENT, NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

Public library service in North Carolina has been a service desired and worked for by many people. Those who have been so keenly aware of the need for a program of continuing education have exerted all efforts to extend library service across the State like the public-school system. The outcome has been a spread of service to 95 percent of the population. This gives North Carolina a position among the top 10 States in coverage.

The financial support has not been equal to the spread nor the need. North Carolina ranks among the bottom 13 States in expenditures for public library service. This, of course, means thin service; a quality unequal to the quantity on a statewide basis.

The State has a record of 15 years of State aid to help county governmental units help themselves to better library service.

Stimulus provided by the State aid funds has resulted in continuous increases in local support at a higher ratio than the State-aid fund increases. The result has been countywide library service established in 94 of the 100 counties.

Numerous library studies and surveys including local self-surveys indicate the same basic needs—more personnel and more informational and reference materials. Recommendations from these surveys have been unanimous in urging larger units of service.

Federal funds available to aid North Carolina public libraries will provide an incentive to the 101 inadequate library administrative units to cooperate and establish larger units. Part of the desperately needed personnel and book materials will be secured and service will be extended to the unserved areas. Federal aid for library service in this rural State will be like a transfusion.

Five years in which to build more adequate library service will mean a continuing program of improved service to the people of this State. It can provide the needed impetus to develop a stronger statewide library program, putting a more secure capstone on the State's educational program.

BISMARCK, N. DAK., May 22, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.:

This area has much to gain from the Library Services Act. These funds will make it possible to initiate library services in rural areas which has neither the population nor the wealth to support local library services and to give some technical library training to untrained local librarians. With the growing industrial pursuits in this area there is a good chance for effective library services to continue after the 5-years demonstration.

Mrs. HAZEL WEBSTER BYRNES,
Director, State Library Commission.

ROBERT THOMAS,
President, North Dakota Library Association.

HAMILTON, OHIO, May 21, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.:

The opportunity for continuing self-education through good books and magazines as found in public libraries, their branches, and bookmobiles should be the American heritage of every crossroads community. Educated people are working people, contributing to a stronger Nation. Increased education reduces unemployment; thus a tax saving. We recommend passage of the library services bill, S. 205, to stimulate the development of sound library services in rural areas. We are requesting that this statement be made a part of the record of the hearings on the library services bill, S. 205, on Wednesday morning, May 23.

Mrs. GLADYS S. SEPIN,
President, Ohio Library Association, Lane Public Library.

STILLWATER, OKLA., May 22, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Education Subcommittee, Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: The Oklahoma Library Association is greatly interested in the library services bill and hopes to see it enacted by this Congress. We believe that the help given by this bill through demonstration for 5 years will stimulate the efforts of the people of Oklahoma to extend desperately needed public library service in rural areas of our State. We hope that you and your committee will give a favorable report on this bill.

JOHN B. STRATTON,
President, Oklahoma Library Association, Oklahoma A. and M. College Library, Stillwater, Okla.

MAY 21, 1956.

Senator JAMES MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Committee,
 United States Senate, Washington 25, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR: May the Oregon Library Association present the following statement as a matter of record for the hearings on the Library Services Board.

Yours sincerely,

HENRY T. DRENNAN,
President, Oregon Library Association.

The Oregon Library Association firmly supports the intent and purposes of the library services bill. With more than 300,000 rural residents with no local library support and with per capita expenditures for libraries in some rural counties ranging as low as 10 cents, 25 cents, and 50 cents, our association believes that the passage of this bill is imperative for the welfare of our citizenry.

The conservation of our intellectual resources is as important as the conservation of our natural resources. The quality of our population must match the quantity of our productive effort. The members of the Oregon Library Association urgently request the passage of the library services bill.

Sincerely,

HENRY T. DRENNAN,
*President, Oregon Library Association,
 Umatilla County Library, Pendleton, Oreg.*

STATEMENT ON THE LIBRARY SERVICES BILL, S. 205, IN RELATION TO LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA MADE IN BEHALF OF THE PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BY ERNEST E. DOERSCHUK, JR., PRESIDENT

Although public library service can be said to have had its origin in Pennsylvania, the fact is that this State has lagged behind other States in developing this important educational facility. Today Pennsylvania ranks approximately 34th among the States in size of public library book stock per capita of population. It ranks 32d among the States in its per capita expenditure for public library service. Nearly half the public libraries of Pennsylvania are independent units in towns of less than 5,000 population, units which are too small for the development of effective library service. Thirty-eight percent of Pennsylvania's public libraries are open to the public only 4 hours or less per day, and only one-fifth are open full time. Thirty-nine of the sixty-seven counties have no library service at all for their rural residents.

But there is increasing evidence of realization on the part of communities throughout the State that library service is important as a means of affording equal educational opportunity for all and as a resource for developing well-informed citizens. Leaders in small communities are looking for ways to initiate library service in their areas or to improve and expand existing services. The Pennsylvania branch of the American Association of University Women has just completed a year of study of public library service, and local chapters have assisted libraries wherever possible. Other statewide organizations have had similar programs. The Pennsylvania Library Association has a strong library development committee which is working out standards and goals for statewide library service.

This combination of very serious deficiency in library service on one hand and a growing movement on the part of many Pennsylvania communities to remedy this deficiency on the other hand creates a tremendous opportunity for effective use of the benefits accruing to Pennsylvania from the library services bill.

Federal money deriving from the library services bill coupled with the matching State money can be expected to achieve these important objectives:

1. Extend modern, effective library service to some communities where it does not now exist or where it is of substandard quality.

2. Provide a pattern for the establishment of efficient library service units on a regional or county basis. This is of special interest to Pennsylvania since so many of the existing library service units are small and inadequate to fulfill the needs of their users.

3. Stimulate library service generally throughout the State.

4. Strengthen the leadership and advisory role of the State library agency which will be responsible for carrying out the provisions of the library services bill in Pennsylvania.

5. Through all of the above, increase the overall opportunities of Pennsylvanians to achieve continuous self-education beyond the years of formal schooling and encourage the children and youth of school age to expand their horizons and increase their understanding of today's world through the use of books and other library materials.

Since Pennsylvania has a rural population of 3,084,045 persons as defined by the library services bill, this State has a substantial stake in the library services bill. A possible total of \$342,620 in Federal funds, and \$384,667 from State and local funds in the first year under the provisions of the bill would provide an opportunity to plan and carry out a program to accomplish the five objectives listed above and give impetus and direction to a renewed effort at State and local level to raise Pennsylvania from its present low level of library service to its people.

Legislation now exists that will permit the government of Pennsylvania to receive and administer the library services bill money in accordance with a professionally directed plan, and the Pennsylvania Library Association stands ready to assist in the formulation and efficient execution of such a plan.

Though Pennsylvania has a large rural population, and though library service in this State has lagged behind national standards, the State is a wealthy one which can well afford to support the services that will be initiated or strengthened under the plan for utilization of Federal and State funds deriving from the library services bill, and there is every reason to believe that after the period covered by the bill is ended, the local communities will carry on and support the services which the bill has made possible.

These considerations impel us to urge the enactment of the library services bill, S. 205, into law.

VERMILLION, S. DAK.,
 May 21, 1956.

JAMES E. MURRAY,
 Chairman, Education Subcommittee,
 Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
 United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed is a statement which I have prepared in behalf of the library services bill, S. 205. In it I have tried to present the value of the library services bill to the people of South Dakota. Will you please make this statement part of the record of the Senate hearings on the bill?

Yours truly,

LUCILE F. VICKERS,
 President, South Dakota Library Association.

STATEMENT ON LIBRARY CONDITIONS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

In the United States as a whole 63 percent of the total population over 30 years of age has more than an eighth-grade education. In the State of South Dakota only 49 percent of the people over 30 years of age has more than an eighth-grade education.

South Dakota is a State, therefore, in which adult education is a great need. Less than half of its people have received sufficient formal education to cope with the problems of economics, politics, invention, and science which today's adult must understand and solve. The life expectancy of these intellectually handicapped adults is 30 more years. For that length of time, therefore, the population of the State will include a core of 183,000 uneducated adults whose opinions and votes may sway the progress or lack of progress in the State.

Adult education could leaven this core. But what has South Dakota to offer in the way of adult education? If its public libraries, usually considered the community center of adult education, are considered the source, only one State in the Union has less to offer than South Dakota. Of its people, 53 percent, or 345,490 people, are without library service. Of the 87 libraries which serve 47 percent of South Dakota's people, all of 30 percent, almost one-third, are open only 2 days a week. These libraries spend no more than 56 cents per capita for library service. No more than three of them have budgets equal to the minimum amount set by the American Library Association as necessary for adequate library service. Half of them spent less than \$250 for books in 1954. The South Dakota Free Library Commission, on which all citizens without local library service depend for books, could purchase only 1 book for every 125 persons in the State in 1954.

What could the library services bill do to remedy the library situation in a State faced with such a terrific remedial problem?

First, it could, by setting up machinery for a demonstration center, show the people of the State, who have little conception of adequate libraries what adequate library service is.

Second, it could provide supplementary funds to meet the minimum budgets, as outlined by standards of the American Library Association.

Third, it could provide the means and machinery for carrying library service to 53 percent of the population denied library service at the present moment.

Fourth, it could provide the means by which counties which have reached their levy limitations would be able to provide better library service without exceeding those limitations, or demanding a higher tax limitation.

These are the material things the library services bill might accomplish for the State. What things of the mind and spirit might it accomplish? To enumerate them is impossible, because there are no limits to the boundaries of the mind and spirit fired by the power which lies in a printed page. South Dakota has produced a Foss and a Lawrence, whose services to the United States and its people are many and great. No one State, limited by its location and natural resources, should therefore also be limited in its human resources. Rather these should be given a greater opportunity, because other blessings have been denied to them. The library services bill could help the people of the State of South Dakota to achieve these opportunities.

TENNESSEE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Knorrville, Tenn., May 21, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee, Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: On behalf of the members of the Tennessee Library Association, I want to urge your favorable consideration of the library services bill, S. 205.

The features of the bill which we especially like are these: (1) it is limited to a 5-year period; (2) responsibility for planning and administration is in the hands of the State library agency in each State with a minimum of Federal control; (3) it is designed to help the rural areas where help is most needed.

Many people in Tennessee do not want Federal aid to libraries as a permanent grant and are even more opposed to Federal control of their libraries. But we think that Federal funds used for a limited time to stimulate local interest and awareness can perform a service which we have not been able to do for ourselves.

Since Tennessee already has in operation a program for providing public library service to all its rural people, the State is in a position to make maximum use of all available Federal funds. Although the State's regional library plan is sound and the program has made amazing progress during the last 10 years, service is extremely thin because of inadequate funds. In the 68 rural counties which have joined the regional library program, library expenditures amount to only 24 cents per capita, including both State and local funds, as compared with a minimum of \$1.50 per capita recommended by the American Library Association. With such limited funds it is clear that our rural people cannot have good library service. Use of Federal funds will mean an opportunity for them to find out what better library service can do for them.

There are 23 rural counties in Tennessee which have not joined the regional library program. Eight of these operate small public libraries with inadequate local funds, while 15 counties have no public library service of any kind. Right now a campaign is going on in two of the latter group for the appropriation of funds to establish a county library and join the regional library program.

But it is often difficult for people who have never had the opportunity of using a public library to understand its advantages. Many people do not miss what they have never had. In such situations funds made available by the library services bill could be used to operate a public library for a limited time on a trial basis. The people of the county could then have some basis for making a decision for or against using their local funds to pay for public library service.

We believe that the library services bill can make a substantial contribution to the development of public libraries for our rural people in Tennessee and throughout the Nation.

Sincerely yours,

BERNARD L. FOY, *President.*

STATEMENT OF MRS. MARGARET J. HOYAL, PRESIDENT, TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Library service in Texas is unevenly distributed, because of the great variation in wealth among different sections of the State. Parts of the State are becoming heavily industrialized, and where this is taking place the need for libraries as sources of information has been felt. Once the citizens have realized the importance of libraries, they have done something about establishing them, or improving those which already existed.

But those of us who have worked with Texas libraries for many years know that there are large areas of the State where there is no library service at all; the latest figures show 26 percent of the State's population without any library facilities. We also know that there are many libraries in small towns and counties which are completely inadequate, and which need leadership from some source to show them how to improve their book collections and their service to their areas.

Another figure on Texas library service which is even more startling is the record of only 26 cents per capita spent by local communities for library service; this places Texas next to the bottom of the list of States in amount spent for local library service. The per capita for the whole State is so low because one-fourth of the population have no libraries, and the respectable amount spent by the better libraries of the States is made to appear quite small divided by the total population.

Texas is wealthy in natural resources and income, and there are many localities, chiefly rural areas, where a library could be maintained with an adequate budget, if there were some sort of leadership to start the movement and give it impetus. The situation in these areas is that the citizens have never seen a public library, do not know what it is or what it can do for them in the way of education, recreation, and enrichment of their lives. We see no way to plant the seed of the library movement in such areas except by showing the people by demonstration libraries just what they have been missing, and how valuable a public library is in a community.

We believe that the money allocated to this State by the Library Services bill would furnish the needed impetus to bring about the establishment of libraries where they do not exist in Texas, and to improve other libraries which are at present inadequate.

VERMONT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Middlebury College, May 21, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee of the
Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: As president of the Vermont Library Association, I am delighted with the House passage of the Library Services bill and am writing to ask that this letter to you be made part of the record of the hearing on the Senate bill (S. 205). The passage of this bill would enable our State, through its State library commission, to organize and demonstrate types of service which should be provided by modern library programs, and to initiate a more permanent and effective service for the 51 towns, with a population totaling 27,000, still without local library service, and receiving only the minimum of service from the State system. Such Federal aid would make it possible to demonstrate to libraries the numerous advantages of closer cooperation and the benefits, both financial and material, to be derived from the fullest operation of the State's larger units of service.

In order to make the fullest and best use of Federal aid, the establishment of some new programs and the strengthening of some old ones would seem to be feasible. These might include enlarging of the present regional program with special attention to those sections of the State now lacking local service; demonstration of the advantages of cooperation between towns; more intensive and extensive service to children through local libraries and small rural schools; well-organized adult-education programs geared especially to very small villages, and strengthening of the programs of larger ones; a continuing statewide program covering books and book facilities of the State through regular use of radio, television, etc.; intensive series of workshops or in-service training programs for libraries, trustees, and book custodians.

Although local communities in Vermont are rightfully proud of their public libraries and what they stand for, there can be no denying the fact that there is still a decided lack of local service. Stimulation in the form of financial and material aid is needed to protect the service which now exists and to extend its services to meet increased present-day demands. Various important factors in library service on a statewide basis have had to be neglected in the past, due to insufficient funds.

In Senator Hill's words: "Rural America lives in a rapidly changing and extremely complex world. As responsible citizens, our rural people must have the same opportunity as their city friends to keep abreast of the rapidly changing developments in the Nation and the world." In a State which is predominantly rural in character, such equality is of the utmost importance.

For these reasons, I sincerely urge your wholehearted support of this very vital legislation.

Yours very truly,

(Mrs.) MARGARET L. FAYER, *President.*

VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Charlottesville, Va., May 21, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: As president of the Virginia Library Association, I would like to urge the passage of the library services bill, S. 205, and ask that the attached statement be made a part of the hearings.

Cordially yours,

(Miss) ROY LAND, *President.*

LIBRARY SERVICES BILL, S. 205

With 66 counties in Virginia without public library service, it seems obvious that we need additional funds and outside stimulation. Virginia will spend the money wisely as it can use its public library demonstration plan which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1952. Two counties now have established county libraries as a result of State library demonstration. These are Prince William and Washington Counties.

With the amount of money appropriated in 1956 the State library can put on one demonstration each year. With the money provided in the library services bill it could put on from 1 to 3 more demonstrations each year.

A demonstration library in Virginia is a model public library set up for a county, or two or more small counties joined in a region. It is financed for a stated period by the sponsoring agency at the rate of a dollar per capita with the hope that the local community will appropriate sufficient funds for expenditures at the end of the experimental period. Each demonstration is under the supervision of the State library board of trustees.

WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
La Crosse, Wis., May 22, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman of Education Subcommittee, Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. MURRAY: The Wisconsin Library Association is deeply concerned about adequate and extended library service for all Wisconsin citizens. The news that the House of Representatives passed the library services bill was cause for great rejoicing. The responsibility now lies with the Senate to make it possible for all people of our Nation to have an opportunity to continue their educational pursuits through books and other library materials, so necessary today for daily living, and of paramount importance in a democracy. A statement of what this library services bill (S. 205) will do for the people of Wisconsin is enclosed.

May I ask that this statement be made a part of the record of the hearing on the library services bill (S. 205).

Your personal interest is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

GERTRUDE R. THUROW, *President.*

WHAT THE FEDERAL LIBRARY SERVICES BILL WOULD MEAN TO WISCONSIN

The population of Wisconsin having no library service (20 percent of the total) is rural. The percentage of the State's population listed as inadequately served (another 30 percent, approximately) resides principally in communities of less than 8,000 people so that actually 50 percent of Wisconsin's population which needs help in establishing or improving its library services is rural within the definition of the library services bill.

The problem in establishing service for the unserved population, or improving service in inadequately served areas, has two aspects. One of these is the initial expense involved in bringing groups of libraries or small municipalities into a mutually beneficial larger library organization. The other is the considerable expense involved in setting up adequate stocks of books, and library materials, and the original cost of bookmobiles.

On a number of occasions in the recent past counties or other like sizable areas have been interested in organizing rural service or improving present inade-

quate services. When the problem they face has been gone into in detail, the consideration, which has proved the greatest obstacle in getting official approval and appropriations for library service, has been the large cost necessary to get started.

The Wisconsin Free Library Commission and the Wisconsin Library Association jointly have developed long-range plans for the improvement and extension of public library service for all Wisconsin residents. These plans are in harmony with the provisions and purposes of the Federal library services bill. The passage of this bill would enable the many areas in Wisconsin now unserved or inadequately served to initiate their library service on a firmer basis than would otherwise be possible. In the past, these newly established services have been struggling along for a number of years at a substandard level until they were gradually able to be built up with collections and services which they need, or they died aborning.

Some of these struggling library organizations have not reached any recognized standards. We feel that by spending the Federal money allotted to our State to help counties or regions established or improve their library services, these areas in turn would be able to bring them up to recognized standard which they in the future would be willing and able to maintain. We have observed that when a library's patrons have once experienced adequate, modern public library service they are ready to give it the kind of support which it needs to keep it going. The use of the Federal funds to establish library service at this adequate level or to improve existing library service would give the residents of the areas so benefited up-to-date, adequate library service. We are confident that they would then be ready to continue supporting it at the financial and organizational level required to keep it adequate.

It is difficult to predict with accuracy what will be accomplished with the Federal funds, but on the basis of past experience we feel certain that if the library service bill passes and the appropriations become available for the following 5 years, at the end of such time we would have:

1. A number of new countywide library systems which would serve large blocks of rural and small-town citizens through local library branches and stations and one or more bookmobiles.
2. One or more regional library systems wherein two or more neighboring counties have joined together in an adequate system of public library service for all of the residents of the region in the same way in which county libraries would serve their patrons.
3. One or more experimental federations of libraries. Such special organizations are tailor-made to fit areas in which local conditions provide obstacles to the organization of the simpler county or regional system.

Although it might appear to be highly improbable that within a 5-year period the Federal library services bill will provide the impetus for bringing adequate library service to the entire unserved population of Wisconsin, it seems to us that we would be able to make long strides in this direction during the 5-year period, and it does seem highly probable that with the assistance of Federal funds we would be able to benefit a majority of the 50 percent of Wisconsin population which is now inadequately served or not served at all.

The great benefit which the Federal library services bill would do for Wisconsin would be to speed up the rate of development of adequate library service, and the Wisconsin Library Association feels confident that once this movement for better libraries attains the impetus which the Federal library services bill would give it, the Wisconsin Free Library Commission and the Wisconsin Library Association working together can keep library development going at the new rate so that within not too great a span of time our entire State would be fully and adequately served by modern, well-equipped public library systems.

These are the principle reasons why the Wisconsin Library Association urges the Congress to approve the Federal library services bill and to appropriate funds for its implementation during this session of the Congress. With its aid Wisconsin will be brought much nearer that goal of a living library for the entire State toward which we have been striving for 65 years.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING,
Laramie, Wyo., May 16, 1956.

HON. LISTER HILL,

*Senator from Alabama, Chairman, Senate Labor and Public Welfare
Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR HILL: The mountain-plains regions of the United States have a few large cities on the east borders, in what is known as the humid area, and up against the mountains to the east and west of the Rockies. In between, and over most of the level areas, are great stretches of farmland, both irrigated and dry-farming, which have so far not been reached by adequate library service.

You have been told the exact totals of rural people in the United States who are not reached by library service, so these facts need not be repeated. But I should like to comment on the rural peoples of the Northern Great Plains and the intermountain area which is covered by the membership in the Mountain-Plains Library Association.

In not part of the United States are the distances greater between farms and the trading centers, and it is even farther to adequate library service. Yet the rural dwellers of this whole region are not unlike people everywhere—they need books in order to have the information they need to be good citizens whether they are dealing with local, State, national, or international problems. They already read, but it is largely of agricultural bulletins, their newspapers, and some magazines. None of these sources give them the wider background, or the fullness of coverage, that they need as good citizens.

Blessed with a capacity for handling their own farming business, since in most of the region at least 90 percent of the farms are classed as "commercial," they are also intelligent and capable of a better understanding of things which lie beyond the horizon of their own experience, but the sources of information are not available to them.

What they need is a demonstration of what library service can do for them. Hard-headed and practical, they are not interested in stories of successful rural library practices in other States where conditions are so different. They want to see for themselves, in some area that they recognize as typical of their own, what library service can mean to rural people. So far there are no such examples that they can turn to, or that can be brought to their attention.

It is for that reason that the Mountain-Plains Library Association has repeatedly over the years gone on record as favoring the library services bill because it would make it possible for demonstrations to be set up in each of the various States where the rural people could see for themselves how effective library service can be. Once there are such demonstrations it will be much easier for other localities to make their own plans for developing an adequate library service.

It would be appreciated if this letter which represents the view of librarians in the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, which make up the Mountain-Plains Library Association territory, could be placed in the record of the hearings on the library services bill.

Sincerely,

N. ORWIN RUSH,
President, Mountain-Plains Library Association.

STATEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

STATEMENT OF SENATOR J. W. FULBRIGHT, OF ARKANSAS

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate being given this opportunity to make a statement in support of the library services bill, which is designed to promote the further development of public library service in rural areas. I have requested that my name be added as a cosponsor of the bill, S. 205, which was introduced by Senator Lister Hill, the distinguished chairman of this committee, and I wish to assure the entire committee at this time that I support wholeheartedly the objectives of the bill.

In reading the testimony of some of the witnesses who appeared before the subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives when this bill was being considered, I was impressed by some of the facts presented, and should like to call some of them to the attention of this committee. The hearings revealed that about 27 million persons in this country are without access to local public libraries of any kind, and 90 percent of this group live in rural areas. In addition, about 53 million other persons have

available only inadequate library services. These figures reflect that over half the people of the United States, the majority of them in rural areas, do not have access to adequate public library facilities. These figures mean that in a period when we are appropriating vast sums of money—billions of dollars—for national defense and foreign military and economic aid in an attempt to preserve and promote our way of life, we have neglected to provide over half the people of this country with the basic implements of education which would enable them to develop into informed and enlightened citizens. This is, in my opinion, regrettable, and I think the library services bill, providing Federal aid to the States on a matching basis for a 5-year period, is a measure which is long overdue. It is designed to stimulate the States to greater efforts in providing adequate library facilities for their rural people.

The bill has been approved by the House of Representatives, and similar measures have passed the Senate in previous Congresses. I most strongly urge the distinguished members of this committee to take favorable action on this bill.

STATEMENT OF NATIONAL FARMERS UNION SUPPORTING S. 205, LIBRARY SERVICES BILL

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the library services bill to extend library facilities to rural areas without such service or with inadequate services is fully supported by the National Farmers Union. Our interest in this piece of legislation is patent in that we represent many of the rural areas which will be helped directly by this bill. However, we support this bill, believing it is not only in the interest of those living in rural areas, but in the interest of the Nation as a whole.

It is imperative today that farm families have as much opportunity as urban dwellers to use modern information facilities. But the facts show that they do not. In North Dakota, for instance, 59.1 percent of the total population is any sort of local library service. There are only 13 States in the entire Nation in which there is less than 10 percent of the population without local libraries. This measure of our quantitative lack of library facilities is shocking enough. But, when we consider that included in these services statistics is every sort of inadequate, old-fashioned, and obsolete library imaginable, the need for Federal aid to insure equal opportunity for all our people, regardless of where they live, becomes more urgent.

There are only three States in the Union which provide per capita expenditures of the level recommended by the American Library Association to meet maximum standards. The significance is that many States and local areas have limited funds with which to extend library service to rural areas. When money is available, it is spent in highly populated localities and rural people get no library service facilities at all.

The overwhelming majority of counties which lack an adequate library service are in rural areas. Rural districts traditionally suffer from the lack of educational facilities in general. Rural areas, because of the sparse population and inadequate funds from taxation, are unable to provide libraries necessary for their culture, social and economic development. The library services bill is urgently needed if a solution to this problem is to be found.

Part of the oldest American tradition has been our belief that everyone should have the opportunity to participate fully in our society. Out of this concept has come our greatest strength. But the times are changing and today we are living in a vastly more complex world, where interest and ambition alone are not enough in order to succeed as citizens or as a nation. It is more important than ever that all our people have access to a maze of information not only on technical subjects, but also on social changes, foreign developments, historical trends, political and economic conditions.

The chance to learn has always been of greatest importance to us and wherever Americans have settled they have built schools so that their children might be educated. But today it is more necessary than it has ever been to recognize that we must extend the means of continuing to learn to our adult population.

The average American both in the city and on the farm today has the prospect of a longer and more productive life due to scientific advances of the past and the present. However, the average American also faces a more difficult situation than did his fathers. The education that is obtained during a man's first 20 years must be constantly adapted today if we are to have an informed public.

Countries such as Korea or Indochina, phrases such as radioactive fallout, and even the term "automation," looms large in all of our lives. Improved communication via the press, radio, and television brings news of these events into our lives. But in the interest of our Nation as a whole we must not fail to provide opportunities for people, whether they live in the city or the country, to explore further and to evaluate what they hear or read upon the basis of wider knowledge.

We feel that development of rural libraries is necessary for the technical progress of the country. We feel, also that it is even more necessary for social and economic development. Understanding of our social and economic system generally lags far behind technical development. Such understanding is absolutely necessary if we are to maintain our democratic society.

National Farmers Union favors provisions of the bill under which each State is to work out a rural library service program tailored to fit its particular needs. We think it is important that selection of books, material, and personnel be left to people within the respective States who are most familiar with local problems and needs in the educational sphere.

We hope that the Senate will be able to act promptly on S. 205, so that the library service program can finally be put into action.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE,
Washington, D. C., May 22, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,

Chairman, Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: Passage of H. R. 2840 by the House of Representatives was a very important accomplishment in the eyes of the Grange members. We sincerely hope that the Senate will also pass the library services bill, S. 205, this session of Congress, in order that this very important bill can become law soon, and also to insure that this very important program will not languish further in the committees of the Congress.

We are very encouraged to hear that hearings are set on S.205 on May 23. In order to expedite action on the bill we are not requesting time to be heard. We would, however, greatly appreciate your including this letter in the record of hearings on the bill.

At the last annual session of the National Grange the following statement was adopted:

"We urge the extension of public library facilities to rural people. We approve the principles of the present bill and endorse the proposal to limit such Federal aid to a 5-year period. We feel that bookmobiles are one of the most practical means of such library extension."

As you may know, the National Grange has 7,200 subordinate granges and each of these have set aside in their bimonthly meetings an hour for the lecturer's program. These programs may deal with cultural matters, domestic and world affairs, local problems such as schools, or farming. Adequate library service is quite essential to our lecturer's program, but, of course, the library services program has even wider significance than this. Many individuals would, through a good library-service program, be able to advance their own professional or vocational know-how, would become better informed citizens, and would have an opportunity to share in the cultural amenities of our American society.

The library services bill was very carefully considered by the Education and Health Committee of the National Grange, and also by the delegate body of the National Grange when the statement came to the floor for final action. We hope that your committee will not only give this bill its approval, but also that you will use your influence to get this bill voted on by the Senate at the earliest possible time, and before this Congress adjourns.

Respectfully yours,

LLOYD C. HALVORSON,
Economist.

STATEMENT OF WM. G. CARR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Education Association is a voluntary organization of 650,000 members of the teaching profession. Affiliated with it are 66 State education associations and 5,542 local education associations. The policy of the association is set forth in its platform and resolutions which, in turn, are subject to review and change by the annual representative assembly of 5,000 delegates elected from the State and local associations.

The 1955 NEA Representative Assembly meeting in Chicago unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Rural Library Service.—The National Education Association believes that farm and other rural families should have the same access as urban dwellers to books, newspapers, magazines, audiovisual materials, and other sources of information which our well-developed city library systems now provide. The Association believes that a strong public library system is a vitally necessary adjunct to the operation of our public schools, especially in our rural areas.

"The association urges the adoption for Federal legislation to provide grants-in-aid to the States for the development of rural library services. Funds for this purpose should be channeled through the United States Office of Education to State agencies responsible for public library services and should be apportioned among the States on an objective basis."

The subcommittee has before it S. 205, introduced by the distinguished chairman of the full Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, Senator Lister Hill. The NEA is pleased to note that Senators from both political parties have joined Senator Hill as cosponsors of the bill. Thus, S. 205, as should be the case with all soundly conceived educational legislation, has bipartisan support.

The subcommittee also has before it H. R. 2840 which was recently passed by the House by a substantial voice vote. Although the bills differ in detail, the basic provisions are alike. Both bills authorize a \$7.5 million program of Federal grants to the States over the next 5 years to encourage them to develop and extend public library services in rural areas. Funds will be allocated to the States on the basis of an objective formula. Administration at the Federal level will be through the United States Office of Education, but the State agency responsible for public library services will administer the program at the State level. Both bills provide for matching of Federal funds so that the States and localities will be stimulated over the next 5 years to provide adequate financing for their rural public libraries.

The free public school and the free public library have grown up side by side in the United States. They stand together as symbols of our determination that the accidents of geographical location or economic circumstances shall not impede an individual American's opportunity to make his way in the world. There are many sections of the United States where this ideal of equality of educational opportunity has been but imperfectly realized, both in terms of public-school facilities and public-library facilities. The National Education Association is hopeful that in the 2d session of the 84th Congress action will be taken on both the library services bill and a school construction bill. It is not a question of priorities; good schools and good libraries are both essential to the development of a responsible and productive citizenry.

The association accordingly urges the subcommittee to report promptly a library services bill embodying the best features of S. 205 and the bill already passed by the House (H. R. 2840).

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN,
Washington, D. C., March 30, 1956.

Senator LISTER HILL,
Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
United States Capitol Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR HILL: For many years the American Association of University Women has supported legislation to authorize Federal funds for the extension of library services. To that end, the association testified in favor of the library services bills on May 27, 1955, when the House Committee on Education and Labor was considering the bills.

The AAUW has a membership of over 135,000 college-trained women and is organized into more than 1,300 branches located in all 48 States, Alaska, Hawaii,

Guam, and the District of Columbia. The association has an active study program in the field of education which is the basis for the association's support of the library services bills now being considered by this committee. Guided by local study groups throughout the United States, the biennial convention at its most recent meeting in Los Angeles in June 1955, adopted the following legislative item:

"Support of measures to * * * promote the development of Library Services."

Our members work in communities at the grassroots level, many of them in the very fringe areas around urban centers and in or near the rural areas where no library services exist. Many local leaders report that it is exceedingly difficult to arouse interest sufficient to obtain local financial support to establish a library in the very areas where the need is the greatest. The reluctance of many rural communities to support local libraries often stems from their lack of understanding of the value of a library. Experience shows that after communities become accustomed to library services they are quick to continue them by local financing. We believe that a demonstration of such a service in every one of the 404 counties in this country now without any library services whatever would provide the impetus needed to bring to rural areas educational services now for the most part available only to citizens in centers of population.

Dissatisfied with the progress they are able to make on their own to establish libraries where they are needed most, the members of AAUW are actively supporting the passage of the library services bills. To this end, members of the Kansas division of AAUW have written a skit on the community library which describes the services a library can give, relates the need for housing and finance, and then explains the provisions of the bills and how Federal funds will establish and stimulate the library services in rural areas. AAUW has printed this script and made it available nationally.

As chairmen of the AAUW education and legislative committees we earnestly urge favorable committee action on the library services bills, and speedy Senate approval of these bills which will bring a new concept and appreciation of education to many rural areas of the United States.

Sincerely,

KATE HEVNER MUELLER,
Education Committee Chairman.
MRS. JAMES W. KIDENEY,
Legislative Program Committee Chairman.

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS,
New York, N. Y., April 19, 1956.

HON. LISTER HILL,
Chairman, Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
The Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR HILL: The Council of National Library Associations, as the accompanying list of its members indicates, represents broadly the thinking of the library profession.

At its annual meeting on April 14 last, attention was given to the progress of the library-services bills, H. R. 2840 and S. 205. The representatives who took part in the discussion cited the following three points about the bill as vitally important to library service in the United States:

1. The 5-year terminal provision of the grant to insure its use for stimulation of continuing programs.
2. The fact that it aims to give library service to the 27 million citizens of the United States who do not now have any service.
3. The fact that programs will be continued by States and localities.

On behalf of the council, I urge you to support the passage of this much-needed grant.

Yours respectively,

ELIZABETH FERGUSON, *Chairman.*

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., May 22, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Subcommittee of Senate Committee
 on Labor and Public Welfare,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.:*

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, with its 10 million memberships in 40,000 local parent-teacher associations, support S. 205, the library-services bill. We are convinced that a very real need exists for increased library services in the rural communities and rural schools throughout the Nation. The provisions of this bill which limit the Federal aid to a 5-year period, insure minimum Federal and maximum local control and provide variable matching grants should go far toward providing urgently needed library facilities for the estimated 27 million people now without easy access to any library. It is for the children that we plead especially. We believe that they should have the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures and privileges of reading facilities. In that way they become acquainted with the rich cultural and educational heritage of our country. We urge you and the members of your committee to report this bill favorably as soon as possible so that the full committee and the whole Senate may act on it without delay.

Mrs. CLIFFORD N. JENKINS,
*National Chairman of Legislation of the National Congress of Parents
 and Teachers.*

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF S. 205 BY BRENDAN SEXTON, EDUCATION DIRECTOR,
 UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AIRCRAFT, AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF
 AMERICA

The UAW joins in support of the purposes of S. 205, the library-services bill, which measure is designed to bring public library service to rural areas where such services are either nonexistent or very poor, inferior to those available in urban areas. Passage will mean that the educational opportunities of these rural communities can be greatly improved. It is extremely important that all people everywhere have easy access to books and other library materials which are necessities for an informed people, trained, experienced, and able to shop wisely in the free market place of ideas.

The provisions of this bill leave to the States the decisions as to the development of a plan for extension of library services, the areas of the State where library service needs developing or where it needs improving. It also leaves to the State the selection of books, library materials, and personnel.

We note that the bill is limited to a 5-year period. We understand that it is hoped that Federal aid and stimulation will foster greater interest and support of public library service by States and local communities. Projects commenced under the library-services bill would then be carried on by the States and localities after Federal assistance is terminated. This hope is supported by experience. Reading is habit forming, and intelligent evaluation of what is read develops with practice and the growth of knowledge.

Rural people are as eager for good libraries and cultural facilities as are city people. Once they are given an opportunity to make use of adequate library services, they will look ahead to keep them growing and make provision for their support.

The UAW hopes that the library-services bill, S. 205, will be favorably reported by the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee and will be passed by the Senate at an early date.

ALABAMA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES,
 Montgomery, Ala., May 21, 1956.

In re S. 205, library services bill.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Education,
 Committee on Labor and Public Welfare,
 United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: I believe that you hold hearings later this week on the above-captioned bill. In connection with the hearings, I write you on behalf of the local communities of Alabama to endorse the principles and objectives of the bill.

Experience in municipal administration over the past 21 years has led me to the solid conviction that adequate library service is a prerequisite to any community and especially to any good industrial community. The building of industrial plants in many of the smaller towns of Alabama raises the urgent necessity of the extension of public library service into hitherto neglected rural areas and the improvement of such library service as is already present.

Only 20 of Alabama's 270 functioning municipalities fall outside the definition of rural as given in this bill. Of the 250 other municipalities, over half have a population of less than 1,000 and are rural-industrial communities in most instances. One of the State's newest industries, for example, is locating in a town of 1,137 population in a county that is struggling to develop countywide library service. Many like communities are working hard to maintain public libraries, either on their own or in cooperation with county and regional library systems. All serve people who live outside the corporate limits of the town. One town library in particular estimates its library service area at 20,000 population—over twice the town's population. Such libraries find their resources and their State aid stretched to the utmost to meet the increasing demands for this service.

In this period of increasing industrialization and urbanization, the provisions of the library services bill would be of incalculable value to citizens of Alabama. The State and local governments are studying their revenues and expenditures in order to provide better government and living standards. Means will be found to do most of this within the State, but in the meantime the demands on library services far outrun the resources. Funds made available under this bill would help our public libraries over this hump, and I am confident that at the end of the 5-year period of the bill's operation these libraries would be in a position to carry on their increased services probably without Federal aid.

It is well for Alabama's economy that industry is decentralizing and coming to the smaller communities. But to give lasting benefits to our State, such industrialization must be accompanied by facilities which offer the people the opportunity to become better informed and more literate. Among other things, better municipal government will depend on such persons.

The educational process does not end with formal schooling and the public library is the core of continuing education for anyone seeking it. There is a direct relationship between the amount of education that an individual has secured and his earning power. I know of no better investment that our Government can make on behalf of its citizens than to encourage and stimulate the development of better public library service in our rural, rural-industrial, and small municipal areas.

I sincerely urge the passage of this bill, which will unquestionably strengthen and extend our State's existing library service to the 892,501 citizens now without library service and the million others with inadequate service.

With sincere good wishes to you and your committee, I am

Cordially yours,

ED E. REID, *Executive Director.*

ROCHESTER, N. Y., May 22, 1956.

Hon. LISTER HILL,
Senate Committee:

At annual meeting this board representing more than 600 public libraries and 14 million potential library users of New York State resolved to urge your immediate action to expedite favorable report on S. 205, library services bill out of Hill committee and early floor approval this session. We also commend and congratulate you for your interest and support to help strengthen nationwide public library service as cornerstone of American democracy.

J. FRANK TRAYNOR,
President, Library Trustees Foundation of New York State.

STATEMENT OF DR. KATE HEVNER MUELLER, CHAIRMAN, EDUCATION COMMITTEE, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, AND MRS. JAMES W. KIDENEY, CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM COMMITTEE, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

The American Association of University Women earnestly urges the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee to report favorably S. 205 to authorize

Federal funds for the extension of library services. For many years our organization has supported the library services bills, and to that end testified in favor of H. R. 2840 on May 27, 1955, when the House Committee on Education and Labor was considering the measure. We were extremely gratified when the House passed the bill on May 8, 1956.

The AAUW has a membership of over 135,000 college-trained women and is organized into more than 1,300 branches located in all 48 States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the District of Columbia. The association has an active study program in the field of education which is the basis for the association's support of the library services bills now being considered by this committee. Guided by local study groups throughout the United States, the biennial convention at its most recent meeting in Los Angeles in June 1955, adopted the following legislative item: "Support of measures to * * * promote the development of library services."

Our members work in communities at the grassroots level, many of them in the very fringe areas around urban centers and in or near the rural areas where no library services exist. Many local leaders report that it is exceedingly difficult to arouse interest sufficient to obtain local financial support to establish a library in the very areas where the need is the greatest. The reluctance of many rural communities to support local libraries often stems from their lack of understanding of the value of a library. Experience shows that our communities become accustomed to library services they are quick to continue them by local financing. We believe that a demonstration of such a service in every one of the 404 counties in this country now without any library services whatever would provide the impetus needed to bring to rural areas educational services now for the most part available only to citizens in centers of population.

Dissatisfied with the progress they are able to make on their own to establish libraries where they are needed most, the members of AAUW are actively supporting the passage of the library services bills. As chairmen of the AAUW education and legislative committees we earnestly urge favorable committee action on the library services bills, and speedy Senate approval of these bills which will bring a new concept and appreciation of education to many rural areas of the **United States.**

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS,
New York, N. Y., May 22, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
The United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: It is my understanding the library services bill, S. 205, is scheduled for hearings on Wednesday, May 23, before the Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee.

The Council of National Library Associations, composed of 15 national groups, met on April 16, 1956. At that meeting the representatives of the member organizations unanimously passed a resolution expressing the support of the Council of National Library Associations for the library services bill.

At this time I wish to transmit to you this report of that action. Our organization is heartily in accord with the purposes motivating the introduction of the library services bill and with the provisions which it makes for the expansion of library services in this country. It is my hope that this statement may be made a part of the records of the hearings.

Sincerely yours,

EDWIN B. COLBURN, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

AMERICAN HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D. C., May 22, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: As president of the American Home Economics Association and on behalf of the members, we request that you and the members of your Education Subcommittee give favorable consideration to and report out the library services bill, S. 205.

Our association's 24,000 members are all college-trained home economists. Our program of work provides opportunities for professional home economists and other association members in related fields to cooperate in the attainment of well-being of individuals and families and the improvement of homes, and in the preservation of values significant to home life. We are interested in all families—those who live in smaller rural areas as well as those who live in the larger urban areas. Our work brings us into close relationship with families since we help them use the latest information in the areas of family relations and child development, of food and nutrition, textiles, housing, family economics, and household equipment.

Many of our home economists, especially the home demonstration agents and specialists of the cooperative Extension Service, devote their time to disseminating the findings of the latest research and in aiding families and individuals to attain a better home and family life. They are concerned with the cultural needs as well as the practical needs of families living in rural areas, which, of course, includes library services.

Our association's legislative program commits our members to the support of legislation which provides for extended library services to areas not now covered. We therefore commend the plan for bringing public library service to the almost 27 million people in the United States who are now without it. In the development of programs for effective family living adequate public service is important. Such services provide opportunities for continuous programs of education.

We like the provisions of the library services bill which allow each State to devise its own plans for the further extension of library services to rural areas. We like the definite nature of its provisions which outline the functions of the Federal and State Governments. We believe that the formula by which funds are allocated under the bill is equitable and practical. We know that adult education programs have increased the economic status of farm families, have contributed to the enrichment of family life, and have provided for participation in activities at the community level. Library facilities would supplement and complement the educational opportunities of rural areas and no doubt provide lasting benefit to this part of our population too long neglected.

Again we urge that the committee favorably consider this legislation and report it to the full committee within a short length of time.

Please include this statement in the record of the hearings of the subcommittee.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE T. DENNIS, *President.*

STATEMENT OF WALLACE J. CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE, COOPERATIVE LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Cooperative League wishes to take this opportunity to express its whole-hearted endorsement of the library services bill, S. 205, which is now before your committee.

The Cooperative League is a national federation of consumer, supply, and service cooperatives. Its affiliated member organizations include in their membership approximately 13 million different families who own cooperative businesses of various kinds through which they obtain farm supplies, insurance, consumer goods, electric power, savings and credit, health services, housing, and other needs. These people are providing the solution to their own economic problem and supplying their own economic needs without relying upon the Government or any other outside agencies.

The Cooperative League is very much encouraged that the House of Representatives has already passed the library services bill with no crippling amendments and that action on the part of the Senate could launch a comprehensive rural library program this year.

It is of deep concern to us that almost 27 million people in the United States are without access to local libraries. More than 400 counties in the United States do not have any single public library within their borders.

As is true with many other services which are essential to the welfare of the people, the rural areas tend to be the last served because thinly settled areas are more expensive to serve than the cities and other populated centers. For that reason the farm family is the last to secure many essential services.

In an era of crisis it is equally important to develop and maintain our human resources as it is to build production resources and physical plant. It is particularly important to develop these human resources from which a more than proportionate share of our future citizens will come.

The bill before you can provide access to libraries to those people at a cost which is measured at a few cents per capita.

The library services bill, by its very nature, is one designed to stimulate local interest and local activity in the development of rural libraries. The funds provided in this bill, \$7.5 million per year for 5 years, are to be matched by the States. Allocation of Federal funds to each State is according to the percentage of the rural population of that State compared to the percentage of rural population in the Nation as a whole. Each State is to match the contributions from the Federal fund on a formula which puts the local contribution on the basis of the per capita income in the State compared to the per capita income nationally.

The general principle under which the library services bill would operate is one which is a long-standing American tradition. We have used similar legislation to help States solve their own problems in vocational education, highway construction, agricultural extension, and the control of disease. Now that most of the farm homes have rural electrification, brought to them largely through cooperatives, borrowing funds and technical assistance from the Government, it is now particularly advantageous to make library service available to these families so that the farm boy and girl who have a measure of leisure time can use it for education and culture, and the farmer and the farmer's wife can have access to books for their own continuing education.

The Cooperative League is happy to give this measure its full support.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Sedalia, Mo., May 21, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. MURRAY: You come from a State that needs rural library development and is cognizant of it in that a new extension librarian has been employed. But all 48 States need rural library development in some way. The library extension section of the American Library Association urges your support of the library services bill, S. 205, in order that more may be done to provide this very important educational opportunity for more areas providing they are willing to help themselves with matching funds.

My library is a new one; just 2 years old. It was established by a demonstration from our State library. Then a tax was voted by the people. Some persons decided to get rid of the library (and the tax) by the end of this first year. A revolt carried the proposal 2 to 1. I believe this would be true many other places and if demonstrations can be set up for a limited time they will be given the same sort of support. But they must be given an opportunity to understand what a library can do for them.

Approximately 80 million people are with inadequate or no library service. Schools provide inadequate book collections; adults do not have access to the information, education, and recreational reading they need. I wish you could see the changes in reading ability, widening of interests, and the real enjoyment our boys and girls get out of the books, films, filmstrips, phonograph records, and periodicals in Boonslick Library. If you could multiply it by the number of places the bill would provide library service you might have some idea of the value of this bill.

Library extension members all over the United States join me in requesting your support of the library services bill, S. 205. May this be made a part of the record of the hearings for this bill?

Sincerely yours,

VERNA NISTENDIRK,
*President, Library Extension Section,
Public Libraries Division.*

STATEMENT OF ELI M. OBOLER, POCATELLO, IDAHO, PRESIDENT, PACIFIC NORTHWEST
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Pacific Northwest Library Association includes four States: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Within these States are included the widest disparities of library service imaginable. The two States with somewhat better library service, Washington and Oregon, are still far from being able to serve their people with the kind of library service which they need and should have for the betterment of the educational levels of their people. Washington

has over 10 percent of its population not served in any way by public libraries, a fifth of its 121 public libraries with yearly budgets of under \$500, and 82 with incomes of under \$10,000. Oregon has 16 of its 36 counties spending less than 50 cents per capita for library service. Over 300,000 Oregonians have no local public library service at all.

Viewing the library picture in Idaho and Montana gives even more justification for hope that the library services bill will be approved by the United States Senate. Idaho, 12th largest State, finds its 600,000 people with only 75 public libraries, practically all in urban areas. The five-sixths of Idaho's population which lives in communities of under 10,000 people would get inestimable benefits from the carrying out of the terms of the library services bill. Montana, like Idaho, has a highly scattered population, in great part rural, which is now not being given anything like adequate library service.

Recently the Pacific Northwest Library Association was granted a \$60,000 fund by the Ford Foundation which will enable us, for the first time, to have a complete and coordinated presentation of the library situation of the Pacific Northwest. The survey goes into operation July 1, and will be completed within 2 years. If the library services bill is passed by this Congress, the Pacific Northwest will be in a position to use the funds granted under this bill to the best possible advantage, since there will be a complete picture of the library situation available which will permit each State to think in terms not only of its own area, but in terms of the region, when carrying out the terms of the bill.

Once again, may I earnestly request that due consideration be given to the urban needs of the book-hungry people of the Pacific Northwest. Here where population pressures are just beginning to develop and where the educational and cultural needs of the people could be well served by good library services, we need the kind of help that the library services bill could give us.

LAKE CITY, FLA., May 11, 1956.

HON. GEORGE SMATHERS,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR SMATHERS: Several years ago, I was active in my home State, Florida, as a librarian. My work in school, public, and university libraries at that time was augmented by my experiences as an officer in the Florida Education Association and the Florida Library Association. We are temporarily located here due to my husband's assignment by the United States Air Force, but our permanent address and voting registration remain in our home State.

Because of my firsthand knowledge of library facilities in Florida, I feel compelled to write you concerning H. R. 2840, which passed the House of Representatives on May 8. In my opinion the library services bill would provide needed impetus to public library development in Florida.

It is not necessary to explain to a person so well educated as yourself the educational and recreational opportunities offered by libraries. However, you will probably agree with me that an aggressive library program in a community supplements the public school programs by providing continuity, the fountain-head for the thirsty who want to know more. The library offers services to pre-school-age children, adult groups and our expanding retired age people who are not in the formal education groups. Services to industry and vocations make for economic advancement.

Florida's deficiency in the number of libraries is magnified by her rapid growth in population which the State continues to have. Our public library service is very inadequate. In many portions of the State it is nonexistent. With an excellent School of Library Training and Service at Florida State University to train librarians, the greatest need is to establish more libraries and expand facilities of those now in existence.

The amount of Federal funds required by bill H. R. 2840 is a small investment which will net large dividends for a better informed citizenry of the future.

Sincerely,

MARJORIE P. WRIGHT.

GLEN ELLYN, ILL., *May 23, 1956.*

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee,
 United States Senate:*

The Catholic Library Association respectfully request your committee to see fit to approve library services bill, S. 205.

REV. VINCENT MALLON,
Executive Secretary.

NEW HAVEN STATE TEACHER'S COLLEGE,
New Haven, Conn., May 21, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman of the Education Subcommittee,
 Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
 United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: The Connecticut Library Association representing 738 librarians would appreciate your including the following statement in the testimony on the library service bill, S. 205.

Passage of the library services bill would help correct existing inequalities in library services in rural areas throughout the United States. Rural citizens are even more dependent on libraries for books and information than are those in urban areas who have access to more sources of information. In Connecticut, passage of the bill would help 8 rural towns without any library service and 114 towns with inadequate library service. The Connecticut Library Association urgently requests a favorable report on Senate bill 205.

Sincerely yours,

ALICE B. THOMPSON,
Federal Coordinator for the Connecticut Library Association.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 22, 1956.*

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee,
 Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.:*

We should like to go on record as favoring library services bill, S. 205, scheduled for hearings Wednesday morning, May 23. Complete lack of needed library service in some rural areas and the utterly inadequate service in others has been a matter of serious and continuing concern of the division of libraries for children and young people. The need for an informed citizenry in a democracy is basic. Availability of public libraries is an important means of attaining it. The provisions of this bill will make it possible to demonstrate effective library service and will be a significant step forward in the achievement of minimum standards for all.

MAXINE LABOUNTY,
*President, Division of Libraries for Children and Young People,
 American Library Association.*

GREAT FALLS, MONT., *May 22, 1956.*

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee,
 Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee:*

Urge early and favorable action in behalf of S. 205.

Mrs. ALMA S. JACOBS,
Librarian, Great Falls.

"OPERATION LIBRARY,"
West Memphis, Ark., May 21, 1956.

HON. LISTER HILL,
United States Senate,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR HILL: It is my understanding that the library services bill will be scheduled for hearings before the Education Subcommittee this week.

Of course you are familiar with the progress we are making here in Arkansas with the project of the junior chamber of commerce called Operation Library. A merit citation was awarded the State Jaycees early this month for initiating this project. The award was presented by Arkansas' Gov. Orval M. Faubus.

We have found that it is exceedingly difficult to extend library service in those counties where no facilities exist at present due to the educational angle. They simply do not realize the advantages that adequate library facilities afford each individual.

Will you kindly point out to the subcommittee during the hearings that this situation exists, and can be remedied by the practical approach offered by the library services bill? And that this is not a guess, but a result of practical experience of a lay group working without compensation to assist in the extension of library facilities?

Our national project proposal will be presented to the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce for adoption in July. If the library bill is passed by that time it will be an added incentive for the Jaycees to spearhead an additional movement to create maximum community support.

Sincerely yours,

CECIL EDMONDS,
National Director, Arkansas Jaycees.

ANTIOCH COLLEGE,
Yellow Springs, Ohio, May 21, 1956.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Education Subcommittee of the
Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: For a number of reasons I am impelled to send you a statement about the library services bill.

Our public library system is an integral part of American education; as a resource for both practical and liberal learning, it puts a floor under many of our most important educational enterprises. In a system of equal opportunity it is important that all our citizens, those living in rural communities and small towns as well as elsewhere, have good access to the materials of knowledge and better understanding. The problems facing us today are no smaller on the farm or in the village than they are in the metropolis. The number of counties without library service or with inadequate service indicates that we have not taken this fact into account.

Education is a lifelong process. It continues beyond grade school, beyond high school, and beyond college. This process is sometimes called adult education. But although there are many adult education programs throughout the country, not many appear in rural areas. To operate most effectively, such programs depend upon materials available chiefly through public library service. It can be said in part that in rural areas where citizens are accustomed to using their own initiative and self-help, public library service is or may become in itself an effective form of adult education. Where the opportunity for such self-education is not available, we should see that it is made possible through a more widespread and adequate library service.

The library services bill offers not Federal control but an incentive for States and local communities to improve their educational resources. Ohio is often accounted a comparatively rich State, primarily industrial. Yet 85 percent of its total area is in farm land. We have a number of excellent county and metropolitan public libraries, and we have a fine State library. Yet 44 counties, exactly half of those in the State, have an income for library services of less than \$1 per capita, and of these, 15 have less than 50 cents per capita. A study by the American Library Association shows that minimum public library service requires \$1.50 per capita income.

The library services bill rightly puts the burden of effort to improve and extend library services on the State library agency and the local communities.

Librarians assure me that the bill would make possible more books, an increased personnel, possibly regional or multicounty libraries—all resulting in much broader and more adequate rural service.

I respectfully urge your support of the library services bill.

Sincerely yours,

SAMUEL B. GOULD, *President.*

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Cincinnati, Ohio, May 22, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman of the Education Subcommittee of the
Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: I am informed that S. 205, the library services bill, is scheduled for hearings Wednesday morning, May 23, before the Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee.

Since I will not be present for the hearings but am anxious to have my statement made a part of the records of the hearings I am enclosing it along with this request for its inclusion.

Your personal support of this piece of legislation will be appreciated by public librarians and rural residents throughout our Nation.

Sincerely yours,

MILDRED W. SANDOE,
President, Public Libraries Division, American Library Association.

STATEMENT OF MILDRED W. SANDOE

The public libraries division of the American Library Association, an organization numbering some 6,000 of the public library workers of the country, wishes to emphasize its interest in and its hope for passage of Senate bill 205.

I, its president, am at present associated with a large city and county library system, the public library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, but it has been only a few years since I was at work as the field representative of the Ohio State Library. I know therefore, at first hand something about the 27 million people in the United States who are without access to local public library service, for some of them live in Ohio. In fact only since last October have the 50-odd-thousand residents of Clermont County, the county to the east of ours, had public-library service of any shape, form, or description. Even now, one small book-mobile is striving to be all things to those people, the information source for the small-business man and the farmer, the source of nontext book information for the teachers and pupils of the county, and an introduction to the best in literature for all the children and adults of the county. And those 50,000 knowledge and inspiration-starved people are lapping up the service offered them.

Nor is this the only county in Ohio where library service is almost nonexistent. In county after county, too little money is available with which to build an adequate public-service institution. In fact, in county after county, per capita support for library service runs 11 cents, 25 cents, 48 cents, 31 cents, 36 cents, etc., when it has been determined that support of at least \$1.50 per capita is required to render "minimum" public library service.

If the 27 million bookless, filmless, library-less people in this country of ours are to be given the basic educational advantages that are the inate right of all our citizens, a stimulating fund such as is being proposed must start and demonstrate what a little money spent wisely can do toward making accessible the sources of information upon which sound judgments and wise actions must be based.

Once before, the Federal Government gave such services a shot in the arm. States which used WPA assistance wisely expanded library service into new areas and greatly improved existing facilities. As a result of this demonstration, new local and State support was voted or granted to continue or further expand the services begun. If S. 205 is passed, I am confident that before 5 years have passed, local and State governments will be voting more money to serve more people—and our citizens of the future will, as a result, be wiser and better men and women.

The public libraries division of the American Library Association asks for passage of Senate bill 205.

ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL,
Washington 5, D. C., May 21, 1956.

Hon. JAMES E. MURRAY,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: I write about the library services bill, S. 205, scheduled for Senate hearings Wednesday, May 23. Miss Hamilton, the executive secretary of the Association for Childhood Education International, has made the following statement supporting this bill:

"We believe that children grow, learn, change, and develop each in his own way and that public libraries are vital in the kind of environment which will promote the optimum growth of children. We believe that experiences are basic to the learnings of children and that materials accessible to and properly used by them contribute to their living and learning. Public libraries through the services they render to children can provide many of the experiences which are important to the satisfactory development of children."

I should like to request for her that it be made a part of the record of the hearings. Thank you.

Sincerely,

RUTH JEFFERSON, *Associate Secretary.*

LAWRENCE, KANS., May 21, 1956.

JAMES E. MURRAY
Chairman, Education Subcommittee, Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee; Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.:

Association College and Reference Libraries, national professional organization representing 5,000 American academic librarians, respectfully urges favorable consideration of library services bill.

The youngsters coming into colleges and universities from communities with adequate modern library service are better able to take full advantage of their college education.

Extension of this library opportunity to young people in rural areas important to American program equal educational opportunity for all. Library services bill well designed for this purpose.

ROBERT VOSPER,
President, ACRL, Care the University of Kansas Library.

GLENVIEW, KY., May 22, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building:*

I hope very much that you and the members of your committee will report out favorably library services bill S. 205. The bill is of tremendous moment to all of us in Kentucky and in other States with large rural populations who have been working for the extension of library services to the very great numbers of people who do not now have them.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. BARRY BINGHAM.

FAIRPLAY, COLO., January 25, 1956.

Senator GORDON ALLOTT,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: It has been brought to my attention that the bill S. 205, concerning financial aid to libraries may be in danger of being overlooked as unimportant. For the first time in well over 50 years of my life, I am writing to a Senator. I am advised that letters like this are actually read, and the recipient is impressed by a long list of cogent arguments. Hmm. If you don't know what a measure of this sort can mean in Colorado, especially for those of us who live in the less densely populated sections, you are lamentably unacquainted with local people. Even among the ranchers, there are not a few who are interested in other matters besides the price of beef. And we will be watching the course of this bill in Congress.

Very truly yours,

JOHN HERTEL.

DENVER, COLO., February 1, 1956.

HON. GORDON ALLOTT,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR ALLOTT: As foreman of the paint department at Quick-Way Truck Shovel here in Denver, I have recently become very conscious of the remarkably low level of educational standing of the young men coming into Denver from our Colorado farm areas. I have several on my crew and they are bright enough, even pretty good painters, but our new production control system which requires the filling out of cards on every job just plain throws them. I have other painters from rural areas in Nebraska and Iowa and they absorbed it quickly.

Naturally, this puts the Coloradans at a tremendous disadvantage when future advancement comes up. Nor is this an isolated instance; industry everywhere is requiring brains where once we just asked for brawn. In the discussion of this problem with friends I learned that there is a bill now in committee that is designed to improve the library facilities in our rural counties. Better libraries may not be an education in themselves, but from my own experience I would say that they are an essential part.

The bill is the library services bill, S. 205. In the House it is H. R. 2840. If these bills will in any way help the young Coloradans be better fitted to hold their own in modern industry, please do what you can to see that they are favorably reported out as soon as possible.

With my best wishes,

JIM W. JUDD.

MEMORANDUM RE MONTANA'S LIBRARIES AND THE LIBRARY SERVICES BILL (S. 205),
 SUBMITTED BY VIRGINIA WALTON, PRESIDENT, MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
 ASSOCIATION

Montana's public libraries represent a tradition of book service from the earliest days of the Territory; but their support has been all too often a "making do" on the part of librarians and a general feeling that a library should be considered an object of charity, that is, one supported by a minimum of tax funds and/or local contributions from clubs and individuals.

Midway in this decade we find that of Montana's estimated 650,000 population 466,569 people are being served by a public library, that is 72 percent of the total population, with a total expenditure of some \$513,000, or \$1.09 per capita served. Actually this should be broken down to tell the full story, for mill levies vary from 3.50 for Great Falls, serving a population of 50,000, to 0.25 for Powder River Public and Broadus, serving 517 people. Of all the State's 56 counties, each having the possibility of a permissive maximum of 2 mills' expenditure for county library service, only one for the fiscal year ending June 1955 had availed itself of that opportunity to provide really effective service by levying the full 2 mills. That was Lincoln County in the northwest part of the State.

The American Library Association in 1948 set up standards for public-library support (these standards are now considered outmoded and inadequate): \$1.50 per capita as minimum, \$2.25-\$2.50 as basic, and \$3 as superior. Actually in Montana only 3 libraries have, against this measuring stick, basic support, the \$2.25-\$2.50 per capita recommended; nine libraries only have minimum support, that is, \$1.50 as recommended by these same standards; and four-fifths or 48 of the libraries of the State have below-minimum per capita appropriations.

Sparsely settled areas and small population actually make well organized and effective library service of paramount importance. But thus far the State has lagged dismally in bringing library standards up to be comparable with those that make Montana a leader in the educational field. No doubt much of this lag is due to the fact that librarians' salaries have been so pitifully low that only untrained people could be secured to man these posts, with a subsequent lack of program and vision that should come with trained librarians, well versed in the techniques and philosophies of their profession.

Montana is a great distance from any prospect of State aid, and a program of library demonstrations as provided by the Federal library services bill (S. 205) would give the impetus to taxpayers and legislators to see the essential role of a really effective library. Where population is so sparse and scattered, the larger unit of library service, the multicounty unit, is an economic necessity. (Of the 24 counties reporting library services as of 1955, tax support ranged from 0.25 to 2 mills, but many of these counties have such low taxable valuations that

they alone cannot support good library service.) It is the hope that the Federal library services bill will bring to Montana demonstration of the practicality of the larger units of library services, with several counties pooling resources and developing a reasonable and workable plan for cooperation for the greatest good, which after all is everyone's individual good.

The impetus thus gained from seeing real library service in action through such demonstrations would then spark the State into assuming its own tax responsibility, so that instead of having vast rural areas with either poor library service or no service at all, we would see the way to really effective and economical library service through multicounty units and practice what we had been shown through this demonstration program. The 183,000 people in Montana without any kind of library service have a right to books; and the better than half of the other 72 percent who today have services far less than adequate deserve book service that is significant. The Federal library services bill will show us the way.

STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY SENATOR BIBLE TO THE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE HEARINGS ON THE LIBRARY SERVICES LEGISLATION

Mr. Chairman and members of the Education Subcommittee, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to submit a statement in support of the library services legislation now pending before you.

I cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of this legislation to Nevada. Many small communities of my State are hundreds of miles apart. Only a few of these communities have libraries, and these are handicapped by lack of funds to buy books or to employ trained librarians. With few exceptions, Nevada towns and counties have populations and assessed valuations too small to support modern libraries.

Even if this were not the case, it would not be feasible for our small communities to build up and maintain libraries sufficiently diversified in their offerings to meet the standards a modern library should have. It would seem that the bookmobile is the answer to many problems and especially those which may be peculiar to Nevada.

The Nevada Library Association has advised me that a comprehensive plan has been developed for library extension in the State. This plan consists of the accumulation of a large central collection of books and materials which will be available to all the citizens, the direct service by bookmobiles to the small communities, and the services to the small communities of library specialists to work with and advise the local librarians.

So far, I have emphasized my State's interest in and need for this legislation. I realize that the whole picture is much broader than that. There are hundreds of communities all over this Nation without adequate library service, which is such a vital part of our educational processes, and an important function in our political and social development. Hampered by limited local appropriations and absence of trained librarians, the library services offered by small communities are restricted to a minimum—if, indeed, they exist at all.

The 5-year Federal assistance to the States, as contemplated in the pending legislation, will, I am certain, provide the stimulus needed to obtain active State and local support for free library services. I know that the people of Nevada, once the benefits and practicability of such services are demonstrated by 5 years of Federal assistance, will not willingly see the program abandoned but, on the contrary, will work toward continuing it through State and local appropriations.

Mr. Chairman, it is my hope that your subcommittee can see its way clear to approving this legislation.

STATEMENT OF GILBERT W. CHAPMAN, REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL BOOK COMMITTEE, INC., RELATING TO S. 205, THE LIBRARY SERVICES BILL

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Gilbert W. Chapman. I am a resident of New York City and am president of the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co. I am also serving as chairman of the National Book Committee. On behalf of that committee I am very happy to accept your invitation to present a statement with respect to the library services bill (S. 205) now being considered by your committee.

First I should like to say a word about the National Book Committee itself. It is an organization of less than 100 members, drawn from many professions and industries, who are united in their concern for the wider and freer availability of books and for their more effective use. Only a few of the members, as authors, librarians, or publishers, have any professional responsibility for books; our concern is rather that of citizens deeply convinced that one of the major needs of our country is the opportunity for every American to dig out the answers to questions that bother him, to continue his education after he leaves school by reading on his own, and to find in his reading not only the factual information he needs but the broadening of horizons and the inspiration that are so needed today. To illustrate the range of interests represented by the committee, I should like to give the names of just a few of those from various segments of business or the professions who have been willing to come together and devote their efforts to finding ways to enlarge the usefulness of books to the American people: Thomas K. Finletter, New York attorney and former Secretary of the Air Force; Frank Altschul, chairman of the board of the General American Investors Co., Inc.; Detlev W. Bronk, president of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Ward Cheney, president of Cheney Bros.; Marchette Chute, author; Gardner Cowles, publisher of Look Magazine; Judge Learned Hand; Paul G. Hoffman, chairman of the board of the Studebaker Corp.; James R. Killian, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Meyer Kestnbaum, Hart, Schaffner & Marx; David E. Lillenthal, former Chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission; Stanley Marcus, president of Neiman-Marcus in Dallas; Whitelaw Reid, New York Herald Tribune; Walter Reuther, president of the CIO; and Lessing J. Rosenwald, former chairman of the board, Sears, Roebuck & Co.

It is easy for many Americans to take the ready availability of books for granted. Members of your committee, for example, have at their fingertips the resources of the world's greatest library. The day has now come when the majority of Americans live in cities or large towns, most of which are reasonably well provided with both libraries and bookstores. It comes as something of a shock to realize how completely inaccessible books are for tens of millions of persons in our country. Nearly 30 million people have no libraries and no bookstores. For many, many millions of others, in rural areas and small towns and villages, the library service available is entirely inadequate to even minimal needs. It is hard to realize what figures so vast mean in concrete terms. One way to visualize their meaning is to think of any recent book on public affairs or other important matters which has influenced your own thinking and which you believe everyone should have a chance to read if he is interested. Perhaps it is a book by President Eisenhower or Governor Stevenson or Secretary Dulles or Ambassador Bowles. Perhaps it is a book on the Communist question or on foreign policy or taxes or labor relations. But whatever book you think of, the odds are that in well over half the counties of this country there will be not one single copy available in any library or any bookstore or any school or any home. Nearly half of all the people in the country will have no real chance either to borrow it or buy it or even see a copy.

It is also hard to believe that millions of children are still growing up in this country who rarely have a chance to see a book except the ones they use in school, but it is true.

The people who suffer this sort of privation are, of course, those who live in rural and small-town areas that have been unable to support their own separate libraries. We have a very simple belief about this. We believe that people who live on farms or in villages or small towns have the same right of free access to the knowledge, inspiration, and ideas in books as people who live in cities. We believe that a child who grows up in the remotest hamlet in our country has a right to share the heritage of our past and the wonders of stories and poems and science equally with a child in New York or Washington or Chicago. The techniques exist today to give that equal access to all. Through bookmobiles and library extension services we know how to bring books to every corner of the country. If the means can be found to let people who have never had this opportunity experience it just once and see what it can mean to them and especially to their children, I believe we need have no worry about local funds being found to carry on.

It seems to us that the bill now before you is admirably designed to produce just that stimulus. Aid is given only to the rural areas that need it. Every State must contribute its fair share to the cost of the projects it proposes. Planning and supervision of the program in each State is left entirely to the officials

and people of the State without Federal interest. The term of aid is specifically limited to a 5-year period, so that what we get is a stimulus to local action, not a permanent Federal program. And, finally, the cost for each American is less than a pack of gum a year.

We believe that this is basically important legislation not only to the rural areas it will benefit directly but to the whole country.

It is an essential investment in our future, which will be shaped for good or ill by the intelligence and information of all our citizens. I believe this not only as chairman of the National Book Committee, but also as president of a major industrial corporation which employs people from all over the country, which sells to people in every county, and which is fundamentally affected by acts of governments—Federal, State, and local—chosen by all our people and reflecting their views and wishes. No group in the country has a profounder stake in the broadest availability of library services as a means of public information and enlightenment than have the major business and industrial interests.

The release of atomic energy has suddenly offered us the choice between destruction and salvation for many, if not all, of the world's people. The atom bomb, the hydrogen bomb, the cobalt bomb, each increasing the fear of total destruction, are constantly in the news. Yet we all know this new power points to the potential liberation of mankind—if only the atom can be reserved for peaceful use.

The engineers and technicians have brought automation into being, with the possibility of man's freedom from back-breaking labor. Even the human brain is aided by the new science of electronic calculation. Out of all this, humanity may anticipate a vast increase in leisure, with ample goods and services to make that leisure worthwhile.

In the last 2 decades, man's knowledge of the forces of nature has increased faster than during the previous 500,000 years of his existence. Our task, as always, is to know how to use what is known. In the maze of atoms, isotopes, and electrons in which we find ourselves, the problem cannot be the concern of a limited group of people. It must be the concern of every one of our leaders, our citizenry, our specialists alike. We are in that position of which Thomas Huxley, speaking to the American people in 1876, said: "The condition of success, your sole safeguard, is the moral worth and intellectual clearness of the individual citizen."

Huxley, speaking more than 75 years ago, could not have foreseen the shape of things today, but his warning was prophetic. The American people must develop the enlightenment and moral strength to be able to bridge the gap between the vast field of knowledge and our own limited comprehension of it.

Leadership in the United States comes from the people. Thus the great public must contain a sufficient number of individuals, well-educated and of such strong moral and intellectual clarity as not only to be able to discern these qualities in the leaders it elects but to support and guide their political and economic thinking.

It is now an important requirement of our Nation that its citizens have a broad knowledge of the world, its people, their habits, their cultures, and their way of life. It is just as important for the man in the street to absorb his share of this knowledge as it is for his political, religious, and industrial leaders.

No one can minimize the almost overwhelming crisis in which mankind finds itself. On every side we are faced with difficult decisions. We must all be aware, without panic, what our problems are. We must have knowledge and we must have faith that a better way of life is attainable. In books we can find that knowledge and that faith.

An informed people is a free people. By depriving any of the people of access to information, we endanger by that much the freedom of all of us. The adoption of the library services bill by this session of the Congress will help guard our strength and our freedom.

THE CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
May 23, 1956.

HON. LISTER HILL,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: Although the Catholic Library Association has no immediate contacts as an association with the public library system of the United States, the Catholic Library Association has long realized the importance to a strong

democracy of a system of public libraries adequate to the needs of all the people, even in the rural areas. Consequently, inasmuch as the library services bill (S. 205) is scheduled for consideration by the Senate, after having passed by the House, the Catholic Library Association would like to inform you of a resolution adopted unanimously April 6, 1956, by the delegates to its silver jubilee conference held in Boston:

"Whereas approximately 27 million Americans are without local public library service; and

"Whereas the library services bill before Congress seeks to promote the further extension and development of public library service to the rural areas of our country which presently are without such services or have only inadequate services; and

"Whereas the library services bill requests aid limited to rural areas amounting to \$7,500,000 in Federal funds annually for a period of only 5 years, giving the States complete jurisdiction over developing their own State plans for the use of the funds in this cause; Be it

Resolved, That the Catholic Library Association heartily endorse the passage of the same library services bill, and recommend that a copy of this same resolution be forwarded immediately to the sponsors of this bill."

The Catholic Library Association respectfully requests that you vote in favor of library services bill (S. 205).

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Vincent T. Mallon, M. M.

(Typed) (Rev.) VINCENT T. MALLON, M. M.,
Executive Secretary.

MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
May 25, 1956.

Senator JAMES E. MURRAY,
*Chairman, Education Subcommittee,
Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: The Maryland Library Association desires to go on record as unanimously in favor of library services bill (S. 205). A motion to this effect was passed at the annual meeting of the 400 members of the association on April 27, 1956.

With 9 of the 24 counties of Maryland without public library service and with some of the other counties inadequately served, the effect of the passage and implementation of this bill on the development of public library service in the free State of Maryland is incalculable. It is doubtful if the Senate has had presented to it a bill which will do so much for so many for so little.

Respectfully yours,

GEORGE B. MORELAND,
President, Maryland Library Association.

STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE WASHINGTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, KENNEWICK,
WASH.

The Washington Library Association is interested in the library services bill because it would be such an impetus toward the accomplishment of the primary goal of the association, which is to make good library service available to all citizens of the State of Washington.

Since 1940 we have been working on a plan for library development within the State, popularly known as the Bauerman plan, which divides the State into large areas of service, each of which has at least a \$100,000 probable income at 2 mills of the assessed evaluation. In 12 regions there had been established at that time rural library services. There are still many areas without rural service, areas which have services in only part of the counties encompassed by the region, and quite a few small-town libraries which have not yet joined the larger service areas.

The State of Washington has established a library-development fund as a part of the State library budget, which can be used for the establishment of new regional libraries, and integration grants to districts with which small towns

may contract for service. Only \$50,000 was granted by the State for this biennium, but the association expects to request at least \$350,000 for the next biennium.

If the library services bill is passed, it would mean that this money could be used as matching funds, and would be sufficient to establish more than one district unit each year for 5 years, which could then be continued on the local tax basis.

At present there are 243,702 people in our State without public library service of any kind. In addition to this 10 percent without any library service, an additional 40 percent do not have standard service, but only small collections of donated books, with volunteer services, or extremely small and inadequate book collections. In other words, 50 percent of the people in Washington have none or inadequate library service. The Library Services Act would promote standard library service for all. It would allow demonstrations in areas without service, or with inadequate service, which would create citizen interest for continued support within the community.

It is our understanding that the maximum for which the State of Washington could qualify under the library services bill would be \$125,964 each year for 5 years, provided the State of Washington appropriated \$154,267 per year as matching funds. The Washington Library Association will strive to get these matching funds in order to assure the rapid development of good library service in the State.

(Whereupon, at 11:50 a. m., the committee adjourned.)

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(W. H.)

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