

# Not Day Dreaming

The White House Conference on Libraries and Informational Services produced many recommendations which if implemented will be of great benefit to librarians and library users in North Carolina. The concept of "Freedom of access to all library material and information" was accepted by the vast majority of the delegates even with the recognized problems of implementation. One of the goals of the Freedom of Access resolution is to remove the artificial barriers placed by governments and library authorities on the restrictive use of materials. The public is unwilling and rapidly becoming unable to finance unnecessary duplication. Opening collections purchased with public funds but previously restricted in use will create resources for library users which will begin to deal with one of the N.C. Governors Conference recommendations: "Ensure that basic library and information services are adequate to meet the needs of all local communities."

Careful planning and securing funds essential to support the procedures developed to open collections will be a challenge to librarians and citizens. N.C.L.A. has a leadership role in working toward realization of freedom of access in North Carolina by working within the profession to broaden concepts of service to all constituents and to present workable plans to State and local governments.

Several resolutions were passed supporting the development of network and resource sharing. This concept was in topic VIII of the North Carolina Conference: Plan, develop and implement a nationwide network of library and information service. The National Network resolution is based upon the premise that all materials and information will be available to borrowers through "resource sharing." It also carries with it the request that services as well as resources will be accessible.

North Carolina is fortunate in having begun steps to introduce networking through the Triangle Universities; the North Carolina Math and Science High School in Durham, and the State Library grants to public libraries for compatible automation Networking is especially significant in our state that is primarily rural and must depend upon resources outside the community to satisfy many needs.

The increasing complexity and specialization of information demands mandates that all resources be used by the maximum constituency to justify the accelerating costs.

The proliferation of libraries with their "base collections" is an unnecessary expenditure for duplication which will eventually be corrected with the realization of networking and freedom of access. Meanwhile we each struggle with overwhelming book famines and minimal professionally trained staff. Our meager resources are used to duplicate thereby insuring the continuation of an ill-informed citizenry possessing limited reading skills. Funding bodies will eventually become aware that there seems no end to the need for additional funds for materials and skilled staff, each serving a segment of the community with overlapping demands. Through networking we can bring about more

judicious use of funds through cooperative acquisitions for broader constituencies. The days of restriction on collection use must disappear as has the old "SILENCE" sign.

The ear of the appropriating official will be more keenly attuned to our needs if we can show prudent use of trained personnel and library materials.

I commend the North Carolina delegation for supporting two important concepts, "Freedom of Access" and "National Network-Resource Sharing" which have real implication for improved library service in North Carolina. It is now up to NCLA and each of us to insure that successful implementation in North Carolina becomes a reality and not merely so much day dreaming.

*H. William O'Shea, President, NCLA, 1979-81*

## Louis Round Wilson

1876 - 1979

Three weeks short of 103 years, Louis Round Wilson died December 10, 1979. Memorial services were held at University United Methodist Church, Chapel Hill, on December 16.

Wilson received the first Ph.D. awarded at the University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill in 1905. He served as University Librarian 31 years (1901-1932) and director of the School of Library Science, 1931-32, for which he was founder. He built two library buildings at Chapel Hill, founded University Extension and UNC Press, was first editor of *The Alumni Review*, and historian of the early 20th century years of the university.

Outside Chapel Hill, Wilson was a founder of the North Carolina Library Association (1904), was first chairman of the North Carolina Library Commission (1909-16), a founder and President of the Southeastern Library Association.

In 1932 Wilson became dean, Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, and for the next decade provided an influence on librarianship which continues to be felt through the impact of students trained at all levels of library education. His intellectual products have tended to have a major role in molding the library world for five decades. Wilson returned to Chapel Hill in 1942 and taught part time until 1959 at the school he established.

Louis Round Wilson became a legend in his own time. Edward G. Holley states that Wilson "had few peers and no superiors."

Librarians in North Carolina and the nation will continue to be influenced by the legacy of Wilsonian librarianship.