

## A COMMISSION STUDIES LIBRARIES

by

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The Legislative Commission To Study Library Support, created by the 1967 General Assembly, has scheduled a series of public hearings during the spring for the purpose of hearing the views of local officials, librarians, and other interested individuals on the question of how public libraries should be financed.

Members of the Commission are State Senators Mary Faye Brumby of Murphy and Hector MacLean of Lumberton, Representatives Charles W. Phillips of Greensboro and Thomas E. Strickland of Goldsboro, and Chairman David Stick of Kitty Hawk.

Hearings have already been held in the following cities: Greensboro, February 23, Representative Phillips in charge of local arrangements; Elizabeth City, March 15, Chairman Stick in charge of arrangements; and Goldsboro, April 5, Representative Strickland in charge of arrangements. Two additional hearings are scheduled as follows: Lumberton, April 26, Senator MacLean in charge of arrangements; and Asheville, May 17, Senator Brumby in charge of arrangements.

These hearings will begin at 2 p.m. and will include the showing of a special film on modern library service entitled "The Fifth Freedom" prior to the open discussion on library support.

The Commission is charged with the responsibility "to study the pattern of financing public library services in North Carolina and to determine the sources of this support and the limitations placed upon them by the bases of revenue and the legal restrictions on levying taxes for library support." The Commission is also responsible "for reporting its findings, identifying possible additional sources of public library support, and making recommendations for more equitable and adequate financing of public libraries to the General Assembly of 1969."

Since its organizational meeting early in December, 1967, the Commission has met regularly, and has initiated studies in a number of areas affecting the financing of public libraries. Members have received the active support of the State Library and the Institute of Government.

A special advisory committee, which has already met with the Commission, is composed of State Treasurer Edwin Gill representing the N.C. Local Government Commission; Mrs. Davetta Steed, N.C. League of Municipalities; Mr. John Morrissey, Sr., N.C. Association of County Commissioners; Mr. Samuel Poole, President, N.C. Association of Library Trustees; Dr. Mark Lindsey, Chairman, State Library Board; Mr. J. Allen Adams, Chairman, Executive Committee, North Carolinians For Better Libraries; Mr. Philip Ogilvie, State Librarian; and Representative Donald Stanford, co-chairman of the Joint Library Committee of the 1967 N.C. General Assembly.

Because of time limitations, the availability of the 1965 *Downs Report* on "Library Resources in North Carolina", and the nature of public library organization in North Carolina, Commission members are undertaking the study themselves instead of employing outside consultants. By holding the five public hearings in different parts of the state the Commission will be able to sample sentiment on the question of library financing in all

100 counties, and will then combine this information with extensive additional data now being assembled before preparing its final report. With the assistance of the State Librarian information on how library financing is handled in each of the other states is also being secured.

The Commission hopes to complete its study and begin preparing its report by late summer of 1968.

Commenting on the work of the Commission, Chairman Stick declared: "The methods of financing public libraries in North Carolina have evolved through the years on a piecemeal basis. It is our hope that the work of this Commission can result in the formulation of an understandable and practical plan whereby all echelons of government — state, federal, and local — would assume their proportionate share of financing a system of libraries which in time would provide all North Carolinians with first class public library facilities and services."

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## NORTH STATE NEWS BRIEFS

### COLLEGE LIBRARIES RECEIVE GRANTS

Eight academic libraries in North Carolina have been awarded grants of funds and/or equipment by the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of A.L.A., during the 1967-68 academic year. The Grants Committee of ACRL selected 90 libraries as grant recipients from 405 applications submitted by 366 institutions.

Major support for the grants was furnished by U.S. Steel Foundation. Other contributors were McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, Olin Mathieson Charitable Trust, Time Incorporated, and H. W. Wilson Foundation. The major portion of funds were allocated for the purchase of books and periodicals to support the improvement of library collections. Special attention was given to the needs of "emerging" institutions in the southern states. Several grants were made as contributions toward consultants' fees; these ranged in amount from \$500-1,000.

Tar Heel libraries which received grants were as follows: Atlantic Christian College, Wilson; Belmont Abbey College, Belmont; Catawba College, Salisbury; Elon College, Elon College; Greensboro College, Greensboro; High Point College, High Point; Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte; and Meredith College, Raleigh.

### BOMAR ELECTED TO COUNCIL OFFICE

Miss Cora Paul Bomar, state supervisor of school library services and president of Southeastern Library Association during the current biennium, was recently elected first vice-president of the North Carolina Legislative Council.

At its annual meeting in December, 1967, the Council voted to accept the recommendation of its Study Committee that the following issues be endorsed during the 1969 session of the General Assembly which convenes in January: licensing of day care facilities for children, abolition of the death penalty, and a truth-in-lending bill.

Membership on the Legislative Council is held by approximately 25 educational, religious, health, and social welfare organizations in the state, including the North Carolina