

PUBLIC LIBRARIES LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Development Committee of the Public Library Section of NCLA, has been working for two years on policies and plans for improved library service in North Carolina public libraries. The Committee has summarized the report of its work and has scheduled meetings with Boards of Trustees of libraries throughout the state to discuss the report with them. After these discussions the Committee will revise its report to incorporate suggestions from the Boards.

One of the paragraphs from the report reads as follows: "Improvement of library service is dependent on several factors. Neither books, library buildings, nor bookmobiles alone provide library service. The most important factor of all is personnel."

The Brief presented to the Advisory Budget Commission in August by the Library Commission stressed the fact that professional librarians are needed in this state to supply the minimum of two librarians for each 45,000 population area. The additional State Aid funds requested for the next biennium will be used to help libraries meet their critical need for professional librarians.

The request to the 1953 Legislature is based on the work of the Development Committee which has studied carefully and thoroughly the needs of public libraries. It has found that the coverage achieved through State Aid supplements since 1941 now needs to acquire depth through improved quality of service. It recommends the continuance of State Aid appropriations until libraries are well on the way to achieving this strengthened service and local units are able to support libraries through their own resources. The Committee's study also revealed that cooperation between library systems offers great possibilities in providing better library service to the people of this state.

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