



STATE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FOR LIBRARIES

With National Plans completed for the development of superior library service throughout the United States, the Committee on Implementation of the National Plans (CINP) of the American Library Association is promoting the formation of State Planning and Implementation Committees (SPIC) in every state. National Committee Chairman Edward A. Chapman, explaining the functions of CINP, stated that the increase and improvement of all types of libraries and library services nationwide depends upon active State Planning and Implementation Committees in every state. In this way, implementation of federal, state and local library plans will be on the basis of a coordinated national movement.

The basic characteristics of the SPIC are representation of the interests of all types of libraries at the same time, and further the inclusion of all outside representation that can conceivably contribute to or affect library planning and plan execution. The effectiveness of these State com-

mittees is directly proportional to the extent of citizen participation secured.

Specialists in community organization suggest that such groups as the SPIC should be given citizens leadership, with librarians in the role of consultants. The librarian is responsible for supplying information on current library operations, leaving the development of library service concepts to the citizen members of the Committee. They represent the consumers of library service who logically should have the last word as to what services the library should furnish.

The number of members on the SPIC cannot be too many so long as each represents an element necessary to library planning and plan execution. Generally indicated the membership of the State Committee will include citizen leadership of an overall character. As one used to getting things done and judging the practicality of operations, a leader in the business world is highly qualified for committee leadership.

Since participation in educational activities and the spreading of information are the library's most important functions, another segment of SPIC membership is representation of all children, young people and adult educational interests, and representation of all other purposeful statewide organizations with educational objectives in the broadest sense. The Committee also should include experts in rural and urban sociology, in educational research, law, taxation, legislation and importantly in publicity and public relations. Such specialists are responsible for indicating community interests and needs, sources of appropriation for increased library service and how obtained, and for seeing that the work of the State Com-

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mittee and local library findings receive widespread publicity. The fourth segment of SPIC membership is the librarian-consultants assisting, but not dictating, the development of service concepts by the Committee, largely consisting of library-consumer representation by which librarians are guided.

In order to assume state leadership and successfully guide local action, the following elements of SPIC operation are fundamental: (1) preparation of a directory of all state organizations and offices with local outlying units; (2) the studying of the objectives and operations of these organizations and offices for developing specific programs of library participation in the work of their local units; (3) the surveying of library service statewide to determine how weakly or strongly the educational service function is being discharged by all libraries; (4) the setting up of a system of continuous communication with community leaders and librarians, statewide; (5) the maintenance of a continuous statewide publicity program reporting the work of SPIC and significant local library service findings and developments with particular attention to the news value of poor service findings; and (6) the organization of citizens on a statewide basis.

These six elements of action make up what may be termed the "ferment" phase of Committee operations. Concurrently the second and final phase matters of revision or enactment of library laws, determination of kind and amount of state support, the sources and extent of local library income, and the planning of legislative action, can be under continuous study by the appropriate members of SPIC. These foregoing six elements of SPIC operation also set the pattern

for local action, upon the extent of which the success of SPIC and the generation of a dynamic statewide and nationwide movement in support of libraries directly depends.
