

FRANKLY SPEAKING*

CHARLES R. BROCKMANN

On September 20 I received a long distance telephone message from our President, Harlan C. Brown, in which he informed me that he had just returned to Raleigh after a vacation in Connecticut, which was interrupted and prolonged to attend the funeral of his mother in Minnesota. This sad event, following many months of planning a new library building, and other burdensome activities have prevented him from preparing his usual contribution to this issue of *North Carolina Libraries*.

Without his knowledge not to speak of consent, I am taking the liberty of quoting from two of his letters. The first is addressed to me as editor, dated June 2, 1950, and reads, in part, as follows:

"Dear Charlie:

"In our next issue I would like to make a complete report on the \$500 bond the Association has given Miss Beal. The Bond was delivered to her yesterday at 11:45 A. M. Miss Beal was thoroughly thrilled, and as far as I could tell it was a surprise to her. The picture came out yesterday in *The Raleigh Times* and this morning in *The News and Observer*. I believe that giving her the bond was the most fun I shall have in connection with my presidency."

The letter to Miss Beal, dated June 1, 1950. reads:

"Dear Miss Beal:

"Writing this letter to you is not only the most thrilling and enjoyable occasion which my presidency of N. C. L. A. affords me, but is also one of the most pleasant experiences which have come my way.

"I have been commissioned by the North Carolina Library Association to present you with this expression of our appreciation of you and your contributions to North Carolina's libraries.

"Your friends in North Carolina—librarians, trustees, and others—would like this token to be more than just a departure gift. We would like it to convey to you the feelings we are experiencing on losing you. To us who are fortunate in knowing you as an able administrator and warm friend, your departure is a great loss. This we would have you know.

"Finally, a suggestion is offered which is pleasing to your friends. You must not feel bound or restricted by it, but we believe it will be attractive to you. We hope that you will see fit to use our gift some time for a trip back to North Carolina.

"In closing your friends say au revoir and God bless you.

"Affectionately yours,

"HARLAN C. BROWN, President.
"N. C. Library Association."

*Apologies to Mr. James F. Byrnes for using the title to his recent book.