

LIBRARY SERVICES BILL

At the adjournment of Congress, the Library Services Bill was on the Senate Calendar (S. 1452) and ready for floor action. The Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare had voted favorably on it in the fall of 1951. Favorable hearings on the bill (HR 5195) had been held in the House by a sub-committee which reported it to the Education and Labor Committee where it was pending at adjournment.

The same bill will be introduced in the 83rd Congress which meets early in 1953. Briefly, the purpose of the bill is to promote the further development of public library resources in rural areas now without adequate service. It authorizes \$7,500,000 to be spent each year for a five-year period. The money would be allocated to states on a matching basis, each state to receive \$40,000 a year, plus additional funds based on rural population of the state as compared to the rural population of the United States. North Carolina should be eligible to receive a maximum of \$303,300 each year. These additional funds would be matched by the state on the basis of the per capita income of the state as compared to the national per capita income. The entire sum would be administered in North Carolina by the North Carolina Library Commission and could be used for bookmobile service, for advisory personnel to help local communities develop library programs, for the purchase of books for the Commission to lend throughout the state, for direct grants to individual libraries for books, or for other methods of providing effective service. It could not be used for the purchase of land or buildings.

Further information about the provisions of the Library Services Bill may be secured by writing to the American Library Association, Washington Office, Congressional Hotel, Washington 3, D. C.

Friends of Libraries in North Carolina should assure themselves that their representatives in Washington are familiar with the provisions of this bill and the contributions it would make toward bringing books to North Carolinians. When Congress convenes in January a complete reorganization will take place because of the change in administration. This means that we shall have time to see or write to our representatives and to organize citizen assistance to keep these representatives informed. Much more citizen support can be enlisted if the provisions of this bill are brought to their attention. Information about it can be disseminated through meetings, newspapers, and by personal interviews. Support from citizens in the form of resolutions from groups, and letters and visits from individuals will have more influence with our senators and congressmen than advice from librarians. It is important, however, that librarians stimulate citizen interest in the bill and its potentialities. It appears to be the kind of legislation that requires no pressure, only an explanation of its provisions.

B. E. Powell, *Chairman*, Federal Relations Committee, North Carolina Library Association, Librarian, Duke University, Durham. Other members of the committee are: Neal Austin, High Point, Public Library, High Point; Evelyn J. Bishop, Johnston County Public Library, Smithfield; Harlan C. Brown, North Carolina State College Library, Raleigh; Elizabeth House, Secretary and Director, North Carolina Library Commission, Raleigh; Margaret Johnston, Haywood County Public Library, Waynesville.

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Dr. Leon Carnovsky of the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, was in Greensboro, December 1-6, making a survey of the Greensboro Public Library and the Carnegie Negro Library. His report will be included in the survey of Greensboro city government now being made by the Public Administration Service. On December 5 he talked to the School of Library Science, U. N. C. on French libraries. Dr. Carnovsky returned in September from a year in Europe, on a Fulbright Scholarship, observing public libraries in Belgium, France, Holland, and Switzerland.