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Authors League of America (1973): Memorandum 01

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United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATOR

FROM: LB

The attached relates to a bill Congressman Reid has recently introduced to establish a commission to study the feasibility of permitting authors to have a share, as royalties, in books they have written and which are circulated by libraries. At present libraries pay publishers a price for the book involved and such fees can be passed on ~~the~~ to the author, in the form of the percentage royalty he or she receives from the publisher. Some European countries, Sweden and Denmark, have a procedure whereby the author receives ~~of~~ a royalty on each book lent by a library; Great Britain is studying this possibility. The Reid bill was introduced on request by the Authors League of America.

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

The bill would establish the commission within the Library of Congress -- the Librarian, plus ten ~~Presidential~~ Presidentially appointed members. The professional staff would consist of no more than four.

To an old author, and a member of this League, these ideas seem good and reasonably modest.

But there would seem alternatives to this concept which might expedite the matter.

1. The Authors League could apply for funds to conduct the study. It's a reputable group and could involve libraries as appropriate. The Funds could come from the Arts Endowment.

2. The Library could apply for the study funds from the Arts Endowment and do the study in house.

3. The Arts Endowment could conduct the study.

~~2.~~
The League has not communicated with the Endowment with such a request, nor did they wish to testify at the hearings.

Instead, they have asked you to introduce a Senate companion to the Reid bill.

I suggest I discuss with Reid's people their feelings and report back to you.