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White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Hearings S.J. Res. 26 (April 3, 1987): Speech 04

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Senator Pell's

QUESTIONS FOR WITNESSES:

PANEL I:

Dr. Boorstin:

After a distinguished tenure as Librarian of Congress, what do you now consider to be the major challenges facing librarians? And do you view a national conference as an appropriate forum for addressing these challenges?

PANEL II:

~~Mr. Benton~~ or Mr. Casey:

I first proposed White House Conference legislation in 1972 and it was a full 5 years before it was funded. I realize that states will need lead time and I am willing to amend the measure to allow for a later date if necessary. Would two years between actual funding and the date of the national conference be adequate time for state and regional activities?

PANEL II (CONTINUED)

✓ Ms. Moore:

Having been a member of the 1979 Conference Advisory Committee I am wondering if you could tell us briefly about business community involvement in the White House Conference at the state level.

✓ Mr. Benton:

This morning we heard Dr. Boorstin propose changing the name of this conference to the White House Conference on Literacy, Books, Libraries and Information Services - adding emphasis on literacy and books. I am curious to have your reaction to this proposed change.

PANEL THREE:

✓ Dr. Wilde:

Did you find the materials generated at the 1979 White House Conference to be helpful in your work as an educator?

PANEL THREE (CONTINUED)

✓ Dr. Wilde:

In connection with the 4-state project referred to in your testimony, what was the total amount that the Kellogg Foundation provided in support? How many pilot projects are you anticipating in each of the four states?

✓ Mr. Nole:

I understand that several states have incorporated the White House Conference as an element in their 5 year plan developed under LSCA. Since Connecticut is one of those states, do you envision your organization working in cooperation with the State Library Agency?

✓ Mrs. Reeves:

Why should this conference under discussion be held at the national level rather than a number of regional or local conferences?

PANEL III (CONTINUED)

✓ Mrs. Reeves:

What effect would a second Conference have on support groups like the White House Conference Task Force and other library support groups at the state and local level?

✓ Dr. Vernon:

Dr. Vernon, I am interested in your idea of a national assessment or report card on libraries. Perhaps you could briefly expand on this and tell us how the White House Conference process could help.

PANEL IV:

✓ Ms. Klinck:

As you know, LSCA III interlibrary cooperation funds increased from \$5 million to \$12 million the year following the 1979 White House Conference. How much of an increase did you receive in Vermont and what were the benefits?

PANEL IV (CONTINUED)

Mr. Shubert and Mr. Johnson:

With this increase in Title III funds following the last Conference - what were the effects in your states?

Ms. Klinck:

In your testimony you refer to the estimated cost of a future Vermont state conference as over \$100,000. What did the Vermont state conference cost in 1979? And how were those funds broken down between federal, in-kind and state actual dollars?

Mr. Johnson:

I would view the White House Conference process as a strategic planning process. The legislation requests and encourages states to carry out such a process with broad citizen involvement and then carries that process to the federal level. I see this as the best way to carry the planning process to the federal policy level. What is your view?

PANEL IV (CONTINUED)

Mr. Shubert:

Do you see the White House Conference process as the best way to bring out issues that would otherwise be difficult for librarians and trustees to bring to public attention. I am thinking of issues like the "brittle books" problem here. Or is there a different and more effective way of doing this?

Summary of 1979 White House Conference on Libraries:

Oct 1972: Pell proposes Conference in Record statement
1973 Hearings on proposal
1974 Watergate
June 1974 Brademas brought bill to floor - defeated
Dec 1974 Signed by President Ford
May 1977 supplemental appropriation (thru Sen. McClellan)
Nov 1977 1st state conference held in Georgia
May 1979 last state conference held
Nov 1979 White House Conference held