White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Final Passage (1988): Correspondence 08

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...and it's helpful.

Mary Klein
The Honorable Claiborne Pell, Chairman
Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6300

Dear Senator Pell:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify at the hearing on April 3 concerning the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services. After the hearing Sandy Crary asked me to research two questions for you concerning library services in Vermont.

Your first question dealt with the LSCA Title III which was increased from $5 million to $12 million after the 1979 White House Conference. Under the $5 million provision Vermont received $56,290 a year in LSCA Title III funds. In FY83, under the $12 million provision, Vermont received $60,863. Even though the funds for LSCA Title III more than doubled, the formula and base remained unchanged and all additional funds were distributed according to population. Vermont realized only a 31.48% increase because of its small population when the total Federal funding for LSCA Title III increased by 140%. Presently, under the $17,640,000 provision Vermont receives $74,227, an increase of 21.95% when the total Federal funding increased by 47%. This will be true also for any future increases in Title III funds distributed under the present formula. In a small, rural state this level of funding does not reach far in a rapidly changing technological world.

The second question you asked was the cost of the 1979 Governor’s Conference on Libraries. The cost was $38,215. Of this, $12,230 was cash and $25,985 was match and in-kind expenditure including conference staff salaries, etc. Using the $38,215 and the same inflation figures that NCLIS is using to take the 1979 $3.5 million to $15 million, the estimate for Vermont would be $60,000. It is safe to say that there is no way we would spend that much without major criticism in this state. In using estimates for planning, travel and expenses, materials, adequate staff and program, a realistic estimate would be approximately $100,000 to carry out an adequate but by no means luxurious state conference in Vermont for just 100 people.

I think my testimony expresses my feelings on the overall issue. I am still
extremely concerned about the date, the rigid model and the cost of the overall project. I again also would urge that Section 2(d) of the resolution under the heading State Conferences Optional be changed to read: "ALL activities, conferences, and programs developed in conjunction with the national White House Conference at the state and/or regional level are at the discretion of the individual states and will be eligible for available grants. Delegates to the national conference from individual states may be chosen by the states in a manner consistent with the overall planning and programming in the individual states."

This wording would allow for maximum flexibility and creativity in meeting conference goals but also in meeting state-based needs.

Thank you again for your willingness to listen to all views on this issue which deals not just with a single issue but also with priorities and choices for a wide range of differing library and information situations. We all appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Patricia E. Klinck
State Librarian

PEK: bgg

cc: Senator Robert T. Stafford