Institute of Museum and Library Services Act (1996): Correspondence 16

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Here is the latest string of events:

1. Two weeks ago Kassebaum and Goodling met without any real movement. The issues on the agenda were intended to be the Vouchers, money for training, and treatment of the Employment Service.

2. This past Tuesday Kassebaum and Goodling were to meet again. Goodling was unable to attend because he was in his office on the phone with the Dept of Labor seeking Title III Dislocated Worker funds for a plant closing in his district. In his place Kassebaum met with Rep McKeon. No agreements reached on the central issues. They agreed to ask their respective staffs to meet the following day to see if they could resolve the issues.

3. Goodling and Kassebaum's staff met on Wednesday, I asked that Democrats be included but was denied, and they reported that the meeting went better than expected. I believe this means they were able to make real progress on the above mentioned items as well as other issues we have seen in previous offers. We will withhold judgement on the issue of adequate training funding or any other element of the proposals until we have actually been presented something.

4. The next steps may be Kassebaum and Goodling signing off on these "agreements" reached by the staff and then present them to other staff. I am not sure if they will want to have a Member's meeting or if they will feel comfortable in having the staff start up work again.

   Goodling announced at a recent AVA meeting that he wants a bill by May 15. This is a sign that he wants a bill and he hopes to move quickly. "Quickly" is a relative term in this Congress. This may mean there won't be much time spent on the details of the legislation. If you have particular issues please be ready at any time to raise them if the process picks up again.

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