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Reagan Administration: Funding Cuts News Articles (1981-1982): News Article 40

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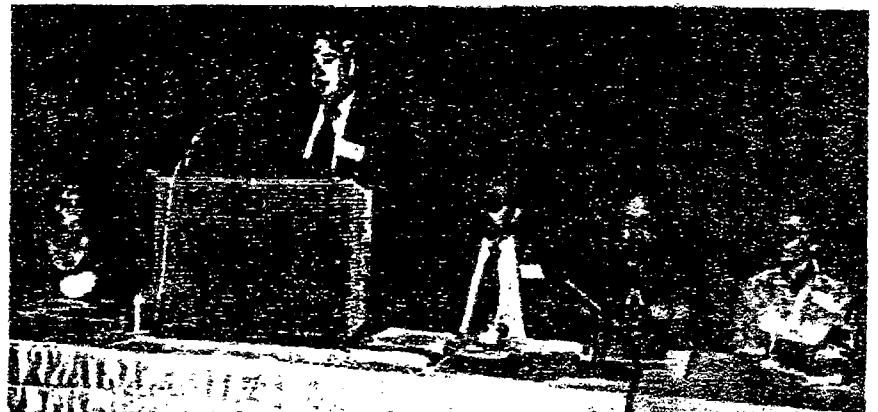
sales account for a larger proportion of university press sales than they do for just about any other segment of the American book publishing industry, the scholarly community is global.

"I admit," Goellner continued, "that I resent seeing university presses depicted as ponderous, slow-gaited elephants burdened with enormous overheads that require exorbitant pricing policies that in turn keep books out of the hands of the very readers for whom they were written. That is unfair and for the most part untrue. Such charges, whether leveled directly or by implication, make it at once appropriate to raise questions about true costs and cost accounting.

"I cannot see that a scholarly publication agency is any more efficient than a university press because it leaves the evaluation of manuscripts to 'sponsors.' I cannot see that it has solved the problem of overhead by simply ducking away from the table and leaving someone else to pick up the check. . . . Overhead is made up of very specific cost components—salaries, benefits, rent, travel, telephone, bad debts, insurance, shipping cartons. Someone has to pay for these, whether it be a sponsor, a sheltering university or the long-suffering taxpayer. . . . In short, I cannot see that anyone really gains from assertions that university presses are 'inefficient,' or from implications that they have outlived their usefulness, or that they impede the free flow of learning by dabbling everything they touch with the great tarbrush of overhead."



Livingston L. Biddle, Jr., staff director of the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities, headed by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D., R.I.), was speaker—and singer—at the annual banquet. To the tune of "Friendship," he sang: "If you ever need a grant, call on Pell; if you ever need a subsidy, ring my bell. . . ."



As expressions indicate, it was a far from complacent panel which heard Robert Funk of Scholars Press challenge current practices in academic publishing: (l. to r.) Jane Isay, Yale; moderator Ian Montagnes, Toronto; Jack Goellner, Johns Hopkins; Joyce Kachergis, North Carolina



For the scrapbook, a group photo of those (reading from the left) who attended the 1950 annual meeting at Chapel Hill, also hosted by North Carolina: Chandler B. Grassie, Herbert S. Bailey Jr., Gwen Duff, Ann L. Jennings, Porter Cowles, August