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White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Final Passage (1988): Memorandum 02

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MEMORANDUM

July 31, 1987

TO: Senator
FROM: ADC
RE: Library bill to Committee Mark-up - Aug 5

We have successfully polled the library conference bill out of subcommittee and have it on the agenda for the committee exec on August 5th.

I understand that you will have a conflict that morning with a Foreign Relations hearing. I have discussed this with Gerry and hopefully we can work it out so that you need only come to the Labor Committee for 5 or 10 minutes on this issue.

You will be needed to present the attached amendments to the Library bill. The amendments are primarily technical and clarifying and are as follows:

1. The dates for calling the conference are pushed back so as to allow ample time for the Appropriations Committee to consider funding for it. This also will give those states that wish to hold state conferences enough time to plan for them.

2. The language concerning optional state conferences is strengthened and clarified. It is now clear that state conferences are entirely optional. This was done at Senator Stafford's request. Apparently the Vermont State Librarian does not want to hold a state level conference.

3. Also at Stafford's urging we will put in an authorization ceiling of $5 million rather than "such sums". This is the figure that you and Congressman Ford have consistently set as the maximum federal contribution for the Conference. Total cost of the Conference is estimated to be $12 to $15 million with all additional monies being raised privately.

Senator Stafford may have an amendment that would prohibit using LSCA funds (federal library funds) to pay for any aspect of the conferences. The library community strongly opposes this citing it as interfering with states rights. LSCA monies are given to the states to use as they see fit. Again this is an issue that the Vermont Librarian is pressuring Stafford to raise and it is not yet clear whether or not he intends to do so. Most states will use some LSCA funds for their conferences - an expense that they believe is well worth it in the long run. Rhode Island would use LSCA funds for their conference. In light of the RI position and that of the national library community I would urge you to oppose Stafford should he raise this.