Report from the President

Legislative Day, Spring Workshop, and a "history making" session with other SELA state presidents made April a most exciting month. Bill O'Shea deserves credit for making the trip to Washington a success and you will, I am sure, read his report elsewhere. Minutes of the Board meeting and Workshop will give you details of these proceedings, but I do want to commend the Bicentennial Committee for its forums and bibliography, the Finance Committee for its initial work towards revising our budgetary policies, and the Archives Committee for reaching the final stage of organizing and preserving our records.

As your president, I serve on the State Library Committee and I am pleased to report that progress is being made toward locating and, hopefully, employing a State Librarian. Mrs. Rohrer has invited the Committee to assist her in screening (April 24) and interviewing (June) the applicants. Unfortunately, the Librarian's salary is low when compared with that of directors of large libraries in this state and we must try to change this situation. Our goal is to have a librarian who will be an effective leader for all libraries in the state. We hope that the NCLA Executive Board's decision to honor Philip Ogilvie with a biennial lecture at our conferences will prove to be a lasting contribution to the enrichment of librarians in this state.

Cooperation is the word that struck me most forcibly at the NCLA Workshop and at the SELA meeting. Several NCLA committees plan to use a statewide network for legislation, public relations, increasing membership, and for library development. We envision not only having all types of librarians work together, but also joining with other professionals and



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laypersons. There was consensus that SELA must serve as a coordinator to achieve maximum cooperation for the development of library service in the region and in each state. Several state presidents mentioned the role of SELA in utilizing federal support, in establishing regional guidelines which may be more meaningful to lay officials than national standards, in providing needed research data, and in undergirding state association officers and in-service librarians through consultation, orientation, and continuing education. It is my hope that NCLA, which has the largest membership, will also excel in benefitting from participation in regional activities.

Let's enjoy the summer, but store up energy and new ideas so that 1976-77 will be the best "off year" ever. Incidentally, other states have found district or "Mini Conferences" successful. What do you think of this idea for NCLA?

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