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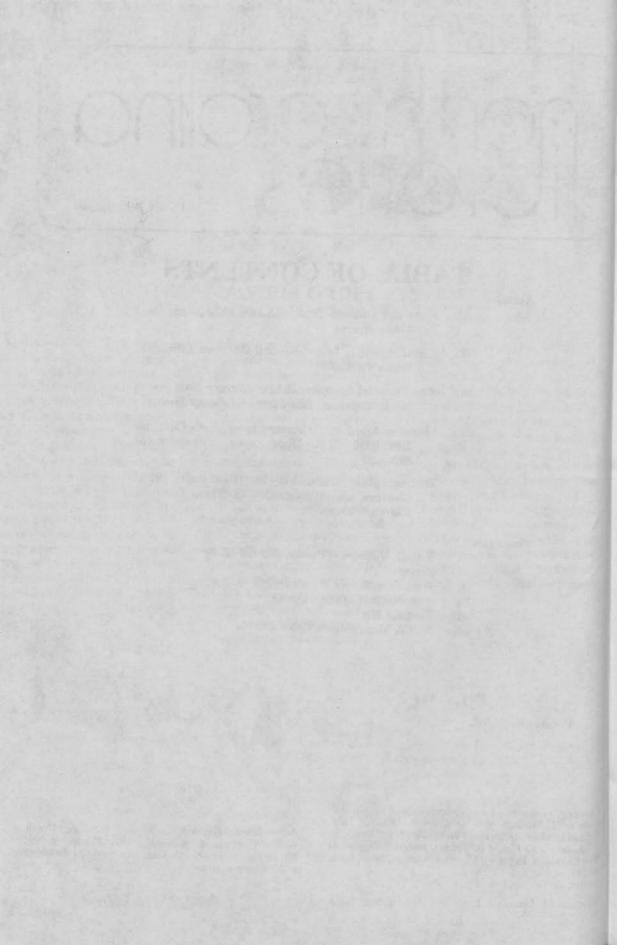
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A review of the Association's current concerns reminds me that we have moved forward a few "inches" but have so many "yards" to go. As we seek to keep NCLA as a viable and representative professional organization for all librarians and media/information specialists, our mutual efforts have been concentrated on funding, professional development, intellectual freedom, networking through multi-type library cooperation, and improvement of library service for all North Carolina citizens. Communication between and among the Executive Board and all NCLA members is vital. Newsletters by sections and roundtables augment the news and information we receive in North Carolina Libraries and Tar Heel Libraries.

Speaking of funding, two special dates come to mind: April 19 is Washington Legislative Day and March 24 was Library Day in Raleigh. The Governmental Relations Committee makes arrangements for our trip to Washington, but section representatives prepare the information kits which outline needs by various types of libraries. The Library Day Reception was sponsored by the Public Library Section, Trustees Section, and the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association, and was held in the Archives/State Library Building. Increased state aid for public libraries is essential to funding the new formulas going into effect on July 1. Letters from NCLA members to our senators and representatives in Congress and the State Legislature are encouraged.

Many workshops and special programs are scheduled to enhance our professional development. Watch for special announcements. A Teleconference on June 28 is being sponsored by the Resources and Technical Services Division of the American Library Association and is being coordinated for North Carolina by Marge Lindsey. There are three drop-sites: Davidson County Community College (John Thomas), Coastal Carolina Community College (Ann Webb), and Durham County Public Library (Sally Bray). Register for one

site through ALA beginning March 1. The morning session will focus on "ALA Connection: A Window on the Annual Conference;" the afternoon session will present an institute on bibliographic tools and information control, entitled, "Blood, Toil, Tears, Sweat."

A special welcome is extended to 1982 new members of the Executive Board: Gerald Hodges, Director; Rebecca Ballentine, SELA Representative; Kathy Woodrell, Children's Services Section Chairman; and Dawn Hubbs, Documents Section Chairman.

The interim budget for 1983-84, adopted by the Executive Board in December, is now official, following the January mail ballot which resulted in approval of a dues increase for Association membership. With no new items, inflation necessitated an increase in order to maintain operation and service. A note of appreciation goes to David McKay, State Library Director, for his assistance in arranging for the State Library to reimburse the Association for postage and labels for mailing Tar Heel Libraries.

It was a rewarding experience to represent NCLA at the Southeastern Library Association Conference in Louisville in November and also at the installation of Chancellor John McDade Howell at East Carolina University in Greenville on February 4.

Program planners for our October Biennial Conference (October 26-28) are being reminded to send all necessary information by April 1 to Robert Burgin, Chairman of Local Arrangements, Forsyth County Public Library.

Congratulations to the North Carolina Association of School Librarians for: a very successful Fall Conference in Winston-Salem; a Certificate of Merit from SELA for their brochure on Volunteers; their innovative regional forums; their choice of Gene Lanier for the Mary Peacock Douglas Award.

Of course, all of us are making great plans for celebrating National Library Week on April 17-23. "Go For It! Use Your Library." Mertys W. Bell, President