

In response to several requests for information and assistance, the Office of Intellectual Freedom has prepared a packet of free materials to furnish to librarians and boards requested to remove the book. The packet includes a cover letter stating the position of the American Library Association in the context of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS.

The packet also includes press clippings documenting the national nature of the campaign against the book; a statement by Mary Elizabeth Ledlie, Chairman of the Newbery-Caldecott Award Jury which awarded the Randolph J. Caldecott medal to SYLVESTER . . . ; a statement by Gerald Shields, editor, AMERICAN LIBRARIES, in response to a letter received about the book; and a copy of all materials pertaining to intellectual freedom

distributed by the Office of Intellectual Freedom.

In Prince George's County, Md., a ten-member committee, on behalf of the School Board, reviewed the book and complaint and voted to keep SYLVESTER . . . in school library collections. A copy of the school board's statement, issued as a rationale for retaining the book has been received by OIF, and is included with the packet of materials.

We urge you to advise all librarians whose collections may include SYLVESTER . . . of the availability of these materials. We also ask you to encourage any librarian requiring information, materials, or other assistance to call the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom collect, 312-944-6780.

Intellectual Freedom

A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Intellectual freedom means for the librarian: freedom to develop, maintain, and improve library service to the end that each citizen can assume the responsibility placed upon him by a democratic society to educate himself continuously and to improve his ability to participate usefully in activities in which he is involved as a citizen of the United States and of the world. Intellectual freedom implies freedom in the selection of books, in the presentation of material on all sides of controversial questions, and in the dissemination of information on all subjects. It presupposes an acceptance by the institution of the principles of the *Library Bill of Rights*. Intellectual freedom precludes partisan political control of appointments and makes it possible for librarians to devote themselves to the practice of their profession without fear of interference or of dismissal for political, religious, racial, marital, or other unjust reasons.

The librarian is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and a representative of an educational institution. When he speaks or writes as a citizen, he should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but his special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a man of learning and an educational officer, he should remember that the public may judge his profession and his institution by his utterances. Hence, he should at all times show respect for the opinion of others, and should make every effort to indicate that he is not an institutional spokesman on controversial issues. (Excerpted from: Adopted by ALA Council, June 21, 1946.)

How can you fight censorship?

Be informed

Know what censorship is, what forms it takes, how it affects you. Know when, where, and how it strikes.

You can be informed if you subscribe to the **Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom**.

The **Newsletter** provides the facts you need. It gives full reports of important news on intellectual freedom.

- **Censorship Dateline** gives the who, what, where, and when of attempts to violate intellectual freedom . . .
- **From The Bench** reviews judicial decisions relevant to intellectual freedom from municipal courts to the U.S. Supreme Court . . .
- **Is It Legal?** reports legislation, pending legislation, law suits in progress, and other legal questions concerning intellectual freedom.
- **Success Stories** pinpoints victories over censorship efforts.
- **Intellectual Freedom Bibliography** offers a current list of professional and popular readings on intellectual freedom.

Be ready

Prepare for the Challenge. The best defense against censorship is a sound offense. It's easier to prepare before the pressure of an intellectual freedom crisis.

Know what groups are attacking library materials, what materials they are attacking, and which of these materials are in your library. Know how the nation as a whole views intellectual freedom. Learn how other librarians, trustees, and concerned citizens are successfully defending intellectual freedom—or why they are failing to do so.

The **Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom**, including regular reports of important news on intellectual freedom, original articles, and significant reprints, is an indexed history of the concept of intellectual freedom over the past 20 years.

The **Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom** is published to help you defend your library—your profession—your community against would-be censors.

Use It!

Issued bi-monthly by the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association. Coedited by Judith F. Krug, Director, and James A. Harvey, Assistant Director, ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Subscribe

For subscriptions and information write the **Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom**, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

* PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS

(Adopted by the Intellectual Freedom Committee, December 1, 1970)

- (1) The fact-finding subcommittee's report shall be submitted to the Intellectual Freedom Committee for its review and recommendation of appropriate actions. (Members of fact-finding subcommittees shall not vote on actions after submitting their reports.)

- (2) The Intellectual Freedom Committee's recommendations for further action shall be submitted to the Executive Board.
- (3) Before the Executive Board imposes sanctions other than publication of the subcommittee's report, the principals shall be notified that a hearing may be held to allow a final opportunity for appeals.

*ALA's "Policy on Sanctions" appeared on page 109 of the Summer 1970 issue of *North Carolina Libraries*.

PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL OF SANCTIONS

(Adopted by the Intellectual Freedom Committee, December 1, 1970)

Sanctions may be withdrawn when conditions causing their original imposition are corrected, and when there is reason to believe that ALA principles of intellectual freedom will be observed in the future.

To effect the removal of sanctions:

- (1) The parties under sanction may request review of the case, furnishing pertinent information as to why the sanctions should be removed, and/or
- (2) At least once each year the Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom shall query parties under sanction to determine if conditions warrant removal of sanctions.
- (3) The Intellectual Freedom Committee shall review the case and vote to recommend to the ALA Executive Board that sanctions be removed or retained.

RESOLUTION ON THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON OBSCENITY AND PORNOGRAPHY

(Adopted by the Intellectual Freedom Committee, December 2, 1970)

WHEREAS, the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography performed a difficult and historically significant service for the nation by initiating the first, broad scientific inquiry into the nature of obscene and pornographic materials and their effect upon users, and

WHEREAS, The Commission's efforts resulted in an important body of empirical data which should serve as the basis for sound and continuing evaluation and study of an area of social and legislative concern too long ignored, and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Senate rejected the REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON OBSCENITY AND PORNOGRAPHY by a 60-5 vote, and the President of the United States, said, "I have evaluated that report and categorically reject its morally bankrupt conclusions and major recommendations," be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association commends the success of the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography for amassing a significant body of empirical evidence in an area of great social concern heretofore excluded as a subject for serious scientific investigation, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association urges the Senate and the President of the United States to reconsider their categorical rejection of this significant data and to encourage the dissemination and evaluation of these materials by the citizenry of the United States, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association urges all libraries to provide their users with complete access to the REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON OBSCENITY AND PORNOGRAPHY and to the important supportive volumes and critical evaluations of the REPORT and its research in consonance with the library's role in the dissemination of information vital to the communities they serve.