

LIBRARY APPROPRIATIONS

Unless the Librarians and Friends of Libraries of North Carolina push aside personal problems and work consistently and swiftly for the next two weeks on the common problem of state aid for public libraries, the libraries of North Carolina are in for a great set-back.

The North Carolina Library Commission's request, already presented to the Budget Commission is for \$211,098 for each year of the biennium 1943-45. The Budget Commission has cut the request to \$100,000 in

their recommendations.

Representatives from the North Carolina Library Association and the North Carolina Library Commission appeared before the Joint Committee on Appropriations on Friday, January 15th to request a reconsideration. This request will be considered and debated during the next two weeks. There is a real opportunity for a change in the appropriation if sufficient pressure is brought to bear upon members of the Appropriation, and Library Committees of the State Senate and House.

We are printing the names and addresses of the members of these committees.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH THESE NAMES?

Talk with the Senator and Representative from your county on these Committees. Contact members of the outstanding civic groups in your community and ask their assistance in your educational program by wiring, telephoning, writing and talking to the Senators and Representatives. (Some of these groups who are most interested in adult education and in public libraries are: American Association of University Women, Business and Professional Women's Club, State Grange, Parent Teacher Associations, Woman's Club, Home Demonstration Clubs, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, and other civic organizations).

Let these people fully realize that 211 WPA clerks have been assisting in public libraries in North Carolina. This WPA assistance will be discontinued on March 1, 1943, and that State and local funds must be increased to employ librarians to carry on this work.

The WPA bookmending unit can no longer mend books for public and school libraries so funds for binding and mending books must be included to prolong the use of books.

Library service in your community is reaching many more people than ever before. Gasoline rationing and mileage reduction tend to keep people at home, and thus more time can be devoted to the reading of good books. The quality of books borrowed and read has shown a marked improvement. Most of the State Aid fund was expended for books. Tell the Representatives of the amount spent for books and what that meant in your community. Inform the outstanding people in your community of the need for State Aid for libraries.