

FOR SUCCESS IN 1945

Our next opportunity for securing an increase in State Aid for Public Libraries will come when the Legislature convenes in January, 1945. It is not too early to plan our program of action, and since transportation restrictions may not permit a meeting of the Association, we submit a tentative plan for consideration. We hope also that the Editors of North Carolina Libraries will receive contributions amending and improving the plan suggested here:

1. Librarians and library boards must work together to make public libraries in North Carolina effective educational institutions which will be recognized as vital by the community.

2. Librarians must overcome their timidity in order to discover the political attitudes of candidates. Librarians must secure the active support of library board members and friends of libraries to elect Legislators who comprehend the importance of public libraries in the democratic way of life. The success of a legislative program depends more upon work done before the Legislators go to Raleigh than it does upon requests and oratory during Legislative Sessions.

3. The Library Commission Board and the N. C. L. A. should develop joint plans for a successful campaign before the Legislature. The members of the Library Commission Board should make their presence evident in the campaign.

4. The North Carolina Library Association should proceed immediately to organize a powerful lobby. This lobby should include the employment of an executive secretary as a lobbyist who would serve be-

fore the election as well as during the session of the Legislature. The executive secretary, possibly a North Carolina librarian who would secure a leave of absence from his library for that period, should be able to record the attitude of each candidate regarding library legislation before the legislator reaches Raleigh.

5. The Membership Committee of the North Carolina Library Association should strive to enroll every librarian and every library as a member of the Association. But we, as members, must not expect the Membership Committee to accomplish this goal without our assistance. Hundreds of library board members, hundreds of school, public, college librarians, and hundreds of friends of libraries are potential members.

If each library in North Carolina should become an institutional member, it alone would provide an annual fund of \$600.00. Only by increasing our membership shall we be able to conduct a successful legislative program, which will bring rich dividends to libraries in North Carolina.
