

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

With the passage of the Library Services Act the United States is on the threshold of its greatest period of library development and expansion of services. Not since the days of Andrew Carnegie and his funds has library services been given such a boost. What has been done in the areas of rural electrification, expansion of the telephone system and the paving of secondary roads is now to be done in the library field. To each member of the profession comes the challenge, "What can I do to aid the program, to see that funds are spent wisely and effectively, to encourage the reading of good books?" There are three things that can be done immediately.

First: The whole program can be greatly facilitated by the cooperative endeavor of all librarians, so, share your thinking with the State Librarian. Stand by to offer suggestions as well as criticism. Talk with the leaders in your community. Be sure they understand what is being done and solicit their advice and help so that at the end of the five-year Federal grant the services will have become such an important part of our cultural and educational activity that it will be adequately and cheerfully supported either on the local or the state level.

Second: The demands for librarians and library assistants will be unprecedented and the competition for their services will be great even on a national scale. You can be of help by encouraging likely looking prospects to take library science or to serve apprenticeships in good library systems. Affiliate yourself with careers or guidance groups. Plug for librarianship. The field is much more attractive now than it has ever been. Figures being compiled will reveal, perhaps, that the average annual salary for beginning librarians is nearing \$4500.

Third: Take your pen in hand and write stories for the local newspapers. Give a continuing printed picture of the Library Services program as it unfolds. Emphasize the importance of good books in life and living. Point out case histories of the penetration of many good books into an area which until this time practically had been without books. Quote the citizens when they comment on the services and by all means see to it that these stories are brought to the attention of the members of the state legislature residing in your district.

—VIC COOK

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since the PRESIDENT'S CORNER was written word has been received that the 84th Congress reduced the appropriation authorized by the Library Services Act from \$7,500,000 to \$2,050,000. This means that North Carolina will receive less than \$40,000 instead of \$303,534. I am sure President Cook will agree that first priority on activity of librarians and trustees is to SEE YOUR SENATOR AND CONGRESSMAN WHILE THEY ARE IN NORTH CAROLINA AND URGE THEM TO SUPPORT A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION EARLY IN THE 85TH CONGRESS!