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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE ALA ROUND TABLE
- ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF LIBRARIES

ALA Midwinter
Washington,· D.C. - January 31, 1969

Dr. Dorothy Bendix, Associate Professor, Graduate School of
Library Science, Drexel Institute of Technology, served as temporary
chairman. She opened the meeting by thanking the people who had come
there on their own time and had paid their own expenses. She thanked
COO for their speedy action in establishing the Rou73505S7r fo76939DC -0She fo76939DC -0Sh

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2. Question: Were all librarians in New York City included?

Answer: The group was kept small, because the meetings
were held in people's apartments. The group was composed of academic librarians, for the most part; a few public librarians; library school students; and one special librarian. No school librarians participated.

3. Question: Would it have helped if ALA could have imposed sanctions? (Frank Levine, Supervisor of Library Service
to the Disadvantaged, Maryland Department of Library Extension)

Answer: The New York group was cautious because the ALA
Round Table on the Social Responsibilities of Libraries
had not yet been established officially. If it had been
official, it would have been easier to get things done.

An unidentified man stated that the opinions expressed by
Geraldine Clark, Black Supervisors' Association, Afro-America Teachers' Association, New York, were not representative of the opinions of school librarians in New York.

Miriam Braverman, graduate student in Library.Science, Columbia University, said that some members of the New York City Round Table felt that the Round Table must be able to speak out strongly on a point of view. The Round Table must take a stand and not be afraid to speak out. The New York petition resulted from this meeting. (Copy attached)

The Chairman, noting that this was not the time nor the place to
discuss community control versus the Teachers' Union, asked if there were any additional questions on the New York experience. Since there·were no further questions, the next item of business was Organization (Temporary), including the following proposed committees: Steering Committee, Program Committee, Clearinghouse Committee, and By-Laws Committee.

Item II. - Organization (Temporary)

Dr. Bendix suggested that, in order to facilitate the establish-
ment of a temporary organization with temporary committees to function between now and the ALA Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, those interested in participating in the temporary organization get together at the end of the meeting rather than take up t~me which she felt should be spent in a discussion of areas of concern. She also proposed that the group establish a policy that the chairman of any ALA Committee should not be eligible to volunteer to chair one of the committees of the Round Table on Social Responsibilities of Libraries. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed.

Eric Moon, Director of Editorial Development, R.R. Bowker Company,
New York, urged that everyone present should be involved in selecting the people to lead the Round Table. "It is their l{ound Table, and they have a right to see who volunteers to lead it and to help decide who the leaders will be. 11

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The Chairman stated that if all get involved, nothing much will
be done. "We must grow with ideas because we can not decide everything today." Dr. Bendix suggested that sheets of paper be circulated for people to indicate what issues they want to work on between Midwinter and Atlantic City. The Round Table should show that individuals can participate without holding an office and without being appointed to
a committee.

Eric Moon insisted that everyone present should be involved in selecting the people to lead the Round Table.

E.J. Josey, Associate Librarian, State Library Academic and
Research Library Bureau, Albany, New York, asked Eric Moon to suggest a procedure.

Julia Losinski, Coordinator of Young Adult Services, Prince
George's County Memorial Library, and Chairman YASD of ALA, asked what the committees will do.

Nina Ladoff, Director, St. Charles County Library, Missouri, said
the Steering Committee would receive mail and do the dirty work. This committee would be the means of dealing with the organization problem so that all

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The question of whether or not a national committee was possible
~as then discussed. Elizabeth Hage, Director, Prince George's County Memorial Library, said that each interested individual should consider the availability of his 01.m personal funds. Helga Eason, Head Community Relations Department, ,Public Library, Miami, Flordia, suggested that a National Executive Committee was needed. Ruth Warncke said that an Oran

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1. Dr. Bendix--Two jobs for the Round Table before the ALA Conference in Atlantic City:

a. To discover if PLA is working on changing
Public Library Standards and to discover
if AALS is working on revising the standards--
away from the current middle class standards--
of admission to library shcools;

b. To work on constructive alternatives.

2. Frank Levine expressed concern for state prison libraries and hoped that something could be done to encourage the wardens to ~hannel energies of the prisoners into
educational and library activities rather than into hard
labor. E.J. Josey pointed out that there is a need to make black publications available. Black prisoners can not get black newspapers in prison libraries.

3. Eva Yarborough, retired librarian

- Consider how individuals
work in the community. What do you want to do and how?
Then consider what you would like your library to do and
how. She recommended the leaflet, "What any White Woman
Can Do in the New Movement for Social Change," available
from the League of Women Voters Education Fund, 1200 Seveteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.
Single copy is fifteen cents. Quantity prices upon request.

4. E.J. Josey

- Investigate the employment and promotion
of black librarians. What ALA does, it has been forced.to
do. Black librarians are still discriminated against. A survey of 217 college libraries in New York revealed that
only 2 library directors are black.

5. Bill Hinchliff, Associate Media Center Director, Federal City College, Washington, D.C.

- Propose that ALA use money
to hire a black recruiter to travel and find black males
willing to work with children in the ghetto.

6. Evelyn Levy, Library Supervisor, Community Action Program, Baltimore, Maryland

- Get involved in the subject of community
participation and community control. Libraries have not been considered important enough to be the center of this.

7. Henry Kapenstein

- N.E. A~ea Administrator, Free Library of
Philadelphia- Investigate a tie-in with what other organiza-tions are doing. Health and Welfare Councils, YWCA's have changed their focus from a stand-by, to an active, status.

8. June Thurston, Librarian, Yakima Valley Regional Library, Yakima, Washington

- Work with migrant farm workers.

9. Mary Anne Russell, Librarian, Arlington County Public

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social awareness of students. She feels that degree
training has not prepared the students; and, although she
is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, she
feels that her degree is already obsolete. In addition, attention should be given to the training and/or
stimulation of librarians (on the job) to social awareness.

10. Joan E. Clark, Audio-Visual Consultant Librarian Development Division, State Library, Albany, N.Y. - Push for more
autonomy in local Branch Libraries of urban and inner-city areas. Encourage local Branch libraries to budget for
programs.

11. Marshall Leventer - Explore methods of getting minority areas involved in library services and of meeting the needs
of new populations.

12. Nina Ladoff - Work with suburban refugees from

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Nominees were E.J. Josey, who declined in favor of Binnie Tate,
Los Angeles Public Library; Virginia Ross; Bill Streamer, Enoch Pratt Free Library; Joseph McDonald, Free Library of Philadelphia; and Patricia Raley, Library of Congress. Miss Raley said she could not serve because she is not a member of ALA. Ruth Warncke said this organization is temporary and until it is officially organized under ALA, a non-member could serve in any capacity.

The four additional members selected by the Organizing Committee
were Binne Tate, Patricia Raley, Bill Streamer, and Joseph McDonald.

It was moved that the slate of volunteer members of the
Organizing Committee be accepted. Motion was seconded and passed.

It was suggested that Bill DeJohn chair the remainder of the
meeting.

Father Lang suggested that information about the Round Table be published in a periodical that librarians read, so that people who were not at the meeting could see the article and could join the Round Table.

Helen Vogel, Assistant Librarian, Falls Church (Virginia) Public Library, said it is important to carry nei'ls of the Round Table to local communities and to get sanction from state organizations. She proposed that the group instruct the Organizing Committee to prepare a design paper to let others know what has been done and what is being done.

Bill DeJorn1 asked those who WEtntea to volunteer for committees
to meet with the Organizing Committee after the meeting. He urged people to spell out their icteas and send suggestions to him: Bill DeJohn, Missouri State Library, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101. He promised that the individual would receive an answer. Those who have expressed interest in the Round Table will be notified within a month.

Item IV. - Voluntary Contributions for Operating Funds.

A shopping bag was passed among the group to collect contributions
for operating funds. Checks were to be made out to Bill DeJohn, Chairman. Contributions totaled $287.00.

Item V. - Miscellaneous

Copies of the notes taken by Anne Sweat at the organizing
meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, were distributed. George Hathaway announced that additional copies of the New York list are available.

The Chairman thanked R.R. Bowker for publishing the list. Nina Ladoff suggested that thanks be expressed to those who worked so hard,

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in spite of difficulties, to get the Round Table off the ground.

Ken Duchac urged a special thanks to Dorothy Bendix for her willingness, in spite of ill health, to take over as temporary chairman of the meeting and make it go.

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Item I: Presentation by the How York Librarians Roundtable on Socfal Responsibilities of Libraries. Question a.nd. discuss!'Jori period included.

Item II: Organization (Temporary)
Suggested Committees: Stcerfog Co;n:,-::ttt.00
Prozrc1m Committee

Clearinghouse Comr.1i ttee
By-Laws Cornnittec

Item III: General discnesion of arean of concern.

Item IV: Voltmhry contributions for op8rating funds. Item V: Miscellaneous

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