

Social Responsibilities
Round Table)
Newsletter ALA

NEWSLETTER #49

ISSN 0065-9096

June 1978

LIBRARY DOLLARS FOR
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE?

This camera blinked.

It will hardly be a surprise to learn that the SRRT Newsletter is unhappy with CBS coverage of the Speaker debate at midwinter. Anyone who saw the April telecast on "Sixty Minutes" will share our disappointment that there was no presentation of that apparently very elusive position between squelching the film as unfit for human consumption and a 'civil liberties' stand that it must be shown as produced, with the ALA 'seal'.

Dan Rather seemed simply amused that a freedom of speech debate could revolve around a film concerned with freedom of speech. And he didn't go much deeper in his coverage. "Sixty Minutes" crews made a media event of the Council session at midwinter, and the network called the shots in establishing priorities for the week-long meeting-- which is a problem in itself.

But the televised result was worse. Rather introduced the segment by suggesting that ALA was wavering on freedom of speech ("the ALA, you would think, would be the last..."). Opposition to the film was considered "an about-face" and according to the report, "a lot of members thought the film was too hot to handle."

A much clearer view recording the distinctions which need to be made appeared in the April 1, 1978 issue of Library Journal, p. 720, where John Berry noted that the important point here is the artificiality of the conflict between "awareness" and "promotion".

NEW SRRT TASK FORCE: "TOOLS FOR CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING"

By Donnarae MacCann

Cultural pluralism implies respect for the values, cultures, and viewpoints of Third World groups, as well as for the values and mores developed by the American majority. The library profession is having extraordinary difficulty in translating this principle into action. Many of us seem unable to shift our cultural perspective, or to understand why our professional responsibilities require so much historical and sociological background. We are only beginning to see why white librarians cannot "stand in" for members of the Third World in the same way they represent the pervasive culture.

These seem to be hard questions for many: how can a white librarian's consultation with Third World advisers be justified as part of the book selection process? Would such a joint analysis of Third World materials introduce censorship into the process? How can a library's relationship with other community groups be seen and understood as equally fair?

The much publicized "preferred status" of the First Amendment doesn't rule out a synthesis

up ms. ms ssim

By Elliott Shore

After more than a year of hard work and waiting, the Task Force on Alternatives in Print

SRRT MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:

To join, subscribe, or renew, please send this coupon- with payment- to:
ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE, 60 REMSEN STREET, #10E, BROOKLYN, NY 11201.
Please make checks payable to ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE. THANKS

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Is this a new subscription? _____ A renewal? _____ Amount enclosed: _____

_____ \$5(ALA Personal Member) _____ \$3(Affiliate, non-ALA Member) _____ \$20(Institut-
ion. Back issues are available at \$1 each. \$ _____ (numbers _____)

SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE

Steve Seward, Editor, 324 Seventh Street, Union City NJ 07087
Jim Dwyer, 1943^ Onyx Street, Eugene OR 97403
Bonnie Isman, Williams Public Library, 49-50 King Street,
Christiansted, St. Croix VI 00820
Michael R. O'Brien, 1497 West 38th Street, Cleveland OH 44113
Rick Speer, Warren Library Association, Box 489, Warrem PA 16365
Barbara Zang, 5 High Street, New Brunswick NJ 08901

SRRT ACTION COUNCIL CO-ORDINATORS

Elizabeth Morrissett, Auraria Libraries, University of Colorado-
Denver, Lawrence and 11th, Denver CO 80204
Mary Biblo, 5225 South Blackstone, Chicago IL 60615
Nancy D'Amico, SRRT Treasurer, Roger Williams College Library,
Old Ferry Road, Bristol RI 02809

-s a a t r e

ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE
60 Remsen Street, #10E
Brooklyn, New York 11201

NON-PROFIT ORC.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Brooklyn, N. Y.
Permit No. 13328