Academic Librarians visit Dr. Joe Leone, new Chancellor of Higher Education

The Academic Subcommittee of the Library Development Committee interviewed the new Chancellor for Higher Education, Dr. Joe Leone, in his office on Friday, January 22, 1982. Present for the interview were Stan Benson (Oklahoma State University), John Lolly (Centennial Library), Josephine Raburn (Cameron University), John Walker (East Central University), and Martha Waltz (University of Science and Arts). Dr. Leone was extremely cordial with the group and gave approximately one and one-half hours of his time for the interview. Joining Dr. Leone for the visit was Dr. Edward J. Coyle, Vice-Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs.

Stan Benson began the visit by outlining for Dr. Leone the nature and purpose of LDS and its relationship to all libraries affiliated with OLA. He then reminded Dr. Leone of the fact that the library of Oscar Rose Junior College, where Leone previously served as president, has always enjoyed strong financial support, and wondered whether this fact might be interpreted as indicative of the Chancellor's high regard for academic libraries. In other words, what is the Chancellor's philosophy regarding the role and place of the library in an academic institution?

He responded in the affirmative — that is, as president of Oscar Rose, he strongly supported the library from the beginning of that institution throughout his tenure there. He jokingly stated, "At Oscar Rose I had an unlimited budget for eight years, and I exceeded it in the library."

He also feels that the library deserves strong support on all campuses. He pointed to the fact that he had chaired North Central accrediting teams many times, and had always picked a person who was well qualified to evaluate the library for that team. "I think that the library is the heart of an institution," he said. But he quickly reminded the group that he and the Regents do not prescribe to the various institutions the kind of support they give their libraries. The Regents can only recommend.

Next, Dr. Leone was referred to a survey entitled "Library Resources and Utilization for Oklahoma Colleges and Universities," which was completed in 1977 by a committee composed of Dr. Larry Hayes of the Regents' staff and a number of librarians and academicans. The survey showed that Oklahoma's academic libraries, as a whole, were deficient according to national standards, and that as a result of the survey the Regents had adopted a resolution calling for the upgrading of libraries as a goal.

Dr. Leone responded by referring to the Regents' latest report on annual expenditures of the state's public institutions of higher learning, which showed that the average institutional expenditure for the library was 20 percent of the Educational and General budget. Since the Regents' recommendation is 26 percent of the E and G budget, this falls within their guidelines. However, while the average was 20 percent, there was great discrepancy among the various institutions, from less than 2 percent in one to over 7 percent in another. Again, Dr. Leone reminded the group that the actual percentage of an institution's budget spent on libraries is an internal matter decided by the administration of each school.

The Regents' general practice, he said, is to review annually each institution's expenditures, and to question the institution regarding any item, such as the library, which falls greatly out-of-line with the Regents' recommendations.

John Lolly pointed out that, while he understood that each institution determines the amount expended for libraries, he felt it would be extremely helpful if he could state to his administration that the new Chancellor is a strong supporter of libraries. He asked Dr. Leone if it would be permissible to state this, and received an affirmative reply.

Dr. Leone was asked what advice he could give to the Library Development Committee in its efforts to assist college and university libraries. His answer was that the chief executives of Oklahoma's institutions of higher learning looked favorably on libraries. They were willing to spend money on libraries, but other people in the institutions help make budget decisions. He would suggest that the committee focus on academic vice-presidents and deans. They have input to the president on how the budget is divided. Business managers and department heads also have inputs. "Tell them why it is important to build strong libraries," he said. "Give them a rationale."

A number of questions addressed to Dr. Leone had been suggested by Roscoe Rouse of Oklahoma State University, who was unable to be present for the interview but sent his questions to Dr. Leone in a letter. These had to do with (1) the 6 to 7 percent annual operating budget (already discussed); (2) the need for library capital improvements on some campuses; (3) the need for increasing the salaries of academic librarians; and (4) the importance of upgrading the research libraries, with special reference to the OSU Library, which ranks last on the list of the Association of Research Libraries.

Again, Dr. Leone stated that these are internal matters on each campus. For example, the need for capital improvements must be addressed on each campus, and requests for additional funding for such improvements must come from the individual institution. In other words, librarians and library directors must first convince their own administrations of the need.

In response to a question regarding his view of library cooperation and networking, Dr. Leone stated that he has always felt that resource sharing is a good idea. In making administrative decisions, he has always asked such questions as: "What is the cost benefit?" "Will such a decision take resources away from other essential services?" While each library would like to have everything readily available for its patrons, he felt this was not practical and that it makes good sense for libraries to cooperate and to share resources.

In conclusion, Dr. Leone pointed out that, whereas the previous twenty years could be described as a time of expansion for higher education in Oklahoma (new institutions, expanding campuses, growing enrollments), he views the coming years as a levelling-off period. He feels that now is a time to think not of expansion, but of building quality into our higher education system. Those involved in higher education need to reflect on what we have been doing and how to refine and improve it. Thus, he would like to view the coming years, during which he serves as Chancellor, as our opportunity for building quality. And, he invites academic librarians to join him in this quest for quality. Librarians on each campus should seize this opportunity to direct their efforts toward developing libraries of quality.

The group of academic librarians thanked Dr. Leone for his most cordial reception and for giving so liberally of his time for the interview. Dr. Leone expressed his appreciation for the visit and the opportunity it afforded for exchanging ideas concerning the role and needs of academic libraries.
American Library Association Needs YOUR Help

The association seeks to raise $250,000 by September 1, 1982, to avoid a long term loan at a high rate of interest.

Won't you write a $10 check (or more) for the Fifty East Huron Fund? Over 1,500 members have contributed to the fund. ALA is seeking more contributions from corporate sources, but it is the membership that will benefit most from the improved and expanded headquarters the Fifty East Huron Fund supports. The need is urgent. Won't you please help by sending a contribution today? Be sure to address it to: The Fifty East Huron Fund, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Action of the Executive Board

December 18, 1981
- Set March 30-April 1 as the official conference dates for 1983 in Oklahoma City. Dates April 21-22 are not available.
- Received report of financial assistance to support transmission of the ALA Convention by satellite to designated talk-back TV stations in Oklahoma.
- Established a policy on the use of OLA mailing labels.

January 15, 1982
- Department of Education reported that a school media state workshop is tentatively set for September 16-17, at Central State University in Edmond.
- Treasurer reported a balance of $12,151.59 in the general fund.
- The Executive Board will review criteria for association awards.
- Received OASLMS report concerning charges in school media certification. OASLMS has endorsed the proposed charge to Master's degree for professional certification.

February 19, 1982
- Treasurer reported a balance of $10,992.27 in the general fund.
- Department of Education reported on SB 626, a proposal to require all schools, from K through 12, to have certified librarians. This proposal would bring school librarians up to state guidelines. It would take effect in 1985.
- Adopted the Awards Committee revised standards for granting the Citizens Recognition Award and Certificates of Appreciation.
- Adopted a motion to oppose House Joint Resolution 1031 (1981). A legislative proposal calling for a Referendum to abolish the personal property tax.

Bethany Nazarene College recently honored two library employees for their years of service. The Board of Trustees recognized Alfreda Hanna for her seventeen years of service and C. J. Peterson for her thirteen years of service. Alfreda is well known among state and national library circles for her numerous contributions. She is currently the state's ALA Councillor and is past president of the Oklahoma Library Association.

The 1980-81 rankings of research libraries in America has been published by the Chronicle of Higher Education. The University of Oklahoma ranked 67th, Oklahoma State University ranked 101st. Harvard, Yale and the University of California had the top spots, with Texas University 7th.
STATE CAPITOL HEADLINES: Library Legislation

By Oliver Delaney

Legislation of interest to libraries and librarians introduced at the Second Session of the 38th Legislature are gradually winding their way through Senate and House Committees. HB 1171 by Don McCorkell (Tulsa) would have established an Oklahoma "Freedom of Information Act" by providing procedures for access to public records. The bill died in committee. It would have strengthened and elaborated current law on records open for public inspection (Title 51, Section 24). Of interest to some is HB 1176 by Howard Cotner (Altus) which creates a County Records Board in every county. Such a Board would be responsible for overseeing the access, waiving, microfilming and disposing of county records. An amended version of the bill has passed the House and is in the Senate General Government Committee. SB 626 by Herb Rozell (Tahlequah) specifies the number of library employees (full and part-time) that are to be maintained by school districts. SB 626 has passed the Senate and is in the House Common Education Committee.

Two proposed constitutional amendments are of interest as one would raise the ad valorem taxation from 15 mills to 20 mills (SJR 26 by Geng-Howard) while another would eliminate personal property tax on all livestock and growing crops (HJR 1031 by Vern Dunn). Both measures have passed the originating chamber and are very much alive. Appropriation Bills will probably await final decision near the end of session. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries appropriation bill (HB 1547) now in the Senate Appropriations Committee contains $1.8 million for development and expansion of public library services, a substantial improvement of funding these last few years. Section 4 of SB 440 by Roger Randle (Tulsa) includes $175,000 to construct barrier-free access to public libraries. Section 5 (B) of SB 452 includes $1.8 million to the Board of Education for library resources. The next deadline is March 22 which is the last day for House (Senate) measures to clear the Senate (House) Committees. If you are interested to know the current status of any legislation call the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Legislative Reference Division, (405) 521-2502 ext. 275.

ALREADY STUDIES POSSIBILITY OF NATIONAL LIBRARY SYMBOL

To highlight this year's emphasis on public awareness, American Library Association (ALA) President Betty Stone has appointed a task force to explore the possibility of a national library symbol. The task force consists of Sandra Branch (Northeast Virginia Community College; Kathryn Mendenhall, Battelle Memorial Institute; David Flemington, Library of Congress; Amy Rupp, Catholic University; Grace Slocum, Cecil County Public Library and Dorothy Pollet Gray, Library of Congress, chair.

The national library symbol would be a standardized symbol, representing all types of libraries, that could be used by any individual library on its own signs, stationery, book list, and other promotional materials. The task group will present findings and recommendations during the President's Program at the ALA Annual Conference in Philadelphia on Saturday, July 10, 1982. The Program also will feature a display of library promotional materials using logos and symbols.

AS INTRODUCED

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE TO APPROVE CERTAIN TEXTBOOKS; AND DIRECTING DISTRIBUTION.

WHEREAS, Article XVIII, Section 6 of the Oklahoma Constitution empowers the Legislature to provide for textbooks free of charge to all pupils in the common schools of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has provided for such textbooks and has established certain procedures and requirements for the selection and purchase of textbooks; and

WHEREAS, the quality of textbooks used in the schools of this state directly affects the quality of education and the development of our future citizens and leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that textbooks and teaching materials with the proper content can be instrumental in guiding children toward productive, law-abiding and meaningful lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 38TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby urges the State Textbook Committee to approve textbooks and teaching materials which:

1. Are objective in content and impartial in interpretations, and which do not encourage or condone civil disorder, social strife or disregard for the law;
2. Do not degrade and where appropriate teach high moral standards including:
   a. Honesty,
   b. Respect for parents, teachers, and those properly in authority,
   c. The importance of the work ethic in achieving personal goals,
   d. The existence of absolute values of right and wrong;
3. Emphasize the importance of the family as the core of American society and do not degrade traditional roles of men and women, boys and girls;
4. Include the principles of the free enterprise system and the effectiveness of the system;
5. Are designed to foster the intellectual development of the child by providing instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, and by cultivating the mind to seek the knowledge produced through centuries of academic endeavor, including an awareness of the religious and classical culture of the western world and its significance to the preservation of the liberties of the American people;
6. Present balanced and factual treatments to controversial, political and social movements without biased editorial judgment;
7. Do not promote illegal lifestyles or sexual behavior, sadistic or degrading behavior;
8. Do not include blatantly offensive language or illustrations;
9. Do not include violence for reasons of excitement, sensationalism or as an excuse for relevance. Violence, if it appears in textbook content, shall be treated in context of cause and consequence;
10. Treat the subject of historical origins of humankind in an objective and unbiased manner; and
11. Do not invade the privacy of the pupils or pupils' parents.

SECTION 2. Copies of this Resolution shall be dispatched to the Governor and to members of the State Textbook Committee.

IHR 1025 above passed
INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM.

Censorship of materials is disrupting a number of communities as the drive to ban books spreads to the United States. School and library officials say attempts to curb access to materials is one of the most divisive issues to hit communities in years. The list of banned items includes textbooks, dictionaries, novels, plays, musical productions and magazines. Both conservative and liberal activists are taking aim at school materials they find objectionable as part of a new wave of ban-the-book drive across the country.

"No book is being spared scrutiny," says Judith Krug, Director of ALA's Intellectual Freedom Office. "Every school system faces potential challenges on literary works that somebody finds offensive." A recent report by the Association of American Publishers, the American Library Association, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development concludes that censorship pressure is real and nationwide. The report, Limiting What Students Shall Read, surveyed 7,500 school administrators. Twenty-five percent reported increased efforts to censor materials in their districts during the previous year.

"The trouble with censorship," says Studs Terkel whose book, Working, is under attack, "is that once it (censorship) starts it is hard to stop."

This came the lovely spring, with a rush of blossoms and music, flooding the earth with flowers and the air with melodies vernal.—Longfellow.

ALA DESIGNATES UNITED AIRLINES OFFICIAL 1981 CONFERENCE CARRIER

The American Library Association has named United Airlines the official carrier for its 101st Annual Conference in Philadelphia, July 10-15, 1982. ALA will continue to use T.V. Travel Bureau, Chicago, as its official travel agency for issuing tickets.

The affiliation with United Airlines will facilitate making travel arrangements, reservations, getting information, departure times, arrival times, etc. For the present, the arrangement affects ALA travel only in conjunction with travel to the 1982 Annual Conference.

The toll-free number for ALA information and reservations in all areas except Michigan is (800) 521-0810. In Michigan the toll-free number is (800) 482-0243. Those making reservations through United Airlines ALA Service may buy their transportation from any ticket office or travel agency, including T.V. Travel.