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The Association
of
College and University
Broadcasting Stations

January 19, 1933

SPECIAL BULLETIN

TO MEMBERS
OF

THE ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BROADCASTING STATIONS
(and educational officials cooperating with the Association)

The office of your executive secretary has just been supplied with a letter from Joe F. Wright, University of Illinois, President of the Association, calling particular attention to two points, as you will note in his letter. Mr. Wright's letter reads as follows:

"Two things:

"(1) I promised all the cooperation it is possible for us to give to a matter presented by the American Library Association, and I wish you would send out the two enclosed statements to our membership with the suggestion that they use them wherever possible.

"(2) Dr. C. M. Koon, Senior Specialist in Education by Radio, United States Office of Education, has been asked by Chief Examiner E. A. Yost of the Radio Commission to discuss with him what regulations of the Commission have been found embarrassing to educational stations.

"Our membership should be asked immediately to send any matters they wish discussed directly to Dr. Koon. The quicker, the better. I am sending a brief note along this line to some of our leaders in order to save time, but if you will get out a bulletin to all the membership it will be helpful."

The two articles which Mr. Wright mentions are attached.

Sincerely yours,

T. M. Beaird

T. M. Beaird, Executive Secretary

The continued existence of a democratic society depends upon the maintenance of those educational, cultural and social institutions which have been created to promote general education and wholesome living. The service of such institutions must not be destroyed.

The need for economy is recognized. In many cities, counties and states the unit cost of governmental services can and should be reduced. All taxing units should be required to live within their incomes except for permanent improvements and emergencies.

A wholesale horizontal cut applying to all departments and activities is one of the least desirable ways of reducing, for it cannot be assumed that all departments are equally efficient and all activities equally important. Before reductions are made there should be a study by disinterested specialists and citizens to determine (1) what cuts can be made without limiting important services, and (2) the relative importance to the public of the various activities. We will welcome such investigation of the institutions and activities we represent.

We pledge our cooperation to forward-looking public administrators in their efforts to find permanent solutions for the taxpayers' problems, through the complete elimination of the spoils or patronage system in all governmental activities where it exists; through the improvement of the personnel; through the reorganization of areas and functions of government; and through improved methods of taxation. The elimination of waste should precede any curtailment of socially useful services.

Increased Demand for Library Service

Libraries were created by our democratic society in order that every citizen might have throughout life the means of self-education.

More people used libraries, more books were borrowed from libraries and more books were used in library reading rooms in 1932 than ever before. Sample reports from 33 cities representing only one-tenth of the total population of the United States show that the number of books borrowed from their libraries in 1932 was 81,663,423, an increase of 37% since 1929.

Economic and social insecurity has led men and women to attempt to understand through reading the fundamental and current problems which confront them as citizens. Books on the business of earning a living are in great demand. So also are the books of many kinds which contribute to the maintenance of a spirit of hope.

Library expenditures are a small part of the public budget. With few exceptions libraries have been operated without extravagance, with an intelligent regard to the public interest and the tax-payer's burden. It is nevertheless the duty of library administrators to re-evaluate the library's services in terms of present conditions, to distinguish sharply between essentials and non-essentials, and to seek new ways of carrying on the most necessary activities at the lowest possible cost.

Libraries are more needed today than ever before. There is much to learn which was not taught when the present-day adult was at school. Never was the average adult driven to the printed page and to the library so repeatedly in order to become reasonably well informed about matters which are of vital concern to him. In the interest of an intelligent, understanding citizenship the library's essential service must be maintained.