



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES

NEWS LETTER

Local 28, United Federal Workers of America (C.I.O.)

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Library of Congress

January 1940

ARMS EXPENDITURES IMPERIL DOMESTIC GAINS - CONSTRUCTIVE VS. DESTRUCTIVE SPENDING

Refusal to Grant Needed Increase Will Cripple Important Library Services

Although newspaper headlines reiterate that "Congress is economy-minded," there appears to be some basis for believing that our elected representatives across the street will prefer to make democracy work by retaining and extending essential governmental services, rather than driving our economy more and more toward a militaristic basis with enormous appropriations for arms and munitions.

The position of the Library of Congress in this alleged "economy" drive is essentially the same, namely, that by refusing to grant a needed increase in funds, the Library will continue to be handicapped in serving both the Congress and the nation, while LC employees will continue to enjoy the dubious distinction of being the lowest-paid group of government workers.

LOCAL 28 ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

After a really flawless job of intelligent and courageous leadership under two administrations, David R. Wahl dis-appointed the membership of Local 28 by declining to accept reelection as president in order to maintain the principle of rotation in office. Fortunately for the Union, he consented to serve as chairman of the Executive Committee, where his sound judgment and constructive approach to Library problems will be at the service of the organization.

At the annual meeting for election of officers, Jan. 9, George A. Fughe, was chosen for president and Marcia Harrison for corresponding secretary. William G. Cornelius, James K. Boyland and Mrs. J.R. Mazique were reelected respectively vice-president, treasurer and recording secretary.

~~~~~  
 @ W. H. Auden, British Poet, @  
 @ Will Speak at Staff Luncheon @  
 @ Friday, January 26, 12 Noon @  
 @ LC Cafeteria, Southwest Room @  
 @ All Welcome! @  
 @ ~~~~~

For, if the Library of Congress is to fulfill its function as the national library, it must be competently and adequately staffed and able to buy the books that are needed. This cannot be done without a very substantial increase in next year's appropriation over those of former years.

At a time when 42 million Americans are without library service, increased appropriations for LC should hardly be deemed a luxury.

With respect to the Budget as a whole, we think the confusion surrounding the question of economy can be clarified by asking simply, "Is our real enemy Hitler, Hirohito and Halifax, or poverty, depression and War?"

### STEINBECK'S WAR BUDGET

John Steinbeck is reported to have notified Selznick that he has put in a special bank account the \$75,000 he received for the movie rights to Grapes of Wrath as a fund to sue the producer if the film version is not to his liking.

And Selznick is reported to have said that the detectives he sent to check up on the conditions described in the novel reported that they were much worse than Steinbeck had pictured them.

## STAFF PROMOTION MECHANISM INSTALLED

As a first step toward instituting the practice of making promotions from within the service whenever possible, an advocated by the union in its initial conferences with Mr. Macleish, forms have been distributed to all employees on which they may list their education, experience, training, special qualifications and preferences. These data, it is understood, will be used to guide the administration in its desire, as far as may be feasible in each instance, to fill future vacancies by promotion and transfer of members of the staff, in preference to bringing in persons from outside and jumping them over the heads of present employees. The improvement in the morale of the staff, through the establishment of a career service at LC, will, we are sure, soon be noticeable.

## PERSONNEL CHANGES

### Assignments

#### To Reading Rooms

Jan. 2, 1940--Neal W. Richmond, Jr., of Montpelier, Vt.  
Carl L. Taylor, of Raleigh, N. C.  
Leo W. Tighe, of Hanaroff, Neb.

To Office of Chief Reference Librarian  
Jan. 2, 1940--Philip C. Kenney, of Missoula, Mont.

### Transfers

Raleigh Barlow and Marshall E. Sanders from Reading Room to Browning Room

## R. C. HOUSING CONDITIONS DESCRIBED

"Fifteen hundred families in the District have out-door toilets; 4800 houses do not have running water inside the house," stated Mrs. Helen Dwyer Hoffman, Executive Secretary of the Washington Housing Association at the staff luncheon, January 9. "Imagine a family with three, four or five children living in your bedroom -- eating, sleeping, washing in one room," she said, to describe graphically the overcrowding of hundreds of low-income families in Washington.

## IN-SERVICE TRAINING LAUNCHED AT LC

The committee on in-service training mentioned in our last issue, on which the union was represented by its president and the chairman of its Welfare Committee, made an exhaustive study of the subject and submitted to the Librarian a unanimous report which is now being studied by Mr. Macleish. As a first step toward putting the project into execution, a series of talks has been arranged by members of the staff who will explain the workings of the various divisions and services of the Library of Congress. The substance of these talks may later be incorporated in a booklet for the guidance of the staff and the users of the Library.

## BROWNING ROOM FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

To save Members of Congress and their families the annoyance of waiting for popular books and searching through catalog cards for call numbers, a special collection of recent fiction has been assembled in a Congressional Browning Room which has been installed at the end of the north corridor on the main floor of the old building. The collection has been arranged in five sections: general fiction, romances, children's books, mystery stories and "westerns." New titles are added as they appear and books which have lost their rague are returned to the stacks.

"For myself I can say only this: that I do not believe libraries, any more than any other institution created by men, can be put above checks; that librarianship, like every other human activity, must be continually re-invested if it is to live; and that none -- or so it seems to me -- are under heavier responsibilities to the present than those whose profession is to conserve the past." -- Archibald Macleish, addressing the R. C. Library Ass'n, Dec. 18, 1939.

"We have no union here, so I appreciate getting bulletins from the few library unions in existence," writes a librarian in San Francisco, as she sends \$1.00 as a subscription to the L.C. News Letter.

## WEEKLY LUNCHEON PLAN A SUCCESS

The weekly staff luncheon inaugurated last month has already become an established LC institution, with regular gatherings every Tuesday noon and special meetings on other days.

At the second luncheon a committee was elected to handle the arrangements. It consists of Miss Mary Van Casteel, chairman, Miss Alice L. Benfrow, secretary, F.A. Bloesch, Paul Boswell, E.F. Ferdinand, Charles A. Gauld, J. Robert Lawton, Norman A. Pierce.

The following speakers have appeared at the luncheon to date:

- Dec. 19 - Dr. R. D. Jansson, "Culture in the Winterland of America."  
 Dec. 26 - Dr. Wm. K. Hayes, "Finland."  
 Jan. 2 - David E. Scull, "Punchcards as an Aid to Service Promotions."  
 Jan. 9 - Mrs. Helen E. Hoffman, "Housing Conditions in Washington."  
 Jan. 16 - Dr. Cameron Gorman, "Group Health Association."  
 Jan. 19 - Miss Ida Fruit, "Chinese Industrial Cooperatives."

All members of the staff are welcome at these luncheons, which are now held in the Southwest Room on the top floor.

## GROUP MEDICINE OFFERED TO LC STAFF

In order to lay before LC employees the advantages of membership in Group Health Association, a cooperative organization which provides medical and hospital care of the highest order at about one-third the usual cost, a public meeting was held in Coolidge Auditorium on Jan. 16. The president, medical director and administrator of GHA explained the methods and benefits of group medicine.

Attention was called to the fact that, contrary to most organizations seeking new members, the present equipment and personnel of GHA set a limit to the number of persons who can be admitted.

Application blanks and further information can be obtained from E.F. Ferdinand, of the Catalog Division.

On Friday, Jan. 26, 8-10 p.m., persons desirous of inspecting the facilities of Group Health are invited to a Guest Site at the clinic, 1328 Nye St., and the annex, 1422 K St. NW.

## THE PURGATORY OF A DECK ATTENDANT

The Bookplate, monthly publication of the association which conducts the cooperative Bookshop at 916 17th St. NW, carried in its December issue four poems by Paul Boswell, now of our Central Desk and formerly a deck attendant. One of them seems to have something to do with the Library of Congress:

## Particular Hell

"Beware of what you want too much on earth,"  
 The Purgatory poet, Dante, said.  
 "In Hell you'll get it, and it won't be worth  
 A tenth what you imagined when it fled."  
 Paolo and Francesca died for lust  
 But learned to loathe its unrelenting urge.  
 And Plutus tired of rolling golden dust  
 Is boarded plenty which he couldn't surlunge.

Two years ago I died and went to Hell,  
 A bookworm's hell, with polished marble halls,  
 Where half ten million volumes line my cell,  
 Yes, half ten million volumes ranged in stalls.  
 And every day I pull them from their rack,  
 And every night again I put them back.  
 (Inserted by the committee  
 over the editor's protest)

## NEW LIBRARY PUBLICATION WELCOME

A welcome event in the library world is the appearance of the Bulletin of the Progressive Librarians Council. Anyone seriously interested in keeping abreast of library affairs through the columns of a sprightly publication should send 50¢ to Bertha Schumann, 3086 Island Ave. Chicago, or hand it to Marcia Harrison in the Catalog Division.

## COMMUNICATIONS INVITED

Communications are invited from all members of the LC staff on matters of common interest. Address the editor, Paul Boswell, at the Reading Room Desk.

# ENTER NOTE

## NEW L.C. DRAMA GROUP STAGES PLAY BY WILLARD WEBB

The remarkable address on The Obligation of Libraries in a Democracy which MR. MACLEISH delivered at the reception tendered him by the D.C. Libraries Association on Dec. 15, 1939 is printed in full in the January D.C. Libraries.

RUSSELL S. DOZER, of the Reading Room staff, is giving a course of lectures at the Bookshop, 916 17th St. NW, Wednesday evenings at 8 on American History from 1800 to the Present Time. Mr. Dozer has an M.A. from Ohio State University and did graduate work also at Harvard.

After a strenuous ten-week tour of eleven colleges in the middle west under the auspices of the Association of American Colleges, DR. R.D. JAMESON, consultant in comparative literature, started early this month another series of lecturing visits which will take him from New York to Iowa and keep him "on the road" until the middle of May.

MR. MYRON EMMETT SMITH, consultant in Islamic archaeology, is to carry the torch of culture, likewise under the auspices of the Association of American Colleges, to four Ohio colleges and universities, starting Feb. 18 and spending a week at each place. He made similar seminar visits last fall to Western Maryland College, Heidelberg and Western colleges in Ohio, and Wilson College, at Chambersburg, Pa.

The radio broadcast by MR. MACLEISH on Dec. 26 in honor of the 800th anniversary of the invention of printing was so widely acclaimed that the AIA has had copies of the recording made for use by libraries in their celebrations of the historic event.

The November 1939 number of Word Study issued monthly by G. & C. Merriam Co., publishers of Webster's Dictionary, devotes three pages to an article on DR. HENRIEL, Chief of our Division of Orientalia, whom it characterizes as "unquestionably the commanding figure" among American scholars engaged in Chinese studies in this country. His contributions to the annual report of the Librarian of Congress are referred to as "a model of their kind." So Dr. Hensel was assigned the task of explaining in the dictionary the origins of words introduced into English from the Chinese language.

A drama group which invites the membership of all interested has been formed. It is the plan of the group to give a one-act play at each meeting and eventually to give full-length plays. The play presented January 10 in the Coolidge Auditorium was written by Mr. Willard Webb, of the Congressional Unit. Notices of future meetings will be posted on all bulletin boards.

## LC CHORAL SOCIETY ORGANIZED

At a meeting held in the Coolidge Auditorium on Jan. 11, steps were taken to organize a musical society of members of the LC staff. It was suggested that a mixed chorus be formed, and later possibly a string quartet, an orchestra or a band might be organized. In order to meet the expense of the director's fee, the purchase of music, etc., it was proposed that a dance be given, the librarian having indicated his approval.

An initiation fee of 50¢ was voted and it was decided also to have associate members. The officers elected were: president, Stewart Dickson, vice-president, R. W. Cushman; treasurer, Miss Mary Rogers; secretary, Mrs. Ethel Walters.

Mr. Walter Nash has been asked to be the director of the chorus. Rehearsals will be held every Monday at 4.30 in the Coolidge Auditorium.

## EXPERT BUYING ADVICE NOW AVAILABLE

Through a special arrangement, any member of the LC staff may now subscribe to Consumers Union services at reduced rates as follows: \$2.00 for the \$3.00 membership, which entitles one to the complete annual buying guide and twelve monthly reports; 75¢ for the \$1.00 service, comprising twelve abridged reports and an abridged annual buying guide. Subscription blanks and further information may be obtained from Ogden Kelley at the Reading Room desk.

## IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS

don't fail to notify the secretary of the union, so that you may receive notices of meetings, etc. without delay.

## LC SQUAD STILL LEADS THE LEAGUE

Continuing its march toward a successful defense of its championship, the powerful LC basketball team has an impressive record of seven straight league victories.

In a close, hard-fought game, the Library team defeated Rural Electrification Administration in the last game before the Christmas holidays.

On New Year's Day LC was invited to play the formidable YMCA team at the annual open house at the Y. Playing a fast, aggressive game, the team extended the Y quintet to the utmost before their reserve strength prevailed. The final score of the game was 30-28.

Resuming league play after the holiday interia, the team had little trouble defeating the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce 36-13.

In the most exciting game of the season to date, the LC basketball team defeated Patent Office 33-32. The contest was the kind you read about, the lead changing hands numerous times before LC team-work prevailed.

January 18 the team had little difficulty in downing Interstate Commerce Commission 34-24.

Team work has been done in all games by the entire squad. Special credit goes to John Eaton, Jim Cooper, Brooks, Gerlio, LaBelle and Kernerly.

## CAN YOU HOUSE A YOUTH DELEGATE?

"Mr. Youth Goes to Washington," reads the American Youth Congress announcement of a "Citizenship Institute" to be held in Washington Feb. 9-12. Representatives of widely scattered colleges and youth groups are to attend as "learners" about government and its administrators in action and as spokesmen to voice the opinions and needs of young people. Preceptors are usually pre-wage-earners and, in the absence of youth hostels hereabouts, must rely on the hospitality of residents. If you can house a youth delegate, please communicate promptly with Marcia Harrison, Catalog Division.

The Bookshop, 916 17th St. SW, is running a special sale of the Modern Library at substantial reductions.

## BOWLING TEAMS IN CLOSE RIVALRY

The L.C. Bowling League, consisting of ten teams of three men and two women each and representing different divisions of the Library, has completed more than half of its 37-week, 81-game schedule. Experienced bowlers declare that the race, with ties almost continually for the top positions, is closer than any mixed league they can remember. The standings were on January 21st.

## Team—Games won—Games lost—Pin Fall

|               |         |         |        |
|---------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Saturn.....   | 36..... | 20..... | 23,260 |
| Uranus.....   | 36..... | 20..... | 22,213 |
| Leonid.....   | 36..... | 20..... | 22,014 |
| Mars.....     | 35..... | 23..... | 22,138 |
| Jupiter.....  | 35..... | 23..... | 22,062 |
| Arcturus..... | 35..... | 23..... | 22,055 |
| Neptune.....  | 34..... | 25..... | 22,074 |
| Venus.....    | 31..... | 27..... | 21,808 |
| Mercury.....  | 19..... | 29..... | 21,709 |
| Pluto.....    | 16..... | 37..... | 19,733 |

Games are played every Monday at 7 p. m. at the Brookland Alleys, 3726 Tenth St. NE. The president of the League is Mr. Cristofoli, and the sec.-treas. Mr. Phillips, both of the Card Division.

## HISPANIC FOUNDATION LUNCHEONS

Following the example of the luncheon group mentioned in our last issue, the Hispanic Foundation inaugurated on Jan. 8 a series of occasional luncheons, the first of which was ably largely attended that the problem in future bids fair to be how to find room for those who want to participate. At the initial luncheon Miss Anita Ker, of the Catalog Division on the eve of returning to Caracas for another six months, gave an interesting account of her experiences and observations while directing the cataloging of the Biblioteca Nacional of Venezuela.

Competitive examinations for Junior Professional Assistant at \$2,000 a year, including junior librarian, information assistant, archivist, geographer, legal assistant, statistician, rural sociologist, social anthropologist, have been announced by the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Applications must be on file not later than Feb. 5, 1940.

## LC GOODS-AND-LABOR EXCHANGE

(LC employees, whether members of the union or not, having articles to dispose of, or wishing employment outside of working hours, are invited to list their offerings here free of charge.)

PAINTING, repairing, carpentry, waxing floors, window cleaning, waiting on table  
Julian B. Smith, Seat Pleasant F.O., Md.  
Capitol Hts., 569, or c/o Mr. West  
K.R. Smith, Cap. Hts., 569, Seat Pleasant  
Md., or through Mr. West's office.

GERMAN LESSONS by an American educated in Austria, Doctor of Law from the University of Vienna. Reginald Parker, Catalog Division, telephone 363.

ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS of bamboo fibre - roses, orchids, geraniums, etc. Will freshen up in cold water. Mrs. Desjardins, c/o Mr. West's office.

GENERAL WORK OF ALL SORTS - carpentry, painting, basement work, floors refinished, etc. Frank Stokes, 310 C St. SE, or on SE elevator, Main Bldg daily till 3 p.m.

COAL, all grades, any quantity delivered anywhere. Best quality, right prices. Fred Jackson, 605 21st St. NW. Dis 4889 or through Mr. West's office.

PLEASANT FURNISHED ROOM, \$30 a month, including auto ride to LC in the morning. 608 Allison St. NW. Randolph 2780, or see Reginald Parker, Catalog Division.

GENERAL HOUSECLEANING, window washing, waxing floors, serving at parties, etc. Edward A. Digne, 1111 45th St. SE, At 1706, or through Mr. West's office.

NOTE - If you have anything to sell or exchange or wish to give lessons, read proof, do translating, etc., send full particulars to the editor for free listing here.

The LC local of the Writers Project and the UPWA union are working on plans for a series of joint meetings for the public discussion of methods of cooperation between writers and library workers.

## CIO LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 1940

Declaring that the American Problem Number One remains the time to ten million employable men and women who are without jobs in private industry, the Congress of Industrial Organizations has launched its 1940 legislative program with the opening of the present session of Congress.

Briefly, the CIO urges for serious consideration a program based on the following fundamental objectives:

- (1) The United States must keep out of any involvement in foreign wars.
- (2) The attention of this country and the energies of our government, industry and labor must be directed toward the immediate solving of the problem of unemployment.
- (3) The democratic rights and institutions of this country must be preserved.
- (4) Labor's right to organize and bargain collectively must be continued as the cornerstone for the preservation and extension of any economic and social program.

In urging its program of jobs, security and peace, the CIO made clear that Congress must devote its attention to the interests and needs of the American people at home, rather than allow foreign affairs to divert its attention from these pressing domestic problems.

To meet such conditions, the expansion of the program of legislation for social security and the relief of unemployment as well as the continued assurance of labor's right to organize, are recommendations carefully outlined in the CIO's program.

## FRINDS OF FARM LABOR PLAN UNIQUE DINNER

A unique dinner, at which every item on the menu, from soup to nuts, will be 100% union made, is being planned by the Washington Committee to Aid Agricultural Workers for early in March, as part of a countrywide campaign in behalf of the people who produce the food we eat.

In some Ohio cities people on relief are receiving one-tenth the amount of food allowed for prisoners in the jail.