

Kennedy Library Opening

The J. F. Kennedy Memorial Library at West Liberty will be opened sometime between May 15 and June 30, probably toward the latter date. Mrs. Kennedy has been invited to attend the opening ceremonies and rumor has it that she has expressed a wish to come. The building has been finished and inspected but the shelving and equipment are not yet in place. The exact date of the opening will be given in a future Newsletter so that Friends may make plans to attend, if they so desire.

Activities of the Past Few Weeks

Twenty-one Woman's Clubs in Kentucky have enrolled as members of the Friends and will receive this newsletter and those to follow. Welcome, Ladies!

Plans are in the making to issue a "How To..." booklet for the use of any group of persons interested in forming a Friends group in their community. At present, two groups are in this process.

A copy of the state constitution of the Friends and any other material that is available will be sent to such groups, on request. When the booklet mentioned above is finished, notice will be give in the Newsletter and will be sent to interested persons and groups.

Invitation to Attend the Clean-Up and Beautification Meeting, April 18, Sheraton Hotel

Members of the Friends are cordially invited to take part in this meeting of the Central States Litter Prevention and Beautification Conference in Louisville. It is a 12-state regional meeting, sponsored jointly by Keep America Beautiful, Inc., and the Division of Beautification of the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources. Every citizen of the state who loves it will be interested in this meeting and its program. For more information, watch the daily papers or write to Mrs. Connie Quinn, Director, Division of Beautification, Department of Natural Resources, Capitol Annex, Frankfort.

Note: In the next issue, a progress report will be given on Fulton and Olham Counties' library programs.

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COUPON

Dues, if not already paid (\$2.00) _____
 Extra donation for Knott County _____
 Extra donation for scholarship fund..... _____

 (Signature)

Mail to: Mrs. Russell Houston, 2512 Brighton Drive, Louisville, Kentucky - 40205
 Note: Please let us know of any change of address. (New address should be sent to Mrs. Houston.)

(Over)

At the National Level - Acts Affecting Kentucky

The LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT

Please don't forget that this Act terminates June 30.

Representative Carl Perkins deserves thanks for introducing HR 12133 which would put Public Library development on a par with other types of educational bills. It would make federal aid for services permanent, with regularly increasing authorization of funds for five years, beginning with \$60 million for 1966-67. Funds for Library Construction or Remodeling would also be greatly increased for five years, beginning with \$75 million for 1966-67. A third title would add small amounts for cooperative services.

Senator John S. Cooper co-sponsored the Javits Bill (S2944) in the Senate, which is almost identical with the Carl Perkins Bill, except for an addition of a fourth title for services to state institutional libraries.

Comment: These bills are excellent but they may have little chance for passage. They recognize, for the first time in history, the major importance of Public Library Service.

Senator Lister Hill has introduced a different version in the Senate (S3076); this bill has been co-sponsored by 52 senators, including Senators Cooper and Morten of Kentucky. It increases authorization of aid for Library services from \$25 million to \$35 million, and for construction and remodeling from \$30 million to \$40 million. It includes slightly changed versions of Title 3 and Title 4, found in S2944.

Representative Roman C. Pucinski from Illinois has introduced a similar compromise bill in the House (HR14050) with the exception that his bill specifies a \$10 million increase each year for four years after the first year - for library services and construction.

Comment: These bills are not as much as is needed but will allow for considerable improvement in Kentucky.

The Administration Bill provides only a 10% increase in funds for library services and no increase in funds for construction and remodeling. A third title allows a small amount for services to the handicapped.

Comment: Everyone is handicapped without a good Public Library and Bookmobile Program! Although great evidence of interest in better Public Library Service is being seen and heard throughout the state, there is still NO PUBLIC LIBRARY in Kentucky which can be considered to be good or even minimal. Therefore, President Johnson's recommended Bill is a great disappointment - and even shocking in its lack of recognition of what is needed.

Basic improvements which need to be done now (not five years later) cannot be made with the Administration Bill.

Citizens need to realize that good Public Library Service is expensive. It can have its beginnings with modest amounts, but any program which does not improve regularly every year is static, even dead. Books have gone up even more than groceries and librarians' salaries, always low, are beginning to improve. Building prices are really up!

We therefore urge everyone to express an interest in an improved bill rather than the practically static one which is the Administration (President Johnson's) Bill. Without your letter and thousands of others, Representatives and Senators will not understand this fact. Please write as a citizen, and a member of a club or organization. Get others to write.

IT IS NOW OR PERHAPS NEVER!

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee