

Social Responsibilities (Round Table) Newsletter ALA

NEWSLETTER

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WHO PAYS? WHO PROFITS?

Corporate Funds Resolution

On Friday, July 23, ALA membership considered a resolution on the use of private or corporate funds to maintain services and personnel in urban library systems facing budget reductions. These monies were defined as income from sources other than government funding - this might include overdue fines, fees from photocopy machines, or interest from previously earned income, as well as other sources.

to provide a number of other "amenities" including retirement parties.

The same library recently reduced service in forty-one branches as a result of fifty-one layoffs. The director correctly maintained that private funds, which represent a mere short term solution, can hire only a handful of staff. While the motion was easily defeated at ALA, library users back here wondered - when will that handful be forthcoming?

The Council stated in policy document 107.3 (jan, 1968) that "Work must proceed simultaneously on carefully established short, intermediate, and long term goals, and not be limited to long-range goals only," when referring to the creation of a National Library Information Program. In our current crisis, libraries must continue to lobby for increased federal and state aid as long-term solutions to its problems. At the same time, however, they cannot afford to ignore various short-term solutions.

All readers are invited to comment'

Edward Herman
150-52 Melbourne Avenue
Flushing, NY 11367

The new SRRT Task Force is called Strategies on Facing Financial Crises.

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