

Social Responsibilities  
Round Table)  
Newsletter ALA

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LIBRARY DOLLARS FOR  
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE?

## This camera blinked.

It will hardly be a surprise to learn that the SRRT Newsletter is unhappy with CBS coverage of the Speaker debate at midwinter. Anyone who saw the April telecast on "Sixty Minutes" will share our disappointment that there was no presentation of that apparently very elusive position between squelching the film as unfit for human consumption and a 'civil liberties' stand that it must be shown as produced, with the ALA 'seal'.

Dan Rather seemed simply amused that a freedom of speech debate could revolve around a film concerned with freedom of speech. And he didn't go much deeper in his coverage. "Sixty Minutes" crews made a media event of the Council session at midwinter, and the network called the shots in establishing priorities for the week-long meeting-- which is a problem in itself.

But the televised result was worse. Rather introduced the segment by suggesting that ALA was wavering on freedom of speech ("the ALA, you would think, would be the last..."). Opposition to the film was considered "an about-face" and according to the report, "a lot of members thought the film was too hot to handle."

A much clearer view recording the distinctions which need to be made appeared in the April 1, 1978 issue of Library Journal, p. 720, where John Berry noted that the important point here is the artificiality of the conflict between "awareness" and "promotion".



# NEW SRRT TASK FORCE: "TOOLS FOR CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING"

By Donnarae MacCann

Cultural pluralism implies respect for the values, cultures, and viewpoints of Third World groups, as well as for the values and mores developed by the American majority. The library profession is having extraordinary difficulty in translating this principle into action. Many of us seem unable to shift our cultural perspective, or to understand why our professional responsibilities require so much historical and sociological background. We are only beginning to see why white librarians cannot "stand in" for members of the Third World in the same way they represent the pervasive culture.

These seem to be hard questions for many: how can a white librarian's consultation with Third World advisers be justified as part of the book selection process? Would such a joint analysis of Third World materials introduce censorship into the process? How can a library's relationship with other community groups be seen and understood as equally fair?

The much publicized "preferred status" of the First Amendment doesn't rule out a synthesis

# *up ms. ms ssim*

By Elliott Shore

After more than a year of hard work and waiting, the Task Force on Alternatives in Print



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