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TASK FORCE NEWS AND NOTES

CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE

At its Midwinter meetings in Washington, D. C., the Civil Rights Task Force will discuss how to amend the ALA policy statement on "Diversity," and/or produce a new declaration - perhaps in league with COSWL, AASL, FTF, the EMIE Round Table, and various caucuses - that would recognize the special vulnerability of children to racist, sexist, ageist, and handiapist material, and thus sanction "cultural authenticity" and nonstereotyping" of human groups on the basis of innate, immutable characteristics (age, sex, ethnicity, and disability) as valid criteria in juvenile book and media selection.

This is not a new idea. I lately restated it in an Interracial Books for Children Bulletin editorial (v.14#5, p.3) and will pursue the same theme, calling for renewed dialogue among current "adversaries," in the next issue. But such considerations had once been formal, accepted ALA policy. The "Statement on Réévaluation of Library Materials for Children's Collections," adopted by the ALA Children's Services Division Board of Directors on January 23, 1973, began like this:

Librarians must espouse critical standards in selection and re-evaluation of library materials.

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