From the Editor...

By Paul Agnesi

A disaster for libraries, President Nixon's Fiscal Year 1974 budget proposes ending all major grants-in-aid to libraries on July 1, 1973. Public libraries, public and private elementary and secondary school libraries; and college, university and research libraries will all be adversely affected if the budget recommendations are allowed to stand. Under such action the Library Services and Construction Act, Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and parts of the Higher Education Act would all come abruptly to an end.

The budget would also terminate many other federal grant programs in the fields of education, health and welfare. To explain such massive cutbacks in popular programs providing needed services, the President speaks "redefining federal roles" giving individual Americans more responsibility for their own lives and curtailing reliance on the federal government as a source of assistance. The issue appears to be one of spending priorities — which programs do the American people want their government to support? The Nixon budget accords library service no priority at all. The dumping of LSCA, ESEA and other established programs will have a tremendous effect. And, while there have been some fantastic reports of what libraries in some sections of the country will be receiving from revenue sharing funds, it doesn't appear that revenue sharing will be a panacea since it is doubtful that libraries will fare well when you consider that they will be competing with those agencies interested in crime prevention, fire protection, and sewerage treatment for funds.

There will be some effects felt in New Mexico if the President's budget is enacted. Take for example the Coordinated Library Service system which got off to such a rousing start after its acceptance by the Association at the annual Conference in 1971. Federal funds have been used since then to give grants-in-aid to implement special projects ranging from early childhood library programs to outreach multi-cultural clientele groups. Such special demonstration programs are one component of CLS — and two of these projects are now being carried on with local funds. Federal monies were also used to establish the first phase of NEMISYS, the beginning of a statewide locator system for New Mexico's libraries. These CLS programs — and the State Library itself, for that matter — have been and are dependent upon federal funds.

Systematic budget cuts have been made or requested by the President since 1969. Within my remembrance this is the fourth time that funds for LSCA and other programs in the HEW budget have been threatened — only this time it looks as if the cuts will be made and some programs ended. Instead of our usual method of individually sending off a letter or telegram to our representative in Washington, isn't it time that we librarians, trustees and library users in New Mexico make our wishes known in Washington utilizing a more formal method of legislative action?

We have shown what can be done on a statewide basis with the passing of the College Library Bond Issue and what we appear to be doing with the Public Library Financial Assistance Act. Isn't there some type of joint action which would enable us to effect a successful program of legislative action on the national level? Perhaps there are some of us who agree that libraries are not a matter for federal assistance, and if so, then it is doubly important that a vehicle is developed for effective legislative action on library issues at the local and state level. Right now there is much at stake and the time is ripe for action.

New Mexico Library Assn.
50th Annual Conference
March 29th - April 1st
Palms Motor Hotel
Las Cruces

Conference Theme: New Mexico Libraries: 50 Years of Service
Pre-Conference Program:
- "Everything You've Always Wanted To Know About Interlibrary Loan But Were Always Afraid To Ask" (Pre-Registration Required)

Conference Highlights:
- Thursday, March 29th
  - Registration
  - New Mexico State Library Commission Meeting
  - NMLA Executive Board Meeting
  - First Business Session
  - Exhibitor's Social Hour
- Friday, March 30th
  - Registration
  - University of Denver Alumni Breakfast
  - First General Session
  - Rio Grande Chapter Meeting, SLA
  - New Mexico Association for Education, Communication and Technology Meeting
  - History of Children's Literature
  - Exhibitor's Panel on "Book Publishing in 1973"
- Saturday, March 31st
  - Registration
  - New Mexico Audiovisual Education Council Panel Discussion on "Library Legislation in New Mexico"
  - No-Host Cocktails
  - Banquet
- Sunday, April 1st
  - Breakfast and Joint Meeting of Incoming and Outgoing Executive Boards
  - Orientation of the new NMLA Executive Board

Tour: Shopping in Juarez with dinner at Jacarandas

Speaker: N. Scott Momaday

Reservations: Reservations for housing, the pre-conference program, the Juarez trip and meals must be made by March 22. Refunds for meals and activities will be made if notification is received by either mail or phone not later than March 27th. Notify John Beecher, Post Office Box 342, Las Cruces 88003. Phone: 466-3922 (day); 523-5439 (night).
Public Library Financial Assistance Act

House Bill 81, the Public Library Financial Assistance Act, is now half-way along the path toward becoming a law. It was passed by the New Mexico House of Representatives on February 17th by a vote of 29 to 2 with 9 members absent. The Bill was debated on the floor for approximately five minutes with Representative O'Donnell answering questions raised by Representative Anderson of Lovington (about the distribution guidelines) and Representative Members of Cloudcroft (who asked that this be a one-year-only appropriation).

Prior to this the Bill was introduced on the floor of the House on January 17th. It was referred to the Education Committee and the Appropriations and Finance Committee. At a hearing on January 24th, the Education Committee gave it a unanimous "do pass." The Bill got its second "do pass" when the Appropriations and Finance Committee had its hearing on February 1st.

40 librarians attended the Appropriations and Finance Committee hearing and several were called upon to answer questions. Representative Patterson of Clovis and Representative Taylor of Farmington asked about the distribution formula (which will be decided by the State Library Commission after input from the Association and individual librarians). The Committee members acknowledged that they had a large amount of mail and calls in support of the Bill. After a hearing before the Senate Finance Committee on a date not yet scheduled. The Legislation Committee of NMLA recommends that another large turnout for this hearing to demonstrate support for the Bill.

From the President: Assn. Year in Review

The New Mexico Library Association is on the move! This has been an exciting year in many ways. Our priority goal for accomplishment for this year, along with a continuing goal for the establishment of a new legislative action for increased funds for public libraries as one step toward making the Cooperative Library Systems a reality. The Public Library Financial Assistance Act that is at the Legislature at this time is a result of our plans. The bill is being sponsored by Representative Bill O'Donnell, a great friend of libraries. Guidelines have been provided by the Legislative and Intellectual Freedom Committee with the approval of the Executive Board. This committee has done a tremendous job, with the help of the special assistants to the President, in putting the bill through the Legislature. At this writing the bill has not been assigned a number in the Senate and the Senate Finance Committee has not heard a hearing on it. Many librarians have been involved in seeing that legislators know the facts and have shown concern by attending hearings in the House.

Of course, NMLA cannot take the credit for passage of the Bond Issue for academic libraries, but it did contribute considerably by a $750 donation used primarily for bumper stickers. It was made possible by donations of members and from the NMLA budget. An ever greater contribution was made by committees, letters, newspaper articles, etc., by members, especially by those in the Legislative and Intellectual Freedom Committee. The significant fact is that many librarians from all the libraries on the list have worked for both the Bond Issue and the Financial Assistance Act.

That more librarians are indicating a willingness to become involved in the activities of NMLA is a heartening sign for the growth of the Association. This also has been evidenced in many other areas by the work of committees and divisions. The Library Development Committee recommended priorities for the year which were accepted at the post-conference Executive Board meeting, and during the year the committee examined the organizational framework and is offering suggestions for continued growth toward a realization of our long-range goals.

Lora's slot has been filled by Rowena Wilson, and J. Clive Scott is the new Circulation Supervisor; Vyrene Crosser, who has been on a year long assignment to study in Mexico, has returned to her position as Adult Services Librarian. Christine Buder, Social Sciences and Business Librarian at New Mexico State University, is on a one year educational leave, working on a Ph.D. in American Studies at Columbia University. Lois Godfrey and Ken Olson of Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory have represented the Rio Grande Chapter of SLA at the SLA Winter Meeting in Phoenix. Harold Apel has been named Acting Chief of the Reader's Services Division at the University of New Mexico. The New Mexico State Library, formerly the New Mexico Zia Public Library...
NEMISYS Is Here — We Think

NEMISYS is here, at least in its simplest form. An operations center has been established at the State Library, headed by Mary Borland. A computerized index has been completed as Phase I in the development of a New Mexico information system for libraries. This first index includes approximately 10,000 entries from the ten libraries participating in the project (Albuquerque Public Library, Albuquerque Public Schools, Eastern New Mexico University, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Mesa Public Library, New Mexico State Library, Sandia Laboratories, Santa Fe Public Library, the University of New Mexico Medical School Library, and the University of New Mexico Zimmerman Library).

The index covers acquisitions by libraries for varying lengths of time ranging from one to five months. The index shows the locations for the items included. Phase II of the project will expand the index and develop long range plans to provide New Mexico with a method of sharing library resources across the state. The exact form, nature or size of the NEMISYS locator operation may take is as yet uncertain, pending further knowledge of the funds that will be available for its operation. Hoped for funds from the Council on Library Resources have not been forthcoming. The Library Development Committee of NMLA is recommending to the Executive Board that continuation of the locator unit be given top priority for the coming year. The State Library has agreed to continue the operation at whatever level is possible within the State Library’s budget. Expansion of the program in terms of the number of libraries included, the frequency of cumulations of the index, or the level and sophistication of the services that can be offered will depend on the money that may become available for the program.

UNM Hot Line

The University of New Mexico Zimmerman Library has installed a “hot-line” phone system that may not be as dramatic as the Moscow-Washington hook-up, but will certainly be used a lot more.

Library Dean John Harvey announced that direct lines between the four floors and eight stacks of the library and the library’s reference section will go into operation soon. The system will allow library users in the upper levels to reach the downstairs reference room by merely picking up a phone. The phone will automatically ring in the reference area.

Currently reference work is restricted to the reference area. If a student needs information, he has to trudge down several flights of stairs and then go back up to continue his work. Librarians believe the innovation will make reference work a lot less tedious — and tiring.

Pinpointing Problems In Media Centers

The Children and Young Adult Services Division will have a panel discussion on “Pinpointing Problems In Media Centers.” Panel members will be: Norma Bobotis, Albuquerque Public Library; Jane Gillentine, State Department of Education; Lorene Hallenburger, Eastern New Mexico University; George McBane, Department of Health, Education and Welfare; and Don Rea, State Department of Education. The luncheon speaker will be Eugene Keelley, University of Albuquerque. His talk will be regarding the certification of audio-visual personnel. All school librarians are urged to attend the meeting which will be at the Ramada Inn from 11:00 to 1:30 on March 31st.
SWLA Receives $50,000 Grant

The Southwestern Library Association's year-old Southwestern Library Interstate Cooperative Endeavor (SLICE) has received a $50,000 vote of confidence from its original sponsor, the Council on Library Resources, in the form of a new two-year grant.

The funds will enable the six-state SLICE (Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico and Arizona) to further its development of a systematic regional plan for increasing and stimulating the sharing of library resources, services and expertise within the region.

Pre-Conference Workshop

This year the pre-conference workshop will deal with Interlibrary Loans. The program, "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Interlibrary Loans, But Were Afraid to Ask," will hopefully include something for everybody. The date is March 29, 1973 (Thursday) at 9:00 a.m. in Las Cruces at the Palm Motel. Registration is $2.00 plus $2.50 for a meal (if you don't want to brown bag it) and $4.00 for a copy of the ALA Interlibrary Loan Procedure Manual if you don't have one. preregistration is required although you don't have to be a member of NMLA to attend. For further information contact Mildred Barrett at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces.

Directory of Documents Librarians

The Government Documents Round Table of ALA is compiling a Directory of Documents Librarians. It is to include librarians in any library (state, federal, or special) who work with a substantial collection of one or more types of government publications (municipal, state, federal). It is to include librarians who work with documents half-time or more in such areas as reference, serials, or cataloging. Letters with questionnaire cards have been sent to many librarians in the state. Anyone who has been missed should contact Laura McGuire at Eastern New Mexico University Library. The information is to be assembled by March 31, 1973 if possible.

Minority Group Scholarships

The University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science will again offer, in 1973-74, a Scholarship Program in Library Science for Members of Minority Groups.

This financial aid program is designed to provide for the support of ten students. Persons selected for 1973-74 will be given half-time assistantships which pay approximately $3,700 for the calendar year, in addition to tuition and fee waiver. They require twenty hours of work per week, either in the University Library or as an assistant in a Library School faculty member.

Students in this program will normally begin their studies in June, and will need at least 15 months in which to earn the degree. Upon completion of the course of study, each graduate is free to select the type of library position desired, and the geographical area preferred.

All applicants must submit scores for the two parts of the aptitude test of the Graduate Record Examination (taken within the last five years). Applications may be submitted any time up to April 15, 1973. For further information and application forms, write:

Scholarship Program
Graduate School of Library Science
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois
61801

Selective Bibliography

The Border Regional Library has just published a 121-page bibliography by Philip Ortega titled "Selective Bibliography of Mexican Bibliography." Its distinctive characteristic is that, other than government documents related to Mexican Americans, it lists only books by Spanish surnames. The bibliography is priced at $2.00. Orders should be placed with the University of California, Border Regional Library Association, University Library, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas 79968.

Management Workshop

"The Library as Organization: A View from the Middle" is the title of a workshop to be held on Sunday, June 24, 1973, as part of the ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. The workshop, sponsored jointly by the Junior Members Round Table, the Library Education Division, and the Staff Development Committee of the Library Administration Division's Personnel Administration Section, will present an overview of middle management and provide information and ideas to assist the participants in developing and refining management expertise.

Featured speaker will be Dr. W. L. Lota, Head of the Institute of Management and Administration, University of Texas at Dallas. Other speakers are Mrs. Ella Yates, Assistant Director of the Atlanta Public Library; Richard Boss, Director of the University of Tennessee Libraries; and Anthony Greco, Assistant Director of the University of California at Los Angeles Libraries.

The program is free to anyone registered for the ALA Conference. Advance registration for the workshop is required and attendance will be limited to 200. To register, send name, title, and institutional address to Middle Management Workshop, American Library Association, 50 East Huron, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Executive Board Meeting

Business conducted during the Executive Board meeting on February 3, 1973, included:

- Recommended that NMLA follow a July 1-June 30 fiscal year with the audit to be done during June;
- Passed a resolution endorsing House Bill 81, the Public Library Financial Assistance Act, and urged its adoption;
- Passed a resolution urging the State Library Commission to adopt a formula for the distribution of public library grants under House Bill 81;
- Authorized the President of NMLA to express the support of the Association if and when it is needed for adequate increased funding for college library staff and supplies to process books bought from the Library Bond issue;
- Authorized the Historical Records Committee to print 500 copies of the preliminary history of NMLA for distribution at the 1973 annual conference;
- Recommended the acceptance of two advertising in the NMLA Newsletter;
- Rejected the recommendation of a special committee that NMLA hire an Executive Secretary for the 1973-74 Association year;
- Authorized the giving of a certificate to Peter Hurd recognizing his distinguished service to New Mexico libraries;
- Authorized that the Membership Committee be charged to receive recommendations for awards from NMLA members by January 1st of each year; to decide if any awards are to be given; and to make recommendations to the Executive Board at the winter Board meeting;
- Announced that the minutes of last year's executive Board member will be placed in the conference packets since they have not been previously published.

The Executive Board will have its next meeting at the Palm Motel in Las Cruces on March 29th, 1973.
See YOU in

Las Cruces

March 29 - April 1

For The

50th

Annual

Conference