



# Congressional Record

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## National Library Week

SPEECH

OF

HON. LISTER HILL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Friday, August 23, 1957

Mr. HILL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senators CHURCH, DOUGLAS, HENNING, MURRAY, MORSE, JOHNSTON of South Carolina, PASTORE, FULBRIGHT, AIKEN, THYE, ALLOTT, COOPER, CASE of New Jersey, WATKINS, MANSFIELD, CARLSON, and McNAMARA, I submit, for appropriate reference, a concurrent resolution requesting the President to designate the week of March 16-22, 1958, as National Library Week. The concurrent resolution carries the endorsement of the American Library Association, the National Book Committee, and numerous other professional organizations and voluntary citizens' associations.

Last year Congress gave recognition and tangible support to the important educational and cultural functions of public libraries by the enactment of the Library Services Act. That act authorized a 5-year program of Federal matching grants to enable the States to provide public library services in rural areas of the country which have no library service or inadequate service, and in which approximately 27 million of our people live.

In passing the Library Services Act, Congress took a necessary step to alleviate the obvious and critical needs of this important educational service. There remains, however, the need to build the financial support and material resources of all libraries and make these

resources available to our people in the most effective way possible. These needs will be provided by State and local governments, voluntary associations and private effort and initiative. National Library Week is intended to focus public attention on these problems and to stimulate public interest in their solution. State and local committees throughout the Nation will be at work during National Library Week emphasizing the resources of libraries and the part the printed word contributes to our education, self-development, cultural advancement, recreation, civic improvement, and our national well-being.

My fellow sponsors and I commend the National Book Committee, the American Library Association and the other supporters of National Library Week for their initiative in developing this program; and we are hopeful that Congress will adopt the concurrent resolution, and bring National Library Week to the attention of our people.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The concurrent resolution will be received and appropriately referred.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 49) was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, as follows:

Whereas the Congress of the United States has recognized the vital educational and cultural role of libraries by the enactment of the Library Services Act of 1956; and

Whereas the Library Services Act is now in operation in 43 of the 48 States as a means of finding ways of bringing adequate public library service to some 27 million Americans,

largely in rural areas, hitherto without such service or with totally inadequate service; and

Whereas State and local governments, professional associations, and citizens' groups recognize that much remains to be done to improve the availability of the full resources of the printed word to all of our people for education, self-improvement, cultural advancement, and fulfilling the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy; and

Whereas the National Book Committee and the American Library Association in cooperation with numerous other citizens' organizations, business and professional groups, and voluntary associations, have designated the week of March 16-22, 1958, as the first National Library Week; and

Whereas National Library Week will increase support for libraries from the highest levels of leadership in the civic, economic, professional, and cultural life of the country; will expose the need for the extension and improvement of school and public library services; will offer opportunities for librarians to work more closely with newspaper, magazine, and advertising executives in broadening the use of printed materials; will attract wider public attention to library services through features in national media; and will promote prestige for reading itself by showing the vital role the printed word can play in the pleasure of reading aloud in the family, the rewards of reading as a leisure time activity and the contribution of reading to career advancement: Therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That the President is requested to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning on the 16th day and ending on the 22d day of March 1958 as National Library Week, and calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies.