

AIR LOAN SERVICE

ASSISTANT Secretary of Agriculture and Director of Science and Education George L. Mehren and Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Leland H. Bull have announced inauguration of a daily round-trip interlibrary loan service by air between the National Agricultural Library in Washington, D.C., and the



Mrs. Freeman and W. Carl Jackson

Pennsylvania State University library at University Park, Pa.

Mrs. Orville L. Freeman, wife of the Secretary of Agriculture, initiated the new agricultural library service in a ceremony at Page Airways, National Airport, Washington, D.C., at 5:15 p.m. April 17. She began the reciprocal service by sending off the first two books after a brief ceremony highlighting National Library Week.

According to Assistant Secretary Mehren, this cooperative agreement marks the first "flying books" service between a national library and a land grant university. Although the interlibrary loan service has been going on for years, time required to borrow a book often exceeded the time it was actually used. The new reciprocal service will permit delivery of publications to patrons at both locations well within twenty-four hours from the time a request is made.

Also participating in the ceremonies with Mrs. Freeman were W. Carl Jackson, Penn State University, director of libraries; Foster E. Mohrhardt, director of the National Agricultural Library, and assistant director for program coordination, Mrs. Blanche L. Oliveri, who developed the program for the department. ■■

TITLE I CONSTRUCTION GRANTS AND LOANS

NEW FEDERAL GRANTS and loans of more than \$17 million will help thirty-one colleges and universities build or remodel libraries in eighteen states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. New and supplemental grants totaling approximately \$11 million were awarded to twenty-three institutions for construction projects for libraries* under Title I of the Higher Education Facilities Act, which provides for federal aid of up to one-third of the cost of academic construction at undergraduate schools and up to 40 per cent of construction cost at public community colleges and technical institutes. Under Title III of the Act, which provides for construction loans, eight colleges and universities received a total of almost \$6 million for library construction projects.*

The grants will support projects costing almost \$47 million and loans will support projects costing approximately \$14 million.

* In some projects, library construction is combined with other projects such as instructional, science or humanities, and administrative construction.

HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN ITALY TO BE ISSUED

AMONG the many serious points of destruction brought on by the flood in Florence last November was the historical Palazzo Gerini which houses the Museo Nazionale della Scuola, the only Italian museum of its kind. It contained in its collections, some of the richest and rarest European and world educational materials, and was dedicated to the history of education and teaching. The damaged contents, as well as murals, furnishings, and the exterior total to unknown millions of *lire*. About 66,400,000 *lire* have been estimated as the cost of restoration.

This restoration was begun almost immediately. As one form of self-assistance, however, the Centro Didattico Nazionale di Studi e Documentazione of the Ministry of Public Instruction has announced that its numbered edition of a unique volume, which was begun sometime ago, will be published in the autumn of 1967. The first edition of this book, entitled *XXV Secoli di Educazione e Scuola in Italia*, will be approximately three hundred pages in length and it will be available through subscription. Historical in character with colored as well as black and white illustrations, it will