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HEA II: Letters needed. The House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee is in the midst of "marking up" a Higher Education Act reauthorization bill. The staff draft of HEA II follows very closely the recommendations for Title II library programs developed by the ACRL Legislation Committee, endorsed by ACRL and ALA, and submitted jointly by ALA and the Association of Research Libraries. The draft includes:

1) Need criteria for II-A college library resources grants. Grants of between \$2,000 and \$10,000 depending on enrollment range to libraries ranking below the norm in their institutional class when scored for both "materials expenditures/FTE student" and "volumes held/FTE student." Maintenance of effort required. Inadequate funding would cause fewer, not smaller, grants to the most needy.

2) Continuation of II-B library training and research and II-C research library programs.

3) New II-D college library technology and cooperation grants--a minimum of \$15,000 for up to a 3-year period. One-third matching required.

The House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee needs assurance that the academic library community supports these recommendations. See the list of subcommittee members in this issue. If your Representative is not on this list, write to Chairman Bill Ford. Indicate your support for extension of HEA II along the lines above, and give details about how one or more parts of title II will help your library. Send a blind copy to the ALA Washington Office. If you need more information on this or other legislative issues, call me or send an ALANET electronic message using the numbers above.

Ford's postal remarks. According to the September 18 CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, Rep. Bill Ford assailed college librarians at the September 6 HEA II hearings for lobbying in support of tiny programs in higher education, but not being active on funding for preferred postal rates. "Get your associations to wake up," Ford was quoted as saying, "I haven't heard anything from the library community."

ALA Washington Office Director Eileen Cooke wrote to Ford September 9 pointing out the extraordinary efforts of the library community this year on postal issues, the top priority given postal funding on the April 16 Library Legislative Day, the speaker from Ford's postal staff at ALA Annual Conference, the ACRL survey of college library postal costs, and offering any other help needed.

On September 25 Ford replied: "Please don't mistake my anxiety for hostility. I know full well that ALA has fought for "revenue forgone" as hard as--and maybe harder--than any other group in town....Perhaps my frustration with some of your allies in the community who have not been so active spilled over and exhibited itself during your appearance. Please be assured, though, that I know I can always count on ALA."