Board Hears Report On Library Affairs

The city library board, meeting Wednesday night to hear a committee report on complaints relative to the operation of the library, was given several suggestions by the committee members and the library, which are being considered and may be acted upon in the future.

The citizens committee, recently appointed by the city commission and headed by Mrs. C. S. Warren, presented a written memorandum on suggestions.

PRINCIPAL SUGGESTION was that the board, with the cooperation of the committee, make a book appraisal of the recently purchased library books and that in the future such book appraisals be referred to before purchases are made.

The committee further suggested the board hold open meetings at more frequent intervals than has been the custom in the past. The time and place of such meetings should be announced in advance, the committee believes.

Board members suggested that going over the list of purchases of 1949 would be too great a task, but the suggestion of appraisals of future purchases appeared to be locked upon with favor by the board members.

Considerable discussion, pro and con, was held relative to the alleged subversive material contained in at least two periodicals which have been and are used, including "Russia Today" and one other. One or two speakers referred to one or more of the periodicals as being propaganda mediums.

Dick Kane, another board member, gave the meeting a brief outline of the duties, powers and responsibilities of the board.

DARLENE ESSARY, newest of the board members, expressed her desire to meet again in the future for further probing into the matter.

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Russell Davis, chairman of the library board who presided at the meeting, said it would be impossible for the members to evaluate the suggestions and arrive at any definite conclusions without further study.

"It is the sincere hope of the members of this committee that it will not be looked upon by the board members as a complaint department to be shunned or rebuffed. We are seeking only to bring the most frien-dly relations with the board members, and we hope to co-operate in the continuance of the expanded library as a means of serving the public.

"Unfortunately, due to current tensions, personal criticisms have been made. If there is any justification for these criticisms, we believe it is the duty of the board to ascertain upon what basis these criticisms were made. This committee seeks to function, solely in the public interest, and to insure the people of the city the best possible literary coverage for the tax money spent.

"If it would not be too great an imposition upon the librarian, we would like to have a list of the books purchased during 1949, with the names of the authors, and the date and price of the books. It would simplify our appraisal, if the books were listed under the classifications in which they are catalogued.

"Only in this way will it be possible to discern the approximate apportionment of funds in various fields of literature.

"We hope that the above will be accepted as constructive suggestions, and not as criticisms. We further hope that we may meet again with the board, as willing and co-operative citizens, and that any feelings of antagonism that may have been engendered through inadvertent statements by us, or by the board members, will be relegated to the forgotten past. Unless this relationship can be established and maintained, no progress may be hoped for now, or in the future."