

When it was feared that the 1950 Mid-Century White House Conference might ignore books and reading, state chairmen of reading were requested to urge their state White House Committees to recommend the inclusion of books, reading and library services in the 1950 White House Conference program.

What we really want and need, what can be achieved only through the sustained efforts of professional and lay organizations working closely together, is *equality of opportunity*—the opportunity for all children

and all youth to know and to experience the rich and enduring values which good books can give.

It is not an impossible dream. It was the dream, half a century ago, of Anne Carroll Moore and her pioneer band when they organized the Children's Library Association. We have come a long way since then, and we have a long way to go. But the dream of those distinguished librarians will not let us rest until we have finally made good books available to all children and all youth everywhere.

Legal Action Taken at Bartlesville, Oklahoma —to Reinstall Librarian and Public Library Board Removed by City Commissioners

THE ALA Board on Personnel Administration has received information on the removal of the librarian and the public library board by the city commissioners of Bartlesville, and is following the developments very closely. Until a thorough investigation of the situation can be made by the Board on Personnel Administration, the basic issues in the tenure controversy can not definitely be ascertained. The refusal of the librarian and the library board to withdraw certain periodicals is purportedly an issue. The facts on the legal action instituted are briefly summarized for the information of the ALA membership.

On June 14, the city commissioners of Bartlesville repealed the 1911 city ordinance on the public library and enacted a new ordinance. On July 10, the commissioners announced the removal of the public library board and the appointment of a new one. The city commissioners on July 25 terminated forthwith the employment of Ruth W. Brown who has served as Bartlesville's librarian for more than 30 years.

A suit has been filed by Miss Brown and Mrs. Darlene Anderson Essary, a member of the dismissed library board, against the city commissioners and the new library board on the grounds that the new city

ordinance is in conflict with Oklahoma state laws. The suit asks a judgment decreeing that the new ordinance is null and void; that the appointment of the new board is null and void; that the old board is the duly qualified and acting library board; and that Ruth W. Brown is the duly appointed librarian.

The provisions of the Oklahoma state statutes bearing on the case are: (1) a library board is composed of six directors who hold office for a term of three years, one-third of whom are to be appointed each year, (2) a director may be removed for misconduct or neglect of duty by the mayor by and with the consent of the council, and (3) the library board has power to appoint a suitable librarian and necessary assistants, to fix their compensation, and to remove such appointees.

The new ordinance provides for a library board of six directors who hold office for a term of two years, three of whom are to be appointed each year. It further states that the library board shall be subject to removal at any time by the city commissioners. It also provides that the librarian may be appointed with the approval of the city commissioners and shall be subject to removal at any time by the city commissioners.