

the program, had clearly foreseen quite the extent of its effect abroad, a valuable byproduct of the central program which you will remember we discussed in terms of savings which individual U.S. libraries might obtain, primarily.

Without going into complex details, let me say simply that the new international cooperation achieved through the opening of these Library of Congress offices abroad has produced a new level of uniformity in cataloging practice which has brought us definitely closer toward reducing the world's output of books to some semblance of bibliographic order, an important prerequisite to the free flow of books and ideas among the nations of the world.

I was told last week that the Spanish-speaking nations of Latin America, because of this program, already have their knowledge of the publications of each other increased by about 50 percent. In other words they discovered and recorded an additional 50 percent of new titles in Latin America.

Sir Frank Francis, director of the British Museum and president of the International Federation of Library Associations, in discussing the centralized cataloging program at the last meeting of that organization in Holland said—

The acceptance and the implementation of their proposal for shared cataloging on an international scale would result in speedier bibliographical control of the materials flowing ever faster into our libraries would reduce cataloging costs and would release the energies of our cataloging forces, which are at present engaged in duplicating each other's efforts a countless number of times in different libraries not only in all parts of the world, but in almost every country under the sun.

I hope that over the next three to five years, it will be possible to get this collaboration fully worked out and made into a going concern. It is not only desirable that this should be done, it is necessary; otherwise the great libraries will cease to play their proper part in the intellectual life of their countries, because of the sheer impossibility of meeting all the demands which are made upon them...

It may be noted that this program is completely in accord, in spirit, and in substance, with the U.S. policy as expressed by President Johnson, last January, in his statement on international book and library activities.

The accompanying directive to Government agencies specifically instructed them to further a greatly increased inflow of foreign books through appropriations under title II-C. The Interagency Book Committee, appointed by Assistant Secretary of State Frankel, to coordinate and implement these activities, has recommended full funding for this purpose.

To make this important legislation even more effective, we recommend respectfully, in addition to full funding, certain specific changes:

1. These foreign offices of the Library of Congress are purchasing for that library one copy of each of the new books believed important for American scholarship and research.

One copy for the whole country is hardly enough and we believe that the relatively modest added cost of depositing another copy in some institution in another part of the country as a national loan copy would be thoroughly justified. The Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, for example, would be an appropriate institution.

This is a sort of library's library, a nonprofit corporation supported and operated jointly by 24 major universities from coast to coast. It