

# Message from the Executive Secretary

WHENEVER a group of librarians met during the past year or so, the Association of College and Reference Libraries and its activities were probably the subject of more discussions than any other division of the American Library Association. This is all fine. It is a healthy situation when an organization is doing things—and is expected to do things.

You are all very much interested in the new Executive Secretary's office and want it to succeed. Many of you have already contributed to its success by answering Charles H. Brown's request for a statement of preferences in regard to the activities that might well be performed by a national professional library association.

Your Executive Secretary would like for every member of the Association of College and Reference Libraries to feel that this is his organization. I would be pleased if every member would say to himself, "Now if I were the A.C.R.L. Executive Secretary, I would do such and such," and then follow this by actually sitting down and sending in whatever his thoughts might be. All such suggestions will be welcomed and will aid in the direction of A.C.R.L. through the period ahead—a period that we are confident will find more and more leadership in the library profession coming from university and college librarians.

It is obvious that all suggestions cannot be carried out, and there is a great danger in spreading our work too thin. Major ideas submitted will be presented to the

officers and the board of directors, who may appoint committees to explore them further.

This year our board of directors has approved President Carlson's program for the year, which he presented at the San Francisco Conference, and has approved the appointment of four special committees which have now been set up. These committees are:

1. A committee on membership in the Association of College and Reference Libraries
2. A committee on recruiting the type of librarian needed in the college, university, and reference fields
3. A committee to consider the educational preparation and qualifications needed by college and university librarians, to promote development of these qualifications through in-service training, and to work closely with the library schools to assist them in transmitting to their students the needed qualifications
4. A committee to consider the financial needs of our association and to suggest a program for their realization.

President Carlson's proposals are calculated to bring us college, university, and reference librarians of the proper learning and scholarly dispositions; librarians who will supply the type of library service which the American college and university must have. As President Carlson said in his address, "the most important thing in any profession is the people who practice it and the new people it attracts."

These special committees need the help and support of all of us.

N. ORWIN RUSH, *Executive Secretary*