

PUBLIC HEARING

before

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COUNTY AND
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

on

SENATE BILL NO. 468
[Revenue for County Libraries]

Held:
March 13, 1970
Assembly Chamber
State House
Trenton, New Jersey

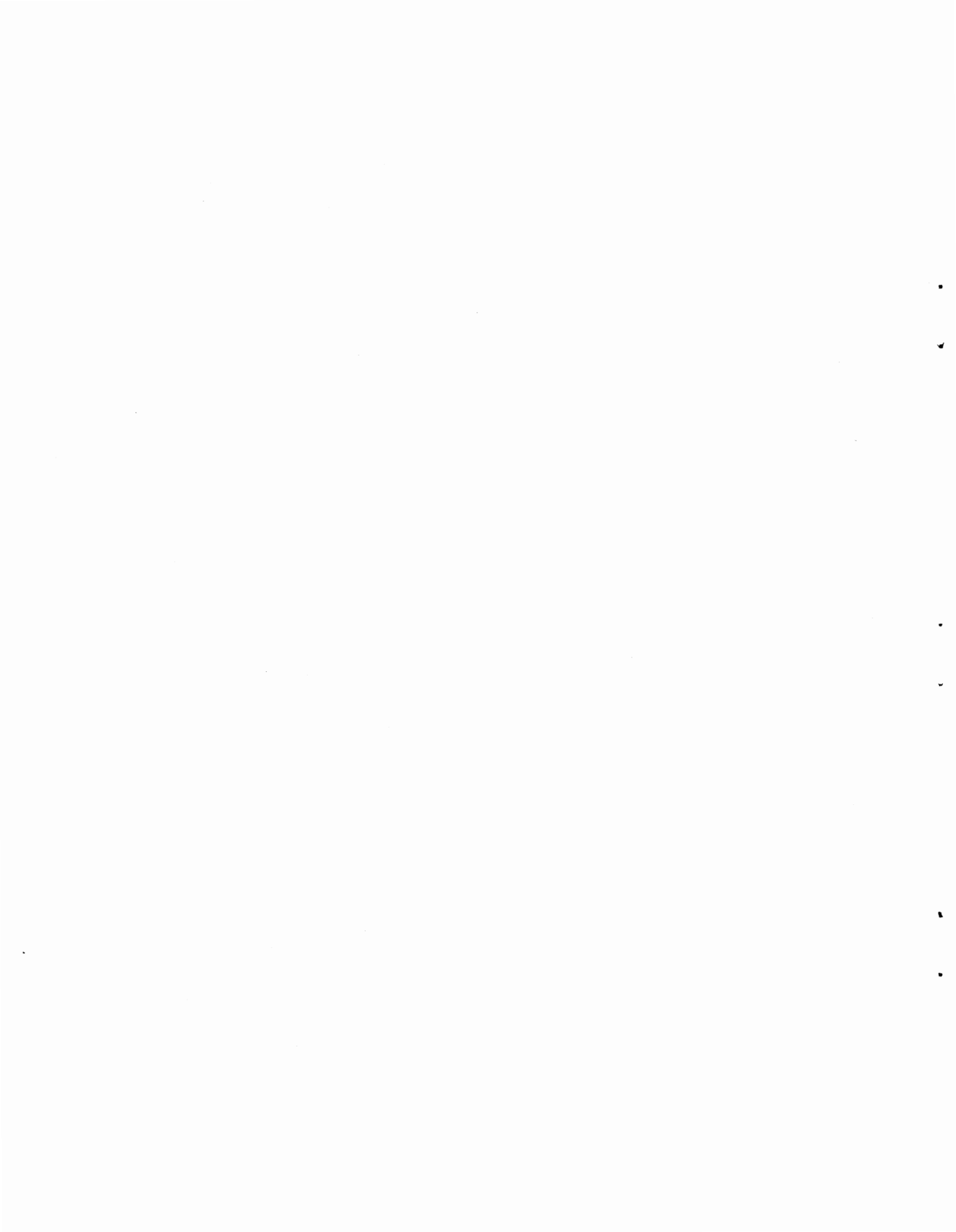
MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Senator Matthew J. Rinaldo [Chairman]
Senator Frank C. Italiano

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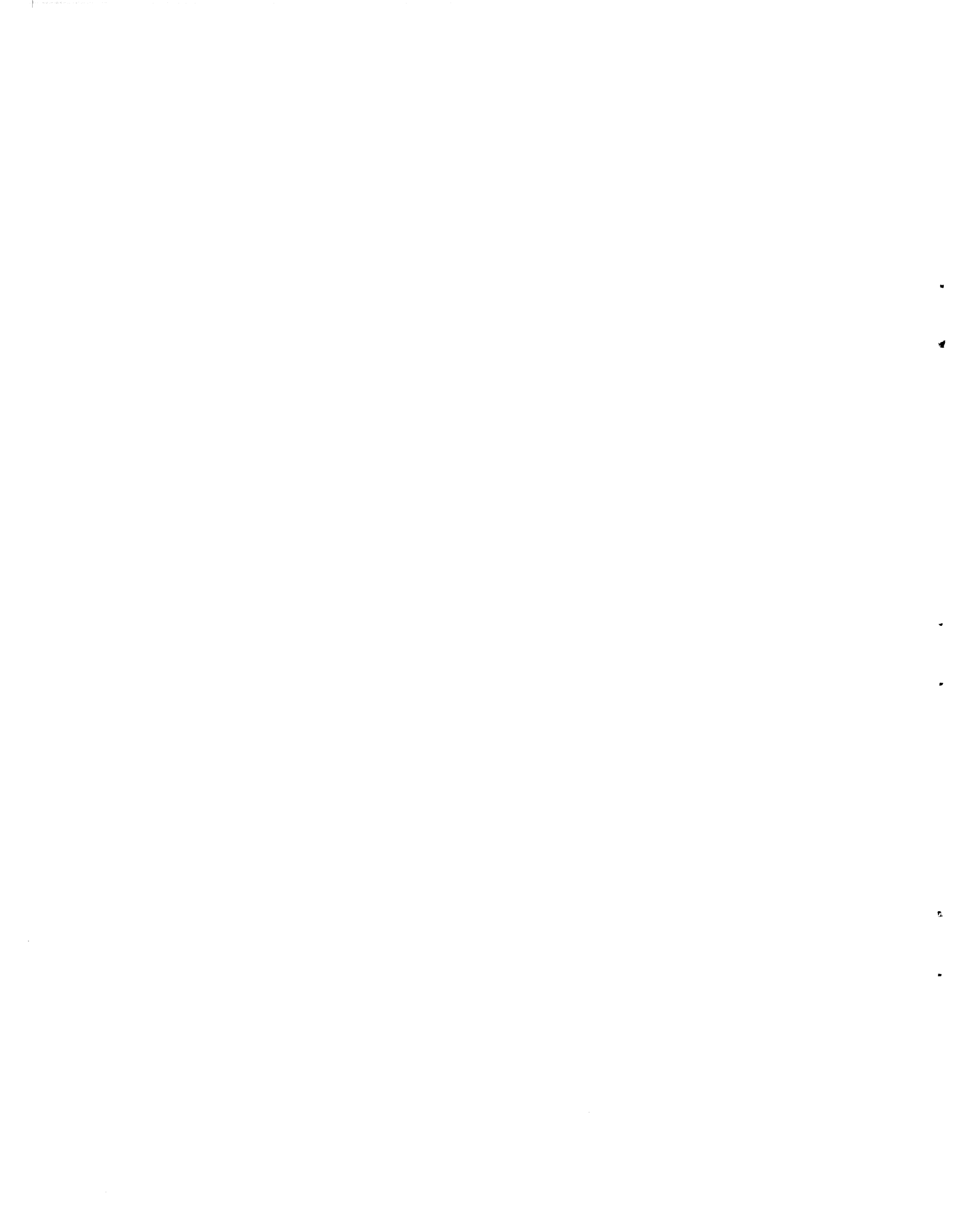
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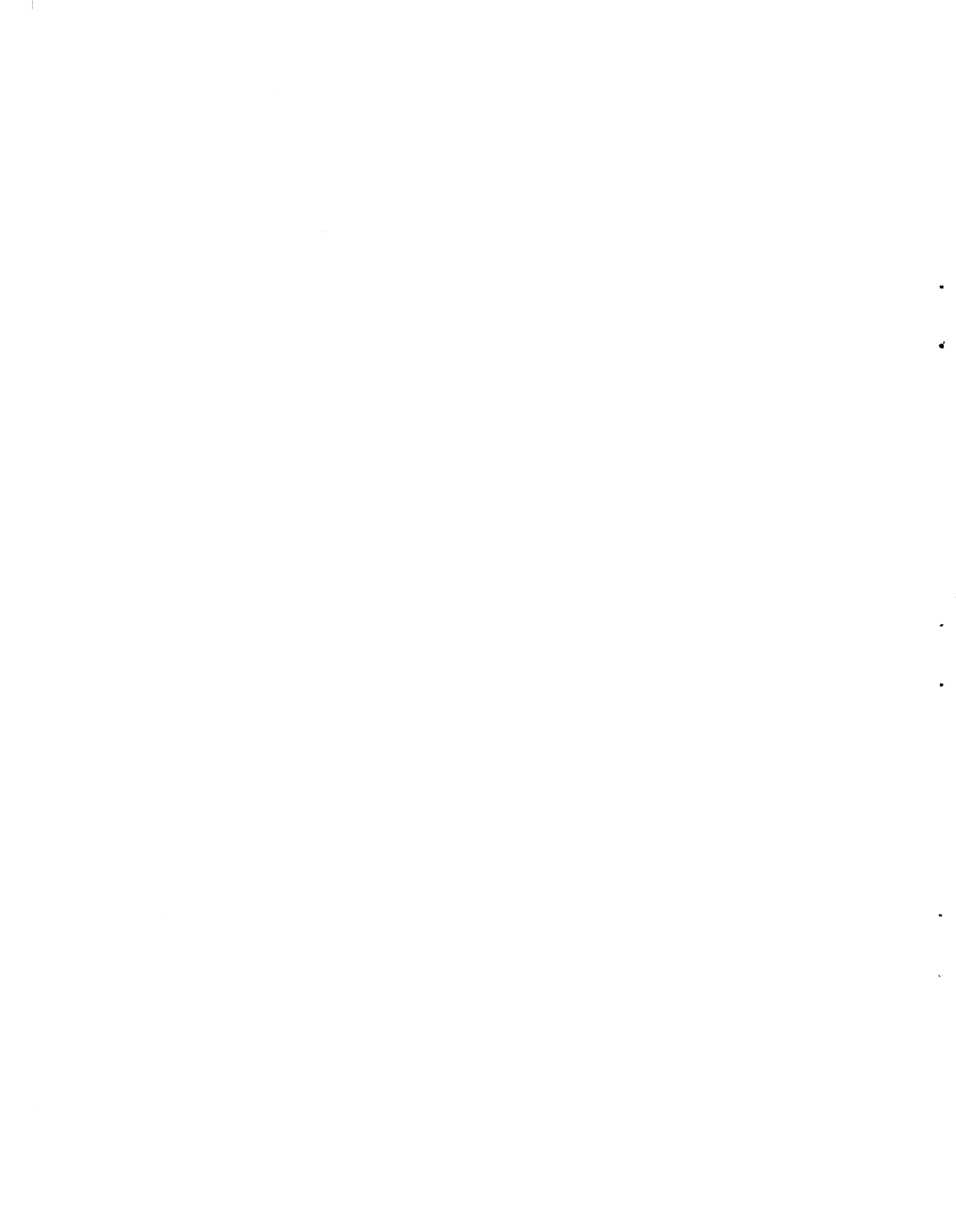
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SENATOR MATTHEW J. RINALDO [Chairman]: May I have your attention, please. I would now like to call this public hearing to order.

As you know, the purpose of the hearing is to discuss Senate Bill Number 468, which concerns county libraries and amends the sections pertaining to the obtaining of revenue therefor. To go into a little more detail, the purpose of the bill is to authorize the Board of Chosen Freeholders to raise funds for the support of the county library, either as presently provided by law or by appropriating general tax revenues from the county treasury for this purpose. The bill will also raise the minimum tax from 1/15th to 1/10th of a mill per dollar of tax basis.

I am Senator Rinaold, Chairman of the Senate Committee on County and Municipal Government. I have with me on my right Senator Frank Italiano, also a member of the same committee.

Now as you are called to testify, it would be appreciated if you would sit in the chair directly to my left where the mincophone is so that your remarks can be heard and can be made a part of the record.

The bill, itself, as explained by me - and I assume that everybody here has taken a look at it - is a rather simple bill and I know that there is a lot of, you might say, controversy surrounding it, some very, very strong feelings in favor of it, and some very strong feelings in opposition to the bill. However, in going over the arguments, the letters, the correspondence, telegrams and verbal communications that have been addressed to me, it became very evident that the majority of the arguments

can be very simply crystallized. So while we do want to give everyone an opportunity to be heard, I think it would be a gross injustice and a waste of everybody's time to have complete repetition by having a number of people testify on the same point. So what I would like to suggest is that if anybody who is scheduled to testify has a written statement which they would prefer to be read into the record in lieu of reading the entire statement or instead of testifying, we would be glad to do that in order to expedite this process. Additionally, I would like to request that after the initial witnesses have testified, either in behalf of or in opposition to the bill, that any further witnesses who have the same arguments may merely state that they support the arguments advanced by one of the previous witnesses, or in the alternative merely submit a statement for the record.

Finally, if any of the witnesses have an extremely lengthy statement, it would be appreciated if copies of the statement be given to each of the stenographers and both of the members of the Committee that are present here today, and that the statement be summarized verbally rather than going through every point. I assure you - and I have had some calls from people opposed to the bill - that there is not going to be any attempt to railroad the bill through or anything of that nature. The bill is being presented here today merely for the purposes of public hearing. There will be much more deliberation on this measure by the members of the Committee. So you have my assurance that no hasty action will be taken and

despite the fact that your views may not be expressed in their entirety but may only be summarized or written into the record, they will be given every consideration by this Committee in its deliberations on this measure.

At this point, does anybody wish to add to the statements that I already have? Does anyone want to just file a statement and have it read into the record? [No response.]

If not, before calling the first witness, I will turn over the statements that I currently have that I have been requested to read into the record. Rather than my reading them personally, I will just mention the status of them and give them to the stenographer.

The first one is from the Borough of Madison, signed by the Mayor, in opposition to the bill.

The next one is from the Executive Director of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in opposition to the bill.

The next one is from the Borough Attorney of the municipality of Red Bank, in opposition to the bill.

I have letters from the Princeton Public Library, the Borough of Princeton, the Township of Princeton, Hamilton Township Library Commission, and Free Public Library, Trenton, all in opposition to the bill.

Additionally, I have been asked to have added to the record a statement by Somerset Freeholder Doris W. Dealaman, who is requesting that the bill be held up for further study and that there be a legislative study of the entire matter so that the role of the county library could be clarified and

all library services in New Jersey placed on a sound footing.

I will now turn these statements over to the stenographer.

[The statements referred to by the Chairman can be found beginning on page 80 of this transcript.]

The first witness on the agenda will be Senator Alfred Beadleston, who is the sponsor of the bill.

S E N A T O R A L F R E D N . B E A D L E S T O N :
Senator Rinaldo and Senator Italiano, I think that you have very clearly expressed the content of the bill and I think you have very clearly stated also that it apparently is quite a controversial bill.

The purpose, I might add, of the bill has never been to hurt in any way, shape or form the existing local libraries that have done such an outstanding job in most cases in supplying that service to their local residents, but rather the intent of the bill was to find a method of supporting an adequate county library, and I stress the word "adequate," especially in those progressive counties of our State that are trying to establish, maintain and expand just such a county library system.

In the old days, I think we all realize that a county library was pretty much a glorified bookmobile, and still is in some places, running around the county supplying supplementary service to our schools and to some smaller libraries. But today, at least in many of our counties, and certainly I think in the State, a library - I am talking now about the total library system - must be far more than that. It must be far more than a place where you can go to borrow books for enter-

tainment or relaxation. Today a complete library system should have stack after stack after stack of periodicals of the latest type, the most recent authoritative scientific and other reference books, and I say that because today while we have in New Jersey some very fine libraries, particularly at Newark, our State Library here in Trenton, the exceptional one at Rutgers University and a handful of other fairly good ones in our State, by and large between there and the local libraries, there is a tremendous gap that is not being filled conveniently for the people of our State.

That gap is going to have to be filled whether we like it or not by some regional or county library system, because apparently the regional concept has not caught on and isn't going to develop in at least the foreseeable future.

The county library today in a progressive county that wants to supply a full and adequate library service cannot plan properly for the future and build as it should on the uncertain tax base of the existing law providing that it be supported by member libraries only. Those municipalities, of necessity, are the smaller ones and the poorer ones or they would have long since had their own libraries.

As costs are going to skyrocket in every form of life, including government, these smaller municipalities, these member municipalities, are going to drop out. We see it already happening. And the remainder of them are going to have to pay an increasing cost which is going to be even more prohibitive on them, with the result that they in turn will drop out and you can see the vicious circle that will develop, until

in a very few years, county libraries will go out of business. I am talking now about an adequate county library. It is the only kind I have any reason to suspect has any meaning or will have any meaning in the future in New Jersey. We are talking about the days where people are walking on the moon, where we are living in the age of the computer, and today a library has got to provide not just an entertainment purpose, but one for scholarship, one for the young men and women of our State who without that kind of service are not going to be able to get jobs of any importance, of any monetary value in the society of tomorrow. Shortly, no pupil who hasn't had at least two years of education beyond high school is going to be doing much except manual labor, and we are so told by our educational experts and, of course, you and I know they are right.

This bill would not, as its opponents state, mean the end of local libraries and history elsewhere has shown that that is not so. I would like to correct some misapprehension which apparently has developed, because I read it in the Asbury Park Press, that one of the librarians of a local library said that the passage of this bill would mean that they would lose the large percentage of their State aid. That law has been researched and that statement is absolutely, unequivocally a falsehood. State aid will not be affected in any way, shape or form by the adoption of legislation of this kind.

Now I realize, not because it is controversial - I never back away from controversial legislation or I don't believe I would have been here 19 years -- I do believe that the opponents have merit to some of their arguments. There is no question that

local libraries do provide some of the service that a county library would duplicate. And thinking about how best to give credit to the municipalities that do that, we have been thinking first of all about a population basis, but that was easily and quickly dismissed. Population is not an indication of how much service a library is performing. Two towns of 10,000 each in population, one could be spending \$80,000 on its library, another \$20,000. So the true measure as nearly as you can be fair about these things - and I don't know of any law you pass that is really equitable and fair to all, but ends up being nearly equitable to most - would be based, I think, on the dollar expenditure. And I would strongly suggest that this bill could be and properly ought to be amended to give not a rebate, because that would require the county to go out and raise additional taxes, but give a credit to a municipality on some formula for the dollar effort which it is now expending or will be expending in the future.

I think to say for them to be given a credit equal to the percentage of their dollar expenditure as it relates to the total county effort of local and county libraries would be too small a credit. To say they should be given full credit, of course, we might as well get up and leave here now - we would be right back where we started. I think a 50 per cent credit would be too much. But somewhere between the lowest idea and the highest, I think we can arrive at an equitable formula. Because in my opinion, Senator Rinaldo and Senator Italiano, I think that we have reached a point where we have three choices: Adopt this particular bill as is and infuriate, and perhaps

properly - I think with reason they would be infuriated - the local library systems who do perform a service. Amend it to permit both of them to continue properly and fairly. Or, lastly, give up, abandon, any true county library system in this State. Without some legislation of general tax support for a county library, you cannot have, you will not have, an adequate library system in any county anywheres in this State.

Now if that's what the people want, that's what they will get. But if they agree that today, a regional library of some kind - and I can only see the county library fulfilling that function - is a necessity, an absolute must in this day and age, then some compromise, some amendment to this law, is absolutely and fundamentally necessary.

This bill was not introduced, I repeat, to damage any library. They are doing a fine service. It was only intended for one purpose and that is to improve what we are offering to the people of our State that cannot of necessity get to Newark or Trenton or Rutgers or to Madison Township, which is doing such a fine job. They may not even live in that county. It would be hard for them to get to it. We have got to find some method of fulfilling that gap and this bill should be the basis of that effort. Thank you very much.

SENATOR RINALDO: Senator Beadleston, in your testimony you mentioned one possible amendment. You referred to a credit to the municipality. Now in view of the known opposition to this legislation, are there any other possible amendments that you have in mind or do you at this time have any suggestions regarding other possible amendments? I realize this question

may be somewhat premature.

SENATOR BEADLESTON: I have given it a great deal of thought and I think competent people in the field have given it a great deal of thought. Senator, I can only think of one other amendment and that would be to kill the bill by striking the title.

SENATOR ITALIANO: What?

SENATOR BEADLESTON: Well, you kill a bill by striking the title of the bill. That kills it. I honestly think that other than some compromise on a credit basis, the only other amendment would be to kill it, forget it and go home and not supply the service.

SENATOR RINALDO: Do you have any questions, Senator Italiano?

SENATOR ITALIANO: No.

SENATOR BEADLESTON: Thank you very much.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you.

Our next witness is Roger H. McDonough, State Librarian of the State of New Jersey. Mr. McDonough, please.

R O G E R H. M c D O N O U G H: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I have a brief prepared statement. May I be permitted one or two informal comments?

SENATOR RINALDO: Surely. I would suggest at this point also if any of the other witnesses have prepared statements that they give a copy to each of the stenographers and to both members of the Committee prior to assuming their seat on the stand. Please continue.

MR. McDONOUGH: Thank you.

In discussing this legislation with the Executive Board of the Association of Chosen Freeholders the other day, it seemed to me that this is almost a classic case of the enormous problems we face here in New Jersey in trying to mediate these inter-governmental problems in terms of supporting public services that are part local or part municipal and part county. And when you have funds coming from three and four sources, the problem becomes enormously complicated.

I want to tell you, Senator, that there are a lot of librarians and commission members and members of boards of trustees here today. I have met and talked individually with scores and scores of them over the past several months concerning this legislation. They are people of goodwill and they are trying to reach, as Senator Beadleston said, equitable and fair solutions. For that reason, sir, I welcome the spirit in which you have set out the ground rules for this hearing today and I have a feeling that out of it will come useful suggestions on which we can proceed.

The only other informal comment I wanted to make was a quotation from your fellow Senator Richard Coffee of Mercer when he was chairman of the Association of Chosen Freeholders some years ago. I spoke to him about this problem, the future of the county library, and his response was very swift and to the point. He said, "Roger, the county libraries must become very good or fade away." And I am here today to say that I hope that they become very good and don't fade away.

I am, as you have indicated, Director of the Division of

the State Library, Archives and History of the Department of Education, a post I have held for twenty-three years. I speak in support of Senate Bill No. 468.

Historically, the county libraries were designed to provide library services to sparsely populated rural areas, based on the original legislation passed in 1920. The law has served this purpose and, at present, approximately 1,700,000 New Jersey residents in 13 counties receive public library services through county libraries. In the fifty years since its passage, however, expanding population, urbanization, etc. have placed great pressures upon county libraries both in terms of program and approach. The new county library buildings in Monmouth, Morris, Sussex and Cumberland, and the building to be constructed in Burlington, indicate how certain county libraries are responding to new service demands, and have modernized and expanded their capabilities.

Each county library plays a somewhat different role from its sister institutions, but, in essence, all provide the sole library service where there are no local outlets, and supplemental library resources and services, either through affiliated libraries, or to all county residents through headquarters units. Service characteristics of these agencies differ county to county, but every county library struggles with an unstable source of local income. Under the present law, with the one exception of a county library established under R.S. 40:35-5.1 - that's Cumberland County - county library support is limited to those municipalities which have not formed their own free public library or have not elected to join the

county library system. Thus, the county library is subjected to erosion of its tax base as urbanization encourages municipalities to attempt to provide their own local services.

Modern library and information services now depend upon a range of resources and skills which is beyond the financial ability of any one unit. It is for this reason that the State Library Aid Law encourages various inter-library activities, and the development of selected strong point libraries to serve the reference and research needs of residents of larger geographical areas. This principle also underlies the development of the State Library's own backstop services for all the libraries of New Jersey, and its communication network which will mobilize the library resources of the entire State. The county library, with its affiliates, exemplifies this system concept, and six of them have been designated area libraries by virtue of the strength of their resources, staff, and programs.

I urge the passage of Senate 468 because its permissive nature recognizes the great differences which exist among New Jersey counties, and affords the opportunity for counties to support their county library agencies on a stable base. This legislation would not require a county to fund the county library from general tax funds. Instead, the Boards of Chosen Freeholders in the counties involved will be permitted to exercise judgment, by a two-thirds vote, as to the future, and in some cases the survival, of agencies in which, over the years, they have made considerable investment.

It would be unfortunate at this stage in the development

of a viable statewide network of library services, to deprive counties this freedom of choice, or to endanger the significant contribution the county libraries have to make on behalf of our citizens. Thank you very much.

SENATOR RINALDO: Mr. McDonough, I believe or I would assume that you are also familiar with the opposition to this bill and the arguments that the opponents of the measure have promulgated.

MR. McDONOUGH: I am indeed, sir.

SENATOR RINALDO: Do you have any suggestions in regard to possible amendments to this piece of legislation?

MR. McDONOUGH: The best one I have heard, sir, is the one that Senator Beadleston himself has suggested, which is in effect an offset to those municipalities within a county library framework who are making a substantial local effort. It seems to me that this is a reasonable compromise. I couldn't put a figure on a percentage at this point. But we can develop some statistical information in the State Library rather quickly, I would hope, and could come up with some suggestions along this line.

SENATOR RINALDO: Just off the top of your head, could you give me some range that you would probably favor? In other words, Senator Beadleston mentioned a top figure, a maximum, of 50 per cent in his testimony. Do you have any preconceived idea as to the range that you would favor?

MR. McDONOUGH: I don't have preconceived ideas, sir, but off the top of the head, 50 per cent sounds a bit high. If you were to give all the money back, this would be self-defeating;

you might just as well not bother. Fifty per cent seems a bit high. I would hope that somewhere in between, something under that, we might strike a happy medium. It must be remembered that if the county libraries are strengthened through being given a broader tax base, they will be enabled to do many things that they can't do at the present time. In other words, the quid pro quo, you know --

SENATOR RINALDO: Yes.

MR. McDONOUGH: It would be in terms of services and this is really what we are after, to somehow work out equitable arrangements where local autonomy is preserved and local effort encouraged at the same time cooperative methods are developed through which the larger unit will provide some of the services that the local outlet need not.

SENATOR RINALDO: Do you have any further suggestions for amendment?

MR. McDONOUGH: I don't at this time, sir.

SENATOR RINALDO: All right. Thank you. I believe Senator Italiano has some questions.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Well, a couple of my questions were anticipated by Senator Rinaldo. But I would ask a question for clarification purposes. In your statement about the 10th line down, you say ". . . . have placed great pressures upon county libraries both in terms of program and approach." Could you explain to me exactly what you mean by "approach" in this sense? I can understand the sense of the term "program." Explain to me what you mean by "approach"?

MR. McDONOUGH: Yes. For example, Senator, as Senator Beadleston observed, in the early days of the county libraries, it was frequently solely a bookmobile service that went around to various places in the county, made stops at all the schools and at various corners, and there were book stations where people opened their homes and took in books every two weeks for their neighbors and sometimes quite a wide geographical grouping of people. Gradually, those stations have been done away with. The visits to the schools have diminished as the schools themselves have developed school libraries in response to the new methods of teaching and the encouragement of Federal aid in recent years, and now increasingly an emphasis is being placed upon the county library providing strong, backstop reference and research services in central locations, such as those buildings I mentioned - the Eatontown Branch of the Monmouth County Library, for example, a most handsome and effective institution.

There used to be no headquarters service. There were actually no places for people to sit down in a county headquarters. Now they keep open shopping nights and this sort of thing.

SENATOR ITALIANO: If you know, and in your judgment and in your opinion, would enactment of this present bill or any amended version of it have any effect upon the State Library Aid Law to the local libraries?

MR. McDONOUGH: No, sir, no harmful effect.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Apparently there has been some confusion on this point, as Senator Beadleston raised.

MR. McDONOUGH: I think the article quoted was referring to the former 1959 statute rather than the 1967 statute.

SENATOR ITALIANO: So under the present statute, enactment of this law or an amended version of it, as has been suggested, to this point anyway, would not affect the aid from the State Library ---

MR. McDONOUGH -- the State Library Aid Act of 1967, no, sir.

SENATOR RINALDO: That's all. Thank you, Mr. McDonough.

Our next witness is Mr. Benjamin Danskin, the County Clerk of Monmouth County. Mr. Danskin, please.

B E N J A M I N H. D A N S K I N: Thank you, Senator Rinaldo and Senator Italiano. I will read this. It is very brief. I would just like to get it on the record.

My name is Benjamin H. Danskin. I am the County Clerk of Monmouth County and a former Freeholder. Prior to my county service I was Mayor and a member of the governing body of the Township of Wall. My background on the county and local level has provided a unique combination of experience to evaluate the programs and facilities of a County Library System and its relationship to local units of government.

Monmouth County has 53 municipalities, many of them encompassing limited area with a correspondingly small population and restricted tax base. The ability of many of these communities to provide comprehensive library service on an independent and separate basis is not economically feasible.

The State Library Plan recognizes the need for Area

Libraries to provide books and services on a comprehensive basis including a full range and variety of collections covering the major fields of knowledge. The State Plan designates the County Library in Monmouth as the Area Library and State Aid is provided to assist the county in carrying out this responsibility. The proposed legislation to provide County-wide support for our County Library is a logical step in keeping with the State plan to strengthen the concept of the Area Library, which is the cornerstone of the State Library Plan.

For an extended period of time in Monmouth County, library facilities and services were not being expanded to match the needs of a growing population. As the Freeholder responsible for Public Property, I worked with our County Library Commission on plans for a major reference center well related to our heavy concentrations of population in the Coastal Area of the County. While there was opposition to this program by some of the exempt towns not participating in the County System, the utilization of this facility provides ample evidence that a void existed in the library field in Monmouth County which could only be met by the County. Thirty-two Hundred (3,200) residents of exempt municipalities have acquired cards to use this facility during the past year.

Not in the notes, but they do pay \$2 per person for that privilege.

Our County Library Commission also has plans for a Headquarters Facility and Reference Center to serve Western Monmouth to improve coverage on a County-wide basis.

The quality of library service can only be measured by the comprehensive nature of its collections and services. The only way comprehensive service can be provided in Monmouth County is through the back-up of the County Library to local libraries.

In the planning of facilities and programs the stability of the tax base supporting the function is a vital consideration. The only way to guarantee a high level of library service on a uniform basis in Monmouth County is to spread the cost to the population and tax base of the entire County for the support of the County Library System. To improve and expand services, the County Library Program must rest on a broad permanent tax base. I would urge and recommend that your Committee act favorably on S 468. Thank you very much.

SENATOR RINALDO: You're very welcome. I don't believe there are any questions for you, Mr. Danskin, so we will proceed to our next witness, Arthur Krumm, Mayor of Wall Township. Mayor Krumm, please.

A R T H U R K R U M M: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: As Mayor of Wall Township, I would like to say a few words about our library. In 1961, a local library was started in Wall Township, using a small building to house a few hundred books and having volunteer help. In 1968, we moved to a shopping center and expanded our facilities. By now, we had paid part-time

help and about 5,000 books. But we lacked the professional library knowledge and necessary funds to bring us to a quality of service our borrowers required.

At this time we approached the Monmouth County Library for guidance. About a year ago we were made a branch of the Monmouth County Library. Under agreement with the county, they staff our library with a professional librarian, two assistants and a page. They help stock our branch with books and periodicals. We, in turn, buy books, provide building and required utilities.

Wall Township Library now has 9,509 books, 8560 belonging to Wall Township and 949 county books. Our borrowers number 2435. A children's room has just been added and we are negotiating for additional space for growth. I can only praise the fine job Monmouth County Library has afforded to us. Our budget - in 1967, Wall Township, part of it, was \$9,450. Our county tax was \$17,007. In 1968, our budget in Wall was \$12,600 and the county tax was \$23,313. In 1969, Wall budget was \$12,600 and the county tax was \$26,680. We heartily support this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR RINALDO: You're quite welcome.

Our next witness will be George Hagemester, Mayor of Sparta Township. Mayor Hagemester, please.

G E O R G E H A G E M E I S T E R: Good morning!
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Township of Sparta is strongly opposed to Senate Bill 468 which provides for the support of county libraries from general tax funds rather than from a dedicated special library tax as has heretofore been provided. There are two primary

reasons for the Township's position. These are as follows:

1. The enactment of Senate Bill 468 would be extremely unfair and place an undue financial burden on communities throughout the State of New Jersey having municipal libraries in counties where county library support was provided from general tax funds. The provisions of the proposed bill would allow a situation whereby some municipalities would be required to pay for library services provided by the County Library which the municipality is itself providing. An argument that county library services would be "available" to such municipalities is not acceptable since it is natural that local residents would use local library facilities. Thus, the enactment of Senate Bill 468 would result in the subsidization of library services by some municipalities for other municipalities in any given county. Such a system is grossly unfair and directly contrary to the principle of providing governmental services on an equal basis to all.

2. The enactment of Senate Bill 468 would result in duplications of library services and facilities and would in turn be an unnecessary waste of tax funds. The basis for this statement is that some, if not all county libraries, are actually attempting to provide a full range of library services rather than providing services to supplement local municipal facilities. Such a system is quite acceptable in rural areas where communities are too small to economically provide their own satisfactory library facilities as long as the communities receiving such services also provide the funds which are required for same. However, in the many communities where municipal libraries are

in existence and are providing library services, provision of the same services, and perhaps some additional services, by county libraries is an undesirable and unnecessary waste of public tax monies.

In connection with these reasons for opposing Senate Bill 468, it should be noted that information available to the Sparta Township Library Board of Trustees and the Sparta Township Council indicates that usual day-to-day library services can be provided significantly less expensively and more effectively at the local level than through county library facilities. It should be made clear that this statement does not refer to specialized services which should perhaps be provided at a higher level, such as the area reference library system now in effect. The provision of services such as this can properly supplement municipal services in the same manner that a law library at a college or university supplements the general university library. If a system could be established and properly controlled whereby county libraries were restricted to providing specialized services on an equal basis to all communities, legislation to provide for the support of such county library services from general tax funds would perhaps be acceptable.

SENATOR RINALDO: Mayor, many of your arguments seem to indicate that rather than being opposed to the specific method of financing in the bill, you are opposed to county libraries in toto unless they are merely put into effect to serve as an adjunct or supplement to a local library. Am I correct in this statement, that to take the broader view you are not only opposed to the bill in its present form, but you

are opposed to county libraries?

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: Not at all. I hope I didn't give that inference. The County Library System has provided over the years outstanding services, particularly in our county, where being a rural county many of the municipalities have not had their own library facilities and still do not have, and our County Library is providing an outstanding function in their behalf. But the whole system is changing and in those municipalities where you are providing your own facilities - and we have proven in our particular case that we are able to do this much more efficiently and more economically - the county library as far as we are concerned would be providing us a much more desirable facility as an area reference library type of facility instead of the complete library concept that they are now entered in.

SENATOR RINALDO: In other words, you do feel at this time that the county library serves a useful function.

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: Surely.

SENATOR RINALDO: Would you be in favor of this bill if it were amended in line with the recommendations submitted by both Senator Beadleston, the sponsor of the bill, and Mr. McDonough, the State Librarian?

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: Well, obviously, it would provide some relief from the bill as it is now worded. Our main concern is that we don't want to be confronted with double taxation in essence. It is costly enough to provide services as it is and to have to do it on a dual basis, we don't feel would be fair. So if we are divorced, so to speak, by an amendment in

the bill that would provide those municipalities that provide their own services to their citizens not being obligated, by all means, then we have no objection to funds being established for the county library system.

SENATOR RINALDO: In other words, you are in favor of 100 per cent offset, which would in effect, according to Senator Beadleston, just about kill this.

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: No, I don't think that would be fair. You have to be realistic about it. Because the county libraries undoubtedly if they were to be established as we are suggesting, more on the area of a reference library, they would be able to provide, and do at the moment, certain facilities in a reference area and obviously whatever that proportion amount would be, we should support. So to say 100 per cent, no - I am quite certain in our particular case it would be substantially more than 50 per cent though that we should be credited with.

SENATOR RINALDO: Could you give me some idea of a figure that you feel would be acceptable if the bill were amended?

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: I wouldn't want to make a guesstimate of that type, but I'd be only too happy when we go back to analyze strictly on the basis of those services we have been getting, books, for instance, on loan from the county library, and give you that breakdown and would be happy to forward it to you.

SENATOR RINALDO: All right. Thank you.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Mayor, if I understand you correctly, you are now receiving services from your county library to the extent that it is a supplemental service?

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: Yes, of a relatively limited nature in the last several years.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Are you participating in any financial support for this county library system at the present time?

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: No. We were up until a little over a year ago when we divorced ourselves from the county system.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Would you agree that not all municipalities are in a position to establish their own library system?

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: Surely.

SENATOR ITALIANO: And there is a need for a county library system over and above just supplemental services --

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: There has been.

SENATOR ITALIANO: [Continuing] -- for those municipalities that can't establish their own library systems?

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: That's correct.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Then you just can't limit a county library to supplemental services. You have to provide facilities for those municipalities that can't or are not in a financial position to provide their own library services. Would you agree with that?

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: I think that is a reasonable statement, but not to be expanded.

SENATOR ITALIANO: And you would agree with an amendment to this law to some extent where there would be an equitable arrangement with the communities that have their own systems?

MAYOR HAGEMEISTER: I think I would. I obviously would want to see what the amendment was. But it sounds substantially reasonable.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Thank you.

SENATOR RINALDO: Our next witness will be Mr. William Vandertulip of the Township Committee, Denville Township. Mr. Vandertulip, please.

W I L L I A M J. V A N D E R T U L I P: Thank you, Senator Rinaldo. I believe you already have remarked as a preface to my comments that the Legislative Committee of the League of Municipalities opposes this bill as presented, simply because of the penalties to local libraries.

In appearing before this distinguished committee I do not wish to be redundant in detailing again the primary areas of concern which I have placed in writing to each member of the committee with respect to the proposed bill. I merely cite these areas:

1. The bill because of dilution of municipal tax monies deters the development of local library services, rather than providing incentives for local library development.

2. It abolishes local prerogatives to participate in regional or county libraries and forces a financial union of established advanced municipal libraries with a county library which is basically rurally oriented.

3. It creates a new real estate tax for those municipalities such as Denville who have oriented their library development apart from a county system. Any new local real estate tax in the field of education is at variance with the fiscal tenor of all current state reports in the field of education.

As another has said, the proposed cure, S 468, is as bad as the disease. Its adoption will create many new problems.

I would state that there are many in Denville and other exempt Morris County communities who are sympathetic to the County Library funding problem and who seek an equitable solution to it. In my opinion the principal reason that an equitable solution has not been proposed in Morris County has been the reluctance of the county government unit and the County Library Commission to effectively seek the counsel of the library forces of the exempt communities to propose and effectuate a sound cooperative proposal. As a result, we have a completely polarized bill before us. I am glad to report that both the County Library Commission and the county governmental unit have recently sought the views of exempt communities. If such communication is seriously pursued, a sound bill can be achieved. For this reason, I ask that S 468 be tabled so that focus on an equitable bill can be made. A more equitable proposal is to be presented today by Mr. Falk of Morristown.

Speaking of compromise and the spirit of equity, the unilateral concept of compromise and equity of the Morris County Library Commission toward exempt communities is disclosed on page 10 of their promotional brochure enclosed and is quoted:

"Supporters of the Beadleston bill, however do recognize that municipalities that have made a major investment in providing adequate library facilities to their local communities and continue to fund their local library operation at substantial levels should have their contributions acknowledged. Working together with interested parties, an acceptable compromise undoubtedly can be worked out in this area."

Here such an attempt at compromise would occur after passage of S 468 when the bargaining power of such an exempt community would be 0.00 particularly in the light that under

Title 40:33-13 of the Library Law said municipality must apply for readmission to the County Commission under terms set forth by the County Commission. As a representative of an exempt community, I strongly desire that equity and compromise be stipulated in the law itself, rather than be paternally dispensed in an unspecified unilateral manner after passage of the law.

It may be considered trite in the light of current developments throughout the state to approach the subject of additional state aid for research, area and county libraries over and above the present state library aid formula.

Since the fiscal problem is not restricted to Morris County, I thrust this concept before you:

Library service throughout the state is a fundamental component of the educational program of the state. It is not a luxury or an entertainment diversion. As a component of the educational effort of the state, the fiscal recommendations of current state reports in education should bear also on the library effort.

I cite a few brief excerpts:

The Musto Report while focusing on the assumption by the state of mandated costs has as one of its conclusions:

"In terms of fiscal adequacy, the Commission believes that as a matter of policy:

"The state should assume or begin to assume from county and municipal government all fiscal responsibility for functions and services such as public education, the administration of justice and welfare, which are of state wide scope, impact and implication."

Again the Mancuso Report:

"The state share in educational costs must be increased to provide incentive and equalization among districts to provide a comprehensive educational program."

Again the thrust of the Bateman Report has as a major theme increased state aid to local education districts.

I urge this committee to table the proposed law with the recommendation that research, area and county libraries be subsidized for a percentage of their budgets because of the fundamental areawide educational role of these regional institutions. This subsidy from the state would be in addition to present library aid formula and can be derived possibly from sales tax revenues.

Within the framework of the Morris County problem if this fundamental component of state aid subsidy could be achieved, the library forces of Morris County, both the participating and exempt communities, could cooperatively recommend a workable formula to assure a permanent funding base for the county library for the future.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you. If any additional state funding is not possible at this time because of the fiscal problems that we are faced with, and since you apparently agree that county libraries are a vital ingredient in our library and educational structure, would you favor the amendment heretofore proposed by the sponsor of the bill and Mr. McDonough or any other amendment to the bill?

MR. VANDERTULIP: As I have stated previously, there are many in Morris County in exempt communities who are sympathetic to the plight of county libraries, to their fiscal plight.

Specifically, I would favor the Falk proposal. Mr. Falk will give his presentation. He appears on the agenda. I endorse that particular compromise which is a compromise. I would endorse that rather than Senator Beadleston's compromise.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you.

Since the witness has given us some insight into not only his own views but also the fact that Mr. Falk has a proposal for possibly curbing some of the opposition to this bill and amending it, perhaps at this time it would be logical to call Mr. Falk as our next witness. Mr. Falk, please.

J A M E S W. F A L K: Senator Rinaldo, Senator Italiano, and Senator Beadleston: As Mr. Vandertulip has mentioned a group of us in Monmouth County representing both the member and exempt libraries did meet on several occasions to discuss this bill, S 468, and to try and arrive at what Senator Beadleston refers to as an equitable and fair solution.

First, I would like to state that as President of a library which has been in existence for 101 years, providing a local library service, we are strongly opposed and I am instructed by my trustees to register my opposition to the bill in its present form as destroying our local library. But any comments I make on that would be redundant and I won't go into it.

The discussions that we had in the county were a recognition that the present system of funding is destructive of county library development by encouraging local libraries to opt out. The proposal set forth in the bill as the

alternative is destructive of local libraries by destroying their tax base and by preventing growth of local libraries.

What we wanted was a bill which would have the incentives for local library development, because we believe that library service locally is the best type of library service, and still provide a tax base for the county for its growth as - and this is important - as the nature of the county and the services required of it vary.

Unfortunately my knowledge of the library systems in the State is limited to Morris County. But there we have some strong local libraries and we still have some very heavy rural areas.

What we proposed was that the tax money to be raised in the county for the support of a library be divided between those moneys which will go toward local library service for the member libraries and those moneys which will go for the general area backup, regional services. And we propose that this be done on a basis of the ratables of the two groups of communities; namely, the proportion of the ratables of the member libraries to the total county ratables would be applied by the county to that service giving local library services on a dedicated tax basis. The proportion of the ratables of the exempt libraries to the total ratables would be applied by the county as a county tax item to be paid by the total county.

The advantage of this is that it will vary as the needs of the county vary. If a local library feels that it no longer needs those specific local services and opts out of the county,

it does not destroy the county tax base - it merely shifts the proportion of the budget that is supported by the county from that supported by the dedicated tax. We feel that this will provide an equitable basis for the future development of both the county systems and the local libraries as they now exist and as they can grow. What we are afraid of is the collision course between the local and the county libraries. We have that collision course now. It would be even worse if our county freeholders were to opt for Section C on the Beadleston Bill. That is our proposal, sir.

[Written statement submitted by Mr. Falk
can be found on page 94 of this transcript.]

SENATOR RINALDO: Fine. Thank you, Mr. Falk.

Our next witness is Mr. Clyde Apgar, the Mayor of Milford, New Jersey. Mayor Apgar, please.

C L Y D E A P G A R: Senator Rinaldo and Senator Italiano, I am Clyde Apgar, Mayor of Milford. I have come here with no real prepared speech.

We are for public libraries and for the development of stronger libraries. We do not belong to the County Library Association, but we are a small community of approximately 1200 people. Our book stock exceeds some 12,000 volumes and we are just completing a new library facility costing in excess of \$118,000.

I think not only our community but many small communities feel that there is going to be a need to increase taxes to support the county library and it is placing an excess burden on not only our taxpayers but many other small community

taxpayers as they must also pay for new library facilities.

I am naturally interested in Senator Beadleston's proposal to amend or give back to the community, but I believe there is still a question here: Where does it spell out what services we would get for our money? Frankly I urge that Senate Bill 468 be tabled for further study until some assurance can be given to these communities that have gone into debt and how they are going to provide to take care of these debts. Thank you.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you, sir.

Our next witness is Mrs. Emily Gianni, representing the Friends of the Library, Denville, New Jersey. Mrs. Gianni, please.

M R S. E M I L Y G I A N N I: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen, I am going to be a little redundant but I do have a very brief statement that will repeat some of the things that have been said.

As a library user and as a member of the Friends of the Library, I am interested in tax legislation concerning libraries. Understanding of and justification for additional taxes will be demanded by the general public and, therefore, it is important that the current library program, the money needed to carry it out and its relationship to the community be clearly stated and understood. We would like to know explicitly what new services we are to receive for this extra money. We have previously asked for plans of future services and have not been informed of them. Therefore, we cannot consent to this

double tax until we receive these objectives.

What will be done for us that we cannot do for ourselves? Will whatever is to be done for our community be provided more economically than we have provided ourselves? What guarantee do we have that the service we received in the past from our County Library will not repeat itself? We are not against systems but we do not want to create a system which hampers the development of our library and other libraries like ours. Our experience in Denville in the past three years has shown us that the people will support satisfactory library service. Our people tell us what they want. They come to hear historians, authors and poets speak. Our Great Books discussions are attended by many people from the surrounding communities. Our Friends of the Library group has donated time, talent, books and equipment to the library. We constantly try to improve our activities so that we may bring more books, people and ideas together. Good service has proven to be one of our most valuable assets and in return we have received the support of the community.

The people are the ones who pay for library service and therefore the people of the community insist on being aware of the specific services that they will be able to avail themselves of. A good library wants to make the best use of its tax dollar. It also wants to be an excellent cultural and educational center. A good library not only answers questions daily, but a good library must ask questions. We cannot consent to this proposed legislation until our questions are answered. We urge that this legislation be tabled.

We feel that funding has come before the specific services to be rendered and as some previous speakers have said, we feel this is a double tax for our communities and we think our people will ask us questions because people today do vote down school budgets and things like that because of these excessive tax burdens.

SENATOR RINALDO: Fine. Thank you very much, Mrs. Gianni.

Our next witness will be Mr. Edwin Beckerman, the President-elect of the New Jersey Library Association. Mr. Beckerman, please.

E D W I N B E C K E R M A N: Senator, I am going to take advantage of your offer to submit this statement for the record and, if I may, I would like to make a few off-the-cuff remarks on what we have been hearing.

I think there are certain basic problems involved in this whole question. Basically, in many counties there is no alternative to a county library system that is strongly based, that has had a chance to develop sophisticated services that the people of New Jersey need.

Secondly, I don't think there is any question that if we continue along the same road we are headed at the moment, we are not going to have strong county libraries and perhaps we are not going to have county libraries at all.

Therefore, I think it is incumbent upon us to take some kind of action, not in the interest of county libraries but in the interest of individual members of the public who reside in those counties who need service.

Now I think we have looked at the question in a variety of ways and one of them is to try to legislate from the top, so to speak, to try to find some kind of over-all solution to all county library problems. Since we have 13 county libraries, we have 13 different sets of problems and almost any solution you apply to one of them is inapplicable in another situation. What we are after, I think, is as equitable a situation as possible and I think that we have had some interesting suggestions today from Senator Beadleston and from Mr. Falk. I think we should look at these statements and I think we should find out what they mean in terms of a practical program. But I think it is essential that we make this kind of commitment to county libraries because they are needed desperately and I would hope that the Legislature does take some kind of action this year on this question.

[Mr. Beckerman's written statement can be found on page 98 of this transcript.]

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you very much. I think in addition to your statement here you have given some summary which may be good to interject at this point, and that is that we do have before us a bill that some people feel is needed and others are opposed to, but in between there seems to be some indication that the bill can be amended in one of two ways, that proposed by Mr. Falk and also in the manner proposed by both Senator Beadleston and Mr. McDonough, and I assure you that the Committee will take a good hard look at both of these proposals.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Mr. Beckerman, I assume then that

you agree with an equitable proposal as suggested earlier regarding an amendment to the bill for those municipalities who have already established their own library system. Am I correct in that assumption?

MR. BECKERMAN: Yes. I think the compromise may not be as simple as it first appears. Part of the problem is involved in the cost of operating a strong central facility. I think if you took not only county library budgets but municipal library budgets in larger cities, you are going to find that a large percentage of the cost is involved in the development of that central facility. I think this kind of central facility is essential in each area. So that it seems to me is the business of the entire county, support of that facility, whatever the percentage finally winds up.

SENATOR ITALIANO: I thought there was a very good question raised by Mrs. Gianni, I believe it was, regarding what type of services would be available to those municipalities that have already established their system.

MR. BECKERMAN: Well, Senator, I think we almost have a case of the chicken and the egg here. We need the kind of services that a strong central library can develop. We can't get it unless they are funded in some way. And we continually go around in a circle chasing our own tails. I think this gets to the crux of the matter.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Would you agree that not all county library systems are first-rate?

MR. BECKERMAN: I would agree to that definitely and I would say the same thing is true of municipal libraries.

SENATOR ITALIANO: How about then a suggestion that before a county is permitted the option of pursuing the remedies afforded under this bill, they be designated as area libraries by the State? This would guarantee that they would be giving good services to the community before they are taxed.

MR. BECKERMAN: Well, of course, the effect of present legislation would be just the opposite because once designated the area center must offer a range of services to both exempt and non-exempt libraries and the effect is to offer services that are going to be paid for partially by the non-exempt libraries and certainly offer an inducement to other libraries that are outside the system to stay out and perhaps induce libraries that are now in systems to pull out because under the terms of the area reference program, they will get the service anyway.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Well, wouldn't this designation sort of answer to a degree the problem of what kind of services a community would receive from this county library system since they are designated as an area library system?

MR. BECKERMAN: It would have two effects. It might serve to draw away those libraries presently part of the system and it also would have the effect possibly of designating libraries that are not ready to offer this kind of service because of the present tax base.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you, sir.

Our next witness is Mr. Jon Lloyd Miller, the President of the Camden County Board of Library Commissioners. Mr. Miller.

J O N L L O Y D M I L L E R: Gentlemen, I have a copy of some of what I want to say here and I would like to

say here and I would like to give it to the stenographer.

First, I would like to indicate and register my support from the Camden County Library Commissioners for Senate Bill 468. That is why I am here and the Commissioners support 100 per cent, for the record, the need for change in the method of financing, as outlined in the document which I have given for the record, "The Need of New Jersey County Libraries for More Dependable Support," prepared by the Board of Library Commissioners of Morris County. The Board of Library Commissioners of Camden County agree with and support the Document as it is written as representative of the problem, and in the vernacular, "It tells it like it is."

The word "system" has been thrown around a good bit this morning and around the State for a while. For a minute I went out and looked up in the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary the meaning of the word. It says, "A group of units so combined as to form a whole and to operate in unison." I think those of you who know libraries in the State of New Jersey can quickly realize that there are very few of those things in New Jersey and probably what we are talking about is a way to bring those things into being, I hope.

The systems approach to solving problems is firmly established in our society and it proves its worth repeatedly. In libraries now we are also trying to make use of this way of looking at problems. In Camden County, the Camden County Library just in the past year started purchasing and cataloging library materials for its members. The catalogue information is simultaneously given to a computer and a catalogue in "book"

loose-leaf form is produced. It is updated each week in quarter sections and distributed to each library. The savings to member libraries and to the county are quite noticeable, we, being able to purchase more materials because of increased discounts available from book sellers to large buyers. It is beginning to eliminate lengthy delays in cataloging materials when they arrive, and in many cases, this is the first time that many of our libraries have had a catalogue. It is our opinion that this program should and could be broadened to include the whole county. In Camden County, the County Library services 30 of 37 communities. This would, I think, result in significant per capita savings on this area of library service.

In the year just past, the Camden County Board of Library Commissioners asked to have the name of the "Camden County Free Library" changed to a name which more represents its function, that is, "The Camden County Library System." That request was denied. Legal counsel advised that the law required that the name be "The Camden County Free Library," and no other. I think that is representative of how outdated the law is.

The Library Law, as it now exists, has encouraged the withdrawal of four of our member libraries in the last five years in Camden County, diminishing significantly its base of support.

My point is now that the existing law encourages the breaking down of system, which is what we are all looking for, rather than its building. The law should recognize the library as a new group of institutions, recognizing the changing levels

in kinds of service as new population groupings come into existence. Libraries are now serving a generation that has moved once each five years and has been raised on television. There are a lot of allusions to how television affects us, but it does in a significant way. I would just like to make a short quote from a book called "Television in the Lives of Our Children," by Wilbur Schramm, Jack Lyle and Edwin B. Parker:

"Even at the age of three, when average viewing time is in the neighborhood of 45 minutes a day, the child spends more time on television than even on hearing stories. Throughout the preschool years, television time far exceeds other media time; in fact, it usually exceeds the total of other media time. Nine out of ten children are well acquainted with television . . . before they read their first newspaper copy. Eight out of ten are well acquainted with television before they begin to sound out the words of any print whatsoever. Two-thirds of them are already television viewers before they have much experience with movies. Even at the end of ten years, when they are making some use of all media, television is the only one they are using day after day. At age ten, three-fourths of all children . . . will be likely to be watching television on any given day. This is more than twice the percentage for any other medium at that age.

"It is therefore television, more than any other medium, that furnishes a common body of information for the early socialization of children. It is television more than any other channel that builds the 'set' with which a child approaches the mass media. All other media choices are judged against what he has come to expect of television.

This is a simple fact of contemporary life. That, in itself, supports the need for change. The State Library just recently granted to Camden City, a so-called exempt area in Camden County, and to the Camden County Library cooperatively, an incentive grant to start a regional Audio Visual Library for

"all the county." For this program to be successful, it will absolutely need the support of all the County. The pending legislation is needed for that "New Library."

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

Before calling our next witness, I would like to once again remind everybody here that we want to give everyone a chance to be heard and I would hope that you could summarize your comments and direct them to the bill itself, either you are opposed to it, favor it, or have some constructive recommendations for change, so that everybody does have this opportunity because we are trying to continue this meeting until the lunch period and have everybody have an opportunity to be heard by then.

Our next witness will be Miss Veronica F. Cary, Director of the Trenton Free Public Library. Miss Cary..
V E R O N I C A F. C A R Y: Senator Rinaldo, Senator Italiano, ladies and gentlemen: My name is Veronica Cary. I am the Director of the Trenton Free Public Library, the oldest Library in the State, founded in 1750.

In following your remarks, Senator Rinaldo, even though I have a prepared statement, I have been listening and in the interest of discarding redundancy most of this will be off-the-cuff.

I am very concerned about the possible consequences of S-468 for both the libraries and the taxpayers of Mercer County. I have read with interest the excellent report of the County and Municipal Government Study Commission, and Article 2, Section 28 of S-513 clearly states that "Nothing in this act shall be construed to impair or diminish or infringe on the powers and duties of municipalities." S-468 in allowing County Freeholders by mere resolution, instead

of public referendum, to tax every municipality in Mercer County for the support of a facility which those municipalities, now exempt, neither need nor desire, clearly would be an infringement of the rights of municipalities.

In Mercer County there is no need for this increased taxation because the Trenton Free Public Library, as the State designated Area Reference Library for all of Mercer County, is already providing free reference services, free photocopies of articles from its large and comprehensive periodical and document collections.

Senator Beadleston, in his remarks, mentioned periodicals. In our Library we have fact files of over 1,000, we have hundred year runs of many magazines, and a complete set of congressional documents from 1782 to date.

Also our exempt municipalities in Mercer County represent a large majority of the County taxpayers since they include two-thirds of the population.

The provisions of S-468 would penalize the City financially, and this at a time when Trenton, together with other large cities in the State, is struggling with a multiplicity of problems, such as urban redevelopment, the inner-city, saving sources of revenue, we think that this needs to be studied further.

I have already mentioned that the citizens of Mercer County are presently able to receive free from the Trenton Free Public Library materials and services for which the County now proposes to charge.

I would like to call to your attention that in Mercer

County we have a situation that is peculiar to Mercer County, it does not exist anywhere else in the State. The Trenton Free Public Library is larger, has a larger budget, staff, collections, non-book materials, and programs within and without the Library than the County Library itself.

Mr. Danskin mentioned that in Monmouth County there are about 3200 people who subscribe to the services of the Monmouth County Library. In Trenton we not only have this, we have it in reverse. We have people from the County who subscribe to our services and we reach even beyond the borders of our State because we also service Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The Trenton Public Library has been in business for a very long time and its collections have accumulated over a great many years.

We feel that the legislation as presently drafted should certainly be tabled and given further study.

In addition, I have collected signatures from our patrons protesting the measure. You have received telegrams from our governmental officials and I ask that these be made part of the record.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you.

Our next witness is Miss Dorothy Loehr, Trustee, Board of Trustees, Lincoln Park Public Library.

D O R O T H Y V. L O E H R: I represent the Trustee's viewpoint and for all the reasons that have already been stated, I urge you to table Bill 468 for further study.

The trend today is toward local autonomy. This bill has made no provision for representation of community

interests, no definition of how the money will be used, has placed no limit or control on future financial demands and has not taken into consideration that support should be based on services received.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you very much, Miss Loehr.

Our next witness is Mrs. Elizabeth Budell, Director of the Madison Public Library.

E L I Z A B E T H E. B U D E L L: I am Elizabeth E. Budell, a resident of Morris County and the Director of the Madison Public Library.

Thank you, Senator, and members of your Committee for allowing me to be heard.

Fifty years ago County Libraries were established in New Jersey for the purpose of extending services to communities which had not established municipal libraries. Between 1921 and 1963, 13 of the State's 21 counties organized county libraries, 8 have none.

Their legal structure contained no provisions to insure permanence; instead, it seemed to suggest automatic retreat in the face of further municipal library development.

Institutions, however, rarely retreat or dis-establish themselves in the process of achieving or upon having achieved their original purpose.

Certainly, this has been the case in those counties wherein rapid urbanization has occurred. Mr. McDonough has told you about the vicious circle of withdrawals as member libraries which were left had to assume ever larger shares of financial support. Many county librarians felt they

faced financial extinction. Not all county librarians, however, have experienced this situation, but with spreading urbanization they are well aware of an uncertain future. To justify their continued existence, they are seeking a new role, that of a central library for a coordinated countywide system and, to insure financial support, they have proposed this legislation - Senate Bill 468.

We have no argument against sound systems of strong local libraries backed up and coordinated by stronger area libraries, in turn backed up by supra-area libraries as outlined in the New Jersey Library Development Plan, Martin and Gaver, 1964, and insofar as this is the intent of this legislation we have no objection to it. Indeed, we commend the legislators for their interest in libraries.

However, we must point out that in its present form, this bill will not produce such a system. County libraries are not structured to perform effectively in such a role.

This conclusion is borne out by the findings of the Nelson Report, a study of county libraries commissioned by the State Library and published in 1967. The survey pointed out 16 structural weaknesses in the legal bases of county libraries, and those which concern us most are these:

1. Library Commissioner, the County Library's governing body, can be appointed on the basis of political reward since there are no qualifications for service.
2. The powers of library commissioners are too limited to enable them to provide leadership.
3. There are no structural ties between county

libraries and their member units, nor is there any definition of their respective roles and responsibilities.

4. Member libraries have no specific role or participation in the formation of county library policy.

5. County library services are oriented towards small libraries or rural areas with no libraries. There is little or no incentive for larger libraries to become part of or remain in the system.

6. Where the county library is also the Area Reference Library, the dual role tends to create conflict in service obligations.

In a letter of transmittal to the State Librarian, the Nelson Associates stated, and I quote:

"We are convinced on the basis of our study that the inherent problems which have faced county libraries cannot be overcome by any short term measures. Over the years the county libraries have fulfilled a valid function in providing library services, but in our opinion, the time has now come to reassess the contributions which these agencies can perform."

This bill, in its present form, is a short-term measure. It does not restructure county libraries for a larger role. It merely guarantees their continuance financially. It could even perpetuate our problems.

Although, on the surface, it seems a lifesaver for those areas of the State with little or no local library development, it may in time prove detrimental to the Library Development Plan. By their very nature, as presently structured, county libraries do not encourage the development of strong local

libraries, and it is upon the base of strong local libraries that the entire superstructure of services described in the New Jersey Library Plan is to be built.

Furthermore, as applied to Morris County where 14 communities have municipal libraries giving local services, S-468 means they could be legally bound to support these same services on the county as well as the local level.

Now, we do not want to see our county library collapse. It is still the best candidate for a central library once a proper system has been structured legally. We are willing to support it until such a proper structure can be structured but not on these terms.

And, currently, as you have heard, in Morris County, representatives of member and non-member libraries are working toward an equitable arrangement. We ask that S-468 be tabled until we can offer modifications that would accommodate this plan.

Thank you.

SENATOR RINALDO: You are quite welcome, Mrs. Budell.

SENATOR ITALIANO: In your statement I think you say, "We have no argument against sound systems of strong local libraries backed up and coordinated by stronger area libraries, in turn backed up by supra-area libraries." What would you think of a suggestion that before a county library system is permitted the option, that is outlined in Senate Bill No. 468, that this library system in some fashion either be certified or designated as a library system by the State that could perform the functions that you are interested in?

MRS. BUDELL: Selfishly, I would be very happy to see this done. I do think, as Mr. Beckerman has pointed out, that it does pose another problem for the County Librarian in Morris because many of his member libraries would be apt to withdraw from the system if they could get the services for nothing.

I think this is a definite threat.

What I really would like to see happen, I think we do have to keep the county libraries alive and I think we have to work out a plan in Morris to do that, but we certainly need to restructure the county system to take care of these six points, at least, before we can truly say we have developed a system of libraries because there is a paternal characteristic to a county library which is very difficult for larger local libraries to swallow. We like to feel that we are a structural part of the system and have some participation in it.

SENATOR RINALDO: Mrs. Budell, now that you brought up that point, I can readily see the wisdom in restructuring the county libraries but I could also envision this restructuring in a separate piece of legislation.

MRS. BUDELL: And so do I.

SENATOR RINALDO: You mentioned in the closing part of your statement and I believe you have reiterated it, that you are willing to support the county libraries but not on these terms. By that I assume you, of course, mean the terms outlined --

MRS. BUDELL: The either/or.

SENATOR RINALDO: Yes, the either/or. Now, are you familiar with the plan and did you hear the plan put forth by James Falk when he testified?

MRS. BUDELL: Yes. I have sat in on the negotiating team meetings where the Falk plan --

SENATOR RINALDO: Would you favor that particular proposal, in lieu of what is presently contained in Senate Bill No. 468?

MRS. BUDELL: The concept of the Falk proposal I, personally, do favor. I can't speak for my entire community and I can't speak for all the communities in Morris County. There are a few modifications I would like to suggest to Mr. Falk on the proposal. I think along with that there should be legislation which would keep member libraries from changing the status from being a member to tax exempt until they had met some sort of minimum standards. But this is a slight modification and could be easily put into it.

SENATOR RINALDO: Are there any other modifications of the Falk Plan that you would like to bring forth at this particular time?

MRS. BUDELL: Not at this particular time but I am sure that we will have a meeting very shortly and I would like to think that in the very near future we will be able to propose an amendment that would implement the Falk Plan.

SENATOR RINALDO: I would hope that as soon as you have the meeting you would get adequate copies for the members of the Senate Committee and also to the Sponsor of the bill, Senator Beadleston, so that it can receive every

possible consideration.

MRS. BUDELL: Thank you. We will do so.

SENATOR RINALDO: Our next witness is Mr. Alexander F. Keating, Attorney for the Borough of Flemington, New Jersey.

A L E X A N D E R F. K E A T I N G, JR.: Thank you, Senator. My name is Alexander Keating and I am here on behalf of and as Attorney for the Borough of Flemington, Hunterdon County.

I will not review the history of our local library except to say that we have recently a \$140,000 addition to that structure and that our current operating budget is approximately \$35,000.

The objection that we have to Senate Bill 468 is that it gives no recognition to the reliance that independent municipalities have placed on existing State law. It is felt that the bill should be prospective in its application and not retroactive, as it is at the present time.

We would favor and we are interested in seeing that the County Library System is made strong. However, the independent library system should not be destroyed to accomplish that goal.

Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you, Mr. Keating.

Our next witness, Mr. Robert H. Staples, Director of the Princeton Public Library.

R O B E R T H. S T A P L E S: I shall alter my remarks also in the interest of time. I appreciate appearing before you gentlemen.

I am Robert H. Staples, Director of the Joint Free Public Library of Princeton. I am for libraries and for the development of stronger libraries, but I cannot favor this legislation.

I hope that this gathering today of concerned people indicates to the Legislators the interest in better library service in New Jersey on the part of all Librarians, Trustees, Friends, Commissioners, but not better service developed in haste, at the expense of stronger libraries and leading into a future that is very vague.

I urge that this legislation be tabled for further study.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR RINALDO: You are quite welcome.

Our next witness, please, Mrs. Margaret Bertland, Washington Public Library Board, Washington, New Jersey.

M A R G A R E T B E R T L A N D: Senator Beadleston, Members of the Committee, I am here today as a private citizen, former member of the Board of Trustees of the Washington Library, also a Past President of our Library. This past year I have been asked to serve on our Warren County Library Study Commission.

I feel that this bill in its present form is unjust. It should be tabled for further study. I concur with the findings and remarks of Sparta Township Mayor and the Attorney

for Flemington, New Jersey. This bill represents double taxation to small municipalities who are struggling to upgrade their library facilities.

I feel that there is a very definite need to upgrade county library services but not at the expense of the municipal libraries

Thank you.

SENATOR RINALDO: You are welcome.

Mr. Maurice Goldman, Willingboro Public Library, Willingboro, New Jersey.

M A U R I C E S. G O L D M A N: Senator Rinaldo, Senator Italiano, if I may, I would like to depart from these remarks and just have them read into the record and just add that I would like to support the concept that was presented by Mrs. Budell, that this entire issue of county libraries be viewed in its totality rather than as a simple temporary funding problem.

The Nelson report of some years ago came up with some very specific suggestions, all of which have been ignored in the intervening years, and it would seem to me that rather than tax the exempt municipalities to solve a funding problem which will not solve the problem of county libraries but only temporarily relieve it, if it will do that in fact, we ought to table the present bill and undertake a much more incisive study of how to solve the county library problem.

Thank you.

SENATOR RINALDO: Would you be in favor of any type

of financing until such time as the entire restructuring could be accomplished and set forth in a separate piece of legislation?

MR. GOLDMAN: I would not support any that would come from presently exempt municipalities. If there are other means of support available in the State structure for aid to libraries, perhaps those forms of aid should be looked into.

Perhaps there is some possibility of incentive aid for county libraries or emergency aid for county libraries. They seem to be facing a dire emergency. I do not feel that the municipalities are the ones to pick up the tab for the county library problems that have been built up over many, many years and have not been resolved to this date.

SENATOR ITALIANO: Do I understand you correctly then, that even if there is a restructuring, as previously outlined, and a strengthening of the county library system, you still would not support any concept of a countywide support for this county library system?

MR. GOLDMAN: No, I don't think I said that. I don't know what kind of restructuring you have in mind. There is none, certainly, in the present bill. There is none that has been proposed in the form of legislation that I know of. The restructuring of the county library is still some hypothetical thing which we have really not gotten down to dealing with in this State. And I would like to see that come about before we start taxing the exempt municipalities to support the county. No, I would not be opposed to support.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you, Mr. Goldman.

I will now call Mr. James Bryan, Co-Chairman, Library Development Committee.

J A M E S E. B R Y A N: Senator Rinaldo and Senator Italiano, my name is James E. Bryan. I am Chairman of the Library Development Committee of the New Jersey Library Association, Co- chairman, and I am here on behalf of that Committee and on its expressed authorization. My regular employment is as Director of the Newark Public Library. We are very grateful for the opportunity to appear before you today.

This statement supports the bill and these comments, which I will give only in part, are intended to supplement other statements on behalf of the bill.

Mention has been made by several people testifying to the Nelson Report. I would just like to state, for the record, that the Library Development Committee did give careful and extended thought and attention to the Nelson Report and did not adopt its findings completely or as a total document.

The reasons that the Library Development Committee supports the bill are, briefly, as follows:

1. Because library growth, resources and facilities are not keeping pace with developments in New Jersey which require current useful informational, research, educational and cultural materials for advancement and progress.

Not only is the population of this State expanding,

the educational level of its citizens is increasing, its research, technological, scientific, business, professional, educational and cultural operations are on the up-grade in numbers and quality. Improved library resources are needed badly.

The growth of knowledge is phenomenal. In the past five or six years, the publication of new titles and new editions in the United States has grown from about 20,000 annually to more than 30,000 annually, an increase of 50%. To keep informed and useful New Jersey residents need access to libraries which have available a greater share of this new knowledge.

The biggest mistake that those of us who are responsible for the provision of governmental services to this State can make is to underestimate the potential for economic and personal growth of our citizens.

2. This factor of educational and intellectual growth is directly related to the second level of the state-wide library plan, i.e., the area libraries, particularly the county libraries. I am not referring in this instance to the county library as center for a branch system, as an extension service with book-mobiles, as an agency to serve the schools. I am referring to the County Library as an "area" library with its responsibility to provide in depth reference and subject collection service which will back stop and support the local libraries and will be the growing main library for expanding populations.

What kind of a central public library is needed for counties such as Burlington with a projected population of 401,000 in 1975, Camden with a population of 510,000 in 1975, for Monmouth with 572,000, for Morris with 451,000, for Ocean with 195,000, for Somerset with 243,000, for Atlantic with 210,000, let alone for Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Salem, Sussex and Warren - all with substantial growth projected?

Substantial library facilities are needed now, central libraries with holdings of several hundred thousand volumes, adequate seating, large periodical holdings and adequate supplies of related library materials. Who will provide them, how will they be paid for, who will continue to support the service?

There is currently great spillover from smaller libraries to large libraries. Our Newark Public Library, in samplings of use, is used by residents of the 21 counties of the State of New Jersey.

3. Since the statewide plan uses as "area" libraries those which are strongest and those with good local support supplemented with state assistance, the county libraries if they are to meet needs as area libraries must have the broadest possible basis of county support.

If for in-depth reference and subject materials they are to serve all libraries in their areas, and all persons in their areas, regardless of whether they are

from exempt communities or not, the whole county should support the Central Library function, in some respect.

It is seriously doubted that with few possible exceptions any municipal library in counties where there are county libraries is, or will possibly be in a position to provide the necessary basic collection or continued financial assistance from local taxes to successfully carry out the area library responsibility.

4. With three exceptions, (Camden, Mercer and Warren) there is greater present population in those parts of counties served by county libraries than the exempt areas of those respective counties. It is quite likely that the total population growth in the next decade in many of the counties will continue to increase more rapidly than in the exempt areas. It appears that in most instances the future definitely lies with the county libraries both as to service area, and as to the tax basis for financial support of "area" library services.

If exempt areas were to participate in the building up of adequate central library facilities to meet prospective "area" library requirements, such exempt areas would be facing a substantial and growing tax obligation. It is much wiser to place this obligation on the broadest possible base, and a base that truly represents the users of the service.

Statements have been made about exceptions and in my full text I indicate some exceptions. New Jersey's governmental problems historically have been effected by exceptions. It is just the nature of the State and results from different historical antecedents, folkways, boundary lines, rates of growth, locations of industrial development, that the different counties have different problems.

While these exceptions should not be overlooked, neither should they govern the future development of major areas of the State with substantial need for educational, research and cultural services.

This Bill makes provision for the exceptions by permitting local county officials to decide what is in the interests of their respective counties. The "how much" of service, the method of support, the "how much" of money is left for decision to the counties. At the county level is provided the opportunity for interested persons to voice their views and opinions.

In some of the counties the time for library change may not be now, but it would be unfortunate to refuse change to those who need it and can justify it now.

This Bill is not mandatory on any county with a county library, but it will permit the respective counties that are growing rapidly with children, students and adults who have far greater need for the materials of education than ever before to decide for themselves whether they wish to have and support with state assistance suitable central library resources and services.

For the Committee, may I say we deeply appreciate the thought, time, and interest which you gentlemen, individually, and the Committee as a whole are giving to this important legislative proposal.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you.

I now call Mrs. Star, Commissioner from Somerset County.

A B B Y S T A R: My name is Abby Starr and I am a Commissioner in Somerset County, Library Commissioner, Somerset County Library.

We are basically in agreement with bill S-468 which is under discussion this morning.

One of the most important factors in this bill is, to our way of thinking, that for each dollar spent on library services more people in our county will be better served. We will thus have a more economical operation.

In 1968 the County Library Budget raised by taxes was \$348,963. Of a total population of about 202,000, we then served about 161,200 people. Exempt areas included about 40,800 people. The per capita cost was \$2.16. Had we then been serving all of the people of the County the budget would have been \$418,755 or a cost of \$2.07 per capita.

Far from penalizing libraries in exempt areas, we absolutely believe that county libraries, serving all the people, will have the advantages of centralized purchasing and processing, more efficient library lending, better distribution of bookmobile services, and a more advantageous use of county library personnel. Our art collection and

recordings also can be shared by all.

After all, exempt areas are already paying in part for the maintenance of county library facilities. Why would they not be better off receiving the services and expertise inherent in the county library system.

There is one other point I would like to make. This is a permissive bill. It concerns only the 13 counties which have county library systems. It gives to these county governing bodies the option of abandoning the dedicated tax if they so wish.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR RINALDO: You are quite welcome.

I now call Mrs. Marian Smith, Secretary of the Parsippany-Troy Hills Library Board of Trustees.

In addition to her own statement, Mrs. Smith has also given me a statement from the Mayor of the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills which I will ask the stenographer to please enter into the record.

You may proceed with your statement, Mrs. Smith.

M A R I A N S M I T H: So as not to be repetitive, the statement is from the Trustees of the Free Public Library and as Secretary I was the only one available to come down today to relay this. It outlines, of course, the problems of the loss of financial support as libraries municipalize. And I might point out that Parsippany-Troy Hills is one of those libraries which has its foot in both camps. It is a municipalized library system but chooses to remain with the county for the opportunity which it affords, both for

services the county library offers in Parsippany-Troy Hills and for the opportunity which we feel the county library provides in Morris County for a system of service.

The statement is, of course, in favor of S-468. (See p.108) After this statement was adopted by the Trustees the report of the Committee, which Mr. Falk has reported on, came to the Trustees. They were polled and are favorable to the amendment as proposed by Mr. Falk of a gradual phasing out of the dedicated tax and concurrent assuming of the support of county library services out of general county revenue.

Mayor Luther's statement also is favorably to S-468 and I will not read that in its entirety. (see p. 109)

May I speak now just as a citizen of Morris County of the State of New Jersey?

SENATOR RINALDO: Surely.

MRS. SMITH: For myself, I feel keenly that any government service should be paid for on the level at which it's rendered. If I want a county library, if I can use the services which the county library provides, I am willing to pay for that service, and I don't feel that that prevents me or in any way cripples my ability to finance a municipal library either. If I want and desire a more sophisticated level of service, which the county can provide, I'm willing to pay for it. And the hope that State Aid will come back down and support X percent of county library service, or even municipal library service, I feel is a sort of will-o'-the-wisp. If I want it, I'm willing to pay for it.

SENATOR RINALDO: Fine. Thank you very much, Mrs.

Smith.

Mr. John Livingstone, please, Director of the Monmouth County Library.

J O H N L I V I N G S T O N E: Senator Rinaldo, Senator Italiano, my name is John Livingstone and I am the Director of the Monmouth County Library and I am speaking as a representative of the 13 county libraries.

I have just presented to you a bundle of petitions signed by 8,000 people using county libraries in New Jersey from, in this case, five separate counties, who endorse S-468.

We favor the passage of S-468. Without a stable tax base the strength of county libraries will be lost to the residents of these 13 counties.

County libraries are among the strongest public libraries in New Jersey. They perform a variety of roles necessary to the development of good local library service. The cornerstone of a county library service program to local libraries and local residents is a large central resource, which meets or surpasses Area library criteria as to circulating book collection, reference materials, periodicals, personnel, and hours of operation. With the development of the Area library approach a strong central resource, geared primarily for area-wide service, is a necessary ingredient for backstopping local units. Because of their broad base of support, county libraries are uniquely equipped to provide this vital service.

For example, county libraries have the largest book

collection except in Atlantic and Mercer counties. In 8 of the 13 counties the largest local book collection is no more than one-third the size of the county library's collection.

Again, except for Atlantic, Camden and Mercer counties, the county libraries have the largest book budgets in their counties. In 9 counties the largest book budget of a local library is no more than one-third the size of the county library budget. The kind of book collection made possible by a county library book budget must be available to all county residents.

Interlibrary loan service is vital to local libraries. Because of the singular nature of their services, county libraries are handling thousands of requests for books from local libraries. For example, in 1969 Monmouth County Library successfully completed 25,000 interlibrary loans to local libraries.

In-depth reference service is provided by all county libraries.

Pick-up and delivery service has been initiated in many counties to speed books to local libraries.

Thousands of people from exempt areas are now paying for borrowing privileges. The increased availability of county library materials to these residents and to people unable to afford a library card will be a significant benefit of countywide support.

Bookmobile service is a key service greatly needed in many parts of New Jersey. With the exception of the Newark Public Library, only county libraries are currently

providing this service.

County libraries are adding audio-visual materials to their resources in order to offer these expensive materials to local libraries.

The State Library has recommended consultant services be provided by area libraries. This function is already being performed by county libraries.

Printing and display services for local libraries are provided by many county libraries.

County libraries are the only libraries able to provide back-up services to elementary schools on a regional basis.

The Interim Report of the County and Municipal Government Study Commission, Creative Localism, states: "In the area of library service, the New Jersey Library Association's Library Development Committee concluded that 'three-fourths of New Jersey residents do not have access to printed materials and library services to meet full educational and informational needs. Of 323 local community libraries surveyed, only 18 met all 7 of the Committee's standards of adequacy and only 19 met 2 such standards (a 25,000 volume collection and additions of 1,000 volumes a year).'"

With this in mind it seems obvious that a regional approach which recognizes the necessity of strong local libraries and the need for larger and stronger units of service is essential if public libraries are to offer adequate service in New Jersey. The Beadleston bill will

provide the broad base tax support that will permit the county libraries to meet the educational and informational needs not only of today but of tomorrow. We urge your favorable consideration of S-468.

I would also add that I believe the county libraries will agree to an amendment similar to what Senator Beadleston has suggested. We feel that we can work something out in this fashion or possibly along the lines that Mr. Falk has also presented.

Thank you.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you very much.

Mr. Harvey Stewart, please.

H A R V E Y S T E W A R T: Mr. Chairman, my name is Harvey Stewart. I am from Clinton, New Jersey. I am a Trustee of the Grandin Public Library there. The Grandin Library is one of five member libraries in Hunterdon County. Together with the County Library we serve 23 of the 26 municipalities in the County. Without the County Library we would not be able to do as good a job as we are doing in the member libraries or even touch those portions of the County that are beyond range of the member libraries.

Speaking personally, I am sure that the member libraries would go along with the idea of some compromise, as far as the tax on the present exempt libraries, of which we have 3 in the County. Otherwise, I think we can go on record as favoring the bill.

Thank you.

SENATOR RINALDO: You are welcome.

Mr. James Cochran, please, Commissioner of the Morris County Library.

J A M E S A. C O C H R A N: Senators and members of the County and Municipal Government Committee, I have prepared remarks that I would like to get to but I can make a few off-the-cuff statements in line with what has been said previously.

Many of the individuals who have testified have talked about a booklet which the Commissioners of the Morris County Free Library had prepared and widely distributed. We're grateful that people have been reading this booklet because we did, as one gentleman said, try to tell it like it is, and we hope that has been beneficial. And I appreciate that people have even gone so far as to quote, in their remarks, from the booklet.

Regarding a point or two that's been made about library service that would be offered by county libraries were this bill or similar legislation to be enacted, I think we have now heard remarks from representatives of Monmouth, representatives of Camden County, and others, on that particular point. And I might also draw you gentlemen's attention to page 5 of our booklet in which we do try to detail some of the services that are being presently given in Morris County to both member municipalities and non-member or at least borrowers from non-member areas who are paying a fee for service at the county library.

We are meeting today to discuss the merits of the permissive legislation embodied in Senate Bill 468,

introduced by Senator Beadleston, as a means of providing for alternative funding of the County Libraries of New Jersey. I come before you as a Commissioner of the Morris County Free Library to speak in favor of the principle inherent in that legislation.

I think all of us associated with library service in New Jersey agree that the role of the County Library has changed considerably in recent years. In fact, many of the individuals who have testified have amply documented that. Many now view the County Library, particularly in heavily urbanized areas, as a "Libraries' Library" - forming a vital link in the municipal-county-state chain of library services; a "backstop" to local libraries in the area, so needed these days in the midst of the ongoing information explosion. By adopting this view, people are not saying "County Library, si, and local library, non" or vice versa; they are saying rather that both are needed, now more than ever before.

Why then allow the County Library, as an entity, to wither away? With studies and reports pointing to the importance of the systems approach to quality library service, with the County Libraries, as a unit, constituting a facility in being, and with the possibility of such a broad base of financial support for their operation, it would be foolish indeed to ignore the present plight of these institutions of learning.

Now we heard a lot said with regard to the aspects of tabling this legislation. Let me, since others have done it,

just quote a small portion from this booklet, and I would call your attention to page 10:

"Opponents of the Beadleston Bill say that the measure attempts to deal with only a single facet of the complex County Library problem, that its passage will undermine local initiative and encourage duplication of services. Many assert that what is really needed is a complete revision of the County Library Law, with an attendant development of an entirely new method of funding.

"Most proponents of the Beadleston bill agree that a completely new County Library Law is needed, but they realize that while waiting for such a thorough and complete operation to be performed, the patient might well die. They know too well that it is often very difficult to get agreement on a legislative task of such wide scope."

I say to these people that are proposing the tabling of this legislation - I say to them that the County Library need is a very real one indeed, that it is here today, and that delay only makes the problem more acute. Now is the time for action.

The position of the Morris County Library Commissioners is amply documented in this booklet to which I have been referring. As stated therein, we, as Commissioners in Morris County, are willing to see the Beadleston bill amended in order to assure its passage now, at this time. In fact, heartened by the recent rapport and good faith efforts exhibited by representatives of both exempt and non-exempt areas in Morris County, we would support an

amendment, and the amendment we have in mind is a very simple one, it's just that a third section be added to permit greater flexibility, and that can be done very simply by saying not "either/or" but a combination "and/or". This would give the Board of Chosen Freeholders that flexibility in deciding precisely what mix of dedicated taxation and general county funding would be most appropriate for their particular county library. In fact, I might mention we are assured on this point of the approbation of the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

In conclusion, then, I would say, in addition to "now is the time for action," let's all join forces together. Let's recognize, as so many have said, that there is a genuine need for quality library service at all levels, not just the state level, not just the local level, but at all levels, and let's, working together, ensure the passage of legislation which provides a viable financial future for county systems.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR RINALDO: You're welcome.

Mr. Harold Thompson, please. Mr. Thompson is the Director of the Glassboro State College Library.

H A R O L D W. T H O M P S O N, JR.: Mr. Chairman, Senator Italiano, because of the tyranny of time, I will not read my statement. I want to stress one thing and that is the permissive nature of the proposed legislation, which I think is a good one, but I wish to address myself to one specific objection that the opponents of this bill are

stressing, that is that the quality of library service in the municipalities within a county might deteriorate if such legislation, on a broad tax base in a county, was passed.

As State Library Director McDonough has said, Cumberland County Library, which was set up under special legislation, has, in effect, since 1963, been taxing all municipalities within the County for County Library service.

What has happened to the two municipalities that have municipal libraries in Cumberland County?

Referring to the remarks of the speaker just previous, I will try to tell it as it is.

This is what has happened. In the case of Vineland, their appropriation since 1964, the first year that statistics were kept after the County Library went into operation, in four years has risen by 150%. The circulation has increased and at the present time the Board of Trustees is talking with architects ostensibly because a new building is being projected.

In the case of Bridgeton, and the statistics in my report have been updated, from a \$55,000 budget in 1964 the 1969 budget was \$83,000, over 50% increase. And the Bridgeton Public Library has built a new library building since the establishment of the county library.

So my main point here is this, that evidently a good strong county library, instead of deteriorating local services and local support, has stimulated and, as a result, we have two much better local public libraries even though they are helping support the county library in its work.

Thank you.

SENATOR RINALDO: You're quite welcome.

Mr. Schuyler Mott, please, Director of the Bernardsville Library.

S C H U Y L E R L. M O T T: Mr. Chairman, Senator Italiano, I am Schuyler L. Mott, Director of the Bernardsville Public Library, an association library, and a cooperating library within the Somerset County Library System.

In 1968, shortly after our tax bills had been received, I had a curious experience. While eating lunch at a local restaurant, I could not help but overhear a group of men sitting at a nearby table complaining about their taxes. Much to my amazement, one of them said that the recent tax increase was due to a huge jump in the County Library Tax, and the others seemed to agree. This made me look carefully at my own tax bill and that of the year before. I realized that the gentlemen in the restaurant had looked at the top line either of the General Tax Rate per \$100.00 or the Personality Tax Rate per \$100.00, both of which read, "County and County Library," and had read no further.

Yes, the rate per \$100.00 had gone up on this line, but it would not compare to the increase in the District School taxes. It was further evident the above mentioned gentlemen equated the total County Tax as belonging to the County Library.

I submit that the dedicated tax, because it does show up on an individual's tax bill, while the cost of county roads, hospitals, etc., do not, is a disservice both to the County

Library and the cooperating member libraries. Citizens have a tendency to feel that if they pay so much for county library service, they should not have to support a local library; or, if they are supporting the local library, why should they also support the county library never realizing both institutions are giving them service, each of a different kind.

Although having the County Library tax show on an individual's tax bill may be a minor annoyance, it does point up a very serious problem. We wish to give as much service as possible to the individual, and no library in the world can be perfect by itself. Therefore, more libraries, regardless of their size, must have back-up libraries providing service over and above that of the local system. In those counties now having libraries, there is a ready made block on which to build this system. Yet, with the dedicated tax, we are asking our county libraries to provide service with only the support of rural or semi-rural communities. This base is not enough. Passage of the proposed legislation would permit those counties ready for such a step means for building on an already existing block a system of service for all their people supported by all their people.

My community has approximately 6,000 residents. Although well financed, such a community could not hope to provide even fair library service to its people. But the Somerset County Library working together with the Bernardsville Library does provide at least good service.

Since the proposed legislation will not force any county to change its library's tax system, it would seem to me

only fair that those counties wishing to make the change in order to provide better libraries should be given the chance. I, therefore, urge the support of this bill, and thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you for appearing today.

Mr. William J. Le Kernec, Director of the Middletown Township Library.

W I L L I A M J. L E K E R N E C: I am going to ask to be heard completely. I am William Le Kernec, Director of Middletown Township Library. I have a short statement and since I was the one that Senator Beadleston referred to earlier this morning, I would like to accept his correction of my figures. The correction is well taken. I am only sorry it wasn't brought to my attention when it appeared about a week ago, instead of this morning, or actually yesterday morning I was told about the error.

I do believe there would be some effect on State Aid if we were to become members of the County System which, in effect, this bill would do.

Let me establish immediately that I favor legislation which will assure the continuity of county library service, while preserving the integrity of municipal libraries. The present bill will accomplish the former end, but appears to threaten the latter. For this reason, I must oppose the bill in its present form.

Let me be explicit. I know one community in one county fairly well. Middletown is a so-called "bedroom community" with ratables in excess of \$331 million. In 1969 the Township Committee appropriated \$155,000 for the library

and we received in addition nearly \$24,000 in State Aid funds based on a level of local support between one-third and one-half mill per dollar of equalized valuation. We hope still to raise local support above the one-half mill rate, so as to qualify for the highest possible level of state aid support.

If S-468 passes, we can forget it, since it seems highly unlikely that the township committee would continue to support the local library at the present level or higher, while simultaneously paying in excess of \$50,000 to the county for library services. It seems more likely that the Committee would reduce the support of the local library in proportion to the amount paid to the county. This, together with a loss in state aid would necessarily result in curtailed local services - branches would close, hours would be reduced, and books would be fewer. Cold comfort that some residents could drive to Freehold or Shrewsbury in an often vain effort to get the books they need.

S-468 is a well-intentioned bill, but its results could be quite different from its intent. I would expect serious dislocations in the framework of public library service to the extent that within five years after its passage, backlash at the local level would be such that the very county librarians who are now so eagerly promoting this bill would regret that it ever saw the light of this Chamber.

The introduction of S-468 has had one important result. It has served notice on the library profession in New Jersey and on the exempt municipalities that the county

system is in trouble. Cooperation on a viable bill is obviously necessary and can result from this confrontation. I urge that this bill be tabled or amended, and the county library commissions and the boards of trustees of the exempt municipalities, together with their librarians, meet to produce the necessary changes.

SENATOR RINALDO: Mr. LeKernec, when you say the bill should be tabled or amended, do you have any specific amendments in mind that you would support?

MR. LE KERNEC: I saw the Falk amendment about two days ago, or the Falk proposal. I only heard of Senator Beadleston's proposal this morning. I would want to see more detail on these before I would commit myself to either one. I would want to work out what would the precise financial effects of these be before committing to anything.

SENATOR RINALDO: Thank you.

I now call Mr. Gene Haeberle, President of the Board of Library Trustees of the Willingboro Public Library.

Is Mr. Haeberle here? (No response)

If not, I will call Mr. Smith, a Trustee of the Madison Free Public Library. Mr. Smith, please.

W I L L I A M S M I T H: Senators, ladies and gentlemen, I have no prepared statement this morning. Mrs. Budell has substantially reflected the opinion of the Trustees of the Madison Library. I did, however, want to take this opportunity to confirm the fact that everybody in this room is dealing from a specific position and I wanted to outline to you, for your perspective, the position of Madison.

Several years ago, the Trustees of the Madison Library, on the basis of demand of the local citizens, made the decision to build a library completely new, which we have recently completed and occupied within the past 12 months. We spent a million dollars on the Library. Our budget for 1970 approximates \$9 to \$10 per capita. The citizens of Madison have very generously accepted these obligations. They seem to be delighted with the service provided by the library and the quality of the books and the environment in which the books can be used. And in terms of these commitments made by the citizens of Madison, perhaps they are at one remote end of the spectrum, but I think in contemplating action on 468, which I think no one can take a completely negative position on, that it is apparent that a more thorough examination of the position of the respective municipalities of the State needs to be made, and that this bill needs to be amended in order to make it digestible across the complete spectrum of municipalities.

I want to commend Senator Beadleston for the fact that he took most of the emotion out of a very emotional bill, this morning, to start things off. And certainly there is no need, in the face of his position, to be emotional about the matter. But we do need some recognition of the fact that the initiative taken by a local municipality, as evidenced by the story I told you, must be made to make this bill equitable. Just precisely what form that adjustment should take, in the form of an amendment, to give some credit to a local municipality which has taken the type of

initiative that we have, it seems to me this bill can not be a good one without that amendment.

There are possibly other areas of amendment that might be examined. I think it has been implied here by a few of the speakers that perhaps some method of establishing what the county library intends to do and how it fits in to the local municipal library picture should be perhaps examined by the State and a certification granted for the freeholders to act.

It is unrealistic, it seems to me, for the freeholders to take a negative position with respect to the proposal of 468. It is unrealistic for their commissioners who have testified here, at least one of them, today, but I do think that we need more time. We would be very glad to participate in suggestions to modify this bill so that it truly is equitable from one end of the spectrum to the other.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR RINALDO: You're welcome, Mr. Smith.

I believe that exhausts the list of witnesses who have requested permission to testify here this morning.

Is there anybody that I have not called? (No response)

At this point I would like to turn over to the Stenographer a telegram in opposition to the bill by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Matawan. (See p. 110)

I also wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of Senator Italiano and myself, to thank everyone who testified. As I stated at the outset, this is a controversial bill. The members of the Committee recognize certain deficiencies

inherent in the legislation as originally drafted. And, thanks to the people who testified here today and who presented written statements, I feel that our Committee will be in a better position to evaluate this piece of legislation and hopefully come up with a reasonable bill that will be satisfactory to most of the witnesses.

I now adjourn the hearing.

(Hearing adjourned)

After adjournment, Rowan Boone, Chairman, Friends Princeton Public Library, requested that the following be inserted in the record: "Our organization goes on record as opposing Beadleston Bill."

* * *

WILLIAM G. NORDLING
Mayor

Councilmen

LUDWIG H. CLIFTON
S. PRALL CULVINER
W. ALAN RAFFENSPERGER
ALFRED MONITTO
WILSON A. BRITTEN
JOHN H. HALGREN



HARTLEY DODGE MEMORIAL
BOROUGH OF MADISON
MADISON, NEW JERSEY

J. PENFIELD LLOYD
Borough Clerk

JOHN P. SLIWA
Borough Engineer

ROBERT MUIR, JR.
Borough Attorney

March 16, 1970

The Honorable Matthew J. Rinaldo
142 Headley Terrace
Union, New Jersey - 07083

Dear Senator Rinaldo:

The Governing Body of the Borough of Madison is opposed to the passage of Senate Bill #468 for the following reasons:

1. Madison has recently completed a \$1,000,000 library housing approximately 100,000 volumes which serves our community as well as adjacent Florham Park.
2. The annual operating budget of the Madison Library is approximately \$223,000, receiving its principal support from Madison coupled with a \$15,000 annual contribution from Florham Park.
3. If Senate Bill #468 is adopted, as introduced, the Borough of Madison, presently not associated with or receiving any library assistance from the Morris County Library, will be assessed an estimated sum of \$42,000 to \$45,000.
4. Such a levy would impose an intolerable burden on our community without a compensating contribution through library services which would not be required and which could not improve our municipal library service.

I urge your rejection of this Bill.

Very truly yours,

William G. Nordling
MAYOR

WGN:FS
cc: Mr. Nichols
Mrs. Budell



ROOM D-403, 433 BELLEVUE AVE., TRENTON, N. J. 08618 ■ Phone: (609) 695-3481

ROBERT H. FUST, *Executive Director*

ROBERTA H. THATCHER, *Asst. Executive Director*

March 13, 1970

Hon. Matthew J. Rinaldo
Chairman, Senate Committee on County
and Municipal Government
142 Headley Terrace
Union, New Jersey 07083

Senate 468

Dear Senator Rinaldo:

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities is strongly opposed to Senate 468, the subject of a public hearing on March 18. We previously opposed Senate 468 in a letter to you dated February 12, 1970. We are re-iterating our stand on the bill, and ask that this letter be included in the Hearing Record.

We believe that the present method of financing county library services pursuant to R.S. 40:33-9 wherein the benefiting municipalities are charged with the costs of the system is vastly more equitable than the alternate method authorized by this bill.

The proponents of this bill argue in support of financing county library services from general county appropriations, that the county library system has the resources to provide better services than several smaller municipal libraries functioning independently. While this assumption may be valid in some cases, the fact remains that there are many high-quality well equipped municipally supported public libraries which provide facilities equal, if not superior, to those of the county library.

Under the option authorized in S-468, however, the municipalities having local libraries, regardless of their facilities, would, in effect, be supporting the operations of the county library.

The inequity is further compounded by the fact that the residents of municipalities having local libraries would be less likely to avail themselves of the county facilities than would residents of municipalities having no local facilities.

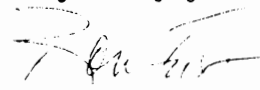
The League thoroughly supports the philosophy of the county library system and recognizes that the regional approach to the provisions of governmental services is often the best. We firmly believe, however, that such services should be based on voluntary arrangements with the costs being borne by the participating parties.

March 13, 1970

It may be argued that this bill permits each county to make its determination as to the needs in its own county. This aspect of the legislation does not alleviate the objections cited above because there are few if any counties in the State which do not contain one or more efficient, well equipped local libraries within their boundaries.

Until some method is devised whereby a deduction or credit against the county assessment is granted to municipalities having existing local libraries, we must continue our objection to this bill.

Very truly yours,



Robert H. Fust
Executive Director

RHF:meb

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on County and Municipal Government
Senators: Knowlton, Italiano, La Corte, Musto

REUSSILLÉ, CORNWELL, MAUSNER & CAROTENUTO
COUNSELLORS-AT-LAW
34 BROAD STREET
RED BANK, NEW JERSEY 07701

LEON REUSSILLÉ, JR.
E. ALLAIRE CORNWELL
MILTON A. MAUSNER
SAMUEL CAROTENUTO
ANTHONY T. BRUNO
JAMES H. SMITH
MARTIN M. BARGER
DENNIS L. BLISS
N.J. AND D.C. BARS

TELEPHONE
741-1800
AREA CODE 201

March 13, 1970

Senator Matthew J. Rinaldo
142 Headley Terrace
Union, New Jersey 07083

Re: Senate Bill #468

Dear Senator Rinaldo:

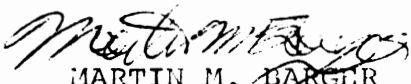
I am writing to you on behalf of the Borough of Red Bank and the Board of Trustees of the Red Bank Public Library. We urge you to reject Senate Bill #468, which is scheduled for a vote on Wednesday, March 18th, because it discriminates against, and unfairly penalizes, municipalities that maintain their own public libraries. The passage of this Bill could bring an end to local libraries.

In addition, I point out to you that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities came out in opposition to S.468 in its February 17, 1970 Bulletin.

Lastly, I enclose herewith a copy of the Resolution passed by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank, and urge you to give it your most serious consideration.

Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours,


MARTIN M. BARGER
Office of the Borough Attorney

MMB:le
Enc.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 468 was introduced into the New Jersey Senate on January 26, 1970, and

WHEREAS, said Bill permits the Board of Chosen Freeholders to raise funds from all municipalities within the County for the support of the County Library, and

WHEREAS, said Bill penalizes those municipalities which maintain their own municipal libraries and was opposed for this reason by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities in its February 17, 1970 Legislative Bulletin,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank, that said Borough of Red Bank is opposed to Senate Bill No. 468 because it discriminates against, and penalizes, municipalities such as Red Bank that maintain their own public libraries, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded by the Borough Attorney to Senators Beadleston and Stout. and four Assemblymen.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank on the 2nd day of March, 1970.


JOHN BRYAN, BOROUGH CLERK

PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

65 WITHERSPOON STREET, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540 - TELEPHONE 924-9529

March 11, 1970

The Honorable Matthew J. Rinaldo, Chairman
County and Municipal Government
142 Headley Terrace
Union, New Jersey

Dear Senator Rinaldo:

The County and Municipal Government Committee has scheduled a hearing Wednesday, March 18 on Senate Bill 468 concerning support of county libraries. I am writing to express my concern with this Bill.

The Joint Free Public Library of Princeton has had a long history of service to our community. From 1909 through 1960, it was primarily a Borough library, and in 1961 the Township of Princeton, after a referendum, withdrew from the County Library and with the Borough now supports the present Public Library. Since 1961 our budget has grown to \$278,000, we have planned and built a 30,000 sq. ft. building, and currently have 18,000 registered borrowers. The Library is open 65 hours a week, has an annual circulation of materials (books, films, records, magazines) in excess of 356,000.

At a recent meeting of the Library's Board of Trustees, comparisons were made between our Library and the County Library. According to 1968 statistics (the latest available from the State Library) the County Library (full time equivalent) professional staff numbered 3, the clerical staff 12. Princeton had 10 professionals and 14 clericals. In 1968 we added 11,200 books, the County 5,165. We had, in 1968, 58,153 volumes for 26,500 population; Mercer County had 69,300 volumes for 86,400 people.

These comparisons have made me very aware of the inadequate resources, services and staff of the Mercer County Library. I can see no possible benefit to our community in contributing to the support of the County Library.

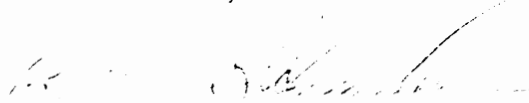
The Honorable Matthew J. Rinaldo, Chairman

March 11, 1970

The Joint Princeton Public Library has developed a strong program of service, but this legislation will take money out of the Princeton Public Library budget to finance the second rate County Library. We will receive no benefits from such arrangements, in fact our local service will suffer.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Joint Free Public Library of Princeton, I urge your Committee to recommend the tabling of Bill 468.

Yours truly,



James T. Richmond, President
Board of Trustees of Princeton
Public Library

JTR:k

BOROUGH of PRINCETON

POST OFFICE BOX 390
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

08540

Office of the Mayor

March 11, 1970

The Honorable Matthew J. Rinaldo
Chairman - County and Municipal Government
142 Headley Terrace
Union, New Jersey 07083

Dear Senator Rinaldo:

I am writing you to express my great concern with Senate Bill 468, introduced by Senator Beadleston. This bill, concerning support of county libraries, is scheduled for a hearing March 18 by the County and Municipal Government Committee.

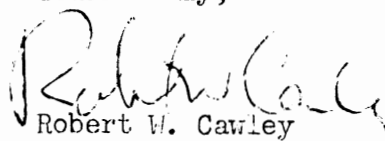
This community has supported a Public Library since 1909, and cooperated with the Township of Princeton in supporting a strong Joint Public Library since 1961. Our Library is a source of information and recreation for all residents of our two municipalities. In 1969 the circulation of library materials was 356,000, or over 13 books per person. In 1969 over 50,000 people saw Public Library films.

Princeton Borough is very proud of the Public Library, its resources and services. Since 1961 our budget, our book collection and our staff have rapidly grown to keep pace with an increasing population and the informational needs of that population.

The County Library has not developed nor made any plans to improve its services. Its book collection, its headquarters and its staff are inadequate. The County Library has nothing to offer the residents of Princeton Borough and the proposed legislation can only restrict the services and growth of our own Public Library.

I urge your Committee to table the legislation.

Yours truly,


Robert W. Cawley

RWC:pse

TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON

TOWNSHIP HALL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

March 11, 1970

The Honorable Matthew J. Rinaldo, Chairman
County and Municipal Government Committee
142 Headley Terrace
Union, New Jersey

Dear Senator Rinaldo:

On Wednesday, March 18, the County and Municipal Government Committee is scheduled to have a hearing on Senate Bill 468, sponsored by Senator Beadleston, concerning support of county libraries. I am writing as Mayor of Princeton Township and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Joint Free Public Library of Princeton to express my concern with this bill.

In late 1960, the Township of Princeton withdrew from the Mercer County Library and formed a joint library with Princeton Borough (January, 1961). Since that time the library budget has grown from \$79,248 to \$278,000, a new 30,000 sq. ft. building has been opened in the center of Princeton, 18,000 Princeton borrowers have registered and are actively using the new library and its services, and all Princeton families have access to this permanent facility open 65 hours a week. Circulation of library materials (books, magazines, pictures, records, films) has grown from 200,500 in 1960 to 356,354 in 1969. Over 50,000 Princeton children and adults saw Public Library movies last year.

I have recently reviewed statistics comparing the Joint Princeton Public Library and the Mercer County Library. In 1968 (the latest statistics available from the State Library) the full time equivalent professional staff of the County Library totaled three and clerical staff totaled twelve. Princeton had ten professionals and fourteen clericals. Princeton added 11,200 books in 1968, the County added 5,165. Princeton's total book stock was 58,153 volumes for 26,500 people; Mercer County Library had 69,300 for 86,400 people.

March 11, 1970

As I have made these comparisons, I have become aware of the inadequate resources and services of the Mercer County Library. There is no possible benefit to our community in supporting the County Library. The County Library is a totally ineffective institution unable to serve adequately its present population, let alone consider serving additional communities.

We in Princeton Township have cooperated with the Borough of Princeton in developing a strong public library. We are anxious to improve and develop our library in the future, but the legislation in this bill will take money out of the Princeton Public Library budget and direct it to the County. We will not receive any benefits, and our local library services will suffer.

I strongly urge your Committee to table this legislation.

Yours truly,


John D. Wallace, Mayor
Princeton Township

JDW/san

cc: Mr. Robert Staples, Director
Princeton Public Library

THE HAMILTON TOWNSHIP
LIBRARY COMMISSION

©

2090 GREENWOOD AVENUE
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08609

March 12, 1970

The Honorable Matthew Rinaldo
Chairman of the Committee on County
and Municipal Government
142 Headley Terrace
Union, N.J. 07083

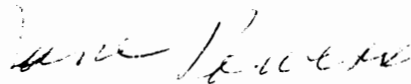
Dear Senator Rinaldo:

We are very much interested in Senate Bill
No. S468 concerning county libraries and should
like to register the fact that we are not in favor
of this bill.

At present we feel that the Hamilton Township
Library will not benefit from services of the
Mercer County Library, and possible appropriation
of general tax revenues by the board of chosen
freeholders for the support of the county library
would be detrimental to our intererests.

We are certainly not against progress in
library development, but we feel this is not the
right bill at this time and would be in favor of
it's being tabled for further study.

Very truly yours,



Jane B. Powers
Director

JBP:ewr

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

120 ACADEMY STREET

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

392-7188

VERONICA F. CARY, Director

BRIGGS BRANCH
HAMILTON AVE. AT CHAMBERS
392-7856

CADWALADER BRANCH
200 N. HERMITAGE AVE.
392-7886

EAST TRENTON BRANCH
N. CLINTON AVE. AT GIRARD
392-7866

NORTH TRENTON BRANCH
1201 PRINCETON AVE.
392-1828

SKELTON BRANCH
S. BROAD ST. AT MALONE
392-7876

March 12, 1970

The Honorable Matthew J. Rinaldo, Chairman
New Jersey Senate Committee on County & Municipal Government
State House
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Senator Rinaldo:

I am sending you a copy of a letter which I have sent to the President of the New Jersey Library Association. I think that you and your committee in your deliberation on Senate Bill #468 would want to know that the endorsement of that bill by the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association was made without bringing the question before the general membership of the Association.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca Brewer Muehleck
Rebecca Brewer Muehleck
(Mrs. J.R. Muehleck)
Head, Reference Dept.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

120 ACADEMY STREET

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

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392-7866

NORTH TRENTON BRANCH
1201 PRINCETON AVE.
392-1628

SKELTON BRANCH
S. BROAD ST. AT MALONE
392-7876

March 12, 1970

Mrs. Beatrice M. James, President
New Jersey Library Association
Bergenfield Public Library
198 North Washington Avenue
Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621

Dear Bea:

I am writing to express my dismay at the action taken by the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association in respect to S468. That the Executive Board would take a public stand in favor of such legislation without first presenting the issue to the entire membership for discussion and a vote seems incredible. The Association is not a separate institution as is the State Library but rather is in essence nothing more than the sum of its members.

Obviously few members of the Association are seriously against Motherhood, National Library Weeks, Intellectual Freedom or State and Federal Aid to Libraries, but the Executive Board is a knowledgeable group of librarians who should know quite well that a large number of the Association's members would be opposed to S468. For many years as Chairman of the Bibliography Committee and last year as President of the History and Bibliography Section, I was privileged to attend meetings of the Executive Board. I was always impressed by their objectivity, fairness, and scrupulous regard for the views of all segments of the Association. S468 is not an emergency measure requiring such unseemly haste in its endorsement by New Jersey Library Association. If it is an emergency measure then it - probably - serves a specialized interest and full discussion by the entire membership of NJLA is all the more important.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca Brewer Muehleck

Rebecca Brewer Muehleck
(Mrs. J.R. Muehleck)
Head, Reference Department

cc: Senator Matthew J. Rinaldo

A REPORT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Jack Lamping, Executive Vice President

MERCER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

TRENTON, N. J. 08607

TELEPHONE 609 - 394 3467

STATEMENT BY SOMERSET FREEHOLDER DORIS W. DEALAMAN, CHAIRMAN, EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE FREEHOLDER ASSOCIATION BEFORE THE COUNTY & MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE, NEW JERSEY STATE SENATE, STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1970

My name is Doris W. Dealaman, Somerset County Freeholder, and Chairman of the Education Commission of the State Freeholder Association. I am here today to enter into the record the reactions of the Board of Voting Members of the New Jersey Association of Chosen Freeholders to Senate Bill 468.

Our Association and its Freeholder members fully recognize and share your concern for the basic role of County libraries as well as the system of financing them and the manifold services they render to our citizens. Presently, a number of municipal libraries do operate within their respective County library systems to varying degrees. There are many distinct advantages to a community either with its own local library and without it to full participation in the services of the County library system. Such advantages range from a larger selection of books to the infinite resources in documents, research, instant retrieval of all titles in the State library and greater services for general and specialized book requests.

Some Freeholders feel that certain distinct fiscal advantages should be offered to municipal libraries in the form of offset grants so that they can join in the county library system without undue hardship. Additional State grants-in-aid to County and local libraries would be necessary to compensate for the inclusion of library support in the general system of County taxation. We recognize that the argument of double taxation may be offset by the superior advantages of membership in the larger County system, especially when an offset in costs can be effected.

Arthur R. Sypek, President of the State Freeholder Association, has called for amendment to this bill to correct its inadequate financing so that local libraries may be encouraged to operate within the County library system on a realistic, cooperative basis. In substance, our Association foresees the defeat of the Beadleston bill because it does not recognize the obvious fiscal inequities which render it virtually impossible for local libraries to join the County system without some adequate compensation. Therefore, our Association calls for a legislative study of this whole matter in which Senate Bill 468 is but the beginning to develop adequate and realistic proposals to clarify the role of the County library and to place all library services in New Jersey on a sound footing once and for all. May I urge your committee to initiate such a study as the next practical step in this long-standing problem? Thank you.

Statement of James W. Falk, Morris Township, N. J.
before the
Senate Committee on County and Municipal Government,
March 18, 1970

My name is James W. Falk, Washington Valley Road, Morristown, N. J. I would like to make two statements, one as President of the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township and one as a citizen of Morris County who has been a member of an ad hoc committee formed by Morris County libraries to consider Senate Bill 468.

As president of a 101 year old public library I am completely opposed to the proposed bill. We have in the last four years, since becoming a municipal library, worked valiantly to improve our library as a strong healthy community organization giving local library service. Our library has a collection of over 100,000 books and a budget this year of \$192,000. It has some unique collections gathered over the many years of its existence, and it is an important asset to the two communities that support it.

The proposed legislation will force these communities to pay over 1/3rd of their present library budget to the County if the freeholders choose that new option for county library financing. This money can only come out of the moneys currently being spent on our library. And most importantly there are no local library services which the county library can give us that would come close to being worth this enforced payment. Thus, forcing our two communities to pay equally with

the current member libraries would have a disastrous effect on our present library activities. This committee would not be strengthening the library services in New Jersey by destroying existing local libraries.

However, I personally recognize that the present system of financing the county library does not provide a good base on which to build strong library services because it forces the county library to work against developing local libraries. Because of that I joined with other representatives of both the member libraries and the exempt libraries in Morris County to explore the question of financing of the county library. In Morris County while most of the residents live in communities which rely on support from the county library, there are several large and well established exempt libraries in the larger communities of the county.

We recognize that the present funding arrangement and the alternative proposed by S. 468 are the two extremes; both keep the county library and the local exempt libraries on a collision course and neither encourages the orderly growth of local library service. The county library can provide both local library services and general area or backup services for the libraries of the county. These two facets of the county library operations should be financed separately.

Specifically, I propose that S. 468 be amended to allow a county library to be financed by a combination of the dedicated tax and the general county budget. First, I must urge that you recognize the urgent need for more state funding

for area library services and that you provide these funds. Basically, my proposal is that the county library budget remaining after such state funds have been accounted for be split between the dedicated tax and general county funds in the proportion of the ratables of the member and non-member library communities to the total county ratables. The dedicated tax would pay for those local library services provided only the member libraries. Any non-member library desiring such services would have to contract for them. The county funds, paid by all communities, would pay for those county library services available and useful to all the communities.

The advantage of this proposal is that it acknowledges the existence of the present local libraries and further allows for the orderly growth of local libraries without removing the tax base of the county library. If a member library believes it can serve its community without the local library aid provided by the county library (and parenthetically there should be standards of performance for this decision), then it can withdraw from the county library. When this happens, it merely lowers the proportion paid by the dedicated tax and raises the proportion paid by the county funds. In the extreme, all libraries could withdraw without injuring the financial base of the county library. Of course, we would expect the nature of the county library to change over the years as fewer communities receive those services more appropriate to our rural county past than to our urban and suburban county future.

In conclusion, I can state that this proposal has been favorably received by representatives of both member and exempt libraries in Morris County. I urge this Committee to amend S. 468 to include this method of financing. I would be pleased to provide any further information and factual background on this proposal that you may desire.

JWF:RY
3--16-70

STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY EDWIN BECKERMAN

Position of the New Jersey Library Association on
Senate Bill No. 468

I have asked to appear before you today to voice the support of the New Jersey Library Association for Senate Bill No. 468. On behalf of the Association I would like to express our appreciation to the Committee for affording us this opportunity to express our views.

The notion that something was radically wrong with our system of supporting County Libraries in New Jersey is not new. For a number of years now, we have been considering alternative methods of approaching the problem and have arrived at several basic conclusions:

1. A strong system of County Libraries is essential to the development of public library service in New Jersey.
2. Each County served by a county library presents distinct and unique problems which make it difficult if not impossible at this time to apply with equity any single remedy uniformly throughout the State.
3. The root cause of much of the difficulty lies in the present funding pattern which makes it virtually impossible to fund the operations of county libraries on the basis of total county resources.

Given this context the strong view has emerged that each county individually must be given the flexibility to apply solutions to

basic county library questions, with specific reference to its own individual and unique problems. Thus we warmly endorse Senate Bill No. 468 which would make it possible for each county individually to decide for itself if the county library is to be funded from general funds. Further, such action by a county could only be accomplished by a two-thirds vote of the Freeholders, assuring strong support for such a measure before it can be accomplished.

The Library Association makes no claim that this measure can or should be immediately applied in all counties served by county libraries. Rather it is our conclusion that those counties that can act profitably and equitably to do so, be permitted this option. Failing this we can only conclude that many counties in New Jersey will never develop the kind of strong service institutions capable of conducting a strong program of library service, and the residents of New Jersey will be that much poorer in terms of strong library resources. We therefore urge you to support the measure now before you.

Collectively, the members of the Board of Trustees perform an important function in the life of the Library, They are people devoted to obtaining and developing the finest in library services for the community, state and nation. It is their duty to support legislation which will contribute to the growth of the Library's place in our culture. Conversely, it is their responsibility to oppose any legislation which in their judgment will be detrimental to these objectives.

~~From~~ From a trustee's viewpoint, the proposed legislation ~~does pose~~ a threat to the continuing development of good library services. Its impact could be devastating. Most of us have engaged in building and expansion projects. Our budgets are already inadequate: a further reduction in the local level of support may well be tragic, for how will we bridge the gap? Certainly a County Library System will not be in a position to assume the responsibility at this point nor in the near future. Should this Bill pass it will place an unfair burden on the library which is interested in providing good service on the local level and encourage less interested libraries to reduce there effects.

The trend today is toward local autonomy- this bill has made no provision for representation of community interests, no definition of how the money will be used, has placed no limit or control on future financial demands and has not taken into consideration that support should be based on services received.

If this bill is passed, what will we receive for our money? There is no concrete program upon which we can rely- no guarantee that these funds will indeed be used to implement many- or any- of the services that we as trustees must make available to our communities. Too much is too vague!

Certainly, we are committed to the support of a planned program of quality library service and we recognize that in this age of technology, the local library cannot afford to be all things to all people- but the answer does not lie in this bill in its present form. It is not the answer to our problems. I urge you to table Bill 468 for further study

JOSEPH L. LORR
L. M. C. S. LIBRARY
TRUSTEE

STATEMENT to the SENATE COMMITTEE
on COUNTY and MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT
CONCERNING SENATE BILL NO. 468
March 18, 1970

I am Robert H. Staples, Director of the Joint Free Public Library of Princeton. I am for libraries and for the development of stronger libraries, but I can not favor this legislation.

Speaking strictly as the Princeton Public Librarian, I see no possible benefit from this legislation. Our local support is greater than the County Library's, our staff is larger, our circulation of materials is greater, our building larger than the County Library and its branches, our book stock for 26,500 people is nearly as large as the County's book stock for 86,000 people. Why on earth would we want to attach ourselves to the County Library? I see no definite sign that the picture for the County Library will improve in the near future. It is necessary for me to speak up now, for I am not so sure the Freeholders or the County Library Commission share my negative opinion of their Library.

Speaking now as a librarian (and not just from Princeton), it appears to me that this legislation has been hurriedly developed and introduced. There is a lack of knowledge of Senate Bill No. 468 on the part of library boards and staff members of exempt libraries, and confusion and general lack of knowledge of the immediate future of state wide library service.

I hope that this gathering today of concerned people indicates to the legislators the interest in better library service in New Jersey on the part of all Librarians, Trustees, Friends, --but not better service developed in haste, at the expense of stronger libraries and leading into a vague future.

I urge that this legislation be tabled. *for the state study*

Thank you.

WILLINGBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY
Municipal Complex-Salem Rd.
Willingboro New Jersey 08046

Statement Presented by
Maurice S. Goldman

March 18, 1970

RE: SENATE 468

To the Chairman and Members of the
Senate Committee on County and
Municipal Government:

My name is Maurice S. Goldman.

I am the Director of the Willingboro Public Library and I appear today as the representative of the Board of Library Trustees of that Library as well as on behalf of John T. McHugh, Township Manager of the Township of Willingboro whose presence here is precluded by his attendance at a meeting in another part of the State.

Our concern today with Senate 468 stems not from any question of its thrust in the direction of assistance to County libraries, nor from any doubt of its premise that systems of libraries can, and do, provide improved library service. Nor does our concern derive from any lack of understanding of the financial needs of County libraries. I trust that some of the issues surrounding these latter questions may be explored more fully in other presentations being made today.

What does concern us about this bill can be simply stated. It is that this bill establishes a mechanism whereby a municipality supporting its own library would suffer a duplicate taxation. The residents of a heretofore exempt municipality would be taxed to support a County library function while at the same time supporting their own municipal library. In Willingboro, the tax

support for the County library under the provisions of this bill would amount to approximately \$25,000. I should like to point out that this is essentially the same amount as was most recently received by Willingboro in State Library Per Capita Aid. It seems not altogether proper that a municipality be taxed for County Library purposes an amount equal to that received in State Aid for the betterment of the municipality's own residents.

Another factor which concerns us is the inherent contradiction between this bill and the clearly expressed desires of the taxpayers of an exempt municipality. In accord with law, a referendum must have been held in which the voters chose to tax themselves directly for library services in preference to continuing as members of the county system. There appears to be an insensitivity to the unmistakable desires of the voters in the intent of this bill.

Associated with this latter point is the fact that this bill overlooks the high levels of long-term investment by exempt municipalities in the construction, furnishing and equipping of facilities, in the paying of personnel, and in the purchasing of the wide variety of needed materials. This bill would undermine the structure of support built up over a number of years for local control of exempt public libraries.

We understand of course that the legislation provides for a permissive rather than for a mandated county-wide tax levy. While this provision protects the concept of local county home rule, it will in all probability result in pitting the "exempt" municipalities against the balance of the county as those exempt municipalities strive to prevent the imposition of "double taxation" on their

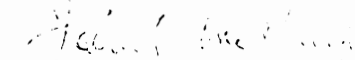
residents. This is not a desirable situation to create in any county, either for the Board of Freeholders or for the several local officials.

In summary, it is our contention that the concerns expressed in this paper warrant further consideration by the Committee. In this regard, we urge that Senate 468 be tabled for one year to allow a more thorough exploration of the important issues.

Thank you.



Maurice S. Goldman, Library Director



John T. McHugh, Township Manager

PUBLIC HEARING

before

N. J. Senate Committee on County and Municipal Government
Senate Bill on #468 on County Libraries

March 18, 1970
Assembly Chamber
State House
Trenton, N. J.

Harold W. Thompson, Jr.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. May I take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege to offer testimony.

My name is Harold W. Thompson, Jr., and I am Director of Library Services at Glassboro State College. I am also a member of the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association. However, I am not representing either of these organizations today; I speak as a librarian concerned with enriching public library opportunities in New Jersey.

I speak for support of Senate: 468. It is permissive legislation that will strengthen county libraries in those counties that most need help.

Specifically, I wish to speak concerning one of the strong objections of those opposing its passage, i.e., that the quality of library service in municipal libraries will deteriorate if the tax base support is changed to general revenue support. This simply is not so.

Cumberland County Library came into operations in 1963, under special legislation, and operates with support from the general revenue of the county. It is the only county so operating; Vineland and Bridgeton, both municipal libraries, are located in Cumberland County.

According to the N. J. State Library: "Statistics of Public Libraries", Vineland had a staff of 2 in 1964 - in 1968 it had grown to 12. Total income in 1964 was \$41,000 - it reached \$120,000 in 1968. Per capita expenditure in four years had soared 150% from \$1.01 in 1964 to \$2.61 in 1968. A 30,000 increase in yearly circulation was recorded from 83,532 to 113,618. In every major criteria growth and enrichment, rather than a diminution, of library support and services occurred. Presently, the Vineland Library Board of Trustees is conferring with architects in regard to a new library building.

Bridgeton presents a similar 1968 pattern: both staff (an increase of one) and income (from \$55,000 to \$60,000) are up over 1964 statistics.

Per capita expenditure continues over \$2.00 - down slightly. Although annual circulation is lower from 85,492 to 68,561, one must remember that the new county library is only about a mile and one-half from the Bridgeton Library building. Since the establishment of the Cumberland County Library in 1963, Bridgeton has erected a new building, incorporating their existing building as a wing.

Both of these municipal libraries, then, in a county already supporting the county library with general revenue funds, indicate that rather than a deterioration of municipal library services - a strong growing county library has evidently stimulated higher appropriations, more staff and in the case of one library a new building.

Municipal library support will not be eroded, nor will the quality of library services suffer under Senate: 468.

May I thank you for your courtesy and time.



TOWNSHIP OF

Parsippany - Troy Hills

PARSIPPANY • NEW JERSEY

The Trustees of the Free Public Library March 16, 1970

DEERFIELD 4.3600

Testimony

The Trustees of the Free Public Library of Parsippany-Troy Hills strongly urge the enactment of S468. No public institution can long survive without sound financial support and current County Library law - unrevised in 50 years - encourages complete withdrawal of municipal libraries from the County Library system as soon as the first step toward a sound municipal library is taken.

Such withdrawals of financial support erode the opportunity for a rational "system of library service" organized at the County level and, carried to a logical conclusion, mean the ultimate destruction of the County Library itself when it reaches the point of no financial return". In reality current library law means that eventually there will be no County Library.

We are opposed to the destruction of ANY library. We would not be trustees of a library if we were not committed to the necessity for expanded library service in an era of an unprecedented information explosion.

As a municipal library which could withdraw from the County Library but chooses to remain with it because of the service offered and the promise of an effective County-wide system of service we urge you to consider S468 favorably.

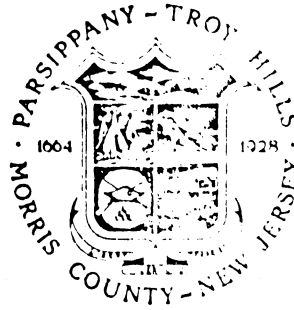
Shortly after this statement was adopted by the Trustees we received the recommendation of a County-wide committee representative of the various points of view on library funding in Morris County.

In brief, the Committee's recommendation was for funding of the County Library by a combination of the dedicated tax and general county revenue with a gradual phasing out of the dedicated tax.

The Trustees were polled and will also support any amendment to S468 permitting this interim method of financing the Morris County Library.

John R. Baechle
John R. Baechle, President

Mr. E. Lincoln, Vice President
Mr. H. Gansler, Treasurer
Mrs. Marian Smith, Secretary
Mayor Henry N. Luther, III
Mr. George Oldham, Supt. of Schools
Mr. C. May



TOWNSHIP OF PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
PARSIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

HENRY N. LUTHER III
MAYOR

334-3600

March 17, 1970

If our County Library is to continue to meet the needs of the residents of our County a more realistic system of funding must be provided to meet the financial requirements of the County Library. It is my opinion that the Beadleston Bill will accomplish this objective. This will then permit municipal officials to continue municipal affiliation with the County system on the basis of the quality of the service provided and not on the basis of cost. Therefore, will you please place my name on the record in support of the S468 as the Mayor of the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills.

Henry N. Luther, III
Mayor



Telegram

947A EST MAR 18 70 PA078

P PAA018 MG PD MATAWAN NJER 18 913AEST

MATHEW J RINALDO, CHAIRMEN

COUNTY AND

MUNICIPAL GOVERNING COMMITTEE TRENTON

NJER

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BORO OF MATAWAN OPPOSE THE PASSAGE
OF BILL S-468 PERTAINING TO THE FINANCING OF COUNTY LIBRARIES

MAYOR VICTOR R ARMELLINO

(945).

THE HAMILTON TOWNSHIP
LIBRARY COMMISSION

©

2090 GREENWOOD AVENUE
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08609

March 12, 1970

The Honorable Matthew Rinaldo
Chairman of the Committee on County
and Municipal Government
State House
Trenton, N.J.

Dear Senator Rinaldo:

We are very much interested in Senate Bill No. S468 concerning county libraries and should like to register the fact that we are not in favor of this bill.

At present we feel that the Hamilton Township Library will not benefit from services of the Mercer County Library, and possible appropriation of general tax revenues by the board of chosen freeholders for the support of the county library would be detrimental to our interests.

We are certainly not against progress in library development, but we feel this is not the right bill at this time and would be in favor of it's being tabled for further study.

Very truly yours,



Jane B. Powers
Director

JBP:ewr

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

120 ACADEMY STREET

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

392-7188

VERONICA F. CARY, Director

BRIGGS BRANCH
HAMILTON AVE. AT CHAMBERS
392-7856

CADWALADER BRANCH
200 N. HERMITAGE AVE.
392-7886

EAST TRENTON BRANCH
N. CLINTON AVE. AT GIRARD
392-7866

NORTH TRENTON BRANCH
1201 PRINCETON AVE.
392-1828

SKELTON BRANCH
S. BROAD ST. AT MALONE
392-7876

March 12, 1970

The Honorable Matthew J. Rinaldo, Chairman
New Jersey Senate Committee on County & Municipal Government
142 Headley Terrace
Union, New Jersey 07083

Dear Senator Rinaldo:

I am sending you a copy of a letter which I have sent to the President of the New Jersey Library Association. I think that you and your committee in your deliberation on Senate Bill #468 would want to know that the endorsement of that bill by the Executive Board of the New Jersey library Association was made without bringing the question before the general membership of the Association.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca Brewer Muehleck
Rebecca Brewer Muehleck
(Mrs. J.L. Muehleck)
Head, Reference Dept.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

130 ACADEMY STREET

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

392-7188

VERONICA F. CARY, Director

BRIGGS BRANCH
HAMILTON AVE. AT CHAMBERS
322-7888

CADWALADER BRANCH
222 N. HERMITAGE AVE.
322-7888

EAST TRENTON BRANCH
N. CLETON AVE. AT GRAND
322-7888

NORTH TRENTON BRANCH
1291 PRINCETON AVE.
322-2222

SKELTON BRANCH
S. BROAD ST. AT MALONE
322-7874

March 12, 1970

Mrs. Beatrice M. James, President
New Jersey Library Association
Bergenfield Public Library
198 North Washington Avenue
Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621

Dear Bea:

I am writing to express my dismay at the action taken by the Executive Board of the New Jersey Library Association in respect to S468. That the Executive Board would take a public stand in favor of such legislation without first presenting the issue to the entire membership for discussion and a vote seems incredible. The Association is not a separate institution as is the State Library but rather is in essence nothing more than the sum of its members.

Obviously few members of the Association are seriously against Motherhood, National Library Weeks, Intellectual Freedom or State and Federal Aid to Libraries, but the Executive Board is a knowledgeable group of librarians who should know quite well that a large number of the Association's members would be opposed to S468. For many years as Chairman of the Bibliography Committee and last year as President of the History and Bibliography Section, I was privileged to attend meetings of the Executive Board. I was always impressed by their objectivity, fairness, and scrupulous regard for the views of all segments of the Association. S468 is not an emergency measure requiring such unseemly haste in its endorsement by the New Jersey Library Association. If it is an emergency measure then it - probably - serves a specialized interest and full discussion by the entire membership of NJLA is all the more important.

Sincerely yours,

Becky Muehleck

Rebecca Brewer Muehleck
(Mrs. J.R. Muehleck)
Head, Reference Department

cc: Senator Matthew J. Rinalde

FREEHOLD PUBLIC LIBRARY

28½ EAST MAIN STREET
FREEHOLD, NEW JERSEY 07728

TEL. (201) 462-5135

MRS. EDYTHE M. LANDES
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

March 13, 1970

HONORABLE MATTHEW J. RINALDO
State House
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Senate Bill No. 468

Dear Senator Rinaldo:

The Freehold Borough Library Board of Trustees has considered the pertinent portions of Senate Bill No. 468 and emphatically urge the defeat of such a measure.

We realize that Senator Beadleston introduced the Bill, but we urge you to consider the following:

1. By financing present county library construction by the issuance of bonds repayable from the general county treasury, in effect every county resident is right now supporting to some extent, the county library system.

2. To impose upon those municipalities which already maintain their own library, the additional obligation of supporting the county library, would probably mean that municipal libraries would no longer be able to exist, because the cost would be approximately double that presently provided in municipal budgets for their own libraries.

3. Municipal libraries serve a very distinct purpose separate and apart from the county library system, since they deal with local populace on a local basis at readily accessible location, and therefore to compel their closing because of the double taxation proposed by the Senate Bill No. 468, would seriously deprive most citizens who presently use municipal libraries, from all of the advantages of that system.

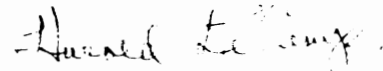
4. In our particular case, State aid accounts for a substantial portion of our budget and of course one of the objectives of the Bill would be State aid paid directly to the County, therefore not available to the municipality. This would substantially increase even the present cost of maintaining municipal libraries.

March 13, 1970

-Page 2-

5. The failure to place a maximum limitation on County appropriations to the county library would permit charges far beyond the comprehension of anyone presently involved with this legislation.

Respectfully yours,



HAROLD DeCAMP
Chairman, Board of Trustees

HD/r

cc: Members of the Library Board
Mrs. Edythe M. Landes

KINNELON PUBLIC LIBRARY

KINNELON ROAD

KINNELON, NEW JERSEY 07405

838-1321

JEANNETTE LADNER, SEC.
ELIZABETH MINETT, TREAS.
PETER CIMMINO

MARGARET KING VAN DUYN, PRESIDENT

DONALD A. MORRISON
PROF. JOHN FULTON
MAYOR GLENN SISCO

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the Beadleston Bill has been proposed for passage by the New Jersey Legislature, the Board of Trustees of Kinnelon Public Library hereby state for the record of the Wednesday March 18 hearing in Trenton that, because we endorse the professional library concept of "systems library service," we urge the passage of the Beadleston Bill with an amendment developed from the Falk Proposal.

(signed)

Margaret Van Dyne

Margaret Van Dyne
President

on behalf of Kinnelon Public
Library Board of Trustees.

Adopted Saturday, March 14, 1970.



JUN 27 1985



