

RAHALL

Weekly Report

"LIBRARY FUNDS"

Libraries have served a unique role in communities by providing free programs, resources, and information to all in the area. The funds for library services go to the maintenance of important programs already in existence, such as films for children and the elderly, book-mobile services for rural regions, and book wagons for patients in nursing homes and hospitals.

Library funding is a wise investment for the development of our human resources. Libraries provide innovative programs such as job and career information centers, literacy programs, and adult basic education programs.

For these reasons, it is hard to believe that President Reagan has omitted all federal funding for libraries in his 1984 budget.

I believe our nation should continue its commitment to provide the means for our citizens to pursue knowledge and education. More and more Americans are utilizing libraries for self-education, self-training, job information, and career guidance. For these reasons, I have joined a legislative effort to block the President's efforts.

Termination of library funding would cause a reduction in programs and services provided by 14,000 public libraries, curtailed services to over 8 million persons in orphanages, hospitals, and institutions, and reductions of programs for elderly and rural citizens.

The library has always been an integral part of all that our country embodies, including freedom of information and an educated citizenry. As an open and enlightened society, we cannot allow funding for our public libraries to be halted.