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THE AWARDS

The Encyclopaedia Britannica School Library Awards are given annually to school systems which, with due consideration of resources, show significant improvement in elementary library services.

Award Winners are chosen with the advisory assistance of the American Association of School Libraries. The first, second and third place awards include cash gifts of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for improvement of book and magazine collections.

Purposes of the annual awards are "to stimulate public interest in libraries, to point up the importance of good elementary school libraries to quality education, to encourage citizen planning for their development, and to commend school systems whose foresight and planning are an inspiration to others."

The Skokie District 68 School system was selected as one of the top ten in 1965 and as second place winner in 1970. The committee on selection cited Skokie District 68 for strong elementary school library media services.

(COVER BY JOAN KERMAN)

AWARDS PROGRAM

of Public Instruction . . . Ray Page, State Superintendent

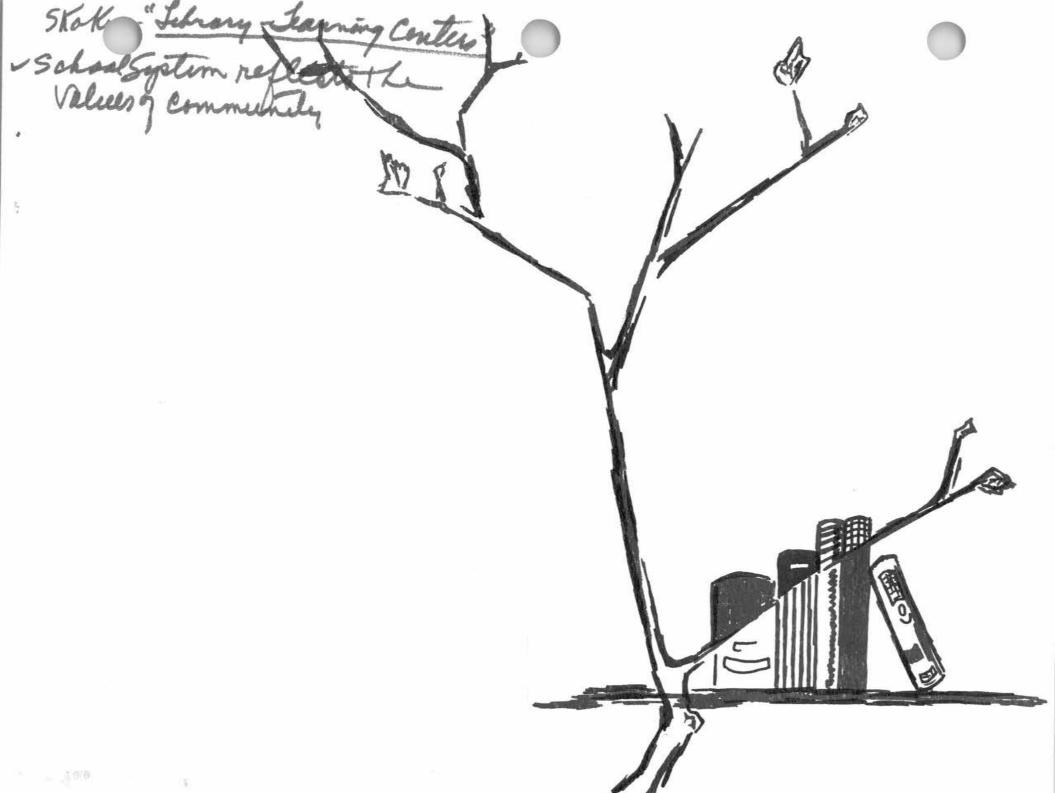
4. Presentation of Award Charles E. Swanson, President Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

Acceptance of Award . . . Wesley F. Gibbs, Superintendent School District 68

& Acceptance of Citation Leroy J. Hirsch, President Board of Education

9. Presentation of School Awards LuOuida Vinson, Executive Secretary American Association of School Librarians

 Acceptance of School Awards and Recognition of School Librarians Tom Buchta, Coordinator of Instructional Materials



F HUBER 1970 EB SCHOOL Jt. How SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 68 APRIL 8, 1970 Jeroy A SCHOOL SYSTEM IS NO BETTER THAN ITS LIBRARIES. HERE IN SKOKIE YOU CALL THEM "LIBRARY-LEARNING CENTERS" -- THAT'S JUST WHAT THEY ARE -- AND THAT'S WHERE YOU START, I SAY THAT'S WHERE YOU START BECAUSE A SCHOOL SYSTEM CANNOT BE ANY BETTER THAN ITS COMMUNITY WANTS IT TO BE YOU BEGIN WITH WHAT PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO SPEND FOR THE EDUCATION OF THEIR YOUTH . THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A SOCIETY THAT HAS BECOME INSOLVENT BECAUSE OF ITS INVESTMENTS IN BOOKS, LEARNING OR EDUCATION. MANY A SOCIETY HAS DESTROYED ITSELF THROUGH WASTEFUL SPENDING, ARMS AND WARS, AND INDULGENCE, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A SOCIETY THAT HAS NOT PROFITED INDUSTRIALLY, ECONOMICALLY,

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AND CULTURALLY BY INVESTMENTS IN LEARNING AND EDUCATION AND IN BOOKS AND LIBRARIES, AND THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A TIME THAT ANY SOCIETY HAS OVER-FUNDED ITSELF IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURAL ATTAINMENT, EDUCATION, OR LIBRARIES. and here IS WHERE WE ARE IN AMERICA TODAY -- WE ARE NOT SPENDING NEARLY ENOUGH TO SUPPORT OUR EDUCATIONAL AND THE LOSS TO THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD IS CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS TRAGIC -- EVERY OTHER RIGHT AND OPPORTUNITY IS DIMINISHED BY A LACK OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY. THE LOSS TO THE NATION IS INCALCULABLE -- IT MAY BE THAT WE HAVE NOT DISCOVERED A CURE FOR CANCER BECAUSE A POTENTIALLY GREAT SCIENTIST WAS NEVER GIVEN AN EQUAL CHANCE TO GO JUST AS HIGH AS HIS TALENTS WILL TAKE HIM. CONFRONTATION, TEACHER'S STRIKES AND REJECTED SCHOOL BOND ISSUES ALL ARE SYMPTOMS OF A PROFOUND DISCONTENT WITH OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. MANY OF OUR SCHOOLS ARE UNDER A

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Please Talles

STATE OF SIEGE HOW CAN WE MEET AND EVER HOPE TO SOLVE THE GREAT PROBLEMS OF OUR SOCIETY AND PRESERVE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY WHEN CHILDREN FROM DEPRIVED AREAS SUCH AS THE INNER CITY SLUMS ARE DENIED THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING WHICH PREVAIL IN THIS VERY SCHOOL EQUE - the up- Hrad LET ME SUGGEST SOME WAYS IN WHICH ALL OF US CAN VOICE OUR DESIRE TO BE SATISFIED WITH NOTHING LESS THAN EXCELLENCE IN ALL OUR SCHOOLS YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS ARE MEETING IN SPRINGFIELD RIGHT NOW -- THEY WILL SOON HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A GREATER COMMITMENT OF STATE FUNDS FOR EDUCATION LET THEM KNOW HOW YOU FEEL -- AFTER ALL, AS VOTERS IN THIS SCHOOL DISTRICT YOU H STYMED PROGRESS IN YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

ALONG WITH MORE MONEY FROM SPRINGFIELD, WE WILL NEED MORE OF THE SAME -- AND SE LEADERSHIP -- FROM WASHINGTON, IF WE ARE TO IMPROVE OUR NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SIGNIFICANTLY. WE NEED AN IMMEDIATE REVERSAL OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION'S

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TENDENCY TO ABDICATE ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSURE THAT EVERY CHILD IN THIS NATION WILL HAVE THE BEST EDUCATION THAT OUR Right to Read AND SCHOOLS CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT PRESIDENT NIXON'S \$200 MILLION "RIGHT TO READ" PROGRAM, WHICH IS AIMED AT 10 MILLION AMERICAN CHILDREN WHO TODAY ARE HEADED TOWARDS FUNCTIONAL ILLITERACY BECAUSE THEY LACK THE SIMPLE SKILLS THEY NEED IN ORDER TO COPE WITH EVERYDAY REALITIES. BUT I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT THE FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM ARE NOT NEW FUNDS, BUT RATHER TAKEN FROM PROGRAMS TO AID SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS WHICH WE DESPERATELY NEED ACHIEVEMENT OF A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN IS A MAJOR GOAL OF LEGISLATION PASSED BY CONGRESS IN RECENT YEARS NEW PROGRAMS IN 1964 AND 1965 BROUGHT THE

TOTAL FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS UP TO OVER \$4 BILLION

A YEAR UNDER PRESIDENTS KENNEDY AND JOHNSON LEVEN AT THAT

5 001781 FIGURE MOST FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WERE FUNDED AT ONLY ABOUT HALF OF WHAT WAS AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS. TAKE CLOSER TO A \$10 BILLION A YEAR FEDERAL INVESTMENT TO BEGIN TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT. COUCATION WAS AT THE TOP OF THE NATIONAL AGENDA 🍽 WE DID SOMETHING ABOUT EDUCATION -- AFTER ALL WE A COUPLE OF OLD SCHOOL TEACHERS. MORE PUBLIC FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED TO SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES DURING OUR ATTON THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY. DURING THOSE FOUR YEARS 3,600 NEW SCHOOL LIBRARIES WERE CREATED -- NEW ONES, WITH FEDERAL AID. WE DID SOMETHING ABOUT EDUCATION, BUT NOT NEARLY ENOUGH THERE ARE STILL 40,000 TAX-SUPPORTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS WITHOUT LIBRARIES OR EVEN A SEMBLANCE OF THE SERVICES WHICH THIS DISTRICT OFFERS ITS STUDENTS / FORTY THOUSAND SCHOOLS -- THAT'S ALMOST HALF OF THE PUBLIC GRADE SCHOOLS IN THIS COUNTRY!

APPARENTLY SOME COMMUNITIES CAN BE SATISFIED WITH JUST PUTTING TEACHERS IN CLASSROOMS AND DEPRIVING THEM AND THEIR STUDENTS OF THE FULL COMPLEMENT OF LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES THEY REQUIRE FOR EFFECTIVE LEARNING AND TEACHING. THAT'S NOT THE CASE IN SKOKIE, I NEEDN'T TELL YOU PEOPLE THAT. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU CHEEREN WILL BE SATISFIED WITH NOTHING LESS THAN EXCELLENCE WHEN IT COMES TO THE EDUCATION OF YOUR CHILDREN. THE VIGOR AND SPIRIT OF THIS COMMUNITY IS REFLECTED NOT ONLY IN THE SCHOOLS OF DISTRICT 68 BUT IN THE PRIDE YOU PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN IN YOUR UPPER SCHOOLS AND IN APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR EXPANSION OF YOUR SPLENDID PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITY

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THE MOTIVATING FORCES BEHIND YOUR CONCERN FOR THE QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION IN SKOKIE CERTAINLY CENTER AROUND YOUR OUT-STANDING SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR, DR. GIBBS, HIS STAFF AND THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO COMPRISE YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION LEACH TIME IN RECENT YEARS THAT THEY HAVE ASKED YOU TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL -7- D01783

FUNDS TO CONTINUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY EDUCATION IN THIS DISTRICT, THEY HAVE RECEIVED YOUR SUPPORT TWICE SEVEN SHORT YEARS, THE GOOD CITIZENS OF THIS COMMUNITY HAVE OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED SCHOOL BOND ISSUES AIMED PRIMARILY AT LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT, ONCE, I AM TOLD, BY A MARGIN OF 7 TO 1: NO SCHOOL BOARD OR GROUP OF ADMINISTRATORS ANYWHERE IN THIS NATION COULD ASK FOR SUCH A FINAL ACT OF SUPPORT THAT HAS COME FROM EACH AND EVERY VOTER WHO UNHESITATINGLY CAST A VOTE TO INCREASE HIS OWN TAXES! I COMMEND YOU !! AND I **648G** JOIN SUPERINTENDENT PAGE IN CONGRATULATING YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THIS STATE. VISITED WITH THE CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY-LEARNING CENTER IN THIS SCHOOL AND, MAY I SAY, IT'S A DREAM LIBRARY YOU STOP TO THINK THAT BEFORE 1963, THERE WERE NO CENTRALIZED FACILITIES IN ANY OF YOUR FIVE SCHOOLS -- WELL, WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THEN IS ENVIABLE -- IT IS A DREAM

THAT HAS BECOME A REALITY.

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YOU CAN BET THAT REAL THINGS WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN IN YOUR LIBRARY-LEARNING CENTERS BECAUSE YOU HAVE A CADRE OF CAPABLE LIBRARY SPECIALISTS EACH OF WHOM IS COMMITTED TO MAKING HIS CENTER AN IMPORTANT PART OF EVERY STUDENT'S AND EVERY TEACHER'S DAILY ACTIVITIES / YOU WILL SEE GREATER UTILIZATION OF ALL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AS THE MEDIA CEN PLAYS AN EXPANDING ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE CURRICULUM THE PRESENT REALITY IS THIS DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO A CURRICULUM BASED ON INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION SO THAT EACH CHILD CAN EXPLORE THE WONDERS AND WISDOM OF KNOWLEDGE AT HIS OWN SPEED AND IN HIS OWN INQUISITIVE WAY -- WHETHER IT BE THROUGH BOOKS, FILMS OR TAPE RECORDINGS. BUT, YOU CAN BE SURE YOUR ADMINISTRATORS HERE IN SKOKIE HAVE MORE DREAMS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. AFTER ALL IT IS THE CHILDREN WHO ARE OUR BEST REASONS FOR CARING ABOUT EITHER PRESENT OR FUTURE I TOLD SENATOR BENTON, BRITANNICA'S CHAIRMAN, AND MR. SWANSON SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THAT THEY COULD COUNT ON ME TO

PRESENT A BRITANNICA AWARD THIS SPRING. I THOUGHT THEY'D LET ME HANDLE THE CASH, BUT KNOWING HOW BADLY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS IN DEBT, PERHAPS THEY DIDN'T TRUST ME. NONETHELESS, I AM TREMENDOUSLY PLEASED TO PRESENT THIS CITATION TO SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 68 AND TO DR. LEROY HIRSCH, THE PRESIDENT OF YOUR BOARD.

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THE CITATION READS: "SECOND PLACE, 1970. PRESENTED TO SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 68 IN RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OF ITS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES. SIGNED JOHN ROWELL, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS AND CHARLES E. SWANSON, PRESIDENT, ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA, INC."

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON BEHALF OF BRITANNICA THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS AND ALL THOSE OTHER SCHOOL SYSTEMS WHO APPLIED FOR THIS AWARD AND WERE BESTED BY ONE OF THE BEST.

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