

March 4, 1946

MEMO: ART

RE: SPEECH BEFORE LIBRARY BOARD  
EMPLOYEES NIGHT OF FRIDAY,  
MARCH 1, 1946

The Minneapolis Library Board, in appointing Glen Lewis as Head Librarian, has elevated from the ranks of library employees one of its finest technicians and professional servants. Mr. Lewis has the unanimous support of his staff. This, within itself, indicates the high morale which now exists in our library system. It now becomes your duty to give him your undivided loyalty and to work with the end in mind of greatly increasing and improving our library facilities.

Now is the time to formulate our plans for a new public library. We must not only think in the terms of a new central building but also to include within our plans the expansion of our branch library system. It should become ever more clear that additional library and recreational facilities should be extensively developed in those areas where our major problems of delinquency and rehabilitation exist.

In other words, there is an inverse ratio of cultural and recreational service which must be applied in this community. Those who can least afford to pay for wholesome educational and recreational facilities must be those who are benefited the most by such facilities. The attack against delinquency and crime is not one of law enforcement alone. Respect for law and order comes only in a community that has provided the facilities for wholesome living and personal development. Our plans for recreational, educational and library development go hand in hand with our programs for new housing and general community redevelopment. This is all part of one great pattern of building a more modern and a finer and better Minneapolis.

Let it ever be remembered that the greatness of this city rests in the happiness of its people. Our only positive resource and asset is an educated, well adjusted, healthy people who have a strong faith in their community and in their government.

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