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CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY / 306 WEST CHURCH ST. / CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61820 / TEL. (217) 356-7243
Peter G. Niemi, Library Director

November 18, 1971

Mr. Alphonse F. Trezza, Director
Illinois State Library
Office of the Secretary of the State
Springfield, Illinois 62706

SUBJECT: DOUGLASS CENTER LIBRARY PROJECT

Dear Mr. Trezza:

In response to your Mr. Beasley's letter of October 14, 1971 requesting an evaluation of the Douglass Project and "a statement of whether the problems with the staff and the community have been resolved satisfactorily enough to insure improved operations in the second phase" I submit the following as an addenda to the Phase I Evaluation and the Objectives for Phase II approved by the Joint Board.

Based on my impressions of the various meetings with representatives from the Advisory Committee, the Douglass Library staff, and the Joint Board, and on the attached documents, I feel that there are still several basic areas of unsolved differences. To date we can document these areas of differences: 1) implementations to achieve overall objectives, 2) Administrative lines of authority, accountability, and procedures, 3) determination and selection of the collection of materials, 4) Branch Library status, 5) extent of community control and representation through the Advisory Committee. I further sense that there is not complete agreement on financial, personnel, and reporting procedures as outlined in the Administrative Guidelines adopted October 14, 1971.

The attached documents seem to reflect, 1) that there is disagreement as to the final authority for determining objectives, guidelines, policies, and procedures, 2) that there is much distrust between the parties concerned, 3) that the Advisory Committee feels it is responsible for book selection, and 4) that a branch library is not desirable until sometime after members of the Advisory Committee are voting members of the Joint Board and the Champaign Public Library Board of Trustees.

It is my hope that the above outline of our present points of disagreement can serve as a basis for further discussion. I am still convinced there is a need for library service in the Douglass Center community and I hope a means can be found to resolve the current dilemma.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Niemi

PGN/bjl