

December 23, 1971

To: The Joint Library Board

From: Venita Boyd DOUGLASS CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Subject: Response to Mr. Trezza's Memo of December 7, 1971

Mr. Henry Slaughter	Mrs. Diane Mitchell
Mrs. Nettie Claiborne	Mrs. Joanne Walker
Mrs. Elsie Easley	Mr. Ernie Hite
Mr. Terry Townsend	Miss Virginia King
Mrs. Wanda Smith	Mrs. Pola Patterson
Mrs. Sarah Scott	Mrs. Eleanor Burnette
Miss Venita Boyd	

It is clear to me that the agreements reached after many long hours of interchange by the local parties have been completely overlooked or ignored by the State Advisory Subcommittee. In the last paragraph of the document entitled "A Statement of Problems" dated November 22, 1971, the local parties state, "In requesting funding for Phase II in full knowledge of the situation, the libraries of Champaign and Urbana affirm their intention to work with the Advisory Committee to come to a satisfactory understanding and they reaffirm their intent to maintain the Douglass Center Library after Phase II in accordance with the original proposal."

The signators of that document fully recognized that human problems particularly as they pertain to race relations take time!!! The progress of interchange and mutual understanding was just beginning. Phase II was to herald new trust between the parties. Instead, within less than a month's time the local parties are being commended to act in haste.

It is being asked that we sever communications with those persons with whom many vital issues have been worked through. This is evident in Item 2 in which it is suggested that the present Advisory Committee be dissolved. I personally do not believe that the State Advisory Subcommittee should be dissolved. The Advisory Committee is a broad spectrum of opinions which diverge from the subcommittee's viewpoint. If this is not the case why hasn't the State Committee asked for a list of Douglass Advisory Committee members. So as to be certain not to just assume that the Douglass Committee does not represent a "broad spectrum" of the community. Or, if the Subcommittee has been in communication with community people who are interested in serving on the committee, why have their names not been submitted to us?

The Champaign Public Library is being told to administer and control all the misunderstandings and complexities for all parties - instantly! What does control mean, control what? Is the honest interchange between parties thought to be a harmful, unwieldy action needful of control?