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UA51/1/3 Statement Made at Meeting of the New Library Steering Committee

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July 31, 1963

STATEMENT

MADE AT MEETING OF

THE NEW LIBRARY STEERING COMMITTEE

July 30, 1963

First, I would like to say I am sorry I went to the Library Buildings Institute in Chicago as a participant rather than as a spectator. The reaction to the presentation of our plans for reconstruction of the physical education building was what I expected, and the ensuing publicity is already proving embarrassing.

Second, in attempting to make a decision as to whether to continue with the project, I feel I am caught on the thorns of a three pronged dilemma. I view the matter from several angles:

First, the students. Can we any longer neglect their welfare in providing adequate space for study and use of library materials?

Second, the collection itself. Try as we will, books are on the floor and other materials poorly housed because of crowded condition. When we are spending increased sums of money, I regret we cannot be more efficient in our housing and service.

Third, the obligation of a professional librarian. My training and experience influence me to say a new building is what we need.

Because of numbers one and two, perhaps the expedient thing is necessary at this time -- to proceed with the reconstruction project.

Also, the fact that the reconstruction is tied in with other projects has a bearing on a decision.

But, if I were personally the only one to consider, I would be willing to gamble on waiting and getting a new building. Since I am not the only one -- there are the students, the library collection, the college administration, and the president -- I will, therefore, be willing to concur in the committee's decision.