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ABSTRACT

The Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, to which was referred the joint resolution (S.J.Res.40) to authorize and request the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1976, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the joint resolution as amended, do pass. The Committee does not look to the White House Conference for any compulsory national blueprint or master plan. If the educational, economic, and cultural aspirations of the American people are to be attained, there must be a marshalling of all the library and information resources of the Nation. But this must be achieved through articulation by the White House Conference of recommendations that will evoke the support, voluntarily, of citizens and librarians. The continued autonomy and diversity of libraries and information services would be promoted by the individual State conferences that would be associated with the White House Conference. The Committee estimates that the amount authorized by this joint resolution will not exceed \$10,000,000. (JB)

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SERVICES IN 1976

NOVEMBER 16, 1973.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. PELL, from the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S.J. Res. 40]

The Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, to which was referred the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 40) to authorize and request the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1976, having duly considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the joint resolution, as amended, do pass. The amendments are in the nature of a substitute for the joint resolution, the preamble thereto, and the title thereof.

BACKGROUND

The joint resolution was introduced January 26, and the Subcommittee on Education of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare conducted one day of hearings on the joint resolution on June 24, 1973.

There are more than 75,000 libraries and information centers in the United States which constitute a resource belonging to and serving all of the American people. In addition to these libraries, there are thousands of school libraries, libraries in colleges and universities, as well as other institutions.

Proper development and management of this resource is essential for our continued progress in education, science, industry, agriculture, commerce and foreign relations. Libraries and information centers are now at a critical juncture in their development. Technology promises them many new opportunities for rendering much more effective and efficient services. For libraries and information centers to achieve their full potential, a multitude of decisions must be made. The process of planning and coordinating library and information services for the next generation of Americans should proceed on as broad as possible a basis of popular understanding and support.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
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In 1966, the President appointed a National Advisory Commission on Libraries. Its analyses of current needs, existing resources, and future requirements concluded with a recommendation that a permanent organization should continue its work. In 1970, accordingly, Congress established by law the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for the study and evaluation of library resources of all types and for the development of recommendations for their more effective and efficient utilization. The Chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science testified at the hearing:

It is now generally realized that information is a key factor in the Nation's future productive capacity and that access to information is essential for individual and national progress. At present, access to information is not equally and freely available to all, and there are many problems to be solved before effective access can be made available to all.

There are financial, social, geographical, technological, and many other obstacles. A White House Conference can come to grips with some of these roadblocks and assist the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and other concerned agencies to overcome them . . .

A White House Conference authorized by Congress and convened by the President is a well-established means of focusing attention on a subject of broad national interest and major significance in order to develop a consensus—among concerned members of the public, government officials, and those with special professional or technical competence—with respect to the desirable course of future advances throughout the Nation.

FEDERAL AND STATE LIBRARY POLICIES

The Federal Government operates what would be the world's largest library system if it were indeed managed on a systematic basis. Instead, the approximately 2,000 libraries of the Federal Government, including those of the Judicial Branch, are all isolated from each other and from libraries under non-Federal auspices. Our three national libraries—the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library, and the National Library of Medicine—are exceptions to the general failure of commitment to, and involvement with, other libraries that has become a less than honorable tradition among most Federal libraries.

Since 1956 the Federal Government has been providing grants-in-aid to States for local public libraries. Grants for school library resources were authorized in 1965, when financial assistance to libraries of institutions of higher education was also authorized. Several subsequent enactments authorized additional Federal aid for construction of library facilities, acquisition of library materials, research in library techniques, and training of library personnel. The Federal Government further aids libraries by special postal rates, duty-free entry of imported materials, exemption from taxation, deductibility allowance for qualified donations, eligibility for surplus property, and the depository library program.

Thus the Federal Government is a partner of most American libraries. The coordinated direction of this partnership, and its periodic reappraisal, have been neglected, however. A task force of the National Advisory Commission on Libraries reported in 1967:

*** although it is obvious that Congress has responded generously to the demands made upon it for library aid, the response has not been based on recognition of the importance of libraries to the achievement of the Nation's overall objectives. There has been no broadly based conception of how best to promote the growth and development of the Nation's libraries toward that end. Rather, as it does in many areas, Congress acted in the library area in an essentially *ad hoc* manner and without taking time to evolve a fundamental policy to guide it in its actions.

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science was established by Public Law 91-345 to assist in the development of a fundamental and consistent policy to guide future Federal assistance to libraries. Its responsibilities are even larger, for it is charged with conducting a comprehensive and continuing effort to appraise the needs for library and information services throughout the country and generating authoritative recommendations for the maximum coordination of present services and their strategic and timely improvement and expansion.

Testifying on S.J. Res. 40, the Commission Chairman pointed out:

Libraries are no longer self-sufficient. They cannot supply from a single information store all of the materials needed by users. They must, therefore, cooperate to bring information to the user and they must do so in ways that eliminate or reduce the barriers between the user and the information required. A White House Conference on Library and Information Services is one important way to stimulate this cooperation.

Encouraged by the Library Services Act of 1956 and its subsequent amendments, all States now have official State agencies responsible for the development of library services and Statewide library planning. At present, to qualify for Federal assistance, each State must prepare plans for the year immediately ahead, and, in less detail, for the next five years as well. One reason this planning has been needed was explained by a State librarian who wrote in the *Library Journal*, May 1, 1967, page 1805:

Under the present Federal program a State university, a city university, a new medical school, a community college, a private university, school libraries, and the public libraries in the same metropolitan area could all be receiving Federal aid without any attempt being made to study the possibility of some coordination or to bring it about in actuality.

The coordination he sought is at last being achieved in the States, yet coordination among the States and between the States and the Federal Government remains haggard and deficient. The White House Conference on Library and Information Services will foster this coop-

mination. It must be achieved if we are to maximize the potential that is inherent in the utilization of advanced technology by libraries and information services.

The Committee has been told many times that the quantity of information and library materials is increasing at a geometric rate, while the capacity of libraries and information centers to acquire, store, and make these materials available to the public is increasing at only an arithmetic rate at best. This fundamental disparity must be redressed. Yet it would be folly to increase the Nation's outlays for libraries and information systems while simply continuing the practices of the past. Prudent utilization of technology, especially for linkages among libraries, probably offers the best hope of closing the ominous gap between the demands for library and information services and the means of satisfying them.

NO MASTER PLAN FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Committee does not look to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services for any compulsory national blueprint or master plan. If the educational, economic, and cultural aspirations of the American people are to be attained, there must be a marshalling of all the library and information resources of the Nation in new patterns of cooperation and coordination. But this must be achieved through articulation by the White House Conference of recommendations that will evoke the support, voluntarily, of the tens of thousands of public-spirited citizens and professional librarians who direct the destinies of libraries and information services.

The continued autonomy and diversity of libraries and information services would be promoted by the individual State conferences that would be associated with the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. The utility of these conferences was emphasized in testimony presented to the Committee. One State librarian wrote:

* * * we would hope that such a conference, if held, would convey to the people of our State an awareness that we can no longer afford the uneconomical irrationality of parallel systems of library services—one to the schools, one to the general public, one to the academic community, one to the business and industrial segments of our society. The informational resources of our civilization constitute one whole which should be tappable by any needful citizen without regard to his economic, scholastic or geographic niche.

A member of a State library advisory committee who is a former president of a local library system testified:

This element of State and local spinoff is important. White House Conferences are preceded, and followed, by local and State conferences which help to identify area needs and force local and State committees to think about solutions to their problems. These conferences are successful and productive precisely because they are part of the ammunition for a national conference. Nothing beats being in the public spotlight when the goal is to illuminate problems, generate posi-

tive positions, and energize for action. You may be sure that the prospect of a national conference will prod the States and localities to sharpen their awareness of the need for library service and of the kind of library services they should expect and support.

The Committee is convinced that, not only is this White House Conference needed and sought by those to whom its recommendations would be addressed, but this Conference also would fittingly complement the national bicentennial observances in 1976 by emphasizing the importance of libraries to the achievement of our highest national aspirations. On the occasion of National Library Week in April of this year, the President stated:

As we approach the two hundredth anniversary of our national independence, it is imperative that we intensify our efforts to hasten the day when every American will have a truly equal opportunity to realize the full potential of his abilities. Nothing is more essential toward the achievement of this goal than an efficient and readily accessible library system.

It was in this spirit and for the same reasons that the Committee unanimously approved the resolution as amended.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
July 20, 1973.

HON. HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR.,
*Chairman, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is in response to your recent request for a report on S.J. Res. 40, a bill "To authorize and request the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Sciences in 1976."

The purpose of the Conference would be to develop recommendations for the improvement of libraries and information centers. The conference would be composed of librarians, information specialists, educators, relevant technologists, and representatives of the general public.

Planning and direction of the Conference would be carried out by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science with cooperation and assistance from all Federal departments. The Commission would make technical and financial assistance available to the States for preparatory meetings and conferences and prepare background material for the use of delegates on the Federal and State levels.

Within 120 days of the close of the Conference, a report would be submitted to the President and the Congress. Ninety days later, the President would be required to submit to Congress a statement of recommendations regarding the report.

A 28 member advisory committee would be appointed by the President to assist the National Commission in planning and conducting the Conference.

S.J. Res. 40 would authorize such sums as may be necessary to carry out the terms of the resolution.

In certain circumstances, a White House Conference may serve to fill a need for the exposure and examination of critical and neglected problems of national concern. However, the prestige of White House Conferences should not be diminished by holding them in areas where existing forums are providing an adequate opportunity for the identification and discussion of issues and ideas. Nor should an opportunity for a comprehensive examination of issues in their broad context be wasted. Conferences should be concerned with specific problems and subject areas in the context of the dynamics of their relationship to the larger society.

We recognize that there are important issues in the field of libraries and information science. Access to information is necessary for an enlightened technological society. The dissemination of information is an area where we must always seek improvements.

However, we do not believe that the White House Conference of Libraries and Information Sciences, as proposed in S.J. Res. 40, is justifiable.

To the best of our knowledge, there is no evidence of critical unresolved issues in libraries and information science that cannot be handled through the existing channels of communications in the field, i.e., professional associations, meetings of civic groups, and governmental and legislative processes on all levels. Further, the activities described in S.J. Res. 40 to be conducted by the proposed Conference would duplicate the responsibilities of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

Secondly, we think that a White House Conference solely on the subject of libraries and information science would be too narrowly focused, both in terms of the prestige of such a conference and in terms of the considerable public expenditures necessary for such a conference. This is not to diminish the importance of libraries and information science but it does indicate that we believe that these subjects should be examined as a part of the broader issue of education.

We are therefore strongly opposed to the enactment of S.J. Res. 40.

We are advised by the Office of Management and Budget that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

FRANK C. CARLUCCI,
Acting Secretary.

ESTIMATES OF COSTS

In accordance with section 252 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, the committee estimates that the amount authorized by this joint resolution will not exceed \$10,000,000.

TABULATION OF VOTES CAST IN COMMITTEE

Pursuant to section 133(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, the Committee voted unanimously to report the Joint resolution to the Senate.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 40

The Preamble. The preamble to the joint resolution set forth in the material preceding the resolving clause, contains seven clauses which declare the reasons for enacting the joint resolution.

The first clause of the preamble states that access to information and ideas is indispensable to the development of human potential, the advancement of civilization, and the continuance of enlightened self-government.

The second clause of the preamble states that the primary purpose and function of libraries and information centers is the preservation and dissemination of information and ideas.

The third clause of the preamble states that it is essential that the Nation's libraries and information centers grow and be augmented if all Americans are to have reasonable access to adequate services of libraries and information centers.

The fourth clause of the preamble states that new achievements in technology offer a potential for enabling libraries and information centers to serve the public more fully, expeditiously, and economically.

The fifth clause of the preamble states that planning for, and the coordination of, the services of libraries and information centers are required if the cooperation necessary for maximum realization of the potential inherent in the use of advanced technology is to be achieved.

The sixth clause of the preamble states that the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (established under Public Law 91-345) is in the process of developing plans for meeting national needs for library and information services and for coordinating activities to meet those needs.

The seventh clause of the preamble states that productive recommendations for expanding access to libraries and information services will require public understanding and support as well as that of public and private libraries and information centers.

That part of the material preceding the resolving clause but which follows the preamble declares that it is for the reasons set forth in the preamble that the joint resolution should be enacted.

The resolving clause of the joint resolution is followed by a single section, containing eight subsections, which—

- (1) authorizes a White House Conference on Libraries and information services;
- (2) states the purpose of the Conference;
- (3) provides for its planning and conduct by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science;
- (4) provides for a report by the Conference;
- (5) establishes an advisory committee for the Conference;
- (6) authorizes the National Commission to accept donations on behalf of the Conference;
- (7) provides for a definition of the term "States;" and
- (8) authorizes appropriations to carry out the joint resolutions.

Subsection (a) of the joint resolution authorizes the President of the United States to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1976.

Subsection (b) of the joint resolution states the purpose of the Conference and describes the composition of the Conference.

Paragraph (1) of subsection (b) provides that it is the purpose of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the Nation's libraries and information centers and their use by the public. The recommendations developed by the Conference must be consistent with the policies declared in the preamble to the joint resolution. Parenthetically, this subsection provides that the use of the term "Conference" in succeeding subsections of the joint resolution is a reference to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, and so it is throughout this analysis.

Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) describes the composition of the Conference, and in so doing implies that one of the otherwise unstated purposes of the Conference is to bring together the individuals of whom the Conference is composed.

Clause (A) of paragraph (2) of subsection (b) provides that, among those who shall comprise the Conference, there shall be representatives of local, Statewide, regional, and national institutions, agencies, organizations, and associations which provide library, and and informant services to the public.

Clause (B) of such paragraph (2) requires that the Conference be composed of representatives of educational institutions, agencies, organizations, and associations, and parenthetically such clause requires that, among the associations represented, professional and scholarly associations, the purposes of which are to advance education and research, be included.

Clause (C) of such paragraph (2) requires that the Conference include persons with special knowledge of, and special competence in, technology as it may be used for the improvement of library and information services.

Clause (D) of such paragraph (2) provides that representatives of the general public be included in the Conference.

Subsection (c) of the joint resolution provides (1) for the planning and conduct of the Conference by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, established under Public Law 91-345, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act (20 U.S.C. 1501, *et seq.*); (2) the authority and responsibilities of such National Commission under the joint resolution; and (3) the duties of other Federal agencies with respect to the joint resolution.

Paragraph (1) of such subsection (c) requires that the Conference be planned and conducted under the direction of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. Parenthetically, such paragraph provides that thereafter in the joint resolution references with respect to such National Commission shall use the term "Commission;" and so it is hereafter in this analysis.

Paragraph (2) of such subsection (c) sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the Commission with respect to the Conference. In administering the joint resolution, the Commission has the duties and responsibilities set forth in clauses (A) through (D) of paragraph (2).

Clause (A) of such paragraph (2) authorizes the Commission to request the cooperation and assistance of other Federal departments and agencies, when such cooperation and assistance is appropriate in

order to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under the joint resolution.

Clause (B) of such paragraph (2) authorizes the Commission to make technical assistance and financial assistance available to the States in order to enable the States to organize and conduct conferences and other meetings, which conferences and meetings shall be designed to prepare the States and persons taking part in such conferences and meetings for participation in the Conference. Parenthetically, such clause (B) makes clear that arrangements for such technical assistance and financial assistance may be arranged by the Commission by way of grants to the States, contracts with the States, and such other arrangements as the Commission may determine to be appropriate in dealing with the States.

Clause (C) of such paragraph (2) authorizes the Commission to prepare and make available to, and for the use of, delegates to the Conference and to the associated State conferences such background materials as may be determined appropriate. Such clause (C) also authorizes the Commission to prepare and distribute to the public such reports of the Conference and such reports of any associated State conferences as the Commission may determine to be appropriate.

Paragraph (3) of subsection (c) of the joint resolution relates to the cooperation of, and assistance to, the Commission by other governmental bodies.

Subparagraph (A) of such paragraph (3) relates to departments and agencies in the executive branch of the Government and their duties under the joint resolution. The first sentence of such subparagraph (1) requires each department and agency in the executive branch to cooperate with, and provide assistance to, the Commission upon a proper request of the Commission under clause (A) of paragraph (2) of such subsection (c); and (2) for the purposes of such sentence, each department and agency in the executive branch of the Government is authorized to provide personnel to the Commission in accordance with section 3341 of title 5, United States Code.

Such section 3341 relates to details within executive or military departments and provides that—

(1) the head of an executive department or military department may detail employees among the bureaus and offices of such department (with an exception relating to employees who are required by law to be exclusively engaged on specific work); and

(2) such details may be made only by written order of the head of the department and may be made only for 120 days, except that such 120 day limit may be extended, by written order, for a period not to exceed an additional 120 days.

Since such section 3341 provides only for details within departments, the second sentence of subparagraph (A) deems the Commission, for the purposes of the joint resolution, to be a bureau or office of the executive or military department of which any request, under clause (A) of paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of the joint resolution, is made by the Commission.

Subparagraph (B) of such paragraph (3) applies to the Library of Congress. Since the Library of Congress is not an executive department or military department, subparagraph (A) of paragraph

(3) does not apply; therefore, subparagraph (B) has the effect of classifying the Library of Congress as an executive department for the purposes of the joint resolution. Such subparagraph (B) authorizes the Librarian of Congress, upon a request under clause (A) of subsection (c) (2) of the joint resolution, to detail personnel to the Commission in order to enable the Commission to carry out the Commission's responsibilities under the joint resolution.

Paragraph (4) of subsection (c) of the joint resolution authorizes the Commission to employ such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the joint resolution. The Commission, in employing such personnel, is exempted from the provisions of title 5, United States Code—

- (1) governing appointments in the competitive service;
- (2) chapter 51 thereof relating to classification; and
- (3) in subchapter III of chapter 53 thereof, relating to general schedule pay rates.

Paragraph (5) of such subsection (c) authorizes the Commission to publish and distribute reports for the Conference. Such reports must be authorized by the joint resolution. Such paragraph exempts the Commission from the requirement of section 501 of title 44, United States Code for the purpose of publishing reports under paragraph (5).

Paragraph (6) of such subsection (c) authorizes the Commission, from sums appropriated to carry out the joint resolution, to pay members of the Conference travel expenses and per diem. The first sentence of such paragraph authorizes members of the Conference to receive, while away from their homes or regular places of business and attending the Conference, travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as may be allowed under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code for persons serving without pay. The second sentence of such paragraph provides that the Commission may pay the expenses authorized under the first sentence of such paragraph by way of advances, reimbursements, or in installments as the Commission may determine.

Subsection (d) of the joint resolution relates to the final report of the Conference. Such subsection provides (1) that a final report of the Conference must be submitted to the President not later than 120 days after the close of the Conference, (2) that on that date such report must be made public, and (3) that within 90 days after the President has received the report, it must be transmitted to the Congress.

Such report is to contain such findings and recommendations as may be made by the Conference. When the report is transmitted to the Congress, it is to be accompanied by a statement of the President containing the President's recommendations with respect to the findings and recommendations of the Conference.

Subsection (e) of the joint resolution relates to advisory committees to the Conference.

Paragraph (1) of such subsection (e) establishes a twenty-eight member advisory committee which, under the second sentence of such paragraph, is to assist and advise the Commission in planning and conducting the Conference.

The first sentence of such paragraph, in addition to establishing the advisory committee, provides for the composition of the advisory committee as follows:

(1) At least members thereof must be members of the Commission, which members are to be designated by the Chairman of the Commission.

(2) Two of the members of the advisory committee are to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) Two of the members of the advisory committee are to be designated by the President *pro tempore* of the Senate.

(4) Not more than 21 members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the President.

The third sentence of such paragraph (1) provides that the Chairman of the Commission shall serve as Chairman of the advisory committee.

Clause (A) in the first sentence of such paragraph makes clear that the Chairman of the Commission may designate more than three members of the Commission to the advisory committee; and clause (D) in such sentence provides that the number of members of the advisory committee appointed by the President is the number equal to the difference between the number of members designated pursuant to clauses (A), (B), and (C) in such sentence and the total allowable membership, twenty-eight.

The third sentence of such paragraph (1), in making the Chairman of the Commission the Chairman of the advisory committee, when read with clause (A) of such paragraph, makes it possible that, if the Chairman does not designate himself under such clause (A), the Chairman would serve as a non-member Chairman of the advisory committee, a non-voting presiding officer.

Paragraph (2) of subsection (e) of the joint resolution gives to the Chairman of the Commission the authority to establish, prescribe functions for, and appoint members to such advisory committees as may be necessary to assist and advise the Conference in carrying out its functions.

Paragraph (3) of such subsection provides for compensation for members of committees established under subsection (e) of the joint resolution.

The first sentence of such paragraph provides that such members shall be entitled to receive compensation at a rate fixed by the Chairman of the Commission. Only members who are not regular full-time officers or employees of the United States shall be entitled to such compensation. The entitlement to compensation applies only while the members of a committee are attending to the business of such committee, including the travel time to and from such business. The rate of pay fixed by the Chairman may not exceed the rate of pay specified at the time of such service for grade GS-18 in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code.

In addition to the compensation for which provision is made under the first sentence of such paragraph (3), members of the committee to which paragraph (3) applies are allowed travel expenses. The second

sentence of such paragraph (3) provides that such members may, while away from their homes or regular places of business, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as may be authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons in the Government service employed intermittently.

Subsection (f) of the joint resolution authorizes the Commission to accept gifts on behalf of the Conference. Under such subsection, the Commission shall have authority to accept, on behalf of the Conference, in the name of the United States, grants, gifts, or bequests of money for immediate disbursement by the Commission in furtherance of the Conference. Such grants, gifts, or bequests, after acceptance by the Commission, shall be paid by the donor, or the donor's representative, to the Treasurer of the United States, whose receipts shall be their acquittance. The Treasurer shall enter such grants, gifts, and bequests in a special account to the credit of the Commission for the purposes of this joint resolution.

Subsection (g) of the joint resolution defines the term "State." For the purposes of the joint resolution, the term "State" includes the fifty States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Subsection (h) of the joint resolution authorizes appropriations for the joint resolution. The first sentence of such subsection authorizes to be appropriated, without fiscal year limitations, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the joint resolution. The total amount so appropriated may not exceed \$10,000,000. The second sentence of such subsection provides that sums appropriated under the first sentence of such subsection shall remain available for obligation until expended.