

ALA PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM
2003 ALA MIDWINTER MEETING
Sunday, January 26, 2003, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

ALA President Maurice J. (Mitch) Freedman Introductory Remarks

>> PRES. MITCH FREEDMAN: Hello, everybody. I'm Mitch Freedman. I'm President of the American Library Association. I'm very happy you're all here. Welcome to the 2003 ALA President's Program, "Patriotism, Freedom and Information." I'm delighted to so many people here today, and welcome again.

I stood for election as President with a pledge to commit my tenure as President to improving salaries for librarians and library workers and achieving pay equity. Of course this will all be done by the time I'm done in June.

(Laughter.)

But to begin with, I want all the members of the Task Force On Better Salaries And Pay Equity for all library workers to stand up and be recognized. These are the people doing the work. Come on, come on.

(Applause.)

I'm going to review for a few minutes here what the task force has been doing so you'll know about it and so you can take advantage of the fruits of their labor.

Probably the single most important and lasting thing is that the Second Edition of the tool kit "Advocating For Better Salaries And Pay Equity" has been published. If it's not up on the website yet, this is the website: www.mjfreedman.org. It has a chapter on unions for those who --

(Applause) -- yes, okay. And for those that didn't applaud or feel adversely toward that, there are a number of chapters that have nothing to do with unions.

As your President, I think the 100 flowers bloom. Whatever the approach is, we want to give you all the information and support we can to help you use it, exploit it, and achieve what librarians and library workers have deserved all along and haven't gotten: better salaries and pay equity.

The other more tangible demonstrable thing is we've been conducting advocacy training sessions. We did it in Atlanta. We did one today. We have another one tomorrow and another one in Toronto and we hope all of you will sign up. The only requirement other than staying awake when you get your training is that you go back to your local area and you do training and you be an advocate for all the people back where you are. We want to train trainers and we want you to be enthusiastic about this.

I've spoken in a number of states. I spoke to fourteen regional and state associations and I don't know how many library schools, university and public libraries. One of the key parts of my message has to do with our self-perceptions. When we went into this field, we knew we liked it, we loved it. Something else may have gone by us before we got here, but most of us feel pretty good about what we do. However, the mindset of all too many of us is that, well, it's great work, I love it, but it's really a shame it doesn't pay better. One of the most important and fundamental messages I'm trying to deliver in my role as President and all the speech-making I'm doing is to reject that completely, wholeheartedly and 110 percent. We have to give that up. We have to say, "I love the work I'm doing, but it's valued and viable and I deserve to be paid equitably." That's the change in thinking. We have to have a sense of self-empowerment so we can advocate for ourselves. You'll be spared the whole speech, but it worked out pretty effectively in many places.

A couple of other things. There's a story I tell everywhere so I want you to have a sense of some of what we're up against. I spoke in West Virginia a year ago October. There's a woman there named Nancy Moore. She picked me up at the airport and drove me to the convention. She said she was in a quandary. She had a son going to college and she didn't know if she should stay director of the library or take a job at Wal-Mart as an entry level sales clerk. Why would she want to go to Wal-Mart? She said it pays better and at least has some benefits. So for those of you who work in suburban and urban areas or places where you think the pay isn't too great but you've got living wages, welcome to places like West Virginia.

As a result of the task force work, one of the members, Yvonne Farley, was invited to submit an article on salaries for *American Libraries*. Yvonne wrote about Nancy Moore's situation and one of the relative successes, though if we

have more successes like this we're going to have to pack it in, was that Nancy got a raise because her library Board was shamed into raising her salary because of the article.

(Applause.)

That's the good news. The bad news is that it's the first raise she had in four years. Her salary went from \$5.14 to \$5.93 an hour.

Now, I spoke at the Mountain Plains Library Association where I heard about Kansas. I spoke in Illinois. I spoke in Missouri and there seemed like one other one in there, too. I told the Nancy Moore story and people came up to me afterward and said, "That's not unique. It's not just West Virginia." Someone from Kansas -- I think it was southwestern Kansas -- said that in these rural areas in Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, there's lots and lots of people paid less than \$6 an hour who are running libraries. For those of you who aren't in touch with that aspect or those fields of our pastures, it's a serious situation. That's going to be the segue into the next point.

We launched our Campaign to Save America's Libraries on Friday. It feels like three weeks ago, but we launched on Friday. I had some idea, because people were supposed to write to us, but I had no idea how bad it was and how widespread it was. We had people reporting from every type of public library. Someone reported about the State Library of Florida. It's been zeroed out of Governor Bush's budget. The million books comprising the library collection, at least as of now, are going to be boxed up and no longer available for inter-library loan or resource sharing. That's a state library. Elementary schools in Philadelphia will not have any librarians. Jack Foreman spoke about California, where there's a greater deficit than all the other 49 states put together. If you haven't heard these numbers, there's a \$49 million deficit in California. Someone said to me if all the people employed by the State of California didn't receive a paycheck for five years, it wouldn't work off the deficit. These are really dark days and it really is different from anything before. I wasn't around for the Depression, although I may look somewhat older, but this is going to be the darkest in the thirty-seven years I've been doing this.

Oakland Public Library has a choice of closing five branches or keeping all the branches open for three days a week. The Binghamton Library in New York has closed all four of its branches. The Queensborough Library has eliminated

Sunday service at twelve of its fifteen libraries and the Erie Public Library has eliminated Sunday service and Saturday afternoon. I'm the head of the Westchester Library System in real life. That's who pays my salary so I can run around being President. We had to lay off eight people out of an operating budget of thirty-eight people. I've got a good friend, John N. Berry, III, who indicated to me it takes three to four years for the public sector to catch up with the declining economy. It's caught up and it's catching up with a vengeance. So what we're doing, without belaboring this any further, is there will be all kinds of tools up on the ALA website on how to advocate and fight for saving your local library, be it public, school, college, state, or any other flavor. It's going to help you with the tools, op ed pieces, editorials, all the rest of it.

A couple of other issues that we've had to deal with: in this terribly horrible picture, the Children's Internet Protection Act, CIPA, is one place we're winning so far. That's a terrific thing. Your Association has put its money where its mouth is and it's going to be close to a million and three-quarter dollars or a little bit more before we get the Supreme Court decision in April or May. The hearing will be held, the arguments will be presented in March. Let's hope we win that one. We're entitled to win something.

Copyright we lost. Eldred versus Ashcroft. The short version of that, for those who weren't following it, is that Sonny Bono had his name on a copyright act. One of the lobbyists in favor of it was Disney because they couldn't have Mickey go into the public domain. Your American Library Association is going to keep fighting that one. One person said very optimistically that it's just the first step in a long process, but we're going to bring material back into the public domain. The U.S. Constitution said fourteen years, and it wasn't to protect the authors -- it was to ensure that everything that was produced was made available for the purposes of research, science, and the advancement of our culture. Not the exact words, but close. From those fourteen years, it's now seventy years plus the full life of the author. For corporations, ninety-five years. So just kiss most of the twentieth-century literature good-bye in terms of coming into the public domain.

The other egregious thing I have to say about Disney is that, along with Mickey Mouse, they took Snow White from the Grimm Brothers, took it out of the public domain, made the movie, bought, owned, and copyrighted Snow White. One

particular example I was aware of is an AIDS house prevention in France with Snow White in fish net stockings looking sexy for safe sex. Disney took them to court because they owned Snow White.

We're getting to the end of these long remarks. What you're seeing up there is the task force website.

Today's President's Program is particularly timely. The passage of the USA PATRIOT Act -- many of you may not know that PATRIOT is an acronym. Every letter stands for a word. The USA PATRIOT Act's full name is the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act.

Following the September 11 attacks, the USA PATRIOT Act brought privacy concerns to the forefront of our attention and raised a number of significant questions. How do we balance First Amendment rights with our rights to privacy? We as librarians caring for, loving, and protecting the privacy of our users, an historic mission that I've been very proud of over my years as a librarian, and the USA PATRIOT Act's incursions on all of that? We don't have any absolute protections like attorneys, clergy, physicians, but we did have a due process with subpoenas and a public and open process by which we would ultimately have to yield our records. But it wasn't a secret. The person whose records were being given out would know about it. Now, if the library gets a search warrant from the FBI to turn over someone's records, it's a felony for them to talk about it with anybody other than their lawyer. They can't tell the user, who is our responsibility, and whose records we've been keeping as a trust for them in private. The Act has made very deep incursions on our privacy and done terrible things to due process that we had at least as one defense for the privacy for our users.

I do have one particular piece of information I was asked to read. This is a wonderful service that's come up. I'll just read the statement to you.

"Because it's essential that every library has access to effective and well-informed legal counsel, ALA is conducting a series of Lawyers for Libraries training institutes. These institutes are designed to create a nationwide network of attorneys on whom librarians can call when confronted with USA PATRIOT Act court orders, threats to privacy, Internet filtering issues, attempts to ban books and other First Amendment concerns. The first institute

will be held next month in Washington, with additional sessions in Chicago in May and the Bay Area in October." Our website will give you information about it.

I also want to mention the Video Nite Cap programs. We screened "The Trials Of Henry Kissinger" last night. There was a tremendous crowd here.

(Applause.)

I don't have the exact name of the movie, but it's a brand new movie that came out in November. Both those movies are playing in New York City. There's a flyer in back for "The Stone Reader," a wonderful story of the filmmaker's hunt for a book he loved when he was young. It's a mystery and a great movie for librarians. So every night, 9:00 p.m., free movies, this room.

(Applause.)

Thanks to Seymour Wishman, who I went to high school and college with who distributes those movies, First Run Features/Icarus Films and Dynix who are paying for the people who are operating the equipment and setting up and breaking down.

(Applause.)

Thank you. Now, the introduction for Amy Goodman, the reason you're here today. This program is being videotaped and it's going to be put up on my website sometime in February for the benefit of all the friends who will kick themselves for missing it, and you can watch it over and over.

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Keynote Speaker Amy Goodman

>> PRES. MITCH FREEDMAN: Today's speaker is uniquely qualified to address the issues of government and privacy. Amy Goodman is the award-winning host of Democracy Now, a national listener-sponsored public radio and TV show launched in 1996. I'm one of those listeners who pays for it. She's the 1998 recipient of the George Polk Award for the radio documentary "Drilling And Killing: Chevron And Nigeria's Military Dictatorship" and the Golden Reel for Best National Documentary. Goodman has also been recognized with the Robert F. Kennedy Prize for International Reporting, the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Silver Baton, the Armstrong Award, the Radio/Television News Directors Award, as well as awards from AP, UPI and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Amy has reported from Israel and the occupied territories, Cuba, Mexico, Haiti, and was the first journalist ever to interview the jailed US citizen Lori Berenson, serving a life sentence in Peru.

In addition to her daily radio and TV shows, Goodman speaks around the country on university campuses, as well as to human rights, church, and community groups about media activism. She also runs workshops at community radio stations on grassroots coverage.

A question-and-answer session will follow the speaker presentation. Please hold your questions until Amy has concluded her remarks. Before Amy speaks, she's asked to have a video run that has short clips from her daily award-winning show, Democracy Now. The last thing I'm going to say about Amy is that for me, she's the single most important person in journalism today because of her stands on things, the information she gets out, days, weeks, months ahead of the mass media, and the fact her show could be broadcast and shown in so many venues with such an alternative message to the almost monochromatic reports out of our mass media. So if you would roll the tape now.

(Applause)

(VIDEO)

(Applause.)

>> AMY GOODMAN: Thank you. Thanks. Thank you very much. Well, it's a real honor to be here at the American Library Association. Thanks to Mitch Freedman. It's also wonderful to have my aunt and uncle here, Marsh Greenberg and Sadie Sugarman. I only wish my father could have been here today. He died a few years ago. He served for many years on our local library Board in the Bay Shore Brightwater Public Library. I remember when he was being honored for 25 years of service, as he hoisted himself to the microphone to give thanks to those who were honoring him. He stood up from his wheelchair and said, "This is what it looks like to sit on a Board for 25 years."

The public library in our community was our second home for my family. We would ride our bikes down the street. It's where we went after school, it's where we went on the weekends. We knew the librarians well, they knew us and so many other people in our community. It was one of those precious public spaces that are becoming so rare in this country.

It is so important that we support the public spaces, whether it's the libraries or independent media like Pacifica Radio. Public access TV, the parks, these are the places that are the whole community's common ground, that don't keep out people based on race or ethnicity or a class. These are the places we must cherish and preserve.

I want to talk a little about where I come from, from Pacifica Radio, and its history. Pacifica began more than 50 years ago, right after World War II, founded by a man named Lou Hill who refused to fight in World War II. When he came out of the detention camp, he feared that the corporate media were beating the drums for another World War and he said there's got to be a media outlet that is not run by corporations. As George Gerbner, founder of the Cultural Environment Movement said, not run by corporations that have nothing to tell and everything to sell that are raising our children today. That's how Pacifica was born. Run by journalists and artists. The first station was KPFA in Berkeley. It was the place where people like Paul Robeson could come. There he was, "white-listed" from so many places around this country, except for a few Black churches and Pacifica Radio where he could come and speak and know he would be safe.

We grew to five stations, KPFA in Los Angeles, WPFW in Washington, WBAI in New York, where Malcolm X debated James Baldwin about the effectiveness of non-

violent civil disobedience, and KPFT in Houston, which was founded in 1970 and is the only radio station in the country that was blown up. The first year of operation its transmitter was blown up twice by the Ku Klux Klan. When the Grand Dragon went on trial, he said it was his proudest act because he understood how dangerous Pacifica Radio was. Dangerous because it allows people, especially those who are marginalized, those who you don't usually get to hear in the media, to speak for themselves. And when you hear someone speaking for themselves describing their own experience, that breaks down stereotypes and caricatures that fuel hate groups like the KKK.

That's how Pacifica was born and how it grew. Democracy Now, the national daily program that I do, grass roots international, national human rights news hour, began in 1996 and over the seven years has grown to more than 120 stations around the country, not only on Pacifica Radio and affiliates, NPR stations around the country, but now on public access TV stations around the country as well. Any of you can get us on your local public access TV station or PBS station just by calling and saying you want this independent news hour.

It is the largest public media collaboration in the country, also broadcasting on satellite television on the non-profit free speech TV which is Channel 9415 on dish network. Also on the Internet and on Radio For Peace International, which is short wave radio. As we bring together the public media spaces, it is so important in a time of war to hear independent voices so that dissent becomes commonplace. Whatever you feel. Whether you agree with the people that you heard on the videotape or not. That dissent becomes commonplace. So that when someone walks to the water cooler at work and they say something, someone doesn't jerk up and think, what's that all about? That we hear the range of opinion. That's what democracy is all about.

I think back to World War II and its aftermath and think about what happened at the end with the dropping of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the comparisons of the coverage. You have an independent journalist named Wilfred Burchett, and some of you may remember him. When MacArthur had imposed a blackout on all of southern Japan so that journalists could not go into the area of Hiroshima, there was Wilfred Burchett. As the rest of the journalists were going to a barge right off the coast of Japan to cover Japan's surrender, Wilfred Burchett got on a train, the first journalist in to Hiroshima, and when he got out, he couldn't believe what he saw. He saw the images, the

shadows of people imprinted on the walls of buildings, saw people with their skin melting off. He didn't even have the words for it. He talked about some kind of atomic plague. He sat down in the rubble and he tapped out on his typewriter the words, "I write this as a warning to the world."

There was another journalist who got in right after that. He wrote for the New York Times. His name was William L. Lawrence. Turned out later he was also on the payroll of the Pentagon. He wrote a series of six articles. As Wilfred Burchett said "There's some kind of bomb sickness here," William L. Lawrence wrote and the headline was, "No radiation sickness found at Hiroshima." He won the Pulitzer Prize for his reports. The difference between an independent reporter and one who isn't.

That was in the 1940's, more than half a century ago. How does the media cover war now? Well, I don't think it's any surprise when you look at the coverage of the Persian Gulf War and very instructive today for what I won't say is about to happen, because I do not believe it is inevitable. But when you look at the time of the Persian Gulf War, CBS was owned by Westinghouse, NBC was owned by General Electric. Westinghouse and General Electric, two of the major manufacturers owning two of the media networks, made most of the parts for most of the weapons used in the Persian Gulf War. Was it any accident most of what we saw on TV looked like a military hardware show? A video game? That's not what war looks like. It is brutal and gory and people die and we should understand that when we watch television. War is miserable. War is horrible.

That's why it's so important to have independent media. Looking at the way media operates, I think it's instructive to go back to September 11. I come to you just blocks from Ground Zero where we broadcast Democracy Now in the garret of a hundred-year-old firehouse, Engine Company 31. It no longer is a firehouse, but it still serves the community as a community media center where anyone can walk in and learn how to use video technology so that they can document their own community. On September 11, 2001, at 9:00 in the morning, we had begun broadcasting. The first plane hit the first tower of the World Trade Center at 8:47. Though we were just blocks from there, we didn't know what had happened in the garret. We don't have windows, and we didn't hear. At 9:03, the second plane hit the second tower. I heard a crash, but we continued with the program not knowing what had happened.

We were doing a program on the significance of September 11, 1973, the day that the democratically elected leader of Chile, Augusto Pinochet, rose to power. With the support of President Nixon and Henry Kissinger along with ITT and Anaconda and other corporations -- with their full support, Augusto Pinochet rose to power. Thousands of Chileans died. We were looking at that day. More documents had been declassified implicating Henry Kissinger.

Then we began to realize what was happening as the firehouse was opened up giving out water to people who were stumbling down the street, opening up allowing people to use the phones to call their loved ones. We just continued broadcasting through the day, bringing up people from downstairs describing what had happened to them, not understanding actually what was happening, but physically saying what it was like.

We stayed there over the next few days. That afternoon at 5:00 we stayed inside, slept inside because we were afraid the police, the National Guard, the military, were going to move us out of the area. We were within the evacuation zone and the recovery workers were already operating.

That day at 5:00 we went out and we watched Building Seven go down. It was a few hours later. Those of you in New York may know that building. There were hundreds of people standing outside as we watched it burn and just about as it was going down, there was a reporter from one of the mainstream networks. I didn't know who she was. And she was standing there. They went live to her and just before they went live she told her assistant to put some more ashes on her shoulders.

Well, a few weeks later I was watching MSNBC and her picture flashed on the screen. Ashleigh Banfield. We call her Ashes Banfield. Certainly September 11 was more than the backdrop for someone's career in television. It was a most horrific event the day terror came to U.S. soil. Not the first time, of course, as many African-Americans can testify. Slavery was terror on our own shores. But it was the day that so many in this country appreciated, understood, what terror was. The horror of 3,000 people being incinerated in a moment. We will actually never know how many people died on September 11. Those who go uncounted in life go uncounted in death and those are the undocumented workers on that day in and around the World Trade Center. Their

families are still afraid to come forward because they're afraid of what could happen to them. Perhaps detained. Perhaps deported. The companies are not willing to come forward to name those that they had employed for decades who were undocumented. So we'll never know the number and it's an important number. Those people who died who we won't know are also so important, as important as all of the other heroes who died on that day.

I recently went out to Long Beach, California, where I was covering the Muslim public affairs meeting. More than a thousand Muslims were there. It was right after the second round-up of immigrants in this country. It really shows the different worlds that we live in. What is going on in the immigrant community most impacted now are the Muslims, Muslim-Americans, Arab, Arab-Americans, people from South Asian countries. We all have to be aware what is happening to them. John Ashcroft's Justice Department says they don't have to give up the names of the more than thousand people that they have rounded up. Those of you who listen to Democracy Now know how much we cover this issue of these people, their homes broken into by FBI and INS agents, usually the men taken away. When they are arrested, they don't get the right to call an attorney. They are held in immigration cells and all too often deported, for example, to Pakistan where there are secret airlifts every few months. The secret airlift of dozens of Pakistani men began to be documented on the front page of the *Washington Post*. Now even these papers don't cover these deportations. And, again, we don't know their names.

I think about the German pastor from World War II, Martin Niemoeller and how important his quote is today: "First they came for the socialists and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me."

It is so important that those of us who are not under the kind of siege that others in other populations are, that we stand up and make it safer for those people.

There is a report recently out from ACTA [not to be confused with Act Up], the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, put together by a bipartisan group, Joseph Lieberman of the Democrats and Lynn Chaney, wife of the Vice President,

a report called "Defend Civilizations" where they name names of professors and students who have spoken out across the country in peace rallies and teach-ins, and they quote them. A kind of blacklist in this new century, in this new millennium. I was speaking at a women's college in California and the students said, where can I send my quote in? They consider it a kind of honor roll.

Yes, dissent is patriotic. Peace is patriotic. You saw Rita Lasar, the 70-year-old woman from New York who lost her brother, Abe Zelmanowitz, in the World Trade Center. She knew the worst grief of her life. She saw the war machine gearing up in Washington right after September 11. And she said "no" to her brother's name being used by President -- it's hard to call him President Bush. President-select Bush.

I really do think it's important we continually remember how he became President, right? The year 2000. Florida. Tens of thousands of people purged from the voter rolls in Florida, many of them African-American. Now the first brother, Jeb Bush, and the Secretary of State of Florida, Katherine Harris, she's been rewarded, she's a Congress member. She knew the names would be restored, that they'd be sued. That's not what was important. It was important they be purged then. So they gave \$4 million, this was unprecedented, to a private company, Database Technologies, DBT, and said, "We want you to take off the names of anyone who is registered as a felon in this country. Don't worry about spellings or junior or senior or middle names. Be relaxed about it." Even the company making millions said to them you're going to have to doublecheck this because there are going to be many people on this list that should not be taken off. And they sent a memo. They said, don't worry about it.

So those names were taken off and, yes, people have sued and yes they will be restored. But what mattered is they were off on that day. If you look at the studies now and everything that was done afterwards, yes, Al Gore won the state of Florida. Actually he would not have won if he had gotten what he wanted, which was just the counting of four counties. But he would have won if they had recounted all of Florida.

And so a man who is not popularly elected President has declared war on the world. And that is why we call him President-select Bush.

But think about what has happened and the implications of this. When the snipers were on the loose in Washington and West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, think how frightening it was when we didn't know who was next. That's what was so scary. It's the randomness. The fact that innocent civilians one by one were being picked off with this high-powered rifle. Think, though, about how the rest of the world sees us. Now remember Bush had given a speech at the United Nations and the next day I saw headlines in the papers. One said "Who's next?" And the other one said, "I am God." I thought, my God, the newspapers have lost their minds or come to their senses or something. They were describing Bush's speech at the United Nations. But think about that. Who's next? It was the randomness of the snipers that was so frightening. So unpredictable. Think of how the rest of the world sees us. Not knowing where the most powerful arsenal on earth will set its sights next. Afghanistan. Yemen. I didn't know we declared war on Yemen, yet we just shot a missile at Yemen and now we're talking about Iraq. Noam Chomsky talks about a superpower most effectively exerting its power by being irrational, not rational, so that you can't follow a pattern. You can't know what will happen next. The U.S. is playing a kind of global sniper politics with the rest of the world, and it is very frightening.

I often say that it would be more accurate for the mainstream media to show the picture, not of Saddam Hussein with a target on his forehead, but of a little Iraqi girl with a target on hers, because that's who will die in a war. The overwhelming number of people who die in war are innocent civilians and we should never forget that. The Pentagon knows that, which is why, during the bombing of Afghanistan it bought up the exclusive right to the satellite imagery where you can see people dead on the ground, see their facial features from high in the sky. They bought those exclusive rights, didn't want the media to have those pictures, because they understand the American people are compassionate and they don't want to see innocent civilians dead on the ground. And whatever pictures got out that the Pentagon couldn't control, Walter Isaacson, who just stepped down as CNN chief, was telling them, "If you see those images of dead Afghan civilians, if somehow they seep through in the mainstream media, you are to say afterwards either 'the Pentagon doesn't target innocent civilians,' or 'remember 9/11.'"

Now, what does an Afghani mother or an Iraqi child have to do with 9/11? That's what we have to ask. And we have to hear peace activists and peace leaders on television just as we hear those retired generals that repeatedly come out. It is important to hear all points of view, not just one point of view. It is absolutely critical that we challenge the mainstream media today.

I think we need not only to have people protesting in Washington at the Pentagon and other government institutions, but in front of the most powerful institutions on earth right now, the media. Not only because they are among the wealthiest, but because they are the lens through which we see ourselves and the rest of the world sees us. That corporate lens must be challenged. Don't forget that even the private networks are leasing the public airwaves. They are ours and we can demand that they be fair.

I had a chance during the Persian Gulf War to go on a popular program, the Sally Jessie Raphael Show. Some of you may have heard this story. It was right as the U.S. began to drop the bombs in Iraq. I was on WBAI, our station in New York, the Pacifica station, rallying against the bombing of the cradle of civilization. We got a call. A volunteer was doing a fundraising drive and a volunteer ran in and said the Sally Jessie Raphael show is on the phone. I said, yeah, right and she said, no, really, they're waiting. I got on the phone and she said she was listening in her limousine. I guess the chauffeur had turned on the program. She invited me on the show. She said that they were doing a program on the war and they were going to have three women for the war and three women against.

So the next day I got ready to go to the program, wasn't sure what to wear, dressed as a woman, dressed as a woman dressed as a woman, dressed as a man, something like that. The Sally Jessie Raphael Show, whatever. Anyway, I figured out what to wear and I went to the studios and the producer said, "We want to take on more serious issues and we hope you will jump right in there and mix it up so we can show that these kind of programs are popular, too."

And so we went out on the stage. There were three women for the war who were from the military and there were three women against. The other two women were also from the military and then there was me.

It was very interesting. The show began and Sally was in the audience. She went right to one of the people in the audience and she got up and said, the audience member, "I'm really concerned about the chemical weapons and biological weapons of Saddam Hussein." The woman next to me, Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, an Army captain who refused to go to the Gulf War, who said she was trained to save lives not take them and who was about to be court-martialed, said, "It's also important to note we have biological weapons right here in the..." and before she finished the sentence, Sally came down and said, 'You be quiet. You be quiet. This is my show. This is my show.'" She came right up onto the stage. I thought she was going to strike Dr. Yolanda Vaughn. I hadn't seen these shows. I said whoa, Sally, back off. There were people in the audience from WBAI -- they had told us to bring our friends -- and they were in the audience chanting "Free speech. Free speech."

Sally stopped the program. She was shaking. The producers came out. This is a show that's videotaped and shown a few days later around the country. The producers came out and started to rock her back and forth and say, "It's okay, Sally. It's okay." I really think that these people are so insulated, they so rarely hear in the mainstream networks what an anti-war point of view sounds like, that it truly had shocked her. They rocked her, they comforted her, they pleaded with her, and finally she agreed to go on with the program, but she said we would have to raise our hands before we spoke.

So they continued to record the program and it went well. She showed video of people protesting in Washington and I said, "I want to congratulate you" because the rest of the media, if we're lucky, stops there. They'll show those images, but most of America does not identify with people screaming in the streets. Why do people do it? Why do people protest in the street? It's because they're not ushered into a mainstream media studio so that they can, in a civilized way, have a discussion about why they feel the way they do. The best they can hope for is to chant outside and hope one of the executives at CBS and NBC opens the window and maybe the sound of the protest will waft and be heard on some microphone or other.

"But, no," I said to Sally, "You're going beyond this. You're not only showing the images, you're allowing us to speak." And I said, "As the granddaughter of an Orthodox rabbi, it is a horrifying picture to see little Israeli children wearing gas masks. There's only one more horrifying shot and

that is seeing the little Palestinian kids without." We had a conversation for an hour. Afterwards the cameramen gave me a thumbs up and we went home. The next day people were calling to ask when is it going to air? And I said "Soon." And the next day and the next day and, well, I called the Sally Jessie Raphael Show and said "What's up?" They said there was a problem with the sound, you see. There's this video and you have the audio and the video and there was a problem with the synching. They sent them out and Minneapolis and Chicago stations said they can't run it. I said, "I think there's a problem with the sound of our voices." She said, "Don't be like that." I called up the stations she said had complained. I got right through to the operations director. I guess they don't get called much. I said, "What about that war show from Sally Jessie Raphael?" They said it's interesting, we were just told to pull it. I called and said I want to talk to the executive producer and was told he's a very busy man. When people called in I said, "Don't swamp our switchboard. Call the show." Later I spoke with someone who said they were shut down for two days from all the calls. A producer called to talk to me later and I said I'm a very busy person.

(Applause.)

So they asked if I would cry "censorship" if they edited the program. I said of course not. I'm an editor as well. I assume you'll edit out Sally's fit.

(Laughter.)

Anyway, because of the outcry, they did air the program. It aired the next day. But this time it aired with headlines around the country that said things like "Things Get Messy With Sally Jessie."

The most interesting response I got was from women on Southern military bases who called in and said, "Who are you? What is this point of view you represent? We agree with you." What they said was, and this was one call after another, these were women who were about to be sent to war or whose loved ones were going to war and they said, "We agree. We don't want to die for oil. But we can't have these debates on military bases. It's up to you in civilian society to have this discussion about war and peace, about life and death, to decide whether we will be killed or kill someone else." That was such an important lesson. That is the role of media in a democratic society: that we should debate these issues, the most important issues of our time.

Rita Lasar, who lost her brother on September 11, talks about her brother who was a hero. He refused to leave the 27th floor until his best friend Ed, who is a paraplegic who works next to him, was saved by the emergency workers. They went down with so many others. She tells his story and the mainstream media told his story. But when it comes to the part where she had a prescription for what should happen, she offered a solution like Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez, who lost their son Greg Rodriguez on the 100th floor. He worked at Cantor Fitzgerald, where 600 of the 900 workers died. When they knew the worst pain of their life, they also saw that the U.S. was about to bomb Afghanistan. They sent a letter that didn't get published in the New York Times like Rita's did, "Not in my brother's name." Theirs, though, got swirled around the Internet and they said, "As we remember Greg, we say, not in our son's name. We don't want a mother and father in Afghanistan to know the same kind of pain that we know right now. It will only increase our suffering." Not in my brother's name. Not in our son's name. And a whole movement grew up around this country, in our name, as well as the organization Peaceful Tomorrows. People who are saying "no" to war and "no" to terror.

When Bush went to Ground Zero a few days after September 11, he had his arm draped over a fireman, you may remember, an older gentleman who, by the way, will be at the State Of The Union Address, invited by a Democratic Congress member. He is now protesting what Bush has done, cutting the budget here and undermining firemen and people who try to save lives. But as he stood draped with his arm over this gentleman, a chant went up around him. "USA. USA." Now, I understood the sentiment of what people were feeling at that time, but a chill went through me, because the answer to what happened on September 11 is not "USA." It is a global community united against terror, united against the terror we saw on September 11, 2001, and united against the kind of terror we saw September 11, 1973 when Salvador was overthrown and killed as were thousands of Chileans. It united us in grief with all of those. I saw the pictures go up all over New York City, hundreds and thousands of pictures, the color Xeroxes of people lost on September 11 and they said things like, it would be a picture of a man holding his daughter, and it would say, "If you have seen my son, please call his mother." Pictures of a woman with her children. "If you have seen my mother, please call me." Remember those pictures.

I could only think, as I walked around late at night right around Ground Zero, how they united us with the people in Argentina, the mothers of the disappeared who walked in the Plaza de Mayo, who held similar pictures. "Have you seen my granddaughter? Have you seen my grandson?"

All too often in those cases in Argentina, in El Salvador and Chile and Guatemala and East Timor, those people died because of military regimes that were supported by the United States. We have very important lessons to learn.

When Rita Lasar or Phyllis Orlando Rodriguez went to the second part after describing their loved ones on mainstream television to say what should be done, they cut away. Instead we saw the so-called experts on terrorism, the Henry Kissingers and the Oliver Norths, telling us what should happen. Henry Kissinger -- Chile, hundreds of people dead -- supported that. Vietnam. Cambodia, Laos, two million, at least, dead. And in East Timor, Indonesia invaded the day before, Secretary of State-then Henry Kissinger went to Suharto, the long-reigning leader and gave the okay. With 90 percent of U.S. weapons, by land and air and sea, the Indonesian military invaded East Timor. One of the worst genocides of the 20th century. When you look at those numbers and bodies adding up around the world, well, I think that Osama bin Laden and his allies should be tried for what happened on September 11, but I also think Henry Kissinger should be tried before an International Criminal Court.

(Applause.)

It is so important and it is exactly why the U.S. has fought to undermine that court and Bush has unsigned the treaty for the ICC, the International Criminal Court. The administration says, "Yes, it's fine for them to be tried from other countries, whoever they may be, but not for U.S. officials or U.S. soldiers." It is absolutely critical that there be a court for everyone. There has to be a universal standard of justice. If there isn't, people will be very angry at the United States and we know what the effects of that is. We have to reduce the terror all over the world and we have the power to do that.

It is so important right now that we not only look overseas but look right here at home at what's happening as the U.S. Administration, the Bush Administration, says they are fighting the war on terror. You look at all the laws and you as librarians know the kind of crackdown right now.

Mitch Freedman just talked about Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act. It puts librarians on the forefront of the war on terror. But maybe that war is being declared on the wrong people. You have a decision to make. Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act says that FBI agents -- and by the way, on Friday I just spoke to a gathering of FBI and FEMA agents in New York. It says that FBI agents have the right to come into your library or into bookstores and they can say to you, "I want to see the records of someone who came in to read books if they have a foreign sounding name or they have a foreign accent." What are you going to do? You have rights. They're supposed to have a subpoena. The question is, one, do they have that? And, two, what are you going to do even if they do?

These are very serious times. The fact is that you are not allowed to tell even your colleagues that an FBI agent has approached you -- only another librarian, and I learned this from the American Library Association, that you need to get the records from, but you can tell no one else or you will be prosecuted.

This is very frightening. I actually just got a letter on the Internet from a scholar who went to the New York Public Library. He asked to see the Journal of Palestinian Studies. You may have heard about this. There's a classification in the New York Public Library. He had to go to "Anti-Israel Propaganda."

Now, if someone came and said, "I want to read an Israeli journal," let's say a newspaper, would you expect that to fall under Anti-Arab Propaganda? No, of course not.

So he wanted to know, well, why was he looking under Anti-Israel Propaganda? He wanted to read something that was put out in a scholarly Palestinian journal. And further, he was told "Not the Middle East section. Not the political section. You go to Judaica." So he goes into Judaica and there is the Journal Of Palestinian Studies. He asked the librarian, "Why did I come here to read this?" She said, "It's easier to watch you to see who's reading this."

These are very, very serious times. I think together we have to challenge them to make the world safer for all of us.

I think what breaks down the kind of ignorance that leads to and fuels hate and terror is us understanding each other. I told someone about this on the phone, a journalist. He said, "Someone just sent me an ad for the Journal Of Palestinian Studies. I guess if I were to subscribe, it would put me on some kind of a list." That is a serious problem. People afraid to take out books on Islam because they might be put on some list? It has to be the other way. We have to all be reading about each other's religions and cultures and certainly feel that that precious public space that is the public library is a safe space. The question should not only be how do we cooperate with the FBI? But do we challenge the law that is allowing the FBI to come in and make this an unsafe space for some people?

I was just interviewing the head of Johns Hopkins Medical School International Services. This next week the computer program goes into place where in real time they have to put in what international students are doing, what they're studying, where they are, what their addresses are, what they're majoring in, and if there is an error, even in a typo -- this will go directly, by the way, to the Department of State, the INS, to all ports of entry -- it could have a student deported. She was having a meeting with all the administrators and professors at Johns Hopkins to say, make sure you don't make a mistake.

I was just interviewing an Irani-American student in Denver who was arrested and held overnight in an INS detention facility. Why? Because he changed his major from Computer Science to Economics. In consulting with Denver University, University of Colorado, he said, "What should I do?" The advisor said, "Drop your Computer Science class and then you will go ahead with your Economics classes." He did that and then he went to register at the INS. Remember in the last registration a few weeks ago in Los Angeles they ran out of handcuffs as they arrested the people who came in to voluntarily register? As he went to register, they said he was not taking enough credits. He had gone from fourteen to ten, and so they arrested him in the midst of finals, no less, and he didn't have a right to call an attorney. He had to raise \$5,000 bail. He had a girlfriend and others on the outside who did it. The university said, "Why couldn't you have just let him go and get that waiver we

gave him?" But no. He was lucky he had people on the outside that somehow knew he had been taken.

These are very serious times. We must all protect each other in these times.

As I wrap up, it's not only libraries and it's not only progressives in this country who are concerned about these issues. In fact, Bush is uniting a cross-section of society. I'm going to quote for you William Safire, and I never thought I'd be quoting Nixon's speechwriter, but he wrote a very interesting speech called, "You Are A Suspect." A very interesting op-ed piece you may have seen. He said, "If the Homeland Security Act is not amended before passage, here is what happens to you: every book you buy and magazine subscription, website you visit, e-mail you receive, every bank deposit you make, grade you receive, every trip you book and every event you attend, all these transactions and communications will go into what the Defense Department describes as a virtual centralized grand database."

"To this computerized dossier on your private life from commercial sources, add every piece of information the government has about you, passport application, driver's license and bridge toll records, judicial and divorce toll records, complaints from nosey neighbors, a paper trail and the latest camera surveillance and you have a super snoop's dream -- information on every U.S. citizen." He goes on to say this is not some far-out Orwellian scenario. It's what will happen in the next few weeks if John Poindexter gets the unprecedented power he seeks. He did get it. He goes on to say, "Remember Poindexter? Brilliant man. First in his class. Rose to National Security Advisor under Ronald Reagan. He had the brilliant idea of selling missiles to Iran for hostages and to support contras in Nicaragua. He was convicted of felony for making false statements." He said, "This master of deceit is back again with a plan even more scandalous than Iran-Contra." He heads the Information Awareness Office, DARPA. Poindexter is now realizing his 20-year dream of getting the data mining power to snoop on every public and private act of every American. Even the hastily passed USA PATRIOT Act, which widened the Intelligence Act, raised requirements for the government to report secret eavesdropping to Congress and the courts. But his assault on individual privacy runs roughshod over such oversight, and he's given a \$200 million budget to create dossiers on all Americans. That's William Safire.

Now I'll quote my brother, David Goodman. He wrote a piece in *Mother Jones* called "No Child Unrecruited: Should The Military Be Given The Names Of Every High School Student In America?" He starts out by saying Sharon Shea-Keneally was shocked when she received a letter from military recruiters demanding a list of all her students, including names, addresses, and phone numbers. The school invites recruiters to participate in career days and job fairs but, like most school districts, it keeps student information strictly confidential. Says the principal, we don't give out a list of our kids to anybody. Not to colleges, churches, employers -- nobody. But when Shea-Keneally insisted on an explanation, she got another surprise. She was cited the No Child Left Behind Act. There, very deep within the law's 670 pages, is a provision requiring public schools to provide military recruiters not only with access to facilities, but also with contact information for every student or face a cutoff of federal aid. The military complained this year that up to fifteen percent of the nation's high schools are "problem schools." Now, I used to think problem schools were where kids weren't reading or writing. No, these are problem schools for recruiters. In 1999, the Pentagon says recruiters were denied access to schools on nearly 20,000 occasions and so a Republican Louisiana congressman, David Vitter, who sponsored the new recruitment put in this little known section of the No Child Left Behind Act.

David ends the piece by saying some students are already choosing the option of opting out. According to the principal, many of the students have asked to have their records withheld. If parents call in and say don't give my kid's name, or if kids do the same, then your name will not be given.

Recruiters are up-front about their plans to use school lists to aggressively pursue students through mailings, phone calls, and personal visits, even if parents object. Said Major Johannes Paraan, "The only thing that will get us to stop contacting the family is if they call their congressman, or maybe if the kid died we'll take them off our list."

These are very serious times. And what's most important is that we have information -- that we have the right to be able to challenge laws, not just learn how exactly we can comply with them, but also to know what the laws are. To know when you can withhold information and when it is within the law.

I'll end with where I was last May. May 20 in East Timor. Maybe some of you have been to some of the talks or listened to Democracy Now. You know the story of Timor. You know that for ten years Pacifica Radio had been there through the worst of the genocide. You know about November 12, 1991, more than ten years ago, as the Indonesian military was killing off the population of Timor which Indonesia occupied for more than a quarter of a century. You know about the demonstration the young Timorese had. I was in East Timor at the time along with my colleague, Allan Nairn. He was reporting for The New Yorker and I was reporting for Pacifica when we followed a funeral commemoration procession from the capital in East Timor to the cemetery to honor another young man who was killed. The reason this connects is about issues of freedom, of independence, and getting information. We walked to the cemetery as thousands of Timorese from a cross-section of East Timor walked in the face of the Indonesian military who had lined the streets. Thousands of Timorese walking. Girls in school uniforms holding up signs appealing to President Bush, "Why the Indonesian military shoot our church?" They walked to the cemetery asking for their freedom and their independence and to stop the killing and somehow appealing to the outside world.

Most people in this country at the time knew nothing about Timor. The mainstream media, ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN had almost never mentioned East Timor in the seventeen years since Indonesia invaded, even though the genocide there was worse than in Cambodia, proportionately worse. The reason we knew about Cambodia is because Cambodia was an official enemy of the United States and Pol Pot was reported in the media. In the case of Indonesia, it was an ally from Ford to Bush to Clinton to Carter. Those presidents weren't speaking out against the long-reigning dictator and the people he killed. The media did not report on the atrocities there. That's why in your libraries it's so important to have a diversity of information and magazines and books -- to let people know the whole range of opinion and that the corporate media is not the only place where you can get information. In fact, too often it is misinformation. It is obscuring the truth.

But on November 12, 1991, as we followed the procession to the cemetery, we asked people, "Why are you risking your life?" We knew how many Timorese had been killed up to that point. After they had been closed to the outside world, the population was being killed. All said the same thing. For my

father. For my mother. For my village that had been wiped off the face of the earth. As they walked, they said they were willing to risk their lives.

When we got to the cemetery, we saw with the thousands of Timorese there the Indonesian military with their US M-16's in the ready position. The soldiers marched up. The people were hemmed in by the cemetery walls, they couldn't get away, though there were thousands of them. Allan and I walked to the front of the crowd and took all of our equipment that we'd always hidden so Timorese would not be picked up if they were caught talking to us. Now we wanted to let the military know who we were: journalists who would get word out about what was happening. I put on my headphones and put out my microphone and Allan put the camera above his head. The soldiers walked up, ten to twelve abreast and, without warning, without hesitation, without provocation they simply opened fire on the crowd, gunning people down from right to left. The first to go down was a little boy behind us with his hands up in the "V" sign. He just exploded from the gunfire and they just kept on shooting. The Indonesian soldiers, a group of them, took me and threw me to the ground and started beating me up. They threw my microphone in my face as if to say, this is what we don't want. Allan took a picture of the soldiers opening fire and threw himself on top of me to protect me from further injury. The soldiers took their M-16's, turned them around, and they slammed his head with the butts of their rifles until they fractured his skull. The Timorese were all dying around us and they put the guns to our heads, the Indonesian military, and they shouted, "Politique," because for them even to witness them was political. They asked if we were from Australia - Australia, because years before, when Indonesia first invaded, there were six reporters from around the world, mainly from Australia. They lined five of them up against a house and they executed them all. The sixth, Roger East reporting for the world, for Reuters, the news wires, was in a radio station and he shouted out, "I'm from Australia" and they shot him into the harbor. This was 1975. This was 1991. As they put the guns to our heads, were we from Australia? They stripped us of everything. The only thing I had left was my passport. I threw it to them. They'd punch me in the stomach and when I regained my breath I said "America." At some point, they took the guns from our heads because they knew we were from the same country their weapons were from. They would have to pay a price for killing us that they would never have had never had to pay for killing the Timorese. And so they took the guns from our heads. A Red Cross Jeep pulled up, we got into it, and the Red Cross driver

picked up an old man who they dragged into a sewer ditch behind us. As he put up his hands in the prayer sign, the Indonesian military took the butts of their rifles and smashed in his face. They picked up us and dozens of Timorese piled on and we drove as a human mass to the hospital.

I'll just end with this thought. When we got to the hospital, the doctors and nurses who saw us, who were operating on the lucky Timorese, those who had been shot but were not yet dead -- the Indonesian military killed more than 250 Timorese on that day, preventing first aid workers or religious people from coming in and helping people -- when the doctors and nurses saw us, they started to cry. Not because we were in worse shape, but because of what Americans represent. And it's not only in East Timor. It's all over the world. They see us in two ways. They see us as the sword and the shield. The sword, because we provide so many of the weapons that kill their own people. In Timor, in Guatemala, in Nigeria, in El Salvador, in Vietnam, in Chile. That's the American government. They see Americans also as the shield. They see us as the ones who can accomplish so much more with just a phone call to a Congress member than they can as they march in the streets and get gunned down. They know what it means for us to be from the most powerful country on earth, and they look to us. On that day, they saw that shield bloodied and they just felt that they had no hope.

We got out of the country then and came back to the United States, in tremendous horror and grief of what had happened, to alert the world, knowing that we could not stop the killing there but were able to come back in the United States to talk about what had happened and to spend the next years of our lives continuing to tell the story to stop the killing of the Timorese. There was a bipartisan consensus because of human rights groups and church groups and library groups all over the country that were calling their Congress members, Republicans and Democrats, saying "Stop providing the weapons to these military terror regimes like Indonesia." Those voices were heard, thousands of them, and so finally the military, the U.S. government, said they would no longer support the Indonesian military. In 1999, the Timorese got a chance to vote for their freedom, but not before, I should say, the Indonesian military, as they were voting, burned their country to the ground in a sadistic good-bye operation.

On May 20, Allan and I had the incredible opportunity to return to Timor for the celebration of independence. On May 19 at midnight, more than a hundred thousand Timorese stood before the podium. You could see their tears from the light of the fireworks. The people looked up, this nation of survivors, as the flag of the Democratic Republic of East Timor was raised.

The lesson I came away with, and that I think that you as librarians and people in whatever profession they're in in this country, understand, is that each day what we have to do is make a decision as we are on the verge of war. We can make a difference, as Margaret Mead said. Yes, know when people ask, "Can a small group of people make a difference?" that in fact, nothing else ever has. We can make a difference. We have to know that every minute, every hour, every day of our lives we have to make the decision of whether we want to be the sword or the shield. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

ALA PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM
2003 ALA MIDWINTER MEETING
Sunday, January 26, 2003, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Q: >> First of all I want to thank you and congratulate you for your work and say how happy I am that you're here today with us.

There's an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* this week on professional organizations and especially university Senates and cities and other organizations that are voting resolutions against the U.S. going to war in Iraq. Actually we've been bombing Iraq for a long time, but not having a full-scale war against Iraq.

The ALA Council, that's the governing body of ALA, will be looking at resolutions at this meeting talking about the need to do something about the USA PATRIOT Act, whether we should try to repeal certain sections, or just sort of change some of those sections, and also a resolution against the U.S. going to war in Iraq.

I was wondering if you can give some advice to us on whether you think that this is an appropriate thing for professional organizations to do. I certainly think it is; however, I think some of the Council members may need to hear more opinions on that. Thanks very much.

>> AMY GOODMAN: Yes, it's very important now. More than thirty city councils have come out against the USA PATRIOT Act as well as passed anti-war resolutions. All sorts of organizations are coming out. I was thinking of a name you could have as a group. Either the American Library Association overall or you could have LAW, Librarians Against War, and then you could have gay librarians, OUTLAW. Anyway, I think it's very important when professional organizations, especially ones who stand for freedom of information like librarians, that you would have a very powerful effect and it would be a real precedent for other powerful organizations.

By the way, I also thought of what a great campaign you would have as librarians. We did speak to some members of the ALA on Democracy Now. I think it was the June 25, 2002, show at democracynow.org where we talked about

librarians and the USA PATRIOT Act and learning about how the circulation software, if you pay your fines and get your books in on time, that your names can be deleted from the database. And the idea that the ALA is encouraging there not be a paper trail, so that if you have to hand over information you have very little information to hand over. But I thought it would be a great campaign to have, you know, "Get your library books back on time or else." So just think about that.

(Laughter.)

But I do think it is extremely important for ALA to take a stand.

Q: >> I live in Fresno. I listen to you on KCAF. We're one of the stations that aired your show through the whole blockade that Pacifica Board had on your show around September 11, actually.

>> AMY GOODMAN: Yes, KCAF made it possible.

Q: >> So I commend you for the work you do and I'm very thankful for the type of journalism that you provide. I often have people ask me where to get information about what's happening other than the CNN's and the local newspaper. It's a nice opportunity to be able to share with them the show that you have, as well as Dennis' show and several other shows on Pacifica. I wanted to mention what you talked about, something that we can do that takes action, talking to our legislators. As we do in the libraries, we often have a Legislative Day where we go and talk about libraries. Moveon.org did a great promotional piece where they talked to legislators about the possible war on Iraq. I went to that and met with nine other people that I did not know from the Fresno community that were opposed to the war. They were people just like neighbors and people that I didn't expect to see. And when people, I think, receive the information such as the USA PATRIOT Act and actually realize what may be happening, they do stand up and they do talk to the people. When you have that opportunity to talk to legislators, they do listen if enough of us will go and talk to them. Legislators listen to pressure and if enough of us go I think we can pressure them. That's one comment.

The second comment is, in the library I'm responsible for displays. I work in a community college and it's a lot of fun because, well, I'm sort of left of the left so I'm sort of cautious of what I do. But after the USA PATRIOT Act came out one of my colleagues came up to me with a letter from the newspaper

and she was outraged. She put up a display in ten minutes about the USA PATRIOT Act, about what's happening here. Again, no question, really, other than sharing with you and agreeing with you on the part about speaking to your legislators. Thank you.

Q: >> I'm not speaking for the University of South Florida, although I work there. I listen to you on WFMT in Tampa. I wanted to relate a story that takes us away from the global picture that you paint so well for us every day and tell you about something terrible that has happened in the state of Florida. Florida, as you well know, is Ground Zero for the election which ended up to be an appointment of a President. Immediately after that, the Secretary of State, who is Katherine Harris, who was also in charge of the state library, in an effort to curry favor amongst people of color, appointed Charlie Ward to be the spokesman for Born to Read. Charlie Ward was a famous Florida athlete who had also made anti-Semitic remarks. The State Library of Florida was requested to not use him as a spokesman. No response was given from the state library officials or from Katherine Harris' office. Mr. Ward continued to be the poster person for Born to Read.

As you pointed out, the election was -- a purge was never rectified and it wasn't rectified for the most recent election. Jeb Bush was reelected. Again, reelected using an improper list. A few days after his inauguration, he released his budget and last Tuesday he announced that he was eliminating the State Library of Florida.

So the bottom line here is, speaking up against them is the only thing you can do because if you say nothing, they will still destroy freedom. We're going to fight now to keep our state library, but they waited until he was reelected. I thank you for being there and we listen to you every day.

(Applause.)

Q: >> Amy, my name is Stanley Epstein. I'll be very brief. I spent many years training speakers on a national and state level and I've been coming to ALA conferences for more than a decade. Yours was the best speech I ever heard.

(Applause.)

>> AMY GOODMAN: Thank you.

Q: >> And my question is this. Shortly after 9/11, the *Village Voice* estimated that at least 1,000 union members were killed on that day. To your knowledge, are any unions trying to put up some commemoration? Are any unions suggesting that there be some commemoration noting that a lot of working people perished on that day?

>> AMY GOODMAN: Maybe the best commemoration is unionists saying "no" to that kind of terror ever again. There are organizations around the country -- in New York it's the New York committee -- New York City Labor Against War who are now just actively organizing against war. There will be a major demonstration on February 15. Maybe it's that kind of living memorial to say we've got to stop this now. I don't know about an actual physical marker.

Q: >> Thank you.

>> AMY GOODMAN: Thanks. If it isn't the great librarian Ann Sparanese from North Engelwood, New Jersey, who helped to make sure that Michael Moore's book "Stupid White Men" would be published by threatening Harper Collins in organizing librarians to say, "If you don't publish this book after 9/11, you'd better watch out." Certainly even the most powerful publishing houses know the power of librarians and freedom of choice. So thank you, Ann.

Q: >> Well, thanks so much for being here, Amy. It's great seeing you today. I had a question about what's going on with the FCC. WBAI covered a whole day of hearings related to the fact that the FCC is reconsidering some rules that would make a conglomeration.

AMY GOODMAN: The FCC is considering relaxing the regulations around media ownership. At Columbia the other day a hearing was held where Michael Powell, along with the other commissioners, was forced to attend. He didn't want to. He's the head of the FCC and the son, yes, of Colin Powell. The impetus was the dissident commissioner Michael Copps and another commissioner, Jonathan Adelstein, two of the five who are opposed to the relaxation of the rules. Michael Powell is a huge proponent of total deregulation. He is also joined by ABC, NBC and CBS, who jointly filed a report right before the ending of the public comment period a few weeks ago saying they wanted a total end to the regulations around media ownership. That way, even in one community, one

owner, like Rupert Murdoch, can own all of the media. So it doesn't matter how many cable stations you have or how much Internet there is. It could all be controlled by one person or one owner.

Michael Powell's rationale is that now, with the Internet and other alternative ways to get information, it doesn't matter anymore. But as you well know, most people actually do not use or, I don't think, even the majority have easy access to the Internet in this country. That is not an alternative to having a diversity of voices. Some might think it's all one anyway now. But it isn't. There are just a few media moguls. But this would really put an end to all of the diversity, any diversity there is. It's something that people need to speak out against.

To Michael Powell's shock, a week ago, right before the hearing in New York, there was a Senate Commerce Committee hearing. He thought this would all go under the radar. But from Trent Lott to Barbara Boxer, they really pummeled him with questions about what is he doing and how uncontrolled this is. We now know in radio you have clear channel that owns 1200 stations around the country and people see the disaster that that is. In some communities there is no other voice. They really questioned him, forcing him to go to this -- what he didn't want to be, a hearing in New York. He's only holding one hearing, which is in Richmond, Virginia, but now there will be others around the country. It's very important that people weigh in and let the FCC know how you feel about this even further consolidation of media ownership.

Q: >> I think you're an American treasure. I think we need to protect you, too, libraries and librarians. Have you ever considered hiring librarians as bodyguards?

(Laughter.)

>> AMY GOODMAN: No, but one way to keep the coverage of grassroots movements around the world alive is to have the archive at your library. To make it available. One thing we have found with Democracy Now is that, first of all, it cuts across the board in terms of the political spectrum. People are interested. People are deeply concerned about corporate control. They're concerned about corporate invasions of privacy. I think that there is a movement in this country that is far greater than anyone realizes, and one of the things Democracy Now does is document it. Anyone who wants to have that

archive of Democracy Now programs, very rare, the only daily national program, both on video and audio, whatever DVD or CD or VHS that documents this movement day to day. It really inspires young people. It's great basis for kids writing papers and finding out sources, different kinds of sources, as well as for people to get just other kinds of media and links to thousands of organizations around the world, and news outlets that we continually refer to. So that's a great way to protect Democracy Now.

Q: >> Amy, I wanted to thank you for mentioning September 11, 1973. As a Latin-American librarian, I'm all too aware of the whole history of the United States with regard to other people's countries. I want to make a comment that the pain that we felt in our hearts on September 11, 2001, that pain was felt by other people in the world when they lost their children, as you so eloquently put it.

The other thing I want to bring up today is the Pacifica archives. I wanted to tell all my librarian friends that -- with the wonderful foresight that Pacifica founders and members had and the new Board, too -- that they have preserved wonderful sound recordings of dozens and dozens of very important moments in U.S. history.

>> AMY GOODMAN: Tens of thousands.

Q: >> Tens of thousands. And if you donate to Pacificaarchives.org, you can get these archives on CD. My point is they are starting a project to preserve these sound recordings and they need our support and expertise to help them to do it the right way with the right technology. I have volunteered to coordinate the effort through the Social Responsibilities Round Table. Any librarian that wants to help, we can join together on this. Also, if you want to just go and see what the project looks like, it's at Pacificaarchives.org. That's all. Thank you.

>> AMY GOODMAN: That's very important. For example, we have the largest Fanny Lou Hamer archives in the world. We have the early recordings of W.E.B. DuBois and Paul Robeson. Absolutely remarkable. In fact, sometimes when we play recordings of Dr. Martin Luther King, the King family calls up. They didn't know the recordings existed because Pacifica reporters were on the ground way back recording. You know, Dr. King didn't only speak before a

quarter of a million people. He went to visit Joan Baez in the prison when she was in jail with her mother protesting the war. There were a couple dozen people out on a rainy day and there was the Pacifica reporter with his tape recorder and that recording of the speech he gave to twelve people is in the archive. We have stuff that nobody else has that you could make use of in your library, so thank you very much for mentioning that. Pacificaarchives.org needs all of your support.

Q: >> Hi. I'm Ann Lorinson from Boston, Massachusetts and I have a question. Amy, why are you so rare? Why are there so few independent reporters in this country and what can we do about it?

>> AMY GOODMAN: It's so important. I mean, Democracy Now should be run-of-the-mill. We have so few resources to cover the world and yet here we are. You know, often it's just making a phone call. You saw in the video the phone call about Ms. Sarada who died in Ramallah. What did it take? It took a phone call to her father to get the story. The mainstream media has so many more resources and yet they make us unique because they are so busy just giving the official line and putting retired generals on the payroll. Yes, I've had many opportunities to speak with the mainstream reporters, like Frank Cesno, the Vice President of CNN. I went up to him at an awards ceremony and I asked him about the policy of putting retired generals on the payroll. They can get the Pentagon view for free. Why not put some peace activists on the payroll or just invite them in to say something? And he said, "No, we have considered that but we have rejected it." I said, "Oh, really." He said, "Because generals are analysts and peace activists are advocates." Generals are analysts and peace activists are advocates. I need an analyst to figure out that one.

But I said to him, "What about someone like Noam Chomsky?" And he said, "I don't know him personally." He was sitting with Richard Holbrooke. I'm not saying these people shouldn't be on. But the fact is the majority of people in this country, in fact, the majority of Republicans are opposed to war. Why aren't we seeing more than half of the coverage representing that point of view? The media has to be challenged and called and I hope you all do that. And then, you know, it will be a great day when we don't need -- well, no, I won't say that when we don't need Democracy Now. But democracy, now and forever, and everyone else should join.

Q: >> I'm sure you connect the conglomeratization of the media with cuts in the library because the two go hand in hand when you cut resources. I hope the independent media will start to make that connection more, because as our libraries get ravished by these budget cuts it really stops the flow of information. We're going to end up having one TV station, one publisher, and one newspaper and maybe no libraries.

>> **AMY GOODMAN:** Right. That is very, very important. I've always been very concerned about it. On the one hand, you have places like Barnes & Noble and Border's and they're becoming the libraries of communities. The problem is, you know, they're easy in letting people come and sit down but when there are no libraries left, I think there will be a lot more people kicked out of these bookstores. People don't even realize that the public spaces are being whittled away because of the private bookstores and these chains. We have to put a huge effort into making people realize because I don't think it's that hard. Everyone grew up with libraries. The fact that, as the person from Tampa just explained, the Federal library has been closed down with a million books in Florida and what it means for feeding local libraries. Hearing about Oakland -- that they're making a decision between closing down the branch libraries or all of them being open three days a week? I think there has to be a massive effort to also educate the mainstream media so that they start doing stories.

Also doing things like Frida Berrigan, the daughter of Philip Berrigan. She is at the New School in New York and she did an analysis of the cost of war. We always hear it just as there is no choice, you know, what's the cost of not going? What is really the cost of going to war? It's between \$100 and \$200 billion. It was Bush's top financial advisor who put out that information -- Lawrence Lindsey, who was thrown out after he said that. And then the new guy came in and said it's 60 billion, never telling us what that revised figure was based on. Frida did an analysis of what that costs. One second of war is the cost of one child going to New York public schools for a year. And then she did it based on an hour, based on eight hours, and it's either the hour or eight hours that's the entire New York library budget for a year. This is the cost of war.

(Applause.)

Q: >> I'm from Seattle, Washington and I have two things for you. One, I don't know if you can see this from the stage, but this blue triangle is our solidarity badge with immigrants we're wearing around Seattle. They're being rounded up there.

>> **AMY GOODMAN:** We just moved in on Labor Day. We're on KCBS and public access TV, scan TV. I want to say that anyone can get us on your public access TV station. Every day live or on your PBS station. You can just call and say you want it or on your NPR station or community radio station. It just takes the call and being an organizer in your community. I hope you all filled out the e-mail addresses so we can continue to reach you. But, yes, go ahead.

Q: >> The other thing is, I'm chair of the state Social Responsibilities Round Table in the Washington State Library Association. In that capacity, I go to the British Columbia Library Association across the border in Canada. We're going to Toronto in six months. I've heard a lot of this from the Canadians so I hope everyone here will talk with our Canadian colleagues and how they see the American media and the effect on Canada and the rest of the world as well. Thanks.

>> **AMY GOODMAN:** Thank you.

>> **PRES. MITCH FREEDMAN:** On behalf of the American Library Association I thank you for coming to the President's Program. I want to thank Amy Goodman. If you'd give her one more round of applause, please.

(Applause.)

Amy's going to say one thing more but first I want to give her a Save America's Libraries button.

(Applause.)

Fair pay for library workers.

(Applause.)

And my official campaign button for my presidential initiatives, Better Salaries For Library Workers. I want you to know that Amy Goodman declined to take any honorarium for this.

(Applause.)

So buy those coffee mugs and caps and keep sending in for the fund drive. Give and give and give for the fund drive.

>> AMY GOODMAN: If anyone has had experience with anyone from the federal government approaching them, I'll be at the reception if you want to mosey over and talk to me on or off the record. I'd love to talk to you about that and your experiences in general, not only on that issue but what it means to be a librarian in a time of war. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> PRES. MITCH FREEDMAN: Everyone, you are welcome at the reception. You can talk to Amy there.

(End of President's Program.)

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