

Letters to The Editor

Shall Our Library be Abolished?

Washington, Mo.
June 13, 1967

To the Editor:

You are to be commended for your recent discussion on of the disadvantages of Washington's giving up its library and joining the Scenic Regional Library.

On more than one occasion in the past several years proposals have been made by advocates of a regional system that the Washington Public Library become a part of the Scenic Regional Library, which has its headquarters in Union.

Such a plan, if adopted, would deprive the Washington Public Library of its independent status of long standing and would take away from Washington its right to select its staff, to purchase books, and to carry on its activities as it has done for many years.

A regional plan may be necessary in small communities and towns, but Washington is certainly big enough and progressive enough to provide for the needs of the area that it has served for many years.

The Washington Public Library was established more than thirty-five years ago by local citizens deeply interested in obtaining public library facilities for Washington.

Many thousands of books have been added since then. The Washington library has the full time service of a competent and courteous librarian and two full time and two half time helpers.

By the rules of the Washington Public Library board every child or youth who attends one of the parochial or public schools in Washington is entitled to use the Washington Public Library without charge, whether or not he resides in Washington. Adults not residing in Washington are pri-

vileged to use the Washington library for the nominal charge of only fifty cents for a six-month period. This regulation makes it possible for citizens in the area to have access to books not available in the Regional library.

Each community should have the right to determine the type of organization best suited to meet its needs.

If we as citizens shirk our responsibilities and turn over to a regional government all the things we are capable of handling ourselves, we will have only ourselves to blame, if through our own neglect our rights as citizens deteriorate and are lost.

The Washington Public Library has been built-up over a period of many years. Shall we allow it to be ablated by ending its long period of community service?

The correct answer to this question appears to be obvious.

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