

GOVERNMENT ROLE IN INFORMATION CHAIN THEME OF NEW ORLEANS MEETING MARCH 29-31

The theme of this important meeting, "Government's Role in the Information Transfer Chain," may not get its full play at the upcoming sessions in New Orleans due to severe government travel limitations now in effect.

Is this restriction that may keep some of the principal participants grounded in Washington indicative of impending developments in the government's role in the information chain? Are we seeing the start of a retrenchment and "rethink" of government policies toward all aspects of this traditionally far reaching role? Should we not gather to examine and discuss the impact of such policies?

When chosen as the theme of the meeting, the role of government in information production, distribution, and consumption was a strong reality. Now, under certain critical review and possible severe budgetary cutbacks, the further question of just how far back the government can cut without seriously disrupting the information chain begins to loom larger than the previously standard questions of government interference in private sector interests and its role as a supporter of information science research.

It makes the topics up for discussion in New Orleans even more important and timely than ever.

After a warm up reception and informal conversation time on Sunday evening, March 29, ASIDIC gets down to business at nine o'clock the next morning. To expedite the formal business meeting, President Dan Wilde has asked for written reports and very brief oral presentations by ASIDIC committees. The entire business session will take up only a half hour.

Toni Bearman, long time ASIDIC member with many years experience in government information activities, will give an overview of the issues that will be discussed during the program. She plans to give a brief historical perspective and then relate several case histories of government activities in information gathering, production, publishing, distribution, and consumption. "I'm not going to set a case for any point of view," says Bearman, "I plan to set the issues before the group using real examples."

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Following Bearman's presentation, a panel of information executives will take place for two hours. Included in the panel at this time (pending final travel permissions for government representatives), are the following persons: Kenneth Allen, Office of Management and Budget; Harry Allcock, IFI/Plenum Data Company; Marvin Wilson, National Technical Information Service; Robert Willard, Information Industry Association; Jay Young, Government Printing Office.

Following the panel discussion, a New Orleans Creole Luncheon will be served to all registrants.

The afternoon will be taken up in discussion groups. Each group will base its deliberations on the topics and issues raised during the morning presentations. Each group will report to the entire ASIDIC body the next morning between nine and ten o'clock.

The closing session will feature a general discussion with the panel speakers from the previous morning. Closing remarks will conclude the meeting by noon on Tuesday, March 31.

Hotel reservations must be made as soon as possible with the host hotel, the Monteleone (504) 523-3341. The formal deadline for room reservations at the favorable ASIDIC rate is scheduled to fall on March 8.

FERRERE HEADS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

COMMITTEE ACTIVE

Under the direction of a new chairman, Cathy Ferrere of Inspec, the ASIDIC Membership Committee has some ambitious plans for promoting affiliation with ASIDIC to candidate organizations throughout North America.

The new committee plan and membership will be announced during the New Orleans meeting. Chairman Ferrere, commenting on her own challenge, said, "The cooperation of all members of ASIDIC is needed in identifying prospective members. All members should try to bring an interested friend to the New Orleans meeting. Please send all names of

interested organizations to me for follow up."

PAYNE THROWS IN KEYBOARD AS FIVE YEAR TENURE ENDS

This is the last issue of the ASIDIC Newsletter that I will edit and produce. Having been the editor for five full years, it will seem a bit foreign to attend a meeting and not be concerned about getting speaker notes and business reports for the next issue.

The ASIDIC membership is pretty lethargic regarding the newsletter. The 1979 survey showed no great interest in using the publication for more than announcing and, more importantly, reporting on meetings. With the current financial reserves and strength of the organization, the newsletter could become anything the Executive Committee and membership desired. Suggestions of editorial changes have met with all the enthusiasm that greeted the bold idea of holding an ASIDIC meeting in Athens, Georgia, the site of the Secretariat.

This may be just as well. The strength of ASIDIC is in its volunteer nature. To expand the editorial thrust of the newsletter very far would require a degree of volunteerism that might be hard to generate.

I have enjoyed ASIDIC for many years. I'm not sure where it is headed. I have confidence that it will remain manageable, flexible, and will continue to be able to adapt itself to the issues of its constituency. That may be its greatest strength.

I have one last question: if we rejected Athens as a meeting site, could we reconsider Reykjavik?

ASIDIC

SPRING 1981 MEETING
MARCH 29 - 31, 1981

Monteleone Hotel
New Orleans

TITLE: "GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE INFORMATION TRANSFER CHAIN"

PROGRAM

Sunday, March 29, 1981

5:00PM - 6:00PM Registration
6:00PM - 8:00PM Reception

Monday, March 30, 1981

8:30AM - 9:00AM Registration, Coffee and Danish
9:00AM - 9:30AM ASIDIC Business Meeting
9:35AM - 10:00AM Toni Bearman, NCLIS - Overview of Issues
10:00AM - 10:15AM Coffee Break
10:15AM - 12:15PM Panel Speakers:
Kenneth Allen, Office of Management and Budget
Harry Allcock, IFI/Plenum Data Company
Marvin Wilson, National Technical Information Service
Robert Willard, Information Industry Association
Jay Young, Government Printing Office
12:15PM - 1:30PM ASIDIC "Creole" Lunch
1:30PM - 4:30PM Discussion Groups
5:30PM - 7:30PM Social Hour with a New Orleans Jazz Band

Tuesday, March 31, 1981

8:30AM - 9:00AM Coffee and Danish
9:00AM - 10:00AM Discussion Group Reports
10:00AM - 10:15AM Coffee Break
10:15AM - 11:30AM General Session with Panel Speakers
11:30AM - 12:00Noon Closing Remarks

.. TO REGISTER

Complete this registration form and mail to:

Ms. Jeanette Webb
ASIDIC Secretariat
P.O. Box 8105
Athens, GA 30603

..REGISTRATION FEE

\$60.00 (U.S.) - Members

\$70.00 (U.S.) - Non-Members

Registration deadline is

March 1, 1981.

Add \$10.00 (U.S.) for late

registration

Fees will not be returned
without prior notification
from registrant.

..HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Monteleone is holding a
block of rooms until March 8, 1981.
Accommodations after this date
are not guaranteed, so reserve
early.

Hotel Rates are:

Single Room for one:
\$55.00 & \$65.00

Double Room for two:

is enclosed for your convenience

ASIDIC

SPRING MEETING
MARCH 29 - 31, 1981

ASSOCIATION OF INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION CENTERS

"GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE INFORMATION TRANSFER CHAIN"

The Monteleone Hotel
214 Rue Royale
New Orleans, LA 70140
Tel. (504) 523-3341

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Area Code _____ Number _____

I enclose my check for \$ _____ (in U.S. Dollars).

CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO ASIDIC

Your Hosts: The University of Georgia, Athens, GA.