

Feb. 28, 1966
(Cont.)

After noting that the Activities Committee was unable to set up displays at the various schools, but would supply the schools with posters for National Library Week, the meeting was adjourned at eleven o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Elinore Wright, Secretary

Building
Comm
Report
Feb. 28, 1966

At the Annual Meeting on May 22nd, I reported the good news that official approval of our application for a \$44,300.00 grant toward the erection of the new Young People's Wing had been received from Washington only two days before the meeting.

Prior to that time, as it will be remembered, Mr. Carl F. Johnson of Pawtucket had been commissioned as our architect, and blueprints and specifications to accompany our application for governmental aid had been drawn up by his junior partner, Mr. Irving Haynes. In the long interval of waiting for official approval to come through, the Building Committee made a careful study of these plans, at least four of their sessions being in consultation with Mr. Haynes. And last May, on May 10th to be exact, our directives in the form of a six-page list of revisions, was sent him. Bids for the erection of the new wing were called for in July. The contract was awarded the H. M. Soule Company of Pawtucket as the lowest bidder, and ground was broken on August 9th. It seemed that clear sailing lay ahead.

Mr. Johnson, however, continued to leave the project in the hands of his junior partner and, as work progressed, it began to appear that there were discrepancies in the latter's work. Items which we had stipulated were omitted. The drawings handed the contractor were inaccurate or incomplete. Features we had not expected, and were not consulted about, confronted us. Finally, it became evident that he either was not focusing his mind upon the job, or that he was suffering from some form of nervous breakdown. For instance, to cite only one or two examples, he failed to provide sound-proofing for the floor in the Children's Room, although that had been definitely stipulated. And in planning the exterior, he failed to take into account the slope of the land. Consequently, although the original building rides seemingly close to the ground, the foundation for the new wing seems to rise higher and higher toward the west. These defects, however, can be partially corrected by installing in the Children's Room a