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### Contemporary Social Problems

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#### Citation Information

Georgia Briscoe, *Contemporary Social Problems*, 16 AALL NEWSL. 42 (1984), available at <https://scholar.law.colorado.edu/faculty-articles/1040>.

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Georgia Briscoe, Contemporary Social Problems, 16 AALL  
Newsl. 42, 42 (1984-1985)

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## contemporary social problems

### CONCERNED



#### TIME FOR ACTION

Georgia Briscoe, University of San Diego Law Library

"The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." Einstein said this in 1946. Today we know what "unparalleled catastrophe" would mean for life on this planet. Research by both American and Soviet scientists on the climatic effects of nuclear war predicts the nuclear winter which would very likely end human life, even if only a small percentage of the global nuclear arsenals were exploded.

Law librarians must protest the madness of the arms race. Other professions have taken a stand ahead of us: PSR/Physicians for Social Responsibility, AMA, LANAC/Lawyers Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control, Educators for Social Responsibility, Union of Concerned Scientists, American Academy of Religion. Librarians for Nuclear Arms Control (LNAC) have led the nuclear freeze resolution through state library associations in California, Minnesota and Washington. In addition, most of America's major religious denominations have made the nuclear arms race their primary concern in public policy.

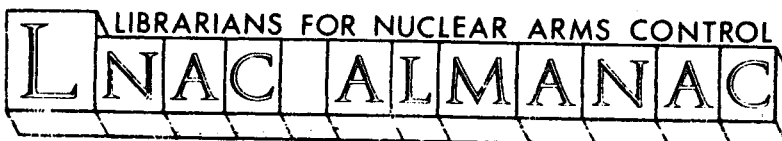
Law librarians have a special responsibility to work for the legal protection of the human right to live free from the fear of mass annihilation. Law librarians can and should access and disseminate knowledge on crucial issues. The public relies on our expertise to make informed decisions. Only when law librarians speak out and show the resolve to take decisions vital to the future of life will our concern be evident. AALL should join the crescendo of American voices in opposition to the escalation of the nuclear arms race.

The large number of Americans who recognize the danger of the arms race and embrace the idea that it must stop make it clear that the United States government no longer represents the will of the American people. Recent opinion polls have shown an overwhelming majority of Americans opposed to a nuclear arms buildup, yet the present administration pursues the most terrifying nuclear arms buildup in history. During the past four decades the defense budget has doubled with each decade. The 1983 defense budget is more than 100 percent over what it was a decade ago. The Pentagon Plans to spend one billion dollars a day over the next five years.

# special interest sections

As librarians we constitute a respected and influential segment of our society. We are charged with the preservation of our shared cultural and intellectual heritage. We must use our resources and professional skills to inform the public about the dangers of nuclear weapons. The passage of a resolution by our organization will show our concern for our planet, have an impact on our legislators and give evidence that we believe our libraries are valuable and must be protected from nuclear destruction. A portion of the proposed resolution for action by chapters of AALL to be led by members of the Contemporary Social Problems Special Interest Section is here presented. If chapters pass this or similar resolutions, we should prepare to have a resolution passed at the 1985 annual convention.

Resolve, That the American Association of Law Libraries calls upon the United States and the Soviet Union to halt the manufacture, testing and development of nuclear weapons and to schedule an immediate summit conference to initiate prevention of a nuclear holocaust.



P. O. Box 1496 Santa Monica, CA 90406

### Librarians for Nuclear Arms Control (LNAC)

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