

Even voluntary helpers are beginning to express their concern at the lack of a progressive policy and many would welcome a lead from the Council as the City's library authority. The first step should be the provision of a bookmobile to serve the many areas of the City which are at present unserved. This proposal has already received the blessing of the Suburban Libraries' Association and should be proceeded with before any further capital expenditure on suburban library buildings is contemplated. The cost of a bookmobile is estimated to be \$20,000.

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The provision of mobile service cannot be divorced from the broader question of improvements in suburban service generally. Until now Council has left the initiative mainly to the voluntary committees of the eighteen suburban libraries. They have done a magnificent job in terms of devotion to duty but have a limited concept of modern library service and lack the incentive or the knowledge to institute changes. Council should now take the lead in providing services of a reasonable standard throughout its territory and the City's Development Plan provides a framework on which satisfactory, economical library service can be built. It is recommended that Council should adopt in principle the proposal to develop a two-tiered suburban library system based on the Development Plan concept of five district commercial centres. Whilst it would take some years to implement, the adoption of such a policy would establish future priorities and eliminate the haphazard and inadequate development which has been the pattern in the past.

The adoption of the above proposals would help to restore the City's library services to the position of relativity they had amongst other Council departments in 1959 and would bring libraries into relationship with the City's over-all development plan. Above all their implementation would eventually produce an adequate, economical service covering the whole City - the type of service which citizens have a right to expect and which is an accepted part of city amenities in other centres.

(Sgd) J.E.D. Stringleman,
CITY LIBRARIAN

CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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