

Appendix F.—Public Sector/Private Sector Task Force of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science: Principles and Recommendations

The principles and recommendations of the Public Sector/Private Sector Task Force of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science presented below were drawn from the 1981 task force report, *Public Sector/Private Sector Interaction in Providing Information Services* (97).

Governmental Leadership

Principle I.—The Federal Government should take a leadership role in creating a framework that would facilitate the development and foster use of information products and services.

The recommendations related to this principle specify several areas in which Government can provide leadership: enhancing the competitive forces of the market-place; affirming the application of the first amendment; providing legislative consistency; using efficient technologies; supporting education, research, and data collection in this field.

Recommendation No. 1. —Provide an environment that will enhance the competitive forces of the private sector, so that the market mechanisms can be effective in allocating resources in the use of information and in directing innovation into market-determined areas.

Recommendation No. 2. —Affirm the applicability of the first amendment to information and services.

Recommendation No. 3. —Encourage Congress to be consistent in the language used and in the application of principles relating to information products and services, such as those identified in this report, when it formulates legislation and when it exercises its oversight role.

Recommendation No. 4. —Encourage Government agencies to utilize the most efficient (information) technologies.

Recommendation No. 5. —Encourage the setting and use of voluntary standards that will not inhibit the further development of innovative information products and services.

Recommendation No. 6. —Encourage and support educational programs that provide the professional skills needed to further the development and use of information as an economic and social resource.

Recommendation No. 7. —Encourage and support both basic and applied research in library and information science.

Recommendation No. 8. —Encourage and support statistical programs and related research to provide the data needed to deal with information policy issues.

Recommendation No. 9. —Conduct a periodic economic assessment of the impact of Federal Government information products and services.

Recommendation No. 10. —Encourage Federal agencies to regard the dissemination of information, especially through the mechanisms of the private sector (both for profit and not for profit), as a high-priority responsibility.

Recommendation No. 11. —Identify and evaluate alternatives to existing Federal information dissemination mechanisms.

Recommendation No. 12. —Develop and support the use of libraries as active means for access to governmental information by the public.

Encouraging Private Sector Investment

Principle 2.—The Federal Government should establish and enforce policies and procedures that encourage, and do not discourage, investment by the private sector in the development and use of information products and services.

Six recommendations are presented as means for implementing this principle. They relate to encouragement of new development, reducing uncertainties, and reducing risks.

Recommendation No. 13. —Identify and eliminate legal and regulatory barriers to the introduction of new information products and services.

Recommendation No. 14. —Encourage private enterprise to “add value” to Government information (i.e., to repackage it, provide further processing services, and otherwise enhance the information so that it can be sold at a profit).

Recommendation No. 15. —Provide incentives to existing organizations, such as libraries and bookstores, that will encourage them to expand their activities in dissemination of governmentally distributable information.

Recommendation No. 16. —Establish procedures that will create a realistic opportunity for private sector involvement in the planning process for Government information activities.

Recommendation No. 17. —Involve the private sector in the process of formulating standards relating to Federal information activities.

Recommendation No. 18. —Create or improve mechanisms for ensuring that the actions of Government agencies, in developing information resources, products, and services, are consistent with the policies, goals, and long-range plans that are announced.

Government in the Marketplace

Principle 3.—The Federal Government should not provide information products and services in commerce except when there are compelling reasons to do so, and then only when it protects the private sector's every opportunity to assume the function(s) commercially.

The related recommendations are to be considered as integral parts of this principle, since they embody the procedures for determining that there indeed are "compelling reasons" for the Government to provide services in commerce:

Recommendation No. 19. —Announce plans sufficiently ahead of time to provide an opportunity for private sector involvement when a Government agency, for reasons it regards as compelling, should plan to develop and/or to market an information product or service.

Recommendation No. 20. —Review and approve, before implementation, any plans for the Government to develop and/or market an information product or service, the review to be carried out by an agency appropriate to the branch of Government (such as the Office of Management and Budget, General Accounting Office, Congressional Budget Office).

Recommendation No. 21. —Include an "information impact and cost analysis" as part of the process of review, evaluation, and approval of any plans for the Government to develop and/or to market an information product or service, the analysis to cover economic and social effects on potential private sector products and services, and benefits to the public.

Recommendation No. 22. —Review periodically to evaluate the desirability of a continuation of any information product or service as a governmental activity.

Recommendation No. 23. —Do not arbitrarily restrict the Federal Government from enhancement of information products and services, even if solely to meet the needs of constituencies outside the Government itself.

Government Use of Private Sector Information

Principle 4.—The Federal Government, when it uses, reproduces, or distributes information available

from the private sector as part of an information resource, product, or service, must assure that the property rights of the private sector sources are adequately protected.

Availability of Government Information

Principle 5.—The Federal Government should make governmentally distributable information openly available in readily reproducible form, without any constraints on subsequent use.

Recommendation No. 24. —Announce the availability of governmentally distributable information and maintain one or more registers to help the public determine what governmentally distributable information is available.

Recommendation No. 25. —Deposit governmentally distributable information, in whatever form it may be available, at national and regional centers, including regional depository libraries, where it may be examined at no charge.

Recommendation No. 26. —Do not assert any Federal Government copyrights on information the Federal Government makes domestically available.

Pricing of Government Information

Principle 6.—The Federal Government should set pricing policies for distributing information products and services that reflect the true cost of access and/or reproduction, any specific prices to be subject to review by an independent authority.

Use of Private Sector Dissemination Means

Principle 7.—The Federal Government should actively use existing mechanisms, such as the libraries of the country, as primary channels for making governmentally distributable information available to the public.

Recommendation No. 27. —Use the Nation's libraries and nongovernmental information centers as means for distribution of governmentally distributable information instead of creating new governmental units or expanding existing ones.