It is encouraging to find among the major recommendations of the Rivlin report under “Improving the Quality of Higher Education,” a mention of libraries, as follows:

“While it is difficult to define ‘quality’ precisely in higher education, it is clear that increasing the effectiveness of the higher education offered to students necessitates increasing the resources available to institutions to attract qualified faculty and to improve facilities, libraries, and teaching methods.”

Congressman Reid’s comments on HR 6535 include a reference to another recommendation in the Rivlin report which would direct the Commissioner of Education “to make a study of the desirability of legislation consolidating various categorical programs of support for higher education.” The full text of that recommendation from the report is not included in the Congressional Record, but is quoted below because of its possible future implications for academic libraries.

“Over the next several years, categorical aid programs related to specific items should be consolidated whenever possible and the definition of categories should be broadened.

“Specifically, an institutional block grant program is recommended that would provide institutions with funds for any or all of the following purposes:

—Construction, renovation, and rental of any type of facility
—Establishment and improvement of library resources
—Acquisition of instructional equipment
—Funds for planning and evaluation of the functions and operations of the institution

“This program should have a liberal Federal share of at least 50 percent, and adequate maintenance of effort provision, and should replace a series of existing categorical programs in the Office of Education. . . .”

Another issue of the Congressional Record of particular interest for community college librarians is the one for February 17, 1969, pp. S 1554-S 1558. On that day Senator Williams of New Jersey introduced the Comprehensive Community College Act of 1969, S 1033. The proportion of Title II-A (HEA) funds for college library resources distributed to community college libraries is noted in the Senator’s comments.