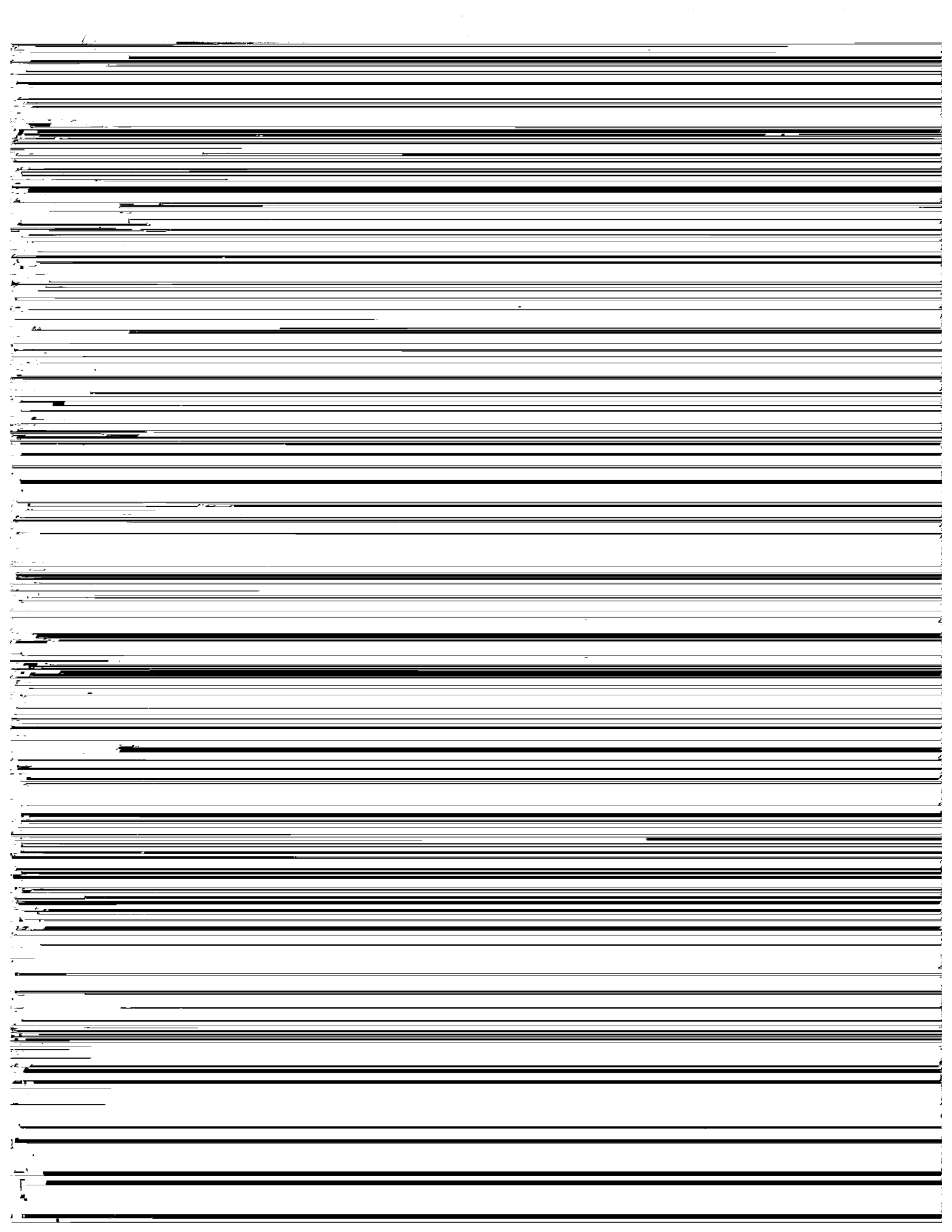


PLAN 7 0 1 7

5 2

The Four Realities

The way in which our American public schools are educating young people for a life of social and technological change is the focus of reports, recommendations, debate, political discussion, and public concern. In 1983, the National Commission on Excellence in Education reported its assessment and recommendations in the publication *A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform*. The 1984 political campaigns show that this



preschool, and other community agencies) is important for the prevention of deficiencies in school and beyond. Libraries contribute to preschool learning in two ways: through the services, programs, and materials that help parents increase their skills and capabilities, and through programs that serve children directly.

Library service to parents and day care staff supports preschool learning in a variety of ways. Libraries provide books for adults to read aloud to children. Groups of children in child care and day care centers and in public libraries listen to stories and act them out. Children borrow books and records from libraries. Toddler programs that bring very small children and their parents to the library together provide a basis for later, more inde-

A Nation at Risk points out the limitations of textbooks. Well-stocked school libraries should have a variety of materials for students of all



[The remainder of the page is obscured by dense horizontal black lines, likely representing a corrupted scan or a redacted document.]

Through access to the ideas of the past and present, we gain the perspective essential for innovation. Inherent in the creation of all new knowledge, and its application, is the existence of a mechanism to collect, sift, organize, and distribute the products of a learning society. The mechanism that best responds to this need is the library. The library, therefore, must be free from restrictions which interfere with access to information.

New technology offers new formats for information and new ways of delivering information. Individuals must be technologically literate to participate fully in a learning society. *A Nation at Risk* states that twenty-three million American adults are functionally illiterate. For millions of Americans who have been left out or pushed out of formal education, the public library offers an optional, informal route to advancement. The library provides materials and programs that deal with both practical and cultural concerns, ranging from health information to modern philosophy. Literacy programs, materials

To enable librari

- Fund public and have the all ages and disabilities r
- Ensure that without viol
- Expand sup
- Appropriate private sect academic, a programs of
- Expand sup nursing hon

To enable libraries to respond to these needs, public officials should:

- Fund public libraries so they can be accessible to all.



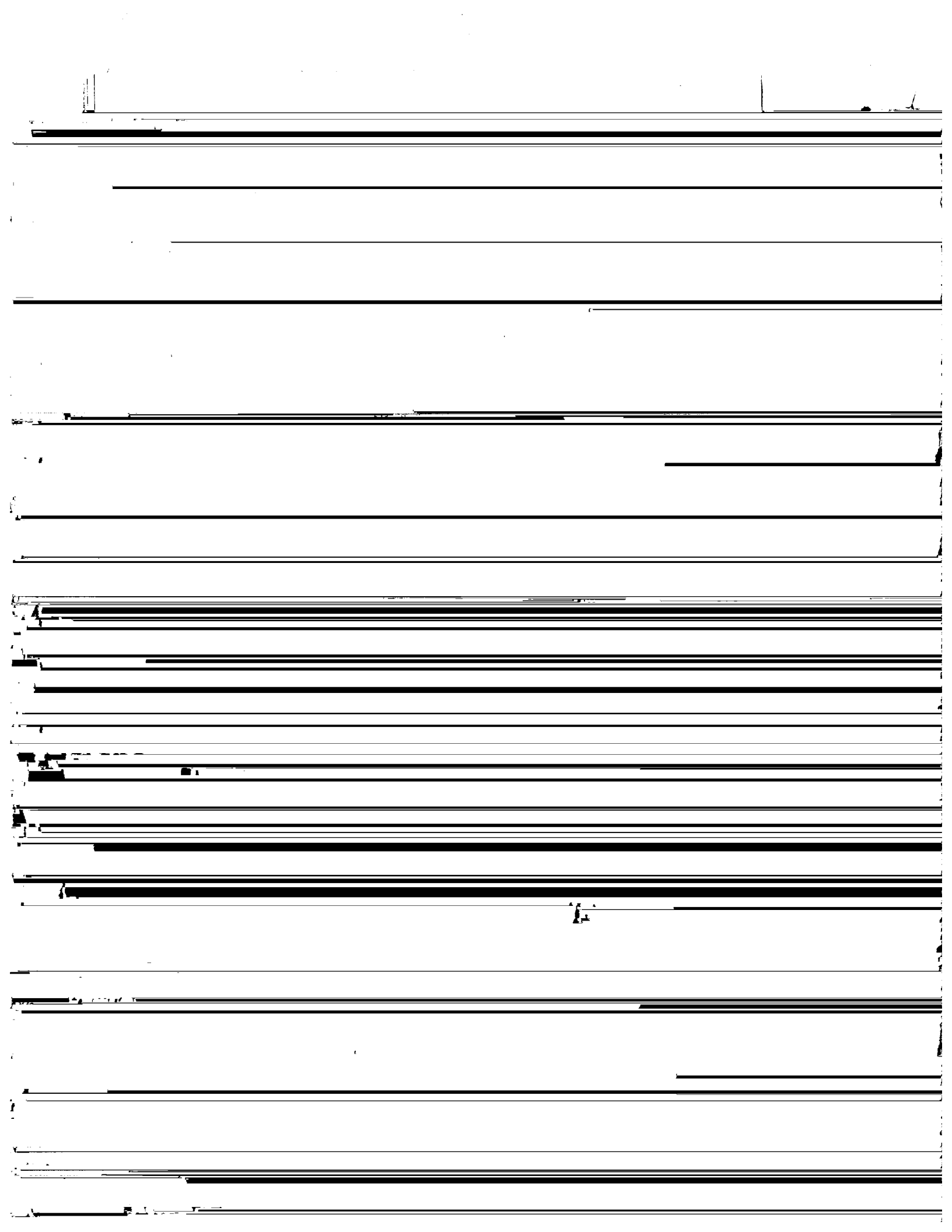
Reality #4: Public Support of Libraries

To ensure that libraries:

- **Appropriate funds and community support as well as to**
- **Demand excellen**

To ensure that libraries serve us all effectively, public officials should:

- **Appropriate funds for library services targeted toward individual and community needs for job information, literacy, and development as well as toward more general needs of library users.**
- **Demand excellence in their academic institution, public school.**



Prepared by the American Library Association
Task Force on Excellence in Education.

Joseph F. Shubert, Chair
New York State Librarian

i
s
a