Artists-in Schools Program (1974-1976): Correspondence 01

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Mr. President:

As Chairman of the conferees on H. R. 12838, as amended by our Senate bill S. 3440, I am in full support of the Conference Report on the reauthorization of the Arts and Humanities legislation.

We have had a lengthy conference. We have had to consider certain new provisions in the legislation very carefully.

Let me especially commend at this time my House colleagues who spent long hours with us on the development of this legislation. In particular, let me commend Representatives Carl D. Perkins, Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, John Brademas, Chairman of the Select Subcommittee on Education and Albert H. Quie, the ranking minority member.

I have taken great satisfaction in my chairmanship of the Senate Special Subcommittee on Arts and Humanities since its inception more than 12 years ago. Working with me through all these years is the real pioneer of legislation to support the arts in our country. Once again, his assistance and wisdom has proved of enormous value.
The legislation represents important new initiatives within the broad areas of the arts and the humanities.

Involved is a new program to assist our nation's museums. I have been working on this legislation for the past five years, and I am delighted that its purposes have at last been realized.

We have provided for both the Arts Endowment and the Humanities Endowment to undertake new challenge grant programs, so that the federal investment can be maximized and added, and much needed, non-federal support generated in response to more imaginative uses of the federal catalyst dollar. With respect to the Humanities, we have given emphasis to a challenge program which will focus on how best we can examine and renew our own democratic principles -- as we move forward from a bicentennial year to a more substantive application of the true meaning of this year of celebration to our nation's future. This broader view of the bicentennial and its meaning is particularly attributable to initiatives taken by Senator Javits.

I heartily applaud these initiatives and look forward to a full implementation of their purposes by the Humanities Endowment.

I am very pleased that this legislation also opens up new opportunities and challenges for the Humanities with respect to State programs. The example of how immensely beneficial to the development of the Arts have been the State Arts councils have served as an example to be followed. The legislation provides
new incentives to expand the Humanities programs in each of our States. It opens up new opportunities for a real partnership between Federal and State governments, with the purpose of giving the Humanities Endowment an opportunity to make a more vital contribution to American life.

I have been working for many years to bring the Humanities more into the mainstream of our democratic process and I am indeed pleased that we are working constructively toward such important goals.

Finally, let me emphasize that we have provided authorization for a special, bicentennial-related photographic and film project, so that we will have -- with full State involvement and their expressed enthusiasm -- a portrait of our country as we enter our third century. Such a portrait has not been made since the 1930's, some 40 years ago. Many months ago the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Mondale) suggested this project, which was developed through detailed hearings and a compromise agreement by the conferees.

Only modest funds are provided, but I believe they will produce excellent results. And I am pleased, too, that a Senate provision to place some emphasis on the values of the arts in education was -- again in modest measure -- retained.
We have come a long way with the Arts and Humanities program since 1965. Because of the present stringencies in budgeting, and because of our efforts to take fully into consideration those stringencies, the present bill provides in total no more for fiscal 1977 than is presently authorized. But this legislation looks toward the future and contains opportunities for both the arts and humanities programs to expand in future years.

In closing, let me commend the staff work which so helped with the progress and results of the conference. On our Senate side Livingston Riddle and Gregory Fusco worked well together, representing the bipartisan spirit which has been traditional to our deliberations of more than a decade, when Mr. Riddle first became involved with me in these endeavors, and helped draft the original bill. Special praise is due for Mr. Fusco, and for his ability to help us with two important conferences, this one and the one on the education legislation. These have been busy days for all of us. Greg Fusco has been a lion for hard, painstaking and excellent work.