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NEW YORK, NEW YORK
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Pell Trying to Oust Humanities Head

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 31—
Senator Claiborne Pell is trying to end the term of Dr. Ronald Berman as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Senator is chairman of the two-man subcommittee that oversees arts and humanities matters.

Dr. Berman, from New York, was first appointed to the Government agency created to further scholarships in the humanities in late 1971.

More than three months ago President Ford renominated him to another four-year term, but Senate confirmation is still pending.

A staff member of the Labor Public Welfare Committee said the panel's members were trying to reach agreement with Senator Pell, a Rhode Island Democrat, who is forcefully opposing the renomination.

Senator Pell has been at odds with Dr. Berman for years over a variety of issues. The point that is irksome to Senator Pell at the moment is Dr. Berman's opposition to the Senator's efforts to have the Governor of each state appoint a body of scholars to distribute the 20 percent of the humanities budget that goes directly to the states. Dr. Berman and his staff now select which programs are financed.

Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, the other member of the arts and humanities subcommittee, favors the renomination of Dr. Berman.