

1965

## National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities (1965-1967): Correspondence 02

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Oct 27, 1965

Senator...

On Tuesday afternoon, Isobel and I met for some two hours with Dr. Grace Glynn, Associate Commissioner of Education, and were joined toward the end of the discussion by Dr. <sup>all</sup> Frank Robinson, the Commissioner... I gave them considerable data on the Arts and Humanities Foundation, and we discussed the possibilities of the RI Repertory Theater project... I had been told by Kathryn Bloom, head of the Arts and Humanities branch of the US Office of Education in Wash., that she believed all Title III funds of the Primary and Secondary School Act (the ones most applicable ~~to~~ to a repertory theater project) had been already allocated by the RI education dept... This proved not to be the case, and it indicates that there is apt to be a lack of liaison in govt. circles... It turns out that Dr. Robinson is open-minded on how he will recommend to Washington the use of the Title III funds... RI gets \$488,000 under this Title and this money is already appropriated... I did not press Robinson for an actual committment on how much of this amount he would be willing to see go to the Rep. Theater project... He is not yet in a position to make recommendations to Washington, and has until Dec. 10 to do so... However, the applications for funds he submits will not have a priority listing... They will simply be applications for a number of projects in which RI is interested and would want to support. The final decision will rest with

Frank Keppel's office... This bears out what I wrote in a previous memo: that if RI does recommend the project in some form, the chances are very good that Keppel will approve, since the initiation came from Kathryn Bloom, who sent her man, Jack Morrison, to talk to the RI officials in the first place... (Morrison, you'll recall, has been also in consultation with Fogarty)...

The main point I wanted to establish with Drs. Glynn and Robinson was that they would support the Rep. Theater project, and could see it funded with a portion of the Title III funds... They might be willing to go along enthusiastically with as much as half of the \$488,000, but this remains speculative at present...

I think that originally they were given a false steer by Morrison, who seemed to have indicated to them that the Rep. Theater project would be funded from the US Office of Education with sums over and above the Title III allotment of \$488,000... I think even Kathryn Bloom may not have been fully informed on this, originally... In any event, there are no "discretionary funds" in Title III for use over and above the State allotments... This I have firmly checked out...

As a result of the above, I would recommend that we suggest to Frank O'Connor, who is to meet with us, that he gear his RI Rep. project around utilizing only a part of the Title III funds, with the remainder to come from *the community and from the new A+H Foundation.*

It would seem that the above procedure would be the best means of keeping the ball still in the air...

Confidential to you, and Isobel, I think there may be a possibility for the Rep. project outside of Title III of the Prim. and Secondary School Act -- but I would want to go into this further (it seems to me that Title IV, dealing with research projects in education and implying the possibility of pilot projects) before making any statements at all on this subject... It seems to ~~the~~ me that it is best to get a project on paper from RI, and then decide how best it can be funded and give them the guidelines to follow... If there is too much confusion over Titles at this point, I think the project could collapse or simply fall through the slats... and I can see a successful project of this kind helping you in the months ahead, and being an excellent example for you to use in the Campaign of why you were the chief Senate sponsor of the bill...

Thus, to date... the ball is still aloft...