

2016

Conservation: Hearings, Reports, Correspondence (1971-1973): Correspondence 01

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Recommended Citation

Biddle, Livingston, "Conservation: Hearings, Reports, Correspondence (1971-1973): Correspondence 01" (2016). *Conservation: Hearings, Reports, Correspondence (1971-1973)*. Paper 19.
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L.B.

TO: SENATOR

FROM: LB

Following is a proposed schedule for hearings for the National Museum Act (with Smithsonian orientation) and the Museum Services Act, coordinated with Steve.

We suggest that the hearings could be joint between the Subc. on the Smithsonian and the Special Subc. on Arts and Humanities, to save time and to concentrate on the pertinent areas. The National Museum Act needs a simple reauthorization; present authorization expires June 30, 1974.

July 18 (Wednesday)... Administration witnesses: These would include Ripley, Hanks and Berman -- with Ripley stating rationale for the Nat. Mus. Act (we should have this for the record, so as to differentiate between the purposes of this Act and its implementation by the Smithsonian and the museum activities of the two Endowments). Hanks and Berman would similarly express their views on the Nat. Mus. Act; and all three would discuss the newly proposed Museum Services Act, its rationale and areas it would cover which are not fundable at present by either Endowment or Smithsonian. All three would also discuss the need for conservation in museum field and the idea of a National Institute for Conservation, with respective views on its implementation. Possibly a National Gallery witness should be involved to speak on conservation; also, Ripley should bring along his chief conservator, Robert Organ, and Paul Perrot, Asst. Sec. of Smithsonian for Museum Programs should be present.

July 19 (Thursday)... American Assoc. of Museum witnesses, to speak for Museum Services Act, plus an emphasis on conservation. There will be a Smithsonian-aided seminar on this at Winterthur in mid-June, as you know, and we could include some of the leading experts in this field as a panel. The above dates have been checked out with your list of possibilities. If

...with some O.K. will proceed.