

1991

## Iannone, Carol: News Articles (1991): Correspondence 02

Douglas W. Foard

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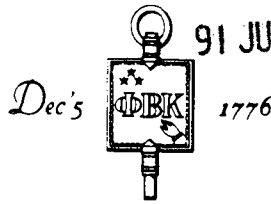
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July 5, 1991

Dear Senator Pell:

The Los Angeles Times reported erroneously today that Phi Beta Kappa had taken a stand against the nomination of Carol Iannone to serve on the National Council on the Humanities. Please be advised that the Society has adopted no such posture and, in fact, rarely takes a public position on any matter of political debate. As I informed the newspaper's editor today, Phi Beta Kappa's membership "of more than 400,000 is simply too diverse in composition and belief for the organization to speak with one voice on such subjects."

I am advised that the matter of Professor Iannone's nomination is pending before your subcommittee and, therefore, it seemed to me urgent that the Times' factual error be promptly corrected. According to our records, the last time that Phi Beta Kappa took a public stand on a specific political issue was a generation ago when it fought for the creation of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Please accept our best wishes as you weigh the heavy issues involved in the nomination.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Foard  
Secretary

Senator Claiborne Pell  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510