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Now in his twenty-third year in the United States Senate, Claiborne Pell is well known to the library community as a long-time friend and supporter. He has left his imprint on every major piece of legislation designed to support libraries and learning.

He played a leadership role in the development and strengthening of the Higher Education Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Library Services and Construction Act, including the special provisions for urban libraries, and in the legislation creating the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. He was the principal Senate sponsor of the legislation creating Endowments for the Arts and for the Humanities, which have greatly benefited libraries.

Now ranking minority member of the Education, Arts, and Humanities Subcommittee, Claiborne Pell served previously as its Chairman. His committee service has also included the Joint Committee on the Library and the Joint Committee on Printing. He has represented the Senate on the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. His distinguished record of service indicates the depth of his interest in libraries.

Most particularly, the library community honors Claiborne Pell in his special role as the original sponsor of the resolution in 1973 calling for a White House Conference on Library and Information Services. That highly significant event in library history was held in 1979 with Claiborne Pell as an active participant.

He said in 1979 that that he was interested in the Conference recommendations, that he was waiting for them and would study them. Indeed, he has acted on them. The library community appreciates his continuing commitment. At the White House Conference, he quoted himself as saying to his children, "Don't forget, the book is a friend." Those who love libraries will not forget that author and legislator Claiborne Pell is a friend.