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Biddle, Livy: Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (1977-1979): Correspondence 02

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January 16, 1979

Committee on Honors
300 Administration Building
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dearlemen:

It is a distinct pleasure for me to write you on behalf of Livingston Biddle, whom I understand is being considered as an honorary degree recipient by the University of Cincinnati.

I would like to add my wholehearted support to this effort to honor a man who has been both a superb friend and a valued colleague for many years.

Between 1963 and 1965, Liv Biddle played the key role on my staff in developing the legislation that led to the establishment of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities. Soon after this, he joined the staff at the newly-created National Endowment for the Arts as Deputy Chairman under Roger Stevens. Later he served another tour of duty under the Chairmanship of Nancy Hanks.

This experience made him, in my mind, the most uniquely qualified person for the position of Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts when that job became open in 1977. The fact that the Endowment is working as smoothly as it is through the state governors and the local arts councils is in great part due to Liv's strong belief in the importance of a broad base in expanding arts programs around the country.

Liv is possessed of exceptionally high intelligence and impeccable character. The arts communities around the country obviously share my high regard and respect for his abilities.

I commend him to you most enthusiastically and hope that your committee agrees to bestow this distinguished honor on him.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

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