

1977

Biddle, Livy: Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (1977-1979): Correspondence 03

Claiborne Pell

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 24, 1977

For
Files

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend to you Livingston L. Biddle as the next Chairman of the Arts Endowment.

I believe Liv Biddle has had more experience in dealing with the relationship between the arts and the Federal government than any other single person in the country and is most uniquely qualified for the position of Chairman of the Endowment.

I make that rather strong assertion from the vantage point of being the original Senate sponsor of the legislation which created the Endowment and Chairman of the oversight subcommittee ever since.

Liv really drafted that original legislation and played the key staff role in securing its passage. He served as Deputy Chairman under Roger Stevens, the Endowment's first Chairman, and also served another tour of duty under Nancy Hanks. He is now Staff Director of the oversight subcommittee. His administrative responsibilities have been excellently carried out in both government and private capacities.

The fact that the Endowment works as well as it does through the state governors and the local arts councils is in great part attributable to Liv's strong belief in the importance of a broad base in expanding the outreach for the program.

Liv is possessed of exceptionally broad intelligence, enormous tact, excellent judgment and impeccable character. I can attest to these qualities, having known him as a friend since school days. He has the high regard of the arts community throughout the country.

I do hope you will come to agree with me about his qualifications and will decide to nominate him. If you do so,

The President

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August 24, 1977

I believe the nomination will meet with broad approval and will reflect credit on your Administration.

With warm personal regards and respect, I am

Ever sincerely,



Claiborne Pell
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Education, Arts and Humanities

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.