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Endowment Advisory Panels (1976): Report 03

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Insert A... Arts and Humanities... LB

The Arts and Humanities program is aimed at helping to create a climate in which these two most important and related cultural areas may flourish. I believe that the Arts Endowment and the Humanities Endowment have made great progress in fostering this climate.

When we consider the lack of our government's support for the arts and its relative paucity of emphasis on the humanities and on the contributions of our nation's scholars prior to enactment of this legislation in 1965, and when we look at the wide variety of programs both Endowments -- guided by their eminently qualified private citizen councils -- have initiated, we can see how much this legislation has advanced our nation's well-being.

Young artists and scholars have been aided, the more established ones have been given national recognition and encouragement to pursue their work, innovative programs have stemmed from the knowledge and wisdom of the two councils and from the leadership the chairmen have provided. Great art organizations in dire financial need have been assisted or rescued and given new abilities to continue and improve. Matching ^{grant} fund principles of funding have served to engender new sources of private support and are responsible for new partnerships between government and the cultural community.

Before this law came into being, only a handful of states had any sort of program to support the arts. Now each state has an established states art agency, growing through matching Federal funds and bringing increasing encouragement to the development of the arts at community and local levels; and the Humanities Endowment is also

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working with the states in regional areas.

Private citizen groups throughout the country have lauded this whole program as being of essential and central value to our nation's future.

As the Senate sponsor of the original arts and humanities legislation, it was my pleasure to forecast such possibilities, and it has been my pleasure to see them come at least to ~~partial~~ partial fruition.

Indeed, we have witnessed the genesis and growth of the climate we sought to help create. Though "the quality of life" is an often used phrase, it is at the very basis of this legislation. Only in such a climate can our artists and scholars best contribute their talents to our people. And it is in terms of this climate that we should think of our Bicentennial -- not just as a goal in itself, but as a springboard toward the third century of our nation's life and future centuries. In my view, only in these terms does an actual Bicentennial celebration relate to the long-range work of the arts and humanities program.

If a climate for the encouragement of our cultural well-being has been so assisted, and if it has grown in meaning and effectiveness -- as I so strongly believe it has -- now it should be allowed to advance toward its full potentials, so that we can truly take our place among the leading civilizations of the world, which throughout history have considered that these cultural areas

Arts and Humanities.... Insert A... 3... LB

have an abiding importance and value. History has judged leading civilizations in these terms, and history will judge our own civilization as it further develops in this fashion.

Let me say in particular that I am especially pleased that Senator Javits is co-sponsoring this legislation. He was a pioneer in this area long before I became involved myself. As we do now, he and I have joined together in the past, and at the inception of this legislation, to make possible the creation of the arts and humanities program and to reauthorize its advancement.