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## Museum Services Act (1973): News Article 02

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EB 7/23/72

# Museum, Library Aid Needed, Pell Says

The federal government should give more financial aid to museums, libraries and other cultural institutions, Sen. Claiborne Pell told members of the American Association for State and Local History yesterday.

Speaking at a dinner at Rocky Point Park, Senator Pell said that while museum attendance tripled between 1960 and 1970, "this new popularity should not be confused with prosperity."

Many museums are faltering financially because of increased attendance, he said. "I need not tell you that increased attendance means increased costs of operation. And the same inflation which has hit so hard at the family food budget, has struck just as forcibly at museums' operating costs."

The senator, who is chairman of the Senate subcommittees on arts and humanities and on the Smithsonian Institution, said a recent survey showed that almost half of the nation's museums are operating at a deficit, forcing them to cut corners and operate with inadequate and underpaid staffs.

"I continue to believe that we at the federal level of government should help," he said.

Mr. Pell, who is seeking reelection, said he had introduced the Museum Services Act this year to "authorize a program of grants to museums to help them increase and improve their services."

He said, "We must await congression action on this

*Museums*  
museum proposal. These things are not accomplished overnight. They take long and painstaking care. But I do think that this legislation already serves to focus attention on manifest needs."

Referring to his legislation to create the National Foundation for the Arts and for the Humanities, Mr. Pell said, "I remember that when I first introduced legislation to establish for the first time in our country an independent federal agency which would aid in cultural progress, I was accused of being a stargazer, a visionary."

"But a senator, I believe, must sometimes be aware of the stars and of the distant horizon from which they emerge," he added.

The association will wind up its annual meeting with an all-day tour of Newport today.

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