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Institute of Museum and Library Services Act (1996): Memorandum 01

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MEMORANDUM

October 18, 1995

To: Senator
From: PDW
Re: Conversation with Jane Alexander

Jane Alexander is concerned about the reauthorizing of the National Endowment for the Arts. You are making every effort to schedule floor action and have called a meeting for next Tuesday (October 24) with Senators Kassebaum, Kennedy and Jeffords.

As you recall, Senator Jeffords added the Arts and Indemnity Act to the amendment passed last week to the Workforce Development Act of 1995. Ms. Alexander is very upset about this as the authority to administration of the Indemnity Program was transferred from the Arts Endowment Chairman to the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Arts Endowment feels that this move symbolizes further undermining of the agency and removes one of its most successful and well-liked operations, making it harder for NEA to garner support. You did not favor adding Arts and Indemnity to the amendment creating and authorizing the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Workforce Development Act (S.143). You will try to fix this in conference on the job training bill.

You favored the amendment to create and authorize the Institute of Museum and Library Services because, by adding the libraries and museums provisions to S. 143, the bill became more comparable to the House bill which contains provisions relating to libraries. Moreover, you felt that the provisions and language previously proposed in S. 856 are stronger than those proposed in the House bill (H.R. 1617).

You will continue to pursue reauthorization for all three cultural agencies (NEA, NEH, IMS), including the Institute of Museum and Library Services proposal, through S.856.