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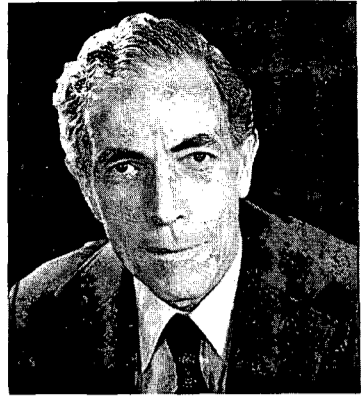
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CLAIBORNE PELL



U.S. SENATOR RHODE ISLAND

NEWS RELEASE

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HOLD FOR RELEASE
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1991

PELL: LIBRARIES ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST

Senator Claiborne Pell (D-RI), speaking before the Rhode Island Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services called for recommendations which will bring significant changes to bolster the federal role in support of libraries.

The Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities, a longtime supporter of libraries, was the author of legislation to establish the second White House Conference on Libraries. The conference will be held July 9-13, in Washington, D.C. Four delegates and four alternates will be elected at the Governor's Conference to represent Rhode Island at this national forum.

Pell said, "Congress will be eagerly awaiting the recommendations coming out of the the 1991 conference. Whatever you accomplish here in the next two days can have a lasting impact on the future of the federal role in support of our libraries."

"The first White House Conference in 1979," said Pell, "resulted in a remarkable increase in public awareness of libraries and their impact on individuals, the economy and the nation. It is my hope that conferences like this one being held around the country can re-establish the fact that libraries are vitally important to our national interest."

The theme for the Rhode Island Governor's Conference, held March 16 and 17 at the Omni Biltmore Hotel in Providence, is "Library and Information Services for literacy, democracy and productivity."

"It is time," Pell said, "to consider what new direction we expect our libraries to take in the future. Because so much information becomes available today only online and for a fee-per-use, the library role in guiding users to the most appropriate source in whatever format, and to providing access to those who could not otherwise afford needed information, will be crucial."

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