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## Arts and Humanities: Pell Amendments (1975): Speech 01

Javits

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR JAVITS

Mr. President. Today I note my very great pleasure with the action of the Senate in passing the Arts, Humanities, and Cultural Affairs Act of 1976, S-3440. As the ranking Minority member of both the full Labor and Public Welfare Committee and the Special Subcommittee on Arts and Humanities Committee, I am delighted to say that once again my Committee colleagues and I have successfully collaborated and unanimously reported to the Senate an excellent bill to advance the cultural activities for the benefit of all Americans. S-3440 will reauthorize the activities of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities for four years. In 1949, as a member of the House of Representatives, I introduced the first bill to authorize a National Arts Endowment. Although many years passed before the Congress fully accepted this proposal, a number of our present and former Senate colleagues such as Claiborne Pell and former Senator Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania, and others, were successful in creating the necessary legislative environment to establish the principle of Federal support for the arts. Likewise, House Members such as John Brademas and Albert Quie were simultaneously successful in creating necessary House support for this measure. In 1965, with the energetic support of President Johnson, the principle of Federal support for cultural activities was finally enacted by the Congress and signed into law. Slightly more than a decade later, many of these same colleagues, with the same bipartisan support, have

again cooperated to extend and improve the authorizing legislation for the two National Endowments. I am hopeful that President Ford, who has shown his real support for cultural activities by requesting an increase in funding for the Endowments' programs in the most recent fiscal year, will look favorably upon this legislation.

I understand that Senator Pell in his remarks today has outlined the key provisions of S-3440. I would like to touch on highlights of the bill which I feel deserve particular emphasis. The center piece of this legislation is the authorization of four more years of activities for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Under the leadership, and with the creative advocacy efforts, of Chairman Nancy Hanks of the Arts Endowment and of Chairman Ronald Berman of the Humanities Endowment, both agencies have flourished, each in their own way. It is a mark of their success that the Congress has continued its sound and well reasoned policy of gradually increasing the funds available for their activities. I am pleased that this bill continues the principle<sup>of</sup> authorizing a gradual expansion of funds so that we may annually judge the national need for Federal support of cultural activities. Provisions of the bill continue the creative governance mechanism of a National Council for each Endowment, made up of the leading cultural experts and participants in this country. The advice and guidance provided by these Councils to their respective

Endowments has been a key to the success, through their ability to provide Federal support for cultural activities without unwarranted ~~Federal~~ intervention into the determination and selection of grantees of the highest merit. In order to expand the future Congressional oversight of each Council, the Committee bill has determined that the Senate should advise and consent on future appointments to these Councils. This will allow the Congress to assure that the same high quality of Council participation which has marked the first decade of the Endowment will continue in the future.

While remaining within existing authorized funding levels for the coming fiscal year, S-3440 creates several new vehicles to advance cultural activity. Both the Arts Endowment and the Humanities Endowment will have a new Challenge Grant authority to further introduce non-Governmental participation in cultural activities. These authorities will give a new opportunity for cultural institutions and activities to meet the expanded demand placed on them through increased participation by our citizens. While the arts face a troubling financial horizon, their financial shortcomings are primarily the result of their inability to maintain a rate of expansion consistent with their growing popularity. These two challenge authorities, each tailored to the needs of their respective Endowment, will provide a new vehicle to meet that demand through catalytic action by the Federal Government.

In a similar vein, Title II of the bill creates a new Museum Services Program to fulfill a need of these institutional treasure chests of our culture previously unmet by Federal funding. Existing activities by each Endowment have aided museums. However, the new authority contained in Title II will for the first time provide undergirding financial support for these cultural institutions which have experienced an unprecedented growth in attendance in recent years. Such cultural treasures cannot have their support contingent upon short-term economic and eleemosynary trends. Rather, the nation must be diligent in assuring that these museums, which are the time capsule of our cultural heritage, are sustained on a permanent basis. The new provisions to aid museums authorize a modest Federal participation in this national effort.

I am particularly pleased that my colleagues on the Labor and Public Welfare Committee unanimously accepted a proposal which I put forward regarding the Bicentennial Challenge Grants. As I noted previously, the Committee sought to tailor the new Challenge Grants authorities to the respective need of the two Endowments. Within the Humanities Endowment, the Bicentennial Challenge Grant will for the first time specifically authorize support of programs and projects to maintain our democratic processes through encouraging citizen participation, to encourage new approaches to resolving complex socio-political and economic problems in an integrated manner, and to

make participation of citizens in the democratic system compatible with their everyday life. I wish to comment John D. Rockefeller III, who, as Chairman of the National Committee for the Bicentennial Era, provided myself and my Senate colleagues with the central concept embodied in the new Bicentennial Challenge Grants.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I believe the bill we have considered today represents an excellent piece of legislation to maintain and enhance the necessary Federal commitment to supporting cultural activities to enrich the lives of our citizens.