1996

Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996): Report 01

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_82

Recommended Citation

http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_82/24

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.
the consequences to us as a society, as a civilization, and what it says about a society that, under the mantle of law, allows such a procedure to take place. Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor.

Mr. PELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, during my last days in Congress, I wished to state my unequivocal support of the restoration of funds to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These fine agencies have sustained disproportionate and unreasonable cuts over the past 2 years, and the erosion must stop.

As coauthor of the legislation that created the endowments 31 years ago, I have felt like a proud father as both the Senate and House appropriations committees have sent that a letter to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations in the Senate. The letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:


Chairman SLADE GORTON, Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORTON: In the fiscal year 1997 begins in the Senate, we want to take a moment to share with you our strong support for continued funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Institute for Museum Services (IMS). As you know, this issue of continued federal funding for the arts and humanities is one of great importance to us—one which was successfully resolved last year, in large part due to your leadership in working out the differences between the House and the Senate.

1. As the appropriations process for fiscal year 1997 begins in the Senate, we want to take a moment to share with you our strong support for continued funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Institute for Museum Services (IMS). As you know, this issue of continued federal funding for the arts and humanities is one of great importance to us—one which was successfully resolved last year, in large part due to your leadership in working out the differences between the House and the Senate.

2. As the appropriations process for fiscal year 1997 begins in the Senate, we want to take a moment to share with you our strong support for continued funding for the Arts (NEA), the Humanities (NEH) and the Institute for Museum Services (IMS). As you know, this issue of continued federal funding for the arts and humanities is one of great importance to us—one which was successfully resolved last year, in large part due to your leadership in working out the differences between the House and the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations be printed in the RECORD. The letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:


Senators ALAN SIMPSON, BILL FRIST, ROY MOYNIHAN, PAUL WELLSTONE, CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN, BARBARA BOXER, JOHN BREAUX, BILL BRADLEY, DANIEL PATRICIA MURPHY, CARL LEVIN, BOB KERICKER, WENDY KAPLAN, CHARLES S. ROBB, OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, PATRICK J. LEAHY, CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, RON WyDEN, BARBARA A. BAK software, RONALD K. AKAKA, THOMAS S. DASCHLE.

Sincerely,

Mr. President, I wish· to focus on one of these important issues—an area where the United Nations has made significant advances by enabling countries to work together to resolve common problems. Today I wish to discuss the unique role of the U.N. Environment Programme.

The 1972 U.N. Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm was the catalyst for the creation of the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP). As a participant in those meetings, I eagerly supported the effort to integrate the United Nations and the protection of the environment as two equally important goals to the international community. The establishment of UNEP ensured that all countries would have technical information and skills in order to develop and improve national environmental policy. UNEP has also served as a valuable forum for reaching international and regional consensus on laws and operational standards that reinforce cooperative efforts to achieve long-term sustainable development.

Because of its unique role within the United Nations and the United States, the organization was tasked with the mandate to make environmental concerns the top priority. UNEP has facilitated U.S. policy initiatives in the environmental field. As Secretary of State Warren Christopher noted in an address at Brown University last April:

The environment has a profound impact on our national interests in two ways: First, environmental forces transcend borders and oceans to threaten directly the health, prosperity and jobs of American citizens. Second, addressing natural resource issues is frequently critical to achieving political and economic stability, and to pursuing our strategic goals around the world.

The environment has a profound impact on our national interests in two ways: First, environmental forces transcend borders and oceans to threaten directly the health, prosperity and jobs of American citizens. Second, addressing natural resource issues is frequently critical to achieving political and economic stability, and to pursuing our strategic goals around the world.