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Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989)

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March 2017

## Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Note 01

Claiborne Pell

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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

NEA - going bullshit  
over Gates proposal

→ staff working on alternative  
guideline language.

stating "Excellence" is the fundamental criterion to be used  
... is not synonymous with <sup>by Panels.</sup>  
innovation ~~etc~~ especially  
public support is only

→ excellence = works that get the highest  
ranking in any particular grouping.

→ panelists are assumed to be of the  
highest quality.

use "ask panels to adhere  
highest standards of excellence."

also

NEH - document that describes what NEH is  
all about - includes

"What The Endowment ~~that~~ does not  
support . . . ."

- why not add language to NEA  
That is similar??

— p. 4 In Overview to NEH program.

only  
by

- final reports is a great area to  
get into - to explore w/o really  
hurt the NEA.

It has never been invoked. Only on books for  
a year.

→ now in grants manual

→ Army has forgotten all about it.

request  
Grants manual - show how to handle  
procedure

Tom Birch

Why not open all meetings? would  
add accountability.

→ get serious - Council - it's your job.

Lee

Carla - "Bus Shelter" at NMAA - has political advertising + photos of  
Helm's staff called about content of this  
the Rosenberg

→ Congress could say we forced them to back down.

— no matter how outrageous a grant - you can't force a program review without consent of P.D.

final reports have been filed + not used. Although sometimes panels may have used them when discussing a second grant.

— A final report has never been used to deny a follow-up grant.

The P.D. director must initiate the review

→ of a final report by releasing. (Anna, Jack + Art Warren are review committee)

In case there is  
evidence that  
a grant has  
been improperly  
used

Endowment could disavow its connection with this one work of art. "We can not accept an association with the work of art that scholasticism, a religion etc."

→ Freddie says Endowment can do this if people agree to it.

→ Can't start process without P/D on your side (Basso)

→ (This all explained in grants manual)

NEA must deny that they are  
a front of anti-Christian  
bigotry.

→ Anna would rather have no NEA  
than one that compromises:  
(Hugh does this way)