

9-5-1996

## Appropriations (1996): Memorandum 02

P. D. W.

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### Recommended Citation

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## MEMORANDUM

September 5, 1996

To: Senator, Tom, David  
From: PDW  
Re: Interior Appropriations

The Interior Appropriations bill is expected to come to the floor in the next few days. I have prepared the attached statement for you which reflects your support of the proposed funding for the arts and humanities.

I think that the following scenario is likely. Senators Bennett, Bumpers and Bob Kerrey will offer an amendment to restore \$12 million to the Endowments -- \$10 million to NEH and \$2 to NEA -- having identified offsets that reflect a fair Eastern versus Western states compromise. (The amount might be only \$10 million, \$2 million going to the NEA.) I believe that we have saved as much as we can for the agencies this year, under the circumstances in the House.

Senator Helms will propose one or more amendments detrimental to the NEA. We will not know the nature of these ahead of time, but one is probably to reduce the NEA funds by \$31,500, the amount of a grant for a black lesbian film called *Watermelon Woman*. Senator Gorton will cut a deal before going to the floor. Senator Dodd has told Senator Byrd that he will offer a second degree amendment. This is to protect us from having the deal made without the Democrats' knowledge/input as happened last year.

A bipartisan group of Senators will offer a sense of the Senate identical in language to that in the Appropriations Report (see attached). It supports continued funding for the NEA and NEH and reauthorization in the 105th Congress. I would urge you to add your name to this when it is introduced here or in connection with the establishment of the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Please let me know:

\_\_\_\_\_ I support the sense of the Senate regarding NEA/NEH funding.

\_\_\_\_\_ I oppose.