1996

Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996): Report 02

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producers, and its recommendations have been widely praised within the agricultural community.

The success of the advisory committee—aside from small measure attributable to its membership, the panel consisted of 21 individuals from across the country who represent a cross section of the livestock industry. It included ranchers, meat packers, processors, poultry growers, retailers, and economists.

While all committee members should be commended for their determination to organize and conduct the hearings on the livestock concentration issue, I want to single out for special mention the two members from South Dakota: Herman Schumacher and Tyrone Moos.

Herman Schumacher, who served as vice-chair of the advisory committee, lives in Herried, SD. He owns and operates the Herried Livestock Auction, is past president of the South Dakota Livestock Auction Markets Association, and is part owner of a cattle feedlot.

Without question, Herman is one of the most tenacious and persuasive advocates for cattle producers I have ever met. He understands American agriculture and never stops looking for ways to address problems facing farmers and ranchers. His expertise and leadership were instrumental to the development of the committee's consensus findings and recommendations.

One focus of the committee's review was the impact of concentration in the agricultural transportation industry. The problem of insufficient access to rail cars contributes to the determination of the final price a producer receives for his or her commodities, and Tyrone's experience helped shape the committee's findings in this area. Additionally, Tyrone's influence was evident in the tone and substance of the final recommendations for both the consensus and minority views sections of the report.

When Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman called to solicit Herman's and Tyrone's service on this important committee, it would have been easy for them to decline the invitation. The commitment and sacrifice asked of them was significant.

The Department of Agriculture did not offer compensation, not even for travel, even though it did ask for a significant commitment of time. Herman, Tyrone and their colleagues served countless hours on the panel's work—hours that could have been spent looking after their own business interests or with their families.

The advisory committee's inquiry directed needed attention to the serious problem of stagnating cattle prices, provided insights on the nature of that problem and offered recommendations for what might be done about it. Farmers and ranchers in South Dakota and elsewhere should be thankful for that effort.

The work of the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration is done. It is now up to other Nation's policymakers to make decisions that will enable producers to evaluate the panel's findings and act on its recommendations. I look forward to taking the baton passed on by Herman Schumacher and Tyrone Moos to thank them for pointing the way to a solution to the problem of concentration in agriculture.

ISRAELI ELECTION ABOUT DEFINITION OF PEACE

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, the campaign for Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister not only brought a victory for Benjamin Netanyahu but a defeat for the mistaken idea that peace can only be defined from a liberal perspective.

While two well-qualified candidates with different ideologies each articulated their vision for their country, many in the American media—those who reported on the campaign and the experts journalists chose to interview—hid behind stereotypes and missed the real point of the election. At its very core, the campaign was not about whether there should be peace but how to define it.

The American media told us the issue was simply this: Shimon Peres, the liberal, wanted peace. Benjamin Netanyahu, the conservative, didn't. Implied in this ridiculous statement is the wrong assumption that only liberals understand peace.

In the days since the election, the American media aren't quite certain now to characterize Mr. Netanyahu. Why? Mr. MACK. He entertainingly expressed his desire for Israel to continue to seek peace with its Arab neighbors—a position he has advocated all along—a Washington Post story identified him as "kinder, gentler Bibi." The media's failure to understand Benjamin Netanyahu and his conservative principles of real peace—real security underscores the differences in how liberals and conservatives view foreign policy.

The left believes peace is simply the absence of conflict. To achieve peace, the left will do whatever is necessary and in many cases give up whatever is necessary simply to maintain the peace.

Conservatives believe peace without freedom is false. Only through the guiding principle that freedom is the core of all human progress can a nation build a lasting peace. After all, what is peace without freedom? What is peace if it means living in constant fear? In Cuba and China today, there is peace, but certainly no freedom.

When any nation abandons its foreign policy on a foundation of freedom, democracy, justice, and human rights, true peace and hope will inevitably prevail.

During the 1980's, the left and the media soundly criticized Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher when their policies boldly stated that negotiations with the Soviet Union must be carried out from a position of strength and security... not appeasement.

History proved them right. Freedom won. The Berlin Wall—a symbol of tyranny and oppression—crumbled and communism was replaced by capitalism.

Even if many in the American media apparently believe in the ludicrous claim that appeasement leads to peace, Israeli Jews—a majority of whom voted for Netanyahu—correctly understand that protecting freedom is essential to preserving peace.

In his analysis of the election, A.M. Rosenthal of the New York Times said it best when he wrote: "the majority was not voting against peace—the very idea is idiocy—but for the hope that Mr. Netanyahu and a Likud-led coalition might create a peace they could trust while they slept, not just while they stood at arms."

In a region where Israel's neighbors have vowed its destruction, where thousands of missiles in other countries are pointed at Israel's cities, where well-financed terrorists threaten to murder and frighten Israel's citizens, appeasement through weakness will only invite more violence, more bloodshed and inevitably a loss of freedom and peace.

We all want peace for Israel—a shining jewel of democracy in a region where freedom is often unwelcomed. Choosing the best road for achieving that peace is the task that awaits Benjamin Netanyahu. He understands—as well as the overwhelming majority of Israeli Jews who voted for him—that only when Israel is secure, can Israel truly be free and at peace.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, at this time when the fiscal year 1997 appropriations level for the National Endowment for the Arts is being determined, I would like to illustrate the importance of the arts to the education of our children and to the growth of the local economy through stories from my home State of Rhode Island.

The May 23 issue of Nature describes the Starting With the Arts (SWAP) Program for 96 first-graders in four Pawtucket, RI, classrooms. The program is based on the internationally recognized Kodaly curriculum that emphasizes musical and visual arts skills. After 7 months, the SWAP children scored better in math than their counterparts who had standard classes—and equally well in reading—even though their kindergarten scores indicated that they were behind. At the end of second grade, math comprehension and...

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problem-solving skills were highest in students who received 2 years of the special program, and best in the United States is likely to increase with

the passage of proposed State legislation that would allow

sales breaks to artists living or working in the central business district. One bill would exempt these artists from paying sales tax on plays, books, musical compositions, paintings and sculpture. A second bill would provide these artists with a personal tax exemption. The Rhode Island House Finance Committee has voted its approval. In praising the effort, Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. stated, "These bills, which support our artists and arts, promote economic development and tourism and will create a more
dynastic synergy among the Arts and Entertainment District, Capital Center and the Providence Place mall."

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to consider these examples from Rhode Island, to understand the far-reaching positive impact of the arts on both education, the economy, and to join together in a bipartisan effort to appropriate $136 million for the National Endowment for the Arts as requested by an administration that is important that this agency is funded sufficiently to be able to continue its worthwhile and extremely effective endeavors to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

The findings of a nationwide survey released this month, found that 9 in 10 Americans believe that when children get involved in the arts in school, they "become more creative and imaginative," "develop skills that make them feel more accomplished," "learn to communicate well." 

One of the best and the cheapest ways of improving the economy. The arts stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract more tourists to the area and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns. Roger Mandle at the Rhode Island School of Design has repeatedly demonstrated the importance of design to both the

economy and greater ease in everyday life. Existing and available cultural resources are frequently cited as one of the prime reasons businesses select to move to a community. Literally turn a community or neighborhood around.

One of the best illustrations of the impact of the arts on the economy is tourism, and tourism is the fastest growing economic market in the United States today. In Providence, the Providence Performing Arts Center and Trinity Square Repertory Company have brought countless audiences to their theaters, with many people spending money on restaurants, shops, parking, and the like that would not do so otherwise without the presence of the arts. Recent discussions among the museum in the downtown area have led to the development concept of a Museum Mile connecting these cultural institutions through a collective effort in marketing, fundraising, parking, transportation. The result will attract visitors from all over the country to Providence. When the arts become an economic engine, more people are employed, and more taxable income generates more revenue for our State and local municipalities. There are more artists per square mile living in Providence than in any other city in the State, and

the number is likely to increase with the passage of proposed State legislation that would allow sales breaks to artists living or working in the central business district. One bill would exempt these artists from paying sales tax on plays, books, musical compositions, paintings and sculpture. A second bill would provide these artists with a personal tax exemption. The Rhode Island House Finance Committee has voted its approval. In praising the effort, Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. stated, "These bills, which support our artists and arts, promote economic development and tourism and will create a more dynastic synergy among the Arts and Entertainment District, Capital Center and the Providence Place mall."

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We are thankful for the life of Ernest Boyer, and that each of us was allowed to touch it, and be touched by it.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I strongly oppose any further reductions in funding the National Endowment for the Humanities. The agency has responded to a 36 percent budget cut for fiscal year 1996 with major restructuring of programs and staff. Using the House appropriations figures contained in the last two continuing resolutions, NEH is now operating at a 45 percent reduction—$99.5 million instead of the anticipated $110 million.

The agency has already eliminated 90 positions from its 260-person staff, streamlined its administrative structure, and cut programs. The suspended programs include: archaeology projects, summer stipends for teachers, dissertation grants, the NEH/National Science Foundation grants, the Kettering Foundation project to preserve city and small town newspapers on communities in all 50 States.

Mr. President, I cannot underestimate the gravity of this situation. If allowed to continue, it will mean that future generations of Americans will be deprived of the knowledge of our Nation's rich history. We owe it to our people to maintain this legacy and not to walk away. We simply cannot afford to lose artifacts, texts, wisdom, and insights that tell where we came from, who we are, and how we might make wise decisions for the generations ahead. I urge my colleagues to consider how very serious this situation is, to understand the long-term ramifications of cuts in the NEH budget, and to join in a bipartisan effort to enable this agency to continue its work good, worthwhile, and extremely important endeavors.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

February 6, 1996

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1541) to extend, reform, and improve agricultural commodity, trade, conservation, and other programs and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending: A bill (S. 1541) to extend, reform, and improve agricultural commodity, trade, conservation, and other programs and for other purposes.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I yield myself 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

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CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

AGRICULTURAL MARKET TRANSITION ACT OF 1996

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CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.