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—tens of thousands of farmers and ranchers, meat packers, processors, poultry growers, retailers, and economists—has been significant. The panel consisted of 21 individuals from across the country who represent a cross section of the livestock industry. It included farmers, ranchers, meat packers, processors, poultry growers, retailers, and economists.

While all committee members should be commended for their determination to give the committee's work the serious attention it deserves or with their families.

The work of the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration is done. It is not the business of the Agriculture Committee to evaluate the panel's findings and act on its recommendations. I look forward to hearing the testimony of the panel and the experts who will be testifying.

The American media told us the issue was simple: 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 how to characterize Mr. Netanyahu. While some believe he stands at the extreme, others believe he is more moderate. Mr. Netanyahu's foreign policy is complex, and understanding it requires a more nuanced approach than the binary choice between liberalism and conservatism.

One focus of the committee was the process of concentration in the agricultural industry. The committee's findings are important and significant. The committee's recommendations provide a framework for policymakers to address the problem of stagnating cattle prices.

Conservatives believe peace without freedom is false. Only through the guiding principle that freedom is the core of all human progress can a nation truly be free and at peace.

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.

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, Israelis, 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 unwelcome. 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.
problem-solving skills were highest in students who received 2 years of the specified education, and best in the United States had 1 year, and worst in those who received the standard curriculum.

The findings of a nationwide survey on the attitudes of Americans toward the arts indicate that 9 in 10 Americans believed that when children get involved in the arts in school, they "become more creative and imaginative," "develop skills that make them feel more secure," and "learn to communicate well." The Pawtucket youngster confirmed these beliefs.

My second example stems from a 2-hour public forum organized as part of the 16th International Sculpture Conference, Providence last week. This meeting, numerous civic, cultural, and business leaders came forward to show how the arts have served to stimulate the economic revival of downtown Providence. What is happening in Rhode Island is happening nationally. Nonprofit arts organizations create nearly $77 billion in economic activity in the United States every year, and support 1.3 million American jobs.

The arts are one of the best and the cheapest ways of improving the economy. The arts stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract more tourists, and increase property values across the country. The Pawtucket youngster confirmed these beliefs.

One of the best illustrations of the impact of the arts on the economy is tourism. 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 museums in the downtown area have led to the concept of "cultural 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 and cultural institutions in the city attract 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 United States, and this number is likely to increase with the passage of proposed State legislation that would provide State arts funding and 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. Another bill would provide these artists with a personal tax exempt. 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 dynamic 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 and economy, and to join together in a bipartisan effort to appropriate $135 million for the National Endowment for the Arts as requested by the administration. I believe 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 recent Harris Poll referenced above shows that Federal support for the arts remains solid and strong. Surprisingly, Harris also found that a 61 percent majority of Americans—37 percent who were not interested in the arts would be willing to be taxed $5 more in order to pay for Federal financial support for the arts. Fully 86 percent of all American adults are exposed to the arts in the course of a year. These people believe the arts to be important and would sorely miss them if they were not there.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today the Senate bids farewell to a group of young men and women who have served as U.S. Senate pages for the spring semester.

These young people have been witnesses to vigorous debates on a number of issues of national significance—truly spirited debates. Just this past week, they watched as Senate Dole gave his final speech as a U.S. Senator.

We in the Senate appreciate all that they did to serve the needs of this body—and those needs were many. The Senate pages serve a very valuable and important role in the day-to-day workings of the Senate, and we very much thank them for their work.

As these young people return to their respective communities, it is my hope that they will take with them a better understanding of how this Government works, and understand the necessity of working together to achieve a common goal. Perhaps someday, one or more of them will return as Members of the U.S. Senate.

To the pages, on behalf of myself, the majority leader and all Members of the Senate, we wish you well, good luck in the years ahead, and we say thank you.

Mr. President, I want to talk briefly about the tireless efforts being undertaken by a local nonprofit organization in South Dakota to improve the severe economic conditions on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Over the years, numerous national press articles have documented the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation as one of the most impoverished tribal areas in the country. The aridity of the land lends little to farming and ranching. Banks, department stores, paved roads, and even safe drinking water are not to be taken for granted. Even amidst the stark majesty of its landscape, the vibrant tourism industry of western South Dakota remains a whisper of promise. Quite simply, on the Pine Ridge Reservation, the economic infrastructure that we all take for granted, struggles to exist.

Ten years ago, a group of Pine Ridge residents, dedicated to improving their local economy, created a lending program called the Lakota Fund. After forming partnerships with private foundations and Federal agencies for seed money, this unique program began processing loans for economic enterprises on the reservation. It mandated enrollment in financial and business training courses and required groups of loan recipients to cosign for each other's loans. This unique lending approach, emphasizing credit and personal responsibility, created a strong sense of teamwork in the area that has enabled many budding entrepreneurs to realize their dreams.

Before participating in the program, one young woman was unable to fulfill her dream of buying a house for her family. However, after successfully starting her own business and repaying her loan to the Lakota Fund, she was able to purchase a home, thanks to the establishment of a good credit record.
SCORD—SENATE
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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 40-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, and grants to the National Conversation initiative. Further staff reductions are now probable.

The recent furlough and uncertainty over its budget is preventing the agency from planning, carrying out its mission, and ensuring that the taxpaying dollars are spent wisely. For example, NEH has had to cancel peer review panels. As NEH could fund only 18 percent of the more than 8,500 applications it receives each year, competition for funding is fierce. Ensuring that these funds are awarded to the best proposals is a responsibility that NEH takes seriously. The Humanities Endowment peer review system has been heralded as a model for adoption at other agencies. The forced cancellation of peer panels as a result of government shutdowns weakens this system and prevented the agency from meeting its high standards of rigorous review.

Should funding run out on March 15, NEH will have to cancel its March 25 round of grant awards. Applicants who have put thousands of hours and effort into their grant applications will be denied the opportunity for funding for an entire year.

Changing the Humanities Endowment appropriations means that: Work on the George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, Dwight Eisenhower, and First Federal Congress papers will be terminated before completion. Summer seminar programs for teachers will be canceled entirely. One hundred fellowships will be eliminated. The widely-read Humanities Magazine, already forced to cancel its January issue, will have to cancel more. In July, many museums will have to be canceled. This includes a Utah Humanities Council exhibit scheduled to travel to 32 small, rural museums from West Virginia to Oregon, and a Buffalo Bill Historical Center exhibit slated for 10 Western sites. Humanities Councils, in addition to losing anticipated funding for this year, are facing enormous difficulties in planning for the next. Technical assistance and consultation to hundreds of small- and medium-sized cultural institutions will be suspended. The shutdown and budget impasse on American scholarship and the entire humanities field is not necessarily as obvious as it is in other areas of concentration. This is because NEH grants, with their heavy emphasis on research, rarely see results for several years. But continuity in support for research projects is critical, and NEH represents the single largest source of financial support for the humanities nationwide. The next largest, the Andrew Mellon Foundation, provides one-third of the amounts granted by NEH.

When we eliminate the staff and resources funded by NEH and needed to preserve brittle books, the destruction does not stop. We have lost volumes of important manuscripts forever. The same is true for NEH's important United States Newspaper Preservation project to create 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 children to maintain this legacy, and not to allow it to go away. We simply cannot afford to lose artifacts, texts, wisdom, and insights that tell where we came from, who we are, and how and why 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 maintain required cuts. We have the good, worthwhile, and extremely important endeavors.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

February 6, 1996

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: Craig (for Leahy/Lugar) Amendment No. 318 in the nature of a substitute. Craig (for Leahy/Lugar) Amendment No. 319 in the nature of a substitute.

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

CONGRESSIONAL REC

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I do not oppose a cloture vote to move to cloture on the Lugar-Leahy 14, S 2867.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I do not oppose a cloture vote to move to cloture on the Lugar-Leahy 14, S 2867.

Let me simply say, the reasons that would have caused other titles of the farm bill to precipitate the situation