Berman, Ronald: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1975-1976): Correspondence 04

Ronald S. Berman

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September 16, 1976

Honorable Jacob K. Javits
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Javits:

Your public commitment of support yesterday was much appreciated and I am also grateful for your statement calling for prompt action by the Committee so that the nomination can be considered by the full Senate.

The hearing went well but I was disappointed that Senator Pell felt the need for at least one other session with me next week and is also holding open the possibility of having panels of outside witnesses even later than that. You know that I have absolutely no objection to coming up as often as requested or to having the views of outside witnesses on the record, but considering the fact that Congress will be adjourning in two weeks and that my nomination will expire at that time, the situation is extremely discouraging.

The items being discussed seem more appropriate for a reauthorization hearing instead of one on confirmation, and we have already been through the reauthorization process during these past many months. If I lose on the question of another term, I would prefer that it be as the result of a fair and open up or down vote, and not by default as the result of deliberate delay.

You are my best hope in that regard, and indeed the best hope of all citizens who want to keep any partisan or personal considerations out of who does or does not become Chairman of the Endowment for the Humanities. Despite the desire for more and more eleventh hour information (that could certainly be supplied for the record as could the views of those who are either pro or con), I hope that you can secure agreement for a Committee vote within a time frame which would allow the Senate to act prior to adjournment.

Thank you so much for everything.

Sincerely,

Ronald S. Berman
Chairman