7-25-1991

Correspondence 01

Stanley N. Katz

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The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Committee on Labor and Human Resources
335 Senate Russell Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3901

Dear Senator Pell:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to the other Democrats who voted to oppose the Iannone nomination. I am very grateful to all of you for undertaking to support us in what we perceive as a crucial matter of principle and policy.

I need to say to you, in addition, however, how grateful I am for the time you took to see me and Phyllis Franklin, and to help shape opinions on the Committee. I am especially indebted to you for your eloquent language on July 17 setting out the issues which this nomination raised, and, particularly, for cautioning the Endowment against retribution toward those who have opposed the nomination.

I continue to be befuddled by the intensity of the politics in this matter, but since we were forced to make it an issue, it was splendid to have such distinguished, knowledgeable and principled supporters. I intend to write to the press to express my views in this matter, but I shall always be personally grateful to you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Stanley N. Katz

SNK:mb

Enclosure: ltr-7
The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
444 Senate Russell Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0702

Dear Senator Dodd:

I am writing to thank you for your support of our position in the matter of the nomination of Dr. Carole Iannone to the NEH Council. I want to assure you once again that the American Council of Learned Societies considers this a matter of great importance. We take very seriously the potential role of the Council in expressing the views of the academic community (among others) in the formulation of NEH policy. While we deplore the increasing politicization and homogenization of the Council, we understand that it is inappropriate to oppose an individual nominee because of her politics. We have no way of forcing the administration to nominate academics representing a broader range of intellectual and political views, but we certainly are gratified that it is possible for us at least to insist upon meeting the objective standards of the NEH authorizing statute.

It means a great deal to those of us in the academic community to know that the relevant Senate committee takes this matter just as seriously as we do. I understand how much pressure you were subjected to on political grounds, and I very much admire your willingness to support what is for us an urgent matter of intellectual principle.

Yours sincerely,

Stanley N. Katz

SNK:mb

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