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Interior Appropriations, 6/20/96

John SHADEGG (AZ): was to offer two amendments against the NEH, one to eliminate and the other to accelerate the phase-out by imposing a \$12 reduction from the \$105.4 passed by Appropriations, but only offered latter which was defeated by a vote of 168 to 254. If it had passed, would mean a total of \$18 million in cuts for NEH in FY'97. Amendments were to HR. 3662.

Republicans who spoke in support of the Shadegg amendment:

Helen CHENOWETH (ID) - gave Lynn Chaney speech

John HOSTETTLER (IN) - anti-sex & gender, Goals 200, diversity, Madonna; spoke of NEH as a "liberal icon" spouting "revisionist history".

Steve CHABOT (OH) - anti sex & gender, Conversations, "wasteful projects".

Tom COBURN (OK) - program not a human necessity; our children can't afford it.

REGULA did say that 31 House Republicans had signed a letter supporting appropriations of \$110 million for the NEH.

Democrats speaking in defense of NEH, against Shadegg amendment.

Sid YATES (IL)

David SKAGGS (CO) - values/history, private sector can't do it.; should add funds.

Norman DICKS (WA) - praise NEH work at state level; cuts too severe.

Pat WILLIAMS (MT) - "NEH a national success story"; closed.

Peter HOEKSTRA (MI) was leading efforts against the NEA, but withdrew his amendment to cut NEA by \$31,500, the amount awarded to Women Make Movies in 1995 (before grants to individuals were eliminated) for the production of a full length feature film by Cheryl Dunye called "The Watermelon Woman". The film contained a lesbian love scene, pot smoking, swear words. Hoekstra withdrew his amendment as he did not have the votes.

CRANE (IL), LIVINGSTON (LA- Chair of the approp. cmte.), and KOLBE (AZ) all reiterated the intent not to fund the NEA after next year.