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John H. Hammer

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The **NHA** National Humanities Alliance

1527 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

202/328-2121

John H. Hammer, *Director*

3 October 1989

TO: Sandy Crary

Dear Sandy:

Following up on yesterday's conversation, I enclose a memo on the Javits fellowships with three attachments including Lynne Cheney's op ed piece on Bill Bowen's research. Since we spoke, I have heard the text of Bowen's letter to the New York Times responding rather fully to the criticism. It should be printed in the next few days ...

Cheers,



The **NHA** National Humanities Alliance

28 September 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: NHA Board
FR: John Hammer *JH*

RE: NHA and the Javits fellowship program

As you may recall, one of the potential issues for the upcoming reauthorization of NEH is whether the Endowment should be encouraged or pushed into supporting graduate education, perhaps in the form of dissertation fellowships. The major reason for NEH's long-time policy against supporting any work connected to earning academic credits -- except at traditionally Black colleges -- is Senator Pell's view that the Department of Education is the appropriate locus for such programs. There are, of course a number of issues here, not the least being Mrs. Cheney's belief that, with the exception of foreign languages, there is not a need for more PhD production in the humanities. AAU and some other higher higher education groups have formally proposed that the issue be included for review in the reauthorization process.

Early in NHA preparation for reauthorization, it became clear that there was no consensus among NHA members for such a change at NEH. The principle concern is that establishment of such a new program could too easily result in shifting of funds from present programs and/or a further damper on the growth of the present stable of programs. On the other hand, a majority of NHA members would seem to favor increased federal support for graduate education. The Javits fellowship program within the Department of Education supports about 150 to 75 fellowships annually for graduate work in humanities and social science.

o Earlier this month, the Alliance wrote letters to the HHS/Labor/Education appropriation conferees urging support for the higher Senate number for the Javits program. As argumentation, we cited the recently published study by Bowen Bowen and Julie Ann Sosa projecting major shortages in higher education faculty in the humanities (see attached sample letter).

o I will be proposing that the Alliance work to expand and reformulate the Javits program when the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act is taken up by Congress next year.

o Celeste Colgan (see memo of 9/25/89) expressed interest in NHA support for the Javits program.

o Lynne Cheney attacked the key assumptions upon which the Bowen-Sosa study was conducted in an 'op ed' piece in 9/28/89 New York Times (attached).