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OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL AT JOINT HEARINGS BEFORE
THE SPECIAL SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES AND THE
SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 12, 1975

I am very pleased to join Chairman John Brademas of the Select Subcommittee on Education in these joint hearings to consider reauthorization legislation for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

As Chairman of the Senate Special Subcommittee on Arts and Humanities since its inception more than eleven years ago, as the earlier chairman of the Senate Special Subcommittee on the Arts, and as the Senate sponsor of initial legislation to support both the arts and the humanities, I am happy to join in welcoming today those witnesses representing the National Endowment for the Arts and its programs.

I am also pleased to observe that the Endowment has reached its 10th anniversary under the chairmanship of Nancy Hanks. Following initiatives taken by Roger L. Stevens, first chairman of the Endowment, she has exerted excellent leadership in the highly commendable development of this program. Her statement testifies to the expansion of the Endowment's efforts during its historic and precedent-setting 10 years, and I am pleased that she has gone into great detail to describe a time of truly constructive and meaningful growth.

So I say, "Happy Anniversary" to Chairman Hanks!

At previous reauthorization hearings in 1973, I remarked to her, "You've come a long way..." I repeat that observation today -- but for reasons of deference to her position, I won't quite complete the whole of that popular slogan.

In these hearings we will focus on details and on larger principles and concepts.

I am impressed by a statement made by Mr. Louis Harris at the House hearings on this legislation in late September. Mr. Harris, one of our nation's outstanding poll takers, spoke as Chairman of the Associated Councils on the Arts, and he emphasized that the American people in the years ahead will be searching for "a quality of experience to fit the quality of life." And in this search, he points out, "the arts are central."

So in these hearings we are considering priorities, national in scope.

And we are considering the arts as resources of deep meaning to our daily lives -- and to our economy.

A recent study supported by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts points to the dramatic growth of the arts in my home state during the past decade. This growth is now reflected by a total of 216 organizations, by annual attendance figures of more than 1.5 million people, by operating budgets totaling more than \$19 million annually, and by the annual employment of more than 2,000 individuals.

The arts are one bright spot in Rhode Island's sadly depressed economy.

And the State arts programs, supported by the Endowment, have greatly strengthened our national understanding and appreciation of the values and meaning of the arts.

State witnesses today will address that important subject -- and will provide some basis for comparison when we consider, tomorrow, the programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

I must add, in conclusion, that I am concerned with the development of the Humanities in comparison and in contrast with the Arts.

I am troubled by what appears to me a lack of balanced progress between the two Endowments. Perhaps the time has come to consider that the need for parity in funding between these Endowments has come to an end.

Perhaps the two Endowments, once considered twins in our cultural progress, should be allowed to go separate ways.

I look forward to exploring these and other concepts as these hearings develop.