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ATTENTION HOUSE MEMBERS!!

The House Appropriation Subcommittee on the Interior (Sidney Yates, D-IL, Chairman) has scheduled a hearing for Members of Congress to present testimony regarding programs under the Subcommittee's jurisdiction. Members of the Arts Caucus are invited to testify in person or submit statements on the FY '90 Budgets of:

National Endowment for the Arts

National Endowment for the Humanities

Institute of Museum Services

Historic Preservation Fund

The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25 in B308 Rayburn from 10:00 am through the afternoon.

If Members are planning to testify in person, the Subcommittee has requested that a letter be sent to Chairman Yates notifying him of that intention as soon as possible in order to be placed on the witness list. Members should indicate that they will be testifying on the federal arts agencies.

Written statements will be accepted by the Subcommittee until May 9. For copies of sample testimony and additional information, please contact the Arts Caucus at x62456.

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OUTSIDE WITNESS HEARING FOR NEA, NEH AND IMS FY'90 BUDGET AT THE INQUIRY AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

In an all-day hearing on Tuesday, March 22nd, the Subcommittee on Inquiries and Related Agencies (Sidney Yates D-IL, Chairman) heard testimony from art and humanities leaders representing various organizations and disciplines. Among the witnesses before the Subcommittee were representatives of the American Arts Alliance, the American Association of Museums, the American Council for the Arts and the National Humanities Alliance. They testified on the importance of funding assistance to the various sectors they represent and focused their remarks on the significance of funding from NEA, NEH and IMS to their programs.

The importance of federal leadership in the arts and humanities, and how NEA, NEH and IMS has served that important function over the years, was mentioned over and over during the hearing. On the significance of supporting the arts, actress Colleen Dewhurst, President of Actor's Equity Association, said, "The arts are an agent of economic development. The arts can be an agent of human development as well."

Frank W. Lynch, Vice Chairman of Northrop Corporation, enriched the discussions by presenting his corporate perspective. He said, "... corporate giving to the arts has leveled and it would be unrealistic to believe that we will see any significant change to this trend." "Further," he added, "there are new pressures on corporate giving that have the potential to shift emphasis from one sector to another as social concerns change. To the extent this occurs it could create further problems for corporate giving to the arts."

The Administration has proposed $170.100 million for NEA, $153.250 million for NEH and $22.350 million for IMS. Each of these funding requests represent an increase of $1 million, $250,000 and $80,000 for NEA, NEH and IMS respectively. The dollar amount of the requests, however, do not make up for the toll inflation has taken over the years. William P. Blair, Chairman of the American Arts Alliance, like others who came to testify, made a plea for a funding level that would put into account the inflation rate which occurred throughout the 1980s.

NATIONAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MEMORIAL MUSEUM PROPOSED

Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) introduced a bill on March 22nd which would establish a National African-American Heritage Memorial Museum, located in Washington, D.C. (preferably on The Mall), and dedicated to collecting, cataloging, conserving, and displaying historical materials, artifacts and papers relating to the history and culture of African-Americans. In addition, the legislation would set up a Trust for Black Museums, which would be responsible for collecting artifacts, and training and developing black museum professionals. The proposed museum would be a semi-independent entity, loosely affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, with a board of directors appointed by the President of the United States. The bill authorizes $5 million in FY'90 to create an administrative structure for fundraising.