

1991

Iannone, Carol: National Council on the Humanities Nomination (1991): Correspondence 04

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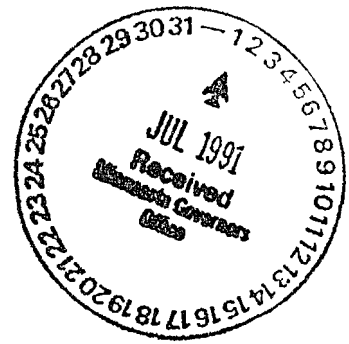
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Carney, David M., "Iannone, Carol: National Council on the Humanities Nomination (1991): Correspondence 04" (1991). *Iannone, Carol: National Council on the Humanities Nomination (1991)*. Paper 16.
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MHC
JUL 19 1991

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



June 27, 1991

Dear Governor Carlson:

As you have probably heard, the President nominated Carol Iannone to serve on the Advisory Council for the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee will vote on this nomination on July 10.

Her nomination has come under some criticism from certain groups. These groups are urging the Senate to vote down the nomination. I have enclosed a packet of comments and editorials from across the nation outlining her qualifications for this important position.

When you read through these comments I am sure that you will agree with me that Carol Iannone is very qualified for this nomination and position. As reported in The Washington Post, "Miss Iannone is altogether qualified to serve, and nothing she has written disqualifies her. The Senate is being asked to decide something more than her qualifications, and it should decline."

Thank you for your support of President Bush and Vice President Quayle. Please let this office know if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

David M. Carney
Special Assistant to the President
and Director, Office of Political Affairs

The Honorable Arne H. Carlson
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155



President Bush Nominates Carol Iannone to the
National Council on the Humanities

On January 23, 1991, President Bush nominated Carol Iannone to serve on the advisory council for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The law creating the council mandates that its members should "provide comprehensive representation of the views of scholars and professional practitioners in the humanities." Iannone's nomination is now pending before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Carol Iannone is superbly qualified for the National Council on the Humanities:

- She holds three college degrees, including a Ph.D. in literature from SUNY, Stony Brook.
- For almost 20 years, she has taught literature, writing, and theater to thousands of college students; and she has been honored for her teaching excellence. She is currently a full-time faculty member at New York University, Gallatin Division.
- For the past 4 years, Carol Iannone has served as Vice President of the National Association of Scholars. She has been managing editor and is now book editor for the association's journal, Academic Questions.
- She has published more than 30 articles, book reviews, and literary critiques in such publications as Commentary, National Review, The New Criterion, and The Wall Street Journal.

Carol Iannone's nomination for the council has received strong endorsements:

- Lynne Cheney, Chairman of the NEH, calls her "one of today's most lucid and insightful commentators on the humanities and cultural issues."
- The Washington Post says: "Miss Iannone is altogether qualified to serve [on the National Council on the Humanities], and nothing she has written disqualifies her." (May 20, 1991)
- The Wall Street Journal says: "It is true that Dr. Iannone's literary scholarship has appeared mainly in nonacademic journals that people actually read, rather than in, say, the publication of the Modern Language Association . . . It is also true that Carol Iannone is well qualified for the position to which she has been appointed." (May 5, 1991)

Additional Endorsements of the President's Nomination of
Carol Iannone to the National Council on the Humanities

Broadly learned in the humanities, a perceptive and demanding critic and teacher of literature, she is committed to a vision of humane learning that is at once high-minded and democratic. For she sees in fine literature the universal possibility of lifting the gaze and enlarging the hearts of all readers, without distinction.

--Leon R. Kass, Addie Clark Harding Professor,
The College and the Committee on Social
Thought, University of Chicago

Professor Iannone has taught [at the Gallatin Division of New York University] for a good many years, and is therefore a perfect candidate for the "public" opening that has arisen in the National Council.

--Aldo S. Bernardo, emeritus distinguished service
professor of literature at SUNY-Binghamton

For years I have read and learned from her [Iannone's] articles on various literary topics, informed and invigorated by her wise and scholarly perspectives framed in clear and lively prose, free of jargon and cant. I regard her as one of the most interesting literary and social critics of our time.

--Donald Kagan, dean of Yale College in New
Haven, Connecticut

Carol Iannone is no pedant dedicated to piling footnote upon footnote in the production of some obscure tome. Instead, she is vitally interested in the wider issues of scholarship and education.

--Bruce Cole, distinguished professor of fine
arts at Indiana University in Bloomington,
Indiana

She [Iannone] would be a particularly appropriate choice because of her experience as a part-time and temporary English instructor for a number of years before assuming her present position; she is thus qualified to represent the many thousands of college instructors who work without a permanent job title.

--Alan Gribben, professor in the department of
English at the University of Texas at Austin

Carol Iannone is unquestionably one of the most gifted instructors I have encountered in my 25 years in academic life. Her articles have inspired students and scholars and her instruction is uniformly admired by her students.

--Herb London, dean of the Gallatin Division at
New York University

Carol Iannone is a distinguished academic and intellectual who would be a great asset to the work of the Council. It is my strong recommendation and earnest hope that you [Senator Pell] will support this nomination.

--Joseph H. Hagan, president of Assumption College
in Worcester, Massachusetts

Endorsements, continued

Ms. Iannone promotes those values both through her own lucid prose and through the standards by which she evaluates the writings of others. . . . I am sure that she would bring the same high intellectual standards and honesty to the NEH.

--Laura K. Noell, assistant division chairman in the department of English at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia

Dr. Iannone would make a unique contribution to the work of this body, bringing to it a superbly trained judgment on issues pertaining to the place of the humanities within our larger culture, and the role of public policy in fostering humanities education.

--Stephen H. Balch, president and executive director of the National Association of Scholars

Miss Iannone's scholarship and writing for an educated public stand in the highest traditions of the humanities and exhibit commitment to the fundamental purposes for which the National Endowment was created. She will bring to the Council a combination of intellectual depth and breadth of vision essential to the Endowment's service to the American public.

--Edwin J. Delattre, Olin Scholar in applied ethics at Boston University

The Modern Language Association and other academic organizations have come to oppose Professor Iannone because she believes in holding intellectual work of the kind done in the National Endowment and elsewhere up to the standards of intellectual seriousness that, until recent years, has given the humanities such distinction as they possess.

--Joseph Epstein, editor, The American Scholar

She [Iannone] would bring to the council precisely what is now most urgently needed: the ability to bridge the gap between the academy and the literate public. . . . Dr. Iannone has a special talent for communicating serious, scholarly ideas in a manner that makes them intelligible to a large audience.

--Gertrude Himmelfarb, professor emeritus of history in the Graduate School and University Center at The City University of New York:

As a highly successful public scholar in the humanities, Ms. Iannone is in fact especially qualified to serve a public agency like the NEH.

--William Rice, a doctoral candidate in the department of English at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor

6/17/91