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National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities (1965-1967): Speech 07

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CLAIBORNE PELL

(D -R. I.)



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Wednesday
FOR P. M. RELEASE - March 10, 1965

~~INTRODUCES~~ SENATOR PELL WILL INTRODUCE WHITE HOUSE BILL ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) ~~announced~~ today ~~that he will~~ introduce
in the Senate a bill proposed by the Administration of President Johnson to
establish a National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities as an independent
agency. The bill was co-sponsored by Senators Gruening and Javits.

In expressing his full support for "the scope and concept of these pro-
posals," Senator Pell, Chairman of the Senate Special Subcommittee on Arts
and Humanities, said it gave him particular pleasure "to call attention to the
fact that for the first time in our history a President of the United States has
given his Administration's support to such a comprehensive measure which
combines the two areas most significant to our Nation's cultural advancement
and the full growth of a truly Great Society."

Senator Pell went on to say that he believed that the legislation now
pending in the Congress to stimulate and encourage development in the arts
and humanities "can well be placed among the most meaningful and enlightened
considerations we have before us."

The Rhode Island Senator pointed out that the Administration bill further
refined provisions in his own bill for one over-all coordinated foundation con-
cerned with the two broad cultural areas; for an appropriate separation between
them; for equal funding between the two areas; and for authorization enabling
each to receive and utilize private funding.

The Administration bill calls for the establishment of two Endowments--
a National Endowment for the Arts, and a National Endowment for the Humani-
ties. Each would have virtual autonomy in its programming. Each would be
advised by a National Council (in the case of the arts by the National Council
on the Arts already established). Each Endowment would be headed by a
Chairman, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

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who would be responsible for the Endowment's administration.

There would also be a Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities to coordinate the work of the two endowments with existing federal programs.

The Administration bill carries a basic appropriation of \$10 million, similar to Senator Pell's bill--with, in addition, a \$5 million maximum supplementary appropriation for each endowment, providing matching sums are obtained. Qualified State agencies could benefit under this formula, together with local, regional and private agencies and organizations.

Senator Pell called the bill "carefully and thoughtfully" designed and said that it reflected the belief that the arts and humanities are "central not only to our national welfare today, but to the goals we seek for the years ahead."

Furthermore, he said that he felt the concepts contained in the Administration proposals were in accord with opinions expressed at recent hearings on related legislation by "numbers of distinguished representatives of the arts and humanities, and by business leaders and members of the scientific community."