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[COMMITTEE PRINT]

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND
THE HUMANITIES

Questions and Answers

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION



OCTOBER 1965

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: How is the new Foundation structured?

Answer: The Foundation—established as an independent agency—has two major branches, called Endowments: a National Endowment for the Arts and a National Endowment for the Humanities. Each Endowment is given guidance and advice by Councils of private citizens, appointed by the President. In the case of the Arts Endowment, the advisory body is the National Council on the Arts, established during 1964 by Public Law 88-579 and now under the chairmanship of Roger L. Stevens. The new act increases this Council's membership by 2, so that it will be composed of 26 private citizens plus its Chairman. The structure for the Humanities Endowment is exactly parallel, with a new National Council on the Humanities established under Presidential appointment and also consisting of 26 members plus the Chairman. In each case the Council Chairman serves as the chief executive officer of the Endowment. There is also provision for coordination between the two Endowments and with related Federal bureaus and agencies, so that there can be maximum opportunity for cooperative activities and so that duplication of effort can be prevented.

Question: How is this coordination provided?

Answer: Through a Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Question: Who are the members of the Federal Council?

Answer: There are nine members, as follows:

- The Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts;
- The Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities;
- The U.S. Commissioner of Education;
- The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution;
- The Director of the National Science Foundation;
- The Librarian of Congress;
- The Director of the National Gallery of Art;
- The Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts; and

A member designated by the Secretary of State (to include the Department's international experience in cultural and educational affairs).

Question: Why is the Director of the National Science Foundation included on the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities?

Answer: The definition of the humanities in the act includes those aspects of the social sciences—such as sociology, for example—which relate to the study of man in relation to his environment. The National Science Foundation provides, through a small part of its total budget, some support for studies and research related to these

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areas. Duplication of effort can thus be avoided by establishing cooperation with NSF through its Director.

Question: How is the new Foundation funded?

Answer: Each Endowment is authorized \$5 million for each of 3 fiscal years, 1966, 1967, and 1968. After this the authorizations would be subject to review by the Congress.

Question: Is this total amount of funding possible?

Answer: By no means. A major objective of the legislation is to stimulate private philanthropy for cultural endeavors and State activities to benefit the arts. For these purposes an additional annual maximum of \$5 million for the Humanities Endowment and \$2.25 million for the Arts Endowment are authorized to match funds donated from private sources; and \$2.75 million is authorized for the Arts Endowment to enable each of the States (55 entities in all, including the District of Columbia and outlying areas) having a State arts agency to receive an annual grant of up to \$50,000 on an even-matching basis. States without such an agency are eligible to receive a one-time grant of up to \$25,000—without matching requirements—from these earmarked State funds. The grant would allow a State to conduct a survey leading to the establishment of a State agency for the arts and enable it to qualify for a \$50,000 matching grant in subsequent years.

Question: What groups are eligible for financial assistance?

Answer: Any group shall be eligible for financial assistance if (1) no part of its net earnings inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or stockholders, or individual or individuals, and (2) donations to such groups are allowable as a charitable contribution under the standards of subsection (c) of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Question: Are museums included in the term "group"?

Answer: Yes; museums are specifically included.

Question: We propose to remodel a building in order to convert it into a community cultural center for plays and concerts. Can we seek financial assistance from the Arts Endowment?

Answer: Yes. Grants-in-aid for construction, including remodeling and repairs, are authorized under the law. It should be noted, however, that funds for all purposes are limited, and final decision as to priorities has been left to the wisdom of the National Council on the Arts.

Question: Are there protections against domination and control of the arts and the humanities by either of the respective Chairmen?

Answer: Yes. There is a system of checks and balances built into the law:

First, section 4(c) expressly prohibits Federal control.

Second, the National Council on the Arts, composed of private citizens who are broadly knowledgeable and experienced in the arts, must advise the Chairman of the Arts Endowment on policy and procedures, and must make recommendations on applications for assistance. The Council may make annual reports to the President and the Congress, separately from the required annual report of the Chairman.