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## Washington Office Exhibit (1962): Correspondence 14

David G. Carter

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# RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

*Providence 3, Rhode Island*

MUSEUM OF ART

April 12, 1962

Senator Claiborne Pell  
Committee on Labor and Public Welfare  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Pell;

I am sorry to have been so long in replying to your request for a suitable representative for an impartial panel to select paintings to be shown in your Washington office. Professor Gilbert Franklin, Chairman of the Department of Fine Arts of the Rhode Island School of Design, has now returned from Europe and has agreed to serve with your group. He is without question the best person that I could have selected for this committee.

I enclose a clipping from the Wall Street Journal concerning the recasting of regulations and the behavior of U. S. Customs officials. Much could be done in this area to expedite the importing of exhibition material and the general importation of works of art. It took Customs three-quarters of an hour to pass me through the Port of Boston last August simply because of two drawings and a watercolor for which I had no consular invoices. To museum men and to art dealers American and foreign this paper requirement is a nuisance and an unnecessary impediment. While works of art are duty free, picture frames are not, and this alone is an additional financial embarrassment to a non-profit organization. The brokerage requirements are also an impediment. These are individually minor points, but they are points whose cumulative effect is to make life difficult. I would earnestly recommend your study of this matter in behalf of American cultural institutions. With best wishes.

Sincerely,

David G. Carter  
DIRECTOR

DGC/EJS

Enclosure