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Heston to Represent Arts on Panel to Form Task Force

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Endowment for the Arts 1982 budget, the president said:

"While I believe firmly that the federal government must reduce its spending, I am nevertheless sympathetic to the very real needs of our cultural organizations and hope the task force will deliver to my desk by Labor Day a plan to make better use of existing federal resources and to increase the support for the arts and humanities by the private sector.

Named as vice-chairman of the new commission is W. Barnabas McHenry, of New York, counsel for the Readers' Digest Association, and one of the prime movers behind the task force idea as a way of attracting more corporate and private sector support to the arts and humanities.

Prior to yesterday's announcement, there was speculation the administration favored restructuring the endowments under a public corporation plan similar to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in order to attract more corporate giving. Such a plan would require congressional action to change the endowments' present charters.

There was an indication this might be considered in yesterday's White House announcement of three areas for task force focus: the possibility of increasing support to state and local programs, increasing the role of non-governmental organizations in assisting the arts and humanities, and the desirability of converting the endowments into public corporations.

Heston said he "didn't know enough yet" about the CPB-model idea to comment.

The American Film Institute's president, who is a member of the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, told the task force, which was reconstituted with 40 members, that "This is the first group I've served on that's interested in arts and humanities.

"We hope to recruit highly qualified men and women for the 30 or so members of the task force," he said, "and usually these are the people who can give you only a day here or there, so we're prepared to deal with that contingency.

"We'll take the mountain to Mohammed," he said. "For instance, if it would be more convenient to Beverly Hills for us to sit down for an hour with her to hear her views on the arts, rather than have her put her hand up in a room of 30 people, we'll go to her.

"He said he cited Sills just as an example of the flexibility with which the task force expects to conduct its undertakings, and if she's asked, "I hope she'll serve." The White House is choosing the participants on the panel, he said.

"Most of the people," he added, "I know personally, like Franklin Schaffner, the film director. He's also on the arts council. And Margo Albert - she's married to Eddie Albert - who's served on the board of the Center Theater Group (in Los Angeles). We want to balance all the arts.

I some of the names of those who are being men-