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Museum Services Act (1984): Report 05

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Also testifying at the hearing, chaired by Arts Caucus Executive Board Member Cardiss Collins (D-Ill.), was George Ware, Executive Director for the Black Music Association. Mr. Ware stressed the "arbitrary methods" used by MTV and radio in excluding minority artists and urged Congress to examine the problem more fully. Joining Rep. Collins on the panel were Arts Caucus Members John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.), Walter Fauntroy (D.C.), and Katie Hall (D-Ind.), as well as Executive Board Member William Gray III (D-Pa.), who initiated the hearing.

In an attempt to address the various issues presented by the witnesses, Rep. Collins had introduced H.R. 1155 and H.R. 2331 -- bills which help provide greater participation of minorities in telecommunications. H.R. 1155 amends the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater diversity of ownership and control of domestic and international telecommunications by requiring implementation of equal opportunity employment programs. The second bill amends the Tax Code to increase the investment tax credit for the purchase of used telecommunications property. Hearings on H.R. 1155 by the House Telecommunications Subcommittee were held in June and September 1983, and the bill was referred to the Ways and Means Committee. No hearings were held on H.R. 2331, which is also pending in the same Committee.

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IMS REPORT APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A report on the Institute of Museum Services (IMS) has been approved by the Government Operations Committee following an analysis of the agency's internal procedures. The report contains recommendations to increase the efficiency of IMS operations, as well as to comply with its legislative mandate. The recommendations are as follows:

- Board members should receive an orientation to agency purpose and their relative role with the agency;
- Board members should receive prompt reimbursement for allowable expenses incurred in their official service;
- Liason between Board members and the IMS should be improved;
- The IMS should issue an annual report to be made available to the Members of Congress, the museum community and other interested parties;
- Grant applications, including the calendar of deadlines, must be clarified;
- Analysis of grant audit reports must be improved;
- Agency role in the conservation of art and artifacts must be ensured;
- A full Peer Review, similar to that of the National Endowment, should be utilized.

Members may obtain copies of the report entitled "Future Directions for the Institute of Museum Services" by contacting the offices of the Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee at x5-7920.

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