

1990

## Reauthorization: Hearings and Reports (1990): Correspondence 15

Page Putname Miller

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NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
FOR THE PROMOTION OF HISTORY



Administrative Offices: 400 A STREET SE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20003/(202) 544-2422

DR. PAGE PUTNAM MILLER  
Director

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March 29, 1990

Senator Claiborne Pell  
Chairman, Education, Arts and Humanities Subcommittee  
Dirksen Senate Office Building - Room SD-648  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell,

As the Director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, a consortium of fifty historical, archival, and scholarly organizations, I am writing concerning the reauthorization of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For the past twenty-five years the National Endowment for the Humanities has been an important national priority. The humanities are central to the very idea of a democratic society. Thus the historical and archival communities stand ready to do what we can to support the NEH it is crucial mandate of promoting the humanities in American society. Fellowship aid for scholars doing humanistic research, funding for long-term collaborative projects such as bibliographies and authoritative editions, and support of public programs to bring humanities studies to wider audiences are all essential and invaluable parts of the NEH program.

As we look toward a reauthorization of NEH, there are two recommendations that we put forward for your consideration. First that a policy of regranting be clearly established so that institutions such as the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Newberry Library may assist the NEH by receiving block grants that are then processed for regranting. NEH has limited staff available with the expertise for processing of small specialized grants; thus the practice of grants to highly respected scholarly institutions for regranting simplifies and streamlines the process. There is concern that new procedures could make the application process more cumbersome and lengthy.

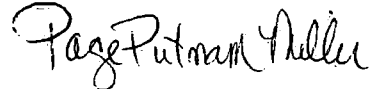
A second issue of concern to historians and other scholars is that NEH restore its commitment to providing information for the humanities higher education community on human resources in the humanities. For many years, NEH has supported the acquisition of information on advanced degree humanists -- tracking their careers and providing data on tenure, rank, salary, and nature of employment for those both inside and outside the academy. Such information is vitally important today to give higher education institutions the information needed for effective planning. Some of the uses of this information for the humanities community include: providing undergraduate and graduate schools with data that serves as a planning tool for curriculum development, career counseling, and the targeting of new programs; and supplying professional associations with employment information that will enable them to make reasoned judgments about market demands for humanists and will provide the data that allows humanities

disciplines to track how women and minorities are being integrated into the profession.

Since the current legislation authorizes the Chairman of the NEH to initiate research to strengthen the teaching potential of the humanities and to foster the exchange of information in the humanities, language to support an expanded role for NEH in data gathering is already in the legislation. However, we urge that specific language be included that stresses the role of NEH in serving as a central clearing house for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on the availability and need for individuals with advanced training in the humanities.

If I may be of assistance to you in further consideration of these two issues, please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Page Putnam Miller".

Page Putnam Miller, PhD  
Director