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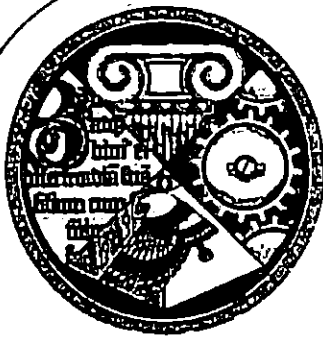
Douglas O. Eason

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TENNESSEE COMMITTEE for the HUMANITIES, Inc.

ADC
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SP

April 18, 1979

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
325 Russell Building
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Senator Pell:

I felt compelled to write and thank you for your invigorating and thought provoking comments at last Tuesday's Congressional Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel for the Chairmen of State Humanities Programs. As a state Chairman, I found what you had to say made a great deal of sense. I concur in your thinking that the state based programs need to become more politically integrated and directly responsible to the states in which they are located. The proper method for achieving this goal and the ideal schedule for instituting such a change should be a subject of consideration for us all.

My enthusiasm for the state based programs is genuine because I see them at the most "public" of all the NEH programs. It is the one arm of the Endowment which can be directly responsive to relating meaning and importance of the humanities to individual citizens' lives. We are all wary of this task because it is so difficult to do effectively and efficiently. Nevertheless, it is a worthy goal and one we should not shrink from. The more democratic we make the process, the more we confront people with the very humanistic process we champion. The benefits, both in terms of improving the quality of the political process and individual lives, are too great to be treated with less than full seriousness and energy.

I thank you for your support of the National Endowment from its inception to the present. I think you are to be commended for striving to improve and strengthen the ideals which brought forth the program in the 1960's. Please feel free to call on me if I can be of help to you in anyway as we work together to support what is best in all the programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Very cordially yours,

Douglas O. Eason

Douglas O. Eason, Chairman
Tennessee Committee for the Humanities

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