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Curran, Edward: Humanities Chairman  
Nomination Hearing (1985)

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7-22-1985

## Curran, Edward: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1985): Speech 07

Philip B. Hallen

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# PENNSYLVANIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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## STATEMENT ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES ACT OF 1965

Submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on  
Select Education and Postsecondary Education  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
July 22, 1985

Presented by Philip B. Hallen  
Chairman, Pennsylvania Humanities Council

I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear today on behalf of the Federation of State Humanities Councils and speak in support of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act. As current Chairman of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council and as President of the Maurice Falk Medical Fund, a Pittsburgh philanthropy, I have had ample opportunities over the past twenty years to work with programs that owe a great deal to the National Endowment for the Humanities. I have seen the important effects that Endowment-funded initiatives in medical ethics and philosophy have had on medical education, patient care, hospital administration and research. On the basis of work with the nation's health care community, and my involvement with state humanities councils, I can attest to NEH's role in heightening public regard for intellectual considerations and inquiry. This work in professional ethics is but one of many activities through which the Endowment has made a vital contribution to the character and quality of national life.

As a Pennsylvanian with a special charge for the humanities, I feel an obligation to welcome you to the Commonwealth. It seems fitting for Congress to visit Philadelphia, site of the 1787 Constitutional Convention, to consider arguments for continuing and increasing federal investments in the nation's cultural life. The Pennsylvania Humanities Council has been working for the past two years with scholars, community leaders and private grant-makers to prepare programs to celebrate the Constitution's 200th Anniversary and to focus attention on the document as "Our Written Legacy." Already, we are sponsoring 30 reading and discussion programs about the Constitution at historical societies and libraries throughout the state. We are working with broadcasters, exhibit designers and research centers to develop materials that will engage the public in a statewide examination of the document's meaning and significance.

The five year period that will be spanned by this year's reauthorization will encompass that Bicentennial. NEH and its 53 state affiliates will be called upon by many institutions and organizations to play a role in programs that observe and