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Appropriations (1996): Correspondence 08

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June 30, 1996

TO: Senator Pell
FROM: PDW
RE: Discussion With Senator Bennett

Upon reflection of your views and the general feeling that we want to keep the member coalition of arts and humanities supporters together, I think that the best tact with Senator Bennett is as follows:

- Thank him for all his hard work in identifying the \$10 million offsets, his efforts to restore the funds "lost" during the Interior Appropriations Committee meeting , and for his passionate defense of the NEA.
- Tell him that you understand that there are differences of opinion as to whether the \$10 million should be split between NEH and NEA so that they will end up receiving equal amounts, or restored in full to the NEH, and that you support whatever decision he makes as to how the \$10 million is directed. [Please note that Senator Bob Kerrey is equally passionate about getting all the money to the NEH and will have spoken to Senator Bennett about this.]
- Say that your original interest was in the National Endowment for the Arts and that you want what is best for that agency, but you are concerned that the current effort to restore funds might be lost in Conference where it is likely that objections to the NEA will be raised.

In short, you support the strategy that has the best chance of winning.