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Arts and Humanities: Reauthorization (1975): Speech 01

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You should make this point:



Traditionally the Arts and Humanities program has functioned with "such sums as may be necessary" for administrative purposes. Traditionally the Appropriations process has provided this money, which the two Endowments annually must justify.

It is therefore recommended that such traditional procedures apply to ~~the~~ the titles of the new bill. This is not made clear in the Committee print.



The House bill (H. R. 12838) should be reported by the Committee without recommendation.

MEMO TO DON ELLISBURG
FROM: LIV BIDDLE

May 11 (6.45 pm)

Have just learned that Sen. Javits intends tomorrow to offer an amendment to Arts and Humanities which, in effect, would provide another option for the funding of State Humanities programs -- i.e. by allowing existing State committees to be recognized as the sole State agency for the State plan, in any given year, provided they devised a plan, with the concurrence of the State Governor involved, to establish an appropriate grievance procedure to settle protests...

Sen Pell -- at this writing -- finds the plan is a bit too far afield from his intent of making State groups in the Humanities ultimately State-appointed.

I believe Sen. Javits is getting support from others on the Committee, including Sens. Stafford and Taft...

This is the only substantive amendment I am aware of this evening.

Opening Statement

Mr. Chairman:

The Special Subcommittee on Arts and Humanities is reporting today a clean bill for consideration by the Committee to reauthorize for 4 years the Arts and Humanities program. We are reporting a bill without number. Our original number -- S. 1800 -- was used when we detached a small part of that bill and acted on it separately last year.

I asked the staff to prepare a synopsis of the bill, and that was placed in your folders, together with the Committee print of the legislation.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee since its inception more than 10 years ago, let me highlight this bill for you:

1. In Title I we have made legislative provision for a State Humanities program to parallel the highly successful State arts program, included in beginning legislation enacted in 1965. The Humanities Endowment has at present State committees functioning in all the States, but the leadership of these committees emanates from Washington -- not from the States themselves.

I believe the States should have the opportunity to develop their own programs, in accord with their own desires and needs -- just as they do in the Arts State program.

Let me outline, very briefly, how successful I believe this program has been.

• In ten years State appropriated funding for the Arts has increased 15-fold -- from approximately \$4 million to over \$60 million annually.

• Municipal governments are increasingly supporting the arts. I attribute this to the grass-roots impact of the State programs.

• As State programs have grown in significance, so have community arts councils -- a dramatic growth rate here as well, from 100 to more than 1,000 in ten years.

There are no real parallels on the Humanities side. I am convinced that the provisions of Title I would enhance grass roots support for the Humanities -- and would enhance the impact of this program so that, in time, it would be equal to the Arts.

2. We have added a Museum Services program under Title II. We have considered this legislation in two previous Congresses. Its time has come. Under an imaginative proposal of Senator Javits, this program to aid our nation's museums of art, history and science is placed within the umbrella of the Arts and Humanities Foundation.

3. We have added a Challenge Grant program for the Arts, to generate \$3 non-federal for the arts for every \$1 federal invested -- and to concentrate on long-range planning -- rather than on on-going needs which the present Endowment program addresses. That is Title III.

4. There is an Arts Education program under Title IV to allow the Arts Endowment, with all its resources and special experience, to conduct pilot-type programs and demonstration projects on how the arts and creative expression can add a new dimension to future education.

5. In Title V we have focused on a special Challenge Program for the Humanities Endowment, focusing attention on proposals that were made to us by John D. Rockefeller III and other leading citizens to establish a Bicentennial Era program, extending until the 200th anniversary of the US Constitution. This special program would be concerned with our goals and priorities as a nation, and it would emphasize citizen involvement and participation.

Also, in Title V we have included modest funding for a Bicentennial Photography and Film survey of the United States, to be conducted primarily through State arts agencies. This would be the first time we undertook

such a project since the highly-praised survey of the country done by the government 40 years ago.

I want to stress that this bill contains for fiscal 1977 no more money (and actually \$2 million less) than is presently authorized in total for the Arts and Humanities.

We have prepared a table which shows how this total can be subdivided.

I want to add that when the Subcommittee concluded its meeting on April 28, we were all under some time stress, and we did not finalize figures for fiscal 1978. The ones I am recommending as Chairman contain what I consider a reasonable growth factor...

Let me also emphasize that they are in total \$100 million less than the Seante as a whole approved for the Arts and Humanities three years ago... We have been under pressure to go back to those earlier figures... But this is a time for some restraint, I feel -- and prudence -- and realism.

In sum, Mr. Chairman, I believe these *figures* reflect emphasis on the maximum use and benefit of the federal investment. In arriving at these figures we have been most careful not to jeopardize in any way present

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appropriation expectations. We have provided incentives for increase. But, most of all, we have -- I believe -- provided the Arts and Humanities program with the opportunity for new dimensions and new initiatives within existing authorized funding levels.