Duffey, Joseph: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (September 9, 1977): Speech 05

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Statement: The Humanities should not be politicized.

In some of our own Conference discussions, in statements made by the Humanities community, it has been suggested that the Humanities with particularly sensitive areas -- with moral and ethical subject areas -- should be somehow immunized from the political process, or at least not subject to political pressures.

Rebuttal: I disagree with that concept. The Humanities are no more sensitive than the Arts. The arts contain moral and ethical values. The arts educate, as well as inform and entertain. Like the Humanities the arts serve as sources of inspiration. They serve to broaden understandings and widen our horizons.

(Talking Points)

There is an old saying — one picture is worth a thousand words... It is applicable here.

We could certainly say that as much knowledge of human nature, as it relates to moral and ethical values and their consideration, is to be gained from carefully watching a great performance of a Shakespeare drama -- as from studying a tract by Spinoza.

Certainly, the Humanities are sensitive and they provide us with wisdom. I have often said that -- at their best -- the Humanities serve to translate knowledge into wisdom.

But the arts are no less sensitive. The author of a great novel is on a par with a great philosopher -- as a contributor to man's understanding. An author can be a philosopher. A philosopher can be an author.

The Arts have succeeded in bringing their benefits out to the grass roots of our country -- because, and I can't emphasize this enough, because they have become part of the mainstream of the political process, the mainstream of political life.

Governors, mayors, state officials, increasingly talk of the central value of the arts. Pollsters, such as Lou Harris, have demonstrated that 90% of our people look upon the arts as having an important place in daily life. That was far from true 10 years ago, when the Arts had few outlets beyond the East and West coasts and Chicago... The partnership between Federal and State governments has helped immensely in bringing about this change...
Rebuttal:

(Talking points)

The Arts in the States have entered into the mainstream of political life...

The Humanities shun such involvement, as if they might be contaminated. They want no involvement with State governments. Their protagonists in the press equate politicians with "hogs," and they say that the Pell plan would debase the program... Dr. Berman, Humanities Chairman, calls the Senate bill, in this respect, "wholly unacceptable."

BUT, LET'S LOOK AT IT THIS WAY...

DOESN'T A JOHN BRAZEMAS REPRESENT THE HUMANITIES, IN ACTION?

DOESN'T AN AL QUIE REPRESENT THE HUMANITIES, IN ACTION?

IN ACTION ** AND IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS!

WOULD THIS LEGISLATION WE ARE DISCUSSING TODAY HAVE COME ABOUT WITHOUT LEADERS IN THE CONGRESS INTERESTED IN THE HUMANITIES? IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS ** NOT OUTSIDE OF IT!

SHOULD THE LEADING HUMANISTS IN OUR COUNTRY SHUN THE POLITICAL PROCESS?

OR SHOULD THEY ENTER INTO IT FULLY — AND MAKE IT BETTER?

SHOULDN'T OUR LEADING HUMANISTS BE BATTING FOR THE VALUES OF THE HUMANITIES ON THE INSIDE OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS... JUST AS WE HAVE STRUGGLED TO MAKE THOSE VALUES KNOWN IN THE CONGRESS?

I FULLY AGREE THAT WE NEED THE MORAL AND ETHICAL VALUES OF THE HUMANITIES AS NEVER BEFORE...

BUT WE NEED THEM TO BE INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MAINSTREAM OF POLITICAL LIFE...

NOT SITTING ON THE SIDELINES...

TO ME, THAT'S WHAT THIS PART OF THE SENATE BILL IS ALL ABOUT!!!
Statistics

Relating to Impact of Programs

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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>No. Apps.</th>
<th>Approps.</th>
<th>No. Grants</th>
<th>Average Grant</th>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>NEA</td>
<td>2076</td>
<td>$17 mil.</td>
<td>708</td>
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<td>$8 mil.</td>
<td>1,860</td>
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Note here: In year before Berman, Arts and Humanities were on a close parity. Humanities was receiving more applications (approx 33% more.) Average size of grant was about the same, as were numbers of grants awarded.

In 1976, Arts were receiving over three times number of applications.
Arts were funding over twice the number of grants.
And, even more significantly, the average size of the Arts grants was less than one-half the size of the Humanities grant.

From 1971-76 The average size of Arts grants dropped slightly -- from $25,000 to $22,000
Average Humanities grant doubled in size -- from $24,000 to $47,000

It has to follow — and it does — that the Arts are reaching more people.

Close to

Humanities grants (averaging $50,000) are not reaching the little fellow... the small group in need... as are the Arts grants. Hence the lack of impact
RELATIVE NEEDS (ARTS & HUMANITIES)

Parity Issue...

It has been suggested that the needs of the Arts and Humanities are so far beyond present abilities of Congress to meet them that parity should be maintained -- so that each side has a feeling of relative and equal importance. (Quie)

But let's look at the institutional base of the two areas, Arts and Humanities -- at the base where the major investment is made, and the major part of the total funding for both sides is involved.

The major educational base for the Humanities is primarily in Academia, and it is primarily in Higher Education.

Federal and State governments are spending annually at least $25 billion to support this base. The Humanities Endowment serves a very special purpose within this base, and carries out a special mission -- but the physical plant for the Humanities is largely in place, financed by a variety of Federal and State funding sources outside the Humanities Endowment.

This educational base is also supported by significant private endowment funds. Harvard University, for example, has an Endowment fund of over $1 billion... (The return on that investment annually is well over half the entire appropriation for the Humanities Endowment in one year.)

Here are some other sample figures:

(Table Next Page)