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Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Correspondence 06

Franklin W. Robinson

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June 20, 1989

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Senator Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

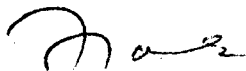
Dear Senator Pell:

At a time of crisis in the arts, I certainly don't need to encourage the "father of the Endowments" to support them. However, I did want to pass on a feeling in the atmosphere of the meetings in Providence of the Association of Art Museum Directors.

Frankly, there was a pervasive feeling of worry - worry about the fragility of federal funding, worry about censorship, worry about the attitude of Congress towards the arts and what they stand for and how they survive. This worry comes on top of the changes in the tax code (above all, the AMT), the eight-year level funding of the NEA, NEH, and IMS, the soaring prices for works of art and the soaring costs of security, conservation, and other basic museum functions, and general worry about the American economy. How all this will affect our institutions, I just don't know, but it is certainly troubling.

It was lovely to see Mrs. Pell at the Association's dinner at Rosecliff.

Best regards,



Franklin W. Robinson
Director

FWR:ca