Duffey, Joseph: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (September 9, 1977): Speech 06

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These heavily endowed institutions are assisted by large grants from the Humanities Endowment.

A few examples from FY 1975

Yale... $420,000
Harvard ... $180,000
MIT ... $180,000

In contrast --

(The Arts)

The institutional base for the Arts is in the orchestras, theaters, dance companies and related organizations.

With the exception of a few major orchestras, the institutional base of the arts is not endowed.

Its physical plant is assisted by no such massive Federal and State subsidies.

The Arts have far less Federal and State support -- from alternative sources -- than the Humanities.

But we should consider the issue of parity, most of all, in terms of the effectiveness of the programs involved, rather than only in terms of relatively large alternative sources of support available for the Humanities.

Let's look at these accomplishments in ten years in the Arts.

- The number of symphony orchestras which are fully professional and which serve broad-based communities and regions has grown from 58 to 105.
- Professional opera companies have increased from 27 to 45.
- Resident Professional Theaters have grown from 15 to 50.
- Resident Professional Dance companies have grown from 10 to 51.
- Resident Professional Touring Dance Companies have grown from 27 to 87.
In other words, the institutional base of the arts — largely unsupported by any other Federal source outside the National Endowment for the Arts — has increased two-fold as is the case with orchestras, and up to five-fold in the case of the other groups mentioned.

What does this mean?

Essentially it means these things:

• that the outreach of the Arts program is being rapidly increased

• that, as our people become aware of the values of the arts — so are they demanding greater exposure to these values, in all parts of the country

• that this program has exploded outward, as I have said before

• that the dimensions of its needs has exploded.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THESE FACTORS, BECAUSE THEY SIMPLY DO NOT EXIST WITH ANYTHING LIKE THE SAME EXPLOSIVE FORCE ON THE HUMANITIES SIDE.