Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of (1991): Correspondence 16

Henry H. H. Remak

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May 24, 1991

The Honorable Clayborne Pell  
Committee on Labor and  
Human Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6300  

Dear Senator Pell:  

I am writing to question the advisability of appointing Carol Iannone as an academic member of the National Council on the Humanities (NEH). I want to stress immediately that I am not doing so because I oppose her philosophical, political, or ideological stance. I like many critical observations she makes, she is clearly very intelligent, she writes well and articulately, and her contributions to the analysis and critique of contemporary mores is refreshing even when one does not agree with them.

But she is clearly not a scholar, let alone a scholar of distinction. Being appointed as an academic member of the National Council should be one of the highest honors bestowed on an American scholar in the Humanities. Appointing her to that very limited contingent on the Council that represents the finest scholarship to be found in America almost has to be considered a political act, and for the Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, who has forcefully decried the politization and de-intellectualization of academia, to do so is confusing if not contradictory.

Sincerely yours,

Henry H.H. Remak  
Professor Emeritus of  
Germanic Studies,  
Comparative  
Literature, and West  
European Studies.  
Director, Institute  
for Advanced Study.