

1991

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

Henry H. H. Remak

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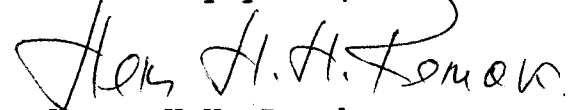
The Honorable Clayborne Pell
Committee on Labor and
Human Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6300

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.