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National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities: Reauthorization (1985): Report 15

Stephen J. McCleary

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

November 1, 1985



Office of the General Counsel

The Honorable Pat Williams
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Williams:

The Endowment has always maintained that it will comply with the law. If the legislation reauthorizing NEH directs this agency to file with the EEOC all required plans and reports, including goals and timetables, by January 31, 1986, this agency will comply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen J. McCleary".

Stephen J. McCleary
Acting General Counsel

1. EEOC (Sect. 107).

Suggested modification in legislative language: The Chairperson
of the National Endowment for the Humanities shall, by January 31,
30-days after the-enactment of the Arts, Humanities, and Museums
1985,
Amendments-of-1985,-the-Chairperson-of the National-Endowment-
shall transmit to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
each plan and each report required under any regulation or manage-
ment directive that is issued by the Commission and is in effect
at that time."
on-such date-of enactment."

2. DIVERSITY PROVISIONS (SECT. 103, 105 and 107)

The conferees recognize the seminal role played by NEH in ensuring that the humanities play an increasingly central role in our democratic society. The conferees note NEH's recent initiative, "Understanding Other Nations" and "Understanding America", which will encourage more knowledge of both the diversity and the common heritage of all Americans, as examples of NEH's continuing efforts along these lines. However, because there have been ^{years of} declines in funding a full range of studies and of all scholars, the conferees support the addition of language which authorizes programs and research which have substantial scholarly and cultural significance and that reach, or reflect the diversity and richness of our American heritage, including the culture of a minority, inner city, rural, or tribal community.

These new provisions of the bill [Sec 7(c)(4)] dealing with culturally diverse and emerging groups are designed to welcome the full range of our citizens' participation in both Endowments. The Committee intends that applications from all Americans with excellent humanities projects, whatever their cultural heritage, economic status, or geographic background, would receive equitable attention, including minority, inner city, rural, or tribal citizens. Both Endowments should continue to develop programs that serve groups and individuals who for reasons of origin, history, geography, or economic conditions have not traditionally had access to the arts and humanities--either as participants or audiences.

As with the general programs for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Committee specifies that the Chairperson shall give particular regard to scholars and educational and cultural institutions that have traditionally been underrepresented.