Curran, Edward: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1985): Correspondence 09

Claiborne Pell
June 24, 1985

Dear Jack:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of June 12, 1985, concerning the Curran nomination. May I add that I always appreciate your views. In this case, however, I really believe that whoever is chosen to be chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities must be a man who enjoys the respect and regard of scholars throughout our nation. He certainly should have the other attributes you mentioned, but he must have an underlying record of scholarship. I know this was a concept which we developed in the enabling legislation in 1965, and to date there has been no variation from the pretty successful line of scholars and administrators who have occupied the chairmanship.

Perhaps an analogy would be the military service where there are many different branches - Infantry, Artillery, Adjutant General, Corps, etc. - but all officers have been through basic military training and have a basic understanding of what the responsibilities, behavior and performance of an officer should be.

Always great to hear from you.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

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cc: Sandy Crary