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October 9, 1985

Senator Claiborne Pell
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell,

I noticed in last Sunday's New York Times an article about the Reagan administration's appointee to fill Secretary Bennett's former position as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The article comments wryly on the furor surrounding this appointment, yet notes the chorus of concern which you, and others on the Senate Committee, are expressing over Edward Curran's qualification for this important job.

As someone who has long been a champion of the N.E.H. you know the pivotal role this group plays throughout our country. I am writing to applaud your efforts to maintain and strengthen the N.E.H. and its associated programs in the State Humanities, particular by challenging this appointment. I do not know much of him, but encourage you to seek a candidate who will lead this program with creativity and conscience. This is important because the Humanities provide much of the creativity and conscience for America. In these complicated times, these must be nurtured, not eliminated.

My mother, Betsy McCleiright, worked with you for many years for just such reasons. I am sure that on these issues, you know her thoughts better than I. By this letter however, I wish to support your efforts and encourage you to make certain this appointment is beneficial to the N.E.H., and indeed us all.

Sincerely,

Matthew

Matthew K. McCleiright
Associate Director
of Development

MKM/slC