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Curran, Edward: Confirmation Hearing (1985): Correspondence 13

Richard K. Cross

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October 3, 1985

Senator Claiborne Pell
SR-335 Russell Building
Delaware and C Streets, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

Yesterday I attended a portion of the confirmation hearing on Edward Curran, hoping that the negative reports I had heard of him would prove untrue. I knew, of course, that he had none of the scholarly credentials or experience in higher education one expects of the Chair of NEH, but I was hoping at least to discover that he had an acute, informed, and independent mind. Unfortunately his testimony was utterly lackluster. It is distressing to contemplate the prospect of someone like Mr. Curran—well-intentioned, it would seem, but altogether without intellectual authority—as the chief federal advocate of the humanities at what everyone agrees is a crucial juncture in the educational life of the nation.

I speak not only for myself but also for many of my colleagues here when I urge you to vote against confirming Mr. Curran.

Sincerely yours,

Richard K. Cross
Chair