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State Humanities Committees (1979-1982): Correspondence 17

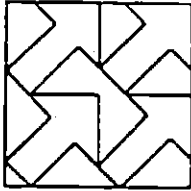
Ronald D. Means

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The Michigan Council for the Humanities

Nisbet Building, Suite 30
1407 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, Michigan 48824
(517) 355-0160

JUL 27 1979

July 25, 1979

Ms. Betsy K. McCreight, Vice Chairperson
Federation of Public Programs in the Humanities
15 South 5th Street
Suite 720
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Dear Betsy:

I am writing on behalf of the Chairman of the Michigan Council for the Humanities, John W. Eadie, to convey to you our views on the issues set forth in your memorandum of July 6, 1979: the 20% minimum allotment to the State Program, and the new funding formula.

In respect to the first, we regard the 20% minimum as reasonable and do not consider it in the interests of the humanities nationally to make significant cuts in other Endowment programs solely for the purpose of enlarging the funding of the State Program. We would, of course, like to see total funding grow. Meanwhile, we would like to see more Gift and Match money made available because of its usefulness in building local support.

As to the second, we also regard the proposed funding formula as reasonable and, in principle, equitable. Greater discretion to the Chairman should stimulate and, when necessary, help to enforce quality and clarity in State Programs. Population is in itself the fairest standard.

We are, however, much concerned with the impact of the formula on the less populous states. It may not be inequitable to cut these programs, but to cut them and to cut them so much, may prove most unfortunate.

We have the impression that in the State Program "small" sometimes has indeed been "beautiful," that programs in some of the less populous states have reached the "grassroots" with exceptional effectiveness. We are concerned that we will all lose if these states are forced, because of severe cuts, to step backward from their successes.

There are fifty State Programs. An outstanding program is an outstanding program and will generally be recognized as such whatever the relative size of that state's population. It is not in the interests of the humanities, of NEH, or of larger states like our own to see outstanding programs damaged.

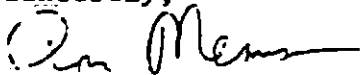
Ms. Betsy McCreight

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July 25, 1979

The Chairman's discretionary ceiling should be higher for the less populous states.

Sincerely,



Ronald D. Means
Executive Director

RDM:lg

cc: Weiland
Eadie