Letters (1980): Correspondence 30

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February 15, 1980

Honorable Joseph D. Duffey
Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to ask that you give every possible consideration to the request for a substantial production grant to launch the television series "MADE IN U.S.A.: The Untold Story of Workers in America." The request has been made by WGBH Boston, one of our nation's premier public television broadcasters.

There has never been a major television series exploring the history of workers in America, and our schools and colleges have largely neglected this important aspect of the American heritage.

In its 1973 report, Work in America, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare found that the commercial networks have not fairly portrayed working Americans. Although public television is in large part supported by tax dollars provided by working Americans, it too has failed to produce any major programming effort to provide a more balanced image of American workers.

The Endowment has supported such major television series as The Adams Chronicles, The Best of Families, The Scarlet Letter, and The American Short Story. In our opinion, a dramatic history of working Americans equally warrants Endowment support. The Endowment has done much to encourage scholarly exploration of the history of workers, but only through a major effort like MADE IN U.S.A. will these materials reach the general public. MADE IN U.S.A. would fulfill an important mission of the Endowment--to make the best of the humanities available to a broad American public.

MADE IN U.S.A. will be, we know, a large undertaking, but the cost, in relation to the potential audience, may make it one of the least expensive projects yet undertaken by the Endowment.
February 15, 1980

We hope that you will give this project every possible consideration so that it can move ahead quickly to completion.

Sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

Jennings Randolph

Harrison A. Williams, Jr.