

1992

Letters: Outgoing (1990-1994): Correspondence 25

Claiborne Pell

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
HUMAN RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300
May 20, 1992

Honorable Robert McCormick Adams
Secretary
The Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Secretary Adams:

As we look ahead to the 150th anniversary of the Smithsonian in 1996, it is important to consider the role that the Institution has traditionally played in encouraging intellectual cooperation and exchanges.

While I am fully aware of the economic restraints that have prompted the termination of the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, I believe the Smithsonian should strive to keep its functions alive in some creative manner. The cross-fertilization of academic disciplines is something the Smithsonian can and should excel at.

The former symposia series provided a perfect focus for lively and productive debate by bringing an international array of scholars, public servants and the media together here in Washington. These events truly honored the spirit of James Smithson's trust.

I hope you will give some thought to continuing this type of program that has brought such distinction to your fine Institution in the past.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell