Arts and Humanities: Pell Amendments (1975): Report 22

Livingston Biddle
TO: SENATOR

FROM: LB

Feb. 18

Here is a draft Arts and Humanities amendment, as one possible compromise to the State humanities program. It was drafted by Blair Crownover, who is working on the other amendments we discussed at the lunch with Brademas/Duncan.

This one would:

- allow present combined Arts and Humanities councils to continue without change. We may wish to stipulate a future separation — into an Arts group and a Humanities group. But the main source of support for the so-called Pell amendment on State-based humanities programs came from the Maury Coats Texas group, and they are concerned lest they be required to change at present. I would recommend against losing this support and good will... The combined state agencies are working hard to involve the Humanities to a greater extent. This would give them added incentive... We could also put in the report language that would look toward the day when there would be separate Arts and Humanities programs in every state.

- provide that a majority of State humanities committees should be appointed by state governors — in each case as regards their membership — within a three-year span. This was your basic thought: to phase in State leadership.

- provide for a number of other safeguards to ensure a more representative State program. These came from Mondale's office, and I have cranked them in for discussion. They were intended as a more minor compromise than we have evolved here — but I have added them as supplements.

- retain the basics of financing which Steve had worked out for your original proposal. These are rather detailed, but they parallel funding for the State arts programs, also detailed and carefully spelled out as a result of the Conference back in 1993.