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Berman, Ronald: Memoranda (1975-1984): Speech 01

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Talking Points

LB

For Senator... not for any distribution...LB

Attached is a draft memorandum which can be used today to:

-- keep our own initiatives dominant

-- and, I think, successfully deal with the Jagoda suggestion of one chairman, which could well come up in the meeting with the President... and indeed with Jagoda's own problems... Might as well have him on our side.

1. You have discussed activating the Federal Council in February, with Mrs. Mondale, at the joint hearings on the Rockefeller Panel report, in your speech which I gave to the American Institute of Conservators in Boston. I have discussed the concept with White House staffers, including Jagoda and Mrs. Mondale's people... with Arts Educators meeting this week in Washington on an ad hoc basis; and also with the Board of Directors of the Associated Council on the Arts meeting in Atlanta. Lou Harris is, as you know, Chairman of this group -- Jack Golodner serves as counsel... They unanimously endorsed the concept. Lou Harris especially spoke in favor of it -- as did Jack, which means that it has the full support of Labor.

2. In brief, your constituency very much likes this approach. It is where I strongly recommend you stand at this time. Your constituency -- Lou Harris, et al. -- mistrust a concept of a Department of Education and Culture now. Jack Golodner made this point strongly in Atlanta... They see the Arts being swallowed up in a large bureaucracy... It is a question of timing and time -- but you are absolutely on the most solid ground with the concept, which you have advanced and can call your own, of activating the Federal Council. This stance will help for '79. I am certain of this. And you lose no future options -- for an activated Federal Council can lead in the direction of further future structuring.

3. Mrs. Mondale has several times shunned the idea of an official position on the Federal Council, or as its leader... I don't see her, under these circumstances, getting involved in policy. I think we both agreed she should serve as the stellar symbol of the new Administration's emphasis on cultural improvement...

4. Thus, we could quietly suggest that Joe Duffey become Chairman of the Federal Council. This would be very easy to accomplish... I believe he would be excellent... and he could deal with policy and its development, working with us... And -- this could also answer Jagoda's problems: a. to advance a new idea, or help to... and to give Duffey more importance, which apparently is on his mind.

Just for Senator

Other,

The Disadvantages of One Chairman

Talking Points...

1. You will recall the hassle over the original bill -- Arts groups favored a Foundation on the Arts, to include the Humanities... Barnaby Keeney and the Humanists were dead set against: their idea was at first a Foundation on the Humanities, to include the Arts...

Your bill in 1965 was the first to separate the two areas -- Arts and Humanities. (You'll recall Gruening in the Senate, Moorhead in the House had bills in for the Humanities... Javits and Thompson for the Arts)... Your bill clearly set the stage for the two Endowments... This was your idea.

2. With this background, it would seem inadvisable to consider doing now (one chairman) something which was so opposed in the beginning -- and solved by careful compromise.

3. The old animosities would simply reassert themselves.

4. No matter how wise the Chairman, or how gifted in both areas, he would be suspect (or she) to these two constituencies... especially now when they are in unfriendly relations.

5. The whole subject of coordination of the federal programs is larger than the two Endowments. It encompasses all related agencies... HENCE THE VALUE OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL