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Appropriations (1996): Memorandum 11

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MEMORANDUM

April 25, 1996

To: Senator, Tom, David
From: PDW
Re: Yesterday's Budget Agreement

In terms of the budget status of the two endowments and IMS, the news is good. The Fiscal Year 1996 budget for these agencies will be at the prior Interior appropriations conference level for FY'1996: \$99.5 for the NEA (a cut of 40% from FY'1995 appropriation), \$110 for the NEH, and \$21 for IMS. This means that NEH has a additional \$10.5 million above the level they had imposed upon themselves when it was thought that the House-passed appropriations level would stand.

One bit of uncertainty remains: the exact amount of administrative reduction that will be imposed upon the three agencies. The authorizing agency will make the final decision. Apparently, all the agencies under Interior have to "fork up" as a bribe to Senator Stevens to compromise on the logging in the Tongass National Forest provision. I heard from one source in Appropriations that, for the NEA, .0008% would be taken out of the agency's travel budget. Both NEA and NEH are operating on bare-bones funds for administration, so let's hope that the reductions imposed will be very minimal.