

1989

Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Correspondence 19

Donald E. Wildmon

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89 APR 24 PM 3:09

April 18, 1989

Sen. Claiborne Pell
U.S. Senate
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Pell:

Recently the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal government agency supported by tax dollars, helped fund an art exhibit which included a "work of art" expressing bigotry toward Christians. The "work of art" was a very large, vivid photograph of Christ hanging on a cross submerged in urine and titled "Piss Christ", done by Andres Serrano. The "work of art" was exhibited at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Carnegie-Mellon University Art Gallery in Pittsburgh and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

That a government agency would spend tax dollars to help promote this piece of anti-Christian bigotry is deplorable. The person at the National Endowment for the Arts responsible for approving federal tax dollars for the promotion of this 'work of art' should be fired. Government funds promoting bigotry against any religion should never be allowed.

The exhibition was part of The Awards in the Visual Arts program funded by The Rockefeller Foundation, The Equitable Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Serrano was rewarded for his anti-Christian bigotry by The Rockefeller Foundation and The Equitable Foundation with a \$15,000 prize.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Wildman

Donald E. Wildmon
Executive Director

DEW/wed