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Berman, Ronald: Memoranda (1975-1984): Memorandum 06

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Memorandum

It has been suggested that there might be one Chairman for both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This could prove disruptive and mitigate against the coordination needed to develop a rational and coordinated policy for the growth and dissemination of our cultural resources.

To develop this policy, it is recommended that the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities be activated.

1. The Federal Council consists of agency heads whose programs relate either to the Arts or to the Humanities, or to both.
2. Its leadership potential is immense, but it has been largely dormant since its creation in 1965 as part of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.
3. It is the only such inter-agency Council established in law.
4. Under the law it was given coordinating responsibilities. These have not been fully utilized. The two Endowments developed their own policies, programs and procedures, as did the other related agencies.
5. In the years since 1965, the two Endowments have grown in scope and dimension. The time has come for a coordinated approach.
6. It is recommended that a full-dress meeting of the Federal Council be convened, with the mandate to proceed to develop a coordinated policy and coordinated plans for cultural growth.
7. Such a meeting and mandate would signal to the cultural community --
 - . a new departure from past procedures, without disturbing past achievements;
 - . a new emphasis on cultural growth.
8. For this task and its development, it is recommended that the President appoint a new Chairman for the Federal Council -- to give its mission the thrust and emphasis desired.
9. It should be stressed that this is a major step forward in the structuring of our cultural resources for maximum benefit to the country.
10. The problem is larger than the two Endowments. It involves the related agencies significantly.