

6-1996

Appropriations (1996): Report 10

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_l_4

Recommended Citation

"Appropriations (1996): Report 10" (1996). *Appropriations (1996)*. Paper 38.
https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_l_4/38

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Appropriations (1996) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu.



HOUSE PASSES FY '97 CULTURAL FUNDING

- NEA budget set at \$99.5 million (same as FY 96)
- NEH budget set at \$104.5 million (\$5.5 million cut in funding from FY 96)
- IMS budget set at \$21 million (same as FY 96)

After two days of debate on the FY 97 Interior Appropriations bill, including funding for the cultural agencies, the House passed the measure by a 242 - 174 vote. During the debate three negative amendments concerning the cultural agencies were expected to be offered by Representatives Crane (R-IL), Hoekstra (R-MI) and Shedegg (R-AZ).

Member Organizations:

American
Symphony
Orchestra
League

Association
of Art
Museum
Directors

Association
of Performing
Arts
Presenters

Dance/USA

OPERA
America

Theatre
Communications
Group

Representing
2,600 Non-profit
Arts Institutions

Late Wednesday night, Representative Crane (R-IL) decided not to offer his amendment to eliminate the NEA, with the understanding that the FY '97 Interior Appropriations bill is consistent with last year's recommendations to phase-out federal funding for the NEA over a two year period.

In addition, Representative Hoekstra (R-MI) offered an amendment to cut the NEA funding by \$31,000 because of his outrage over the film "The Watermelon Woman", a story about a mythical 1930's black actress. The NEA awarded a \$31,000 grant to Cheryl Dunye, a filmmaker who seeks to promote a part of black sexual history she says history books have neglected to document. Representative Hoekstra (R-MI) argued that the taxpayer's money should not be spent funding such controversial projects. Representative Jackson-Lee (D-TX) responded in favor of the NEA and its right to independently decide which projects to fund. Hoekstra agreed to withdraw his amendment due to the same understanding Representative Crane (R-IL) had with the leadership regarding the two year phase out of NEA.

Finally, Representative Shedegg (R-AZ) offered an amendment to reduce the NEH funding level by \$12 million. During the debate on this amendment Representatives Shedegg (R-AZ), Chabot (R-OH) Chenoweth (R-ID), Coburn (R-OK), and Hostettler (R-IN) spoke for the amendment and Representatives Yates (D-IL), Dicks (D-WA), Skaggs (D-CO) and Williams (D-D-MT) spoke against the amendment. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 168-254.

The final outcome of the FY 97 Interior & Related Agencies Appropriations bill approved \$99.5 million for the NEA, \$21 million for the IMS, and \$104.5 million for the NEH. The NEA and IMS were given the same funding levels as last year. The NEH funding level had a \$5.5 million decrease in funding from last year's spending bill. The President has said that he will veto the bill in its current form.