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7-18-1989

## Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Correspondence 23

Jacob Neusner

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*Address August 20, 1989-June 30, 1990*

JACOB NEUSNER

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*University Professor  
The Ungerleider Distinguished Scholar of Judaic Studies*

7 18 89

Senator William Armstrong  
U S Senate  
Washington D C

Dear Senator Armstrong,

In my letter to you I stated that the Council did not conduct a public discussion of the Seranno grant, contrary to the view of Ms. Hillis in her letter to you.

I now have a letter from Mr. Hugh Southern, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, confirming my report to you. In it he states that a closed session discussion of the Seranno grant took place, in the context of grants to named parties. There was no public discussion at all, just as I told you. A closed session discussion of a specific grant, or in that context, is precisely the opposite of a public and open discussion of public policy in the arts, such as, in my letter to you I maintained had not taken place. My representation of matters is therefore confirmed.

Sincerely,

cc  
Mr. Hugh Southern, National Endowment for the Arts

