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Iannone, Carol: National Council on the Humanities Nomination (1991): Speech 01

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TALKING POINTS AND QUESTIONS FOR CAROL IANNONE:

✓ There has not been a controversy over a Council nomination as polarizing and shrill as the present one in my long experience with the NEH. What strengths will you bring to the Council to make all this controversy worthwhile? What do you see as the main issues at stake in your nomination?

✓ Many of your critics object to what they view as extreme viewpoints in your writings. This raises the question of how this might effect your judgement as a Council member. Could you support - and even advocate - federal funding for a project if you disagreed with the point of view being expressed?

In your view, what is the ideal relationship between the Humanities Endowment and its constituents? Do you believe that the Endowment should have an agenda that is distinct from its constituency? What kind of leadership role should the Endowment have?

✓ Do you consider yourself part of the intellectual mainstream today? How do you answer your critics who claim that you might not be open to and supportive of current intellectual developments?

✓ I personally would like to see the NEH Council be a positive force for the expansion of the humanities in American life. How can I be assured that you will make positive contributions to the work of the Council when the tone of your writings has been so consistently negative?

✓ For what reasons do you believe you were selected as a candidate for the Humanities Council..... your writings, your academic credentials, the support of friends?

You were first nominated by the President last September by the President. The Committee sent you its required disclosure forms on September 23 but you did not return these forms to the Senate until December - well after Congress adjourned. What was the reason for this delay? If the papers had been filed in a timely fashion this controversy would likely have been avoided.

Your disclosure form indicates that you were Special Assistant to Morris Abram at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in 1985-86. As I recall this was a particularly difficult time for the Commission when it was criticized by many for NOT carrying out the will of Congress. What was your role at the

Commission? Did you support the affirmative action goals of the Commission?

✓ QUESTIONS FOR LYNNE CHENEY if needed:

Who is the White House staff person serving as a liaison for the Humanities?

I understand that you are undertaking major staff changes at the Endowment as well as some changes in the program areas - particularly the Challenge Grant Program. Has there been a public announcement of this reorganization? I would like a full briefing at the staff level on these developments as soon as possible so that we can consider holding a hearing to properly inform the Subcommittee members of Endowment activities.

I fear there has been a breakdown in communications from your Congressional Liaison Office to my Subcommittee office. Not one contact has been initiated from your office to mine for 6 months. This situation has certainly aggravated the confusion over the status of Ms. Iannone's nomination. There should be a great deal more sharing of information.