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ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 23, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HISTORIANS STATE POSITION ON NOMINATION OF SHELDON HACKNEY

The Organization of American Historians, representing 12,000 scholars, teachers, and students of American history, has endorsed the nomination of Sheldon Hackney, President of the University of Pennsylvania, to head the National Endowment for the Humanities. A prize-winning historian, Hackney has been a member of the Organization for many years. The OAH Statement is as follows:

"Sheldon Hackney is a distinguished historian, a successful administrator in higher education, and a longtime champion of both scholarly research and the public presentation of the humanities. Renowned among colleagues for open-mindedness and judicious judgment, he possesses precisely the qualities that will enable him to provide the NEH with creative new leadership, devoid of partisan rancor.

"Throughout his career, Hackney has demonstrated a commitment to scholarly rigor, community and public service, and the free exchange of ideas. As a member of the American Historical Association's Committee on the Rights of Historians, in 1974, he helped draft a pioneering statement of professional standards that identified respect for intellectual pluralism, and the protection of freedom of speech in the university community, as hallmarks of academic freedom.

"The Organization of American Historians is delighted to endorse Sheldon Hackney's nomination. We urge the Senate to confirm his appointment."

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