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Institute of Museum and Library Services Act (1996): Correspondence 14

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Institute of Museum Services

A Federal agency serving the nation's museums

Office of the Director • 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20506 • (202) 606-8536

March 11, 1996

The Honorable Randy 'Duke' Cunningham
U.S. House of Representatives
United States Congress
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0551

Dear Representative Cunningham:

Thank you for finding time to meet with us March 7 on several details related to the creation of an Institute of Museum and Library Services. We are grateful for your continuing support for both the library and museum communities. We share with you the desire that these programs continue to serve local communities as effectively as possible.

As we agreed, the following provisions are necessary to assure that the new consolidation of museum and library programs continues to reflect and promote the interests of both communities. We want to enter into this merger in a manner that will ensure good working relationships well into the future.

- **Maintain two boards.** It is in the best interest of the library community to maintain the independence of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. The Commission is willing to add providing policy advice for library programs to its other significant purposes. The National Museum Services Board can continue, in a very cost effective way, to provide policy advice for museum programs.
- **Alternating Directors.** Long term cooperation would be best served by alternating the directorship of the Institute of Museum and Library Services between a museum professional and a library professional, each with four year terms. A deputy for library programs and deputy for museum programs assures that the interests of both communities are permanently in place.

Again, thank you for agreeing to these provisions and for your special commitment to libraries and museums. With your leadership we are assured of the future success of these programs.

Sincerely,

Diane B. Frankel
Director
Institute of Museum Services

Jeanne Hurley Simon
Chairperson
National Commission on Libraries
and Information Science