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Kerr, John Hoare (1978-1984): Correspondence 26

John Hoare Kerr

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FEB 16 1981

Washington Field
Newport, RI
02840

Dear Senator Pell,

As you may recall, I hope, I asked your Committee overseeing the National Endowment of the Arts to review the illegal ouster of me and the surrounding facts. You replied it was not an appropriate time as the Endowment was Appealing the favorable decision handed down by the Merit System Protection Board of Appeals which ruled in my favour, and you indicated you had me in mind and had asked your Committee staff to keep you posted.

It is now months from that favorable decision and I have had no word from MSPB although my own response and my lawyer's, (Jordan Stanzler, Esq of Newport, R.I. and the firm of Moses and Singer, NYC, has long been in the hands of MSPB of Appeals setting the facts and indicating why the Endowment's Appeal should be denied (as all previous Endowment appeals have been. I have written several times to speed action without success. Therefore I would appreciate it very much if you could assist me by finding out when (or what) the MSPB Appeals has decided. I also ask that I be permitted to present my case for the consideration of your Committee and its Chairman ; as your constituent, I assume a petition to be heard by the Committee should appropriately come before you. I ask now so that I may be on

sufficient notice to prepare testimony.., painful as it is for me to have to present my Agency in the light it has presented itself to my career it seems to have shattered by its unsustained actions and surrounding facts.

I have been concerned to hear of the Agency's possible cut-back in funds as it is seed money under proper direction well spent, and particularly in times of crisis do we need the arts, and in sums of actual dollars, its budget is not a major item in the overall Federal budget and produces far more than it is provided. With an artist in the White House, I am hopeful the point will be well made.

As I have deliberately kept out of touch with my former associates and good friends at the Endowment...I am wondering who is now Chairman and how long before a new Chairman takes office. So much can be accomplished when the White House has appointed a Chairman, and so little before as I well recall. It is like a rudderless ship in the between periods.

Be assured Senator of my continuing admiration. I have long felt that R.I.'s Senatorial representation is among the finest and is above politics in the crucial matters we face today and adapts well to needs. Cordially,
Feb 11, '81

John Hoare Kerr

Edward Taylor