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John Hoare Kerr

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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 favor, 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 Steauzler, 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 Sena-
torial 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