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Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Correspondence 29

Claiborne Pell

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Mr. John Farrell  
President  
PEN Center USA West  
1100 Glendon Ave., Suite PH  
Los Angeles, CA  90024  

Dear Mr. Farrell:  

Thank you very much for writing me with your thoughtful comments about the current controversy facing the National Endowment for the Arts.  

I recently drafted the enclosed statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which addresses some of the broader issues involved in this debate. I thought you would be interested in having a copy.  

When the Congress returns in September a House/Senate conference must resolve the differences between the two versions of the Arts Endowment's FY 1990 appropriations bill. I am hopeful that the Helms amendment and the ban on funding for two fine arts organizations will be dropped then in favor of the House position. I have indicated my thoughts on these provisions to the conference chairman, Senator Byrd.  

With warm regards,  

Ever sincerely,  

Claiborne Pell  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Education,  
Arts & Humanities