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May 11, 1979

Dear Congressman Yates:

I'd like to make a point about the NEH which wasn't stressed in your recent hearings.

It's that under Joe Duffey the NEH has been considerably more open than under his predecessors. The charges about an "old boy" network--or its equivalent in the humanities--can be refuted by a number of facts, I believe. The fact that impresses me most, understandably, is that he and his staff have taken time to listen to the Popular Culture Association and to ask the advice of some of its members.

The PCA is probably the most populist of the academic societies. By way of illustration I'm enclosing a photocopy of the list of PCA members at a recent conference which Mr Duffey hosted. If you look at the institutions represented you'll find a dearth of ivy or elms.

This is the kind of outreach on his part that I find very promising for the general health of the NEH; and I hope that you do too.

With best wishes.

Faithfully,

Carl Bode