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Bess Lomax Hawes

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November 17, 1983

Ms. Christine A. White
Executive Director
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
312 Wickenden Street
Providence, RI 02903-4454

Dear Christine,

I am startled to realize that Thanksgiving is nearly upon us, and the issues raised in my letter to you of August 9, 1983 have still not been resolved. I understand that state bureaucracies, like federal ones, revolve slowly, but I am concerned that the holidays will soon be here and then there will only be a month until the start date of the next Rhode Island folk arts grant (2/2/84). During the next two months, my own office will be involved in a major grants review panel and the preparation of a five year plan along with the usual spate of staff holidays. I am sure RISCA will be equally engaged.

With all the possibilities for confusion during such a busy period, I have taken the step of putting an administrative hold on your 1983 grant (Grant number 32-5530-00200). This simply means that I will be notified when you send in a cash request, so that I can at that time assure myself that the problem of Dr. Winifred Lambrecht's salary and the appropriate disposition of the sums earmarked but not paid her in previous Folk Arts grants has been taken care of. Please be assured that this does not mean that the grant is being withdrawn. It is simply another indication of our serious concern over this long-standing problem and of our determination that it not drag into the next granting period. I remain convinced that the issues can be resolved. It is not as though you did not have an outstanding folk arts program of which both the state of Rhode Island and the National Endowment should be very proud.

Sincerely yours,

Bess Lomax Hayes
Director
Folk Arts Program