

1993

## Hackney, Sheldon: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1993): News Article 31

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# Metro

Wednesday, February 24, 1993

## Hackney on the list to run federal agency

The Penn president is being considered for the National Endowment for the Humanities, sources say.

By Stephan Salisbury  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Sheldon Hackney, president of the University of Pennsylvania since 1981, has emerged as one of the leading candidates to run the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"He's been looked at closely," said a source on Capitol Hill familiar with the process. "He's a very strong, very strong candidate."

Hackney was reportedly in a series of meetings yesterday and could not be reached. A spokesman for the White House declined to comment on the issue.

Hackney, 59, is one of several candidates in contention to run the agency headed for six years by Lynne Cheney, a staunch conservative and wife of former defense secretary Dick Cheney.

Others under consideration include Gary Nash, professor of history at the University of California, Los Angeles; Nancy Stevenson, former

head of the Illinois Humanities Council and past president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and William Chafe, chairman of the Duke University history department.

Sources in Washington said that Hackney's name was originally suggested to Clinton administration transition officials by Vartan Gregorian, a former Penn provost who is now president of Brown University. Hackney did nothing at the time to push his candidacy, the sources said.

But, about three weeks ago, that changed when historian Nash called Hackney to elicit an endorsement for his own candidacy. Instead, Hackney decided to throw his hat in the ring.

"He changed his mind and decided to put his name in," said one source. "That immediately put him into the top three or four [candidates] because he is a sitting president of an Ivy League college."

It also did not hurt that Hackney's



**Sheldon Hackney, 59,** president of the university since 1981, is said to have jumped into the race about three weeks ago.

wife, Lucy Judkins Durr, was a member of the board of the Children's Defense Fund when Hillary Rodham Clinton was the fund's president.

White House sources said that nominees to head the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Museum Services and the NEH would be announced simultaneously — perhaps by the end of this month.