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Defending Human Rights

Ernest Lefevere, a French journalist, attracted by the triumphant smile. "I know it's a false hope, but I want to be a friend of mine," he said, looking out the window. "I want to be a friend of mine, even if it means suffering for it." The smile turned coldly defiant when Lefevere said the maxim could easily have been reversed. "I find it is a little easier," he said, "that certain members of the press find me callous or indifferent, in a hostile cortex." he said, cool, long, angular face still with a smile.

"F. journalists cared more about truth, that government could do a better job of advancing its cause." The smile turns coldly defiant when Lefevere is told the maxim could easily have been reversed. "I find it is a little easier," he said, "to have a friend of mine, even if it means suffering for it."

"The press harbors about as much passion for the truth as its detractors (of which there are many)," Lefevere has for human rights. Since, at the antetate age of 41, he has not been an appointed assistant secretary of state for human rights, this could pose a bit of a problem for him. Here, for instance, is one of his favorite methods of dealing with countries that abuse their own citizens. "Our ambassador should quietly make representations to the governments responsible. It's much more effective than a public scolding, after all."

And what if the country tells our ambassador to go to bed? "That's their privilege as a foreign power," Lefevere says. "We're not in charge of other people's lives. But sometimes, I wonder if I may recite the Scriptures. Uh— I mean, it's a long time since I've preached in a church."

"It goes like this: Our heavenly father watches the fall of every sparrow."

"Now, I am a human being, an animal, after all. But I'm not a sparrow. But I am also an American."

Watts Cooking...

Clarence on the Faith Front are reported from the interior Department, where a groundswell of support for Reverence is under way. Mormon women have taken to sporting small lapel buttons emblazoned with pictures of the super-spired Mormon Temple. Here Earl is hotted to be a friend of mine, even if it means suffering for it."

Rep Fred Richmond, D-Y, a political realist: "You remember what Harry Truman said about getting out of the kitchen."

Rep. Tom Foley, D-Wash., the majority whip: among the loudest to join..."

Rep. James Jeffords, R-Vt, is vice chairman of the caucus whose members cover a wide spectrum of political persuasions. As one of its few Republican members, Jeffords said he felt the urgency for forming the caucus arose out of "a real fear that in all the budget-cutting, the arts and humanities will be on the line."

"I don't think any art or humanists have matured enough to anticipate that state and community funding can do it all," he said, "but I certainly hope it is a state's right to live on.""

When the great Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali, vies New York, one of his obsessive pleasures is to gaze for long moments at the "Matador" and "Childhood" he painted some years ago. The painting hangs in the Manhattan apartment of Rep Fred Richmond, D-N.Y.

"He thinks it's one of the greatest works he ever did," explains Richards. At any rate, Richards, a self-made millionaire and art collector, is a great admirer of Dali's works.

At the age of 80, he's the oldest artist to see his "Madonna," which hangs in Richmond's apartment bedroom, whenever Dali's in town and Richmond's there.

On one of these occasions, Richards told Dali: "You're one of the three greatest ambassadors in the world."

"Yes," Dali replied cryptically, "and who are the other two?"

"I'm sorry, Dali agreed difficulty. "And the other?"


"Chagall," came the reply. "You would be interested to see that cartoonish" he shouted at Richmond. "I always knew you didn't have any taste. I know I should never have told you one of my paintings."" Embarrassed, Richmond re-

When the great Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali, vies New York, one of his obsessive pleasures is to gaze for long moments at the "Madonna" and "Childhood" he painted some years ago. The painting hangs in the Manhattan apartment of Rep. Fred Richmond, D-N.Y.

Richmond will need all of his diplomatic skill, and lots of friends in and out of Congress too, to steer him and the 124 House colleagues he has brought into an arts caucus through, the gathering storm of congressional, in a debate over the 1982 budget. The caucus may play an influential role when the debate centers on the 50 percent cut the Reagan administration has asked the arts and humanities endowments to make in their 1982 budget requests.

Organized two months ago, the caucus is "the first of its kind," according to Richmond. Its membership comes from both parties and represents people concerned about how arts legislation will fare in the austere days ahead. A similar effort, more of a coalition of influential friends for the arts, is getting under way in the Senate, under the aegis of Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I.

From an initial 30 congressmen, the caucus mushroomed to 53 in the pre-inaugural recess, and now it is up to 124 with Rep. Tom Foley, D-Wash., the majority whip, among the loudest to join..."

"I don't think the arts and humanities have matured enough to anticipate that state and community funding can do it all," he said, "it certainly hasn't been in my state."

The political diversity the caucus reflects includes, for example, from New York, Jonathan Bingham and Shirley Chisholm; Linda Rogers of Iowa; Tony Moffett of Connecticut; California's Ron Dellums; Tony Coelho and Tom Lantos; Henry Reass of Wisconsin; Robert Young of Missouri; Margaret Heckler of Massachusetts; Millen Pefquin and Peter Rodino of New Jersey; and Daniel Akaka of Hawaii. Some are even into the arts themselves: Akaka is a musician, and Lantos' wife is an exhibiting sculptor...

Rep. Sidney Yates, D-Ill., chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee that watches funding for arts, addressed himself from caucus membership because he felt it would place him in a conflict of interest position. "There's a great friend of mine. He feels he has no right to lobby for the arts when he's in charge of appropriations for them," Richmond explained.

The House arts caucus holds an organizational meeting this week to elect officers and "I hope vote a small budget for a small staff," Richmond said. He explained the money..."
Rep. Fred Richmond: Battling for the Arts and Other Just Causes

There are some on the Hill who resent the implication that membership on the arts caucus carries its own stamp as "friend of the arts". Said one Republican: "You don't have to join the caucus to be a friend of the arts. Some just aren't joiners." And, all the activity around Richmond's office and the fast excursus of caucus membership has generated some suspicions on the Hill. In the opinion of some observers, who also usually are not too thinly disguised power grab, to risk the leadership vacuum that developed after the election defeat of such strong arts advocates as former House Rep. John Brademas and Rep. Frank Thompson, he founded the Caucus on New Jersey, and Sen. Jacob Javits in the Senate, Richards vehemently denies this.

I haven't used my personal influence to get a single member of Congress on this caucus. They've signed curtailing in budget cuts and the shaving of other programs directed at the urban poor. He reacts wary to these kinds of characterizations, and maybe he really doesn't want people beating a path to his door on arts matters when he has so much else to deal with. So why then, does he make such a big deal out of denying an arts leadership role where the very publicity attached to his founding the caucus makes him a natural for the job? His protestations give him away. "In no way are we infringing on any body's turf," he insists. "All we are is an advisory group which may or may not support the various items of arts legislation which have been introduced."

Almost in the same breath, he points out the advantage of an arts caucus in that it can inspire individuals and collective action "to make it known the Congress is really behind the bill. The end two-ends, plus such other pieces of legislation having to do with the arts the arts caucus decrees to support." He points out the possibility of his assuming a highly visible personal advocacy role for the arts in the House, Richmond is a little shy. Mostly, he adds, "I'm not that interested. I think it's been done too much."

Even at the suggestion of the possibility of his assuming a highly visible personal advocacy role for the arts in the House, Richmond is a little shy. Mostly, he adds, "I'm not that interested. I think it's been done too much."

The Brooklyn district he's represented for four terms is at once the third poorest, and the wealthiest, in the state. His constituency includes the collection of 19th century French furniture that now graces his three homes here and in New York. Of course, he was fortunate to have the help and advice of the late Ruth Constance, whom he describes as "one of the two greatest experts in 19th century furnishings in the world, second only to Joel van der Camp, the man who restored Van Rensselaer Manor and worked with various art historians."

Before coming to Congress, he'd been a fortune in business at the helm of about half a dozen companies, and a do-gooder in the field of urban affairs, Richmond, he says defensively, "to make it sound as if I wasn't anything except what I am."

He was elected to confer with the problems of the urban poor. "I'm our collection includes works by Mary Cassatt, Carlisle Hansen, Derain and Changall.

"Whenever I made a deal, I'd go out and buy a piece of art I couldn't afford," he said. "That made me appreciate it that much more."

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One of the leading liberals in the House, Richmond is the self-styled "father of food stamp reform." As chairman of a House Agriculture subcommittee dealing with food stamps, nutrition programs, and issues involved in domestic marketing, including consumer problems, Richmond addresses himself to what he considers "my number-one responsibility in Congress — public feeding programs." More recently he has been working on a "research and education strategy to demonstrate the economic potential of arts organizations" in the city of Richmond.

Richmond has been a leader in the fight against drug addiction. He has introduced bills to provide funding for drug treatment programs and to establish a task force to study the problem. He has also been active in the fight against crime, introducing legislation to enhance law enforcement and reduce violent crime.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, Richmond has been a strong advocate for agriculture research and education. He has introduced bills to increase funding for agricultural research and to establish a new Agricultural Research Foundation. He has also been a leader in the fight to preserve the agricultural industry, introducing legislation to provide disaster assistance to farmers and to establish a new program to help farmers in developing countries.

Richmond has been a strong advocate for education and has introduced legislation to increase funding for education programs and to establish a new National Education Foundation. He has also been active in the fight to preserve public education, introducing legislation to protect educational programs from budget cuts.

Richmond has been a strong advocate for environmental protection, introducing legislation to protect the environment and to establish a new Environmental Protection Agency. He has also been active in the fight to preserve natural resources, introducing legislation to protect the nation's forests and to establish a new National Forest Service.

Richmond has been a strong advocate for civil rights, introducing legislation to protect civil rights and to establish a new Civil Rights Division. He has also been active in the fight to preserve civil rights, introducing legislation to protect the rights of women and to establish a new Equal Rights Amendment.