2-23-1981


Ruth Dean

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_71

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_71/50

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Reagan Administration: Funding Cuts News Articles (1981-1982) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu.
THE EAR

WATTS COOKING...: Clarines on the Faith Front are reported from the Interior Department, where a Groundswell of Mormon growth has led to a reformation in the Church's mission strategy. The move is under way: Mormons have been instructed to take a more active role in their communities. This is a move to the left, away from the traditional conservative stance of the Church.

JUDY

Defending Human Rights

Ernest Lefever, a former State Department official, has resigned his position as a human rights advocate, citing a lack of support from the United Nations.

CLOSE-UP

Richardson: 'Mr. Arts' On the Hill

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

When the great Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali, visits New York, one of his obsessive pleasures is to gaze for long moments at the "Mona Lisa" and "Child with Apple." He also likes to paint the Manhattan apartment of Rep. Fred Richardson, D-N.Y. "He thinks it's one of the greatest works of art he ever did," explains Richardson. At any rate, Richardson is a self-made millionaire and art collector, and he admires Dali's paintings. "His most recent work, "The Persistence of Memory," is a favorite of mine," Richardson said. 

On one of these occasions, Richardson told Dali: "You're one of the three greatest ambassadors in the world." Dali replied: "The other two are Picasso and I." "Yes," Dali cried, "and I am the other two." Instantly, Richardson knew he was troubled. "Picasso," he said. "Yes," Dali agreed. "If I were you, I'd be afraid." 

"Chevalier" is the name of Richardson's painting, and it has been mounted in his apartment, where Dali has a studio. Richardson said he was inspired by Dali's paintings. "I have always been a fan of Dali's," Richardson said.

When asked about his political future, Richardson replied: "I don't know. But I do know that I am a strong advocate of human rights." Richardson is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which has jurisdiction over appropriations for the arts.

THE EAR

- "That's the best monologue I've ever heard," - Johnny Carson, after Cantina Di Villa chef Joseph DiStefano served up his day's goodies and how they were served.

- "You never know when he's joking or serious. And there was a large audience in the room." - Richardson said.

- "Richardson will need all of his diplomatic skills and lots of friends in order to fight against the conservative tendencies of the House. He has brought into the arts committee, the gathering storm of congressmen's interference in arts funding, the 1982 budget. The budget review cut the Reagan administration's proposed cuts and increased funds for the arts, which was successful in getting the arts community to participate in the 1982 budget requests."

- "Organized two months ago, the caucus is "the first of its kind," according to the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee that watches arts funding for the arts, attended by himself from caucus membership because he felt it would place him in a conflict of interest position." - Richardson 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," Richardson said. He explained the money:

See RICHMOND, C2
Rep. Fred Richmond: Battling for the Arts and Other Just Causes

Continued From C-1

for the "small staff" would come out of the unused portion ot salary budgets to which each congressman is entitled by law. Some don't use these unused funds and turn the unused money back to the U.S. Treasury or share with colleagues having staff problems.

Harry Richwood, Richmond's special staff assistant for the arts, presently is acting as caucus staff director, but Richmond said he hoped the caucus could have its own staff, "whose job it will be to communicate with the caucus members and the general public on arts legislation." If they can't scrape together enough money for a staff, Richwood said, "we'll run it out of this Richmond office."

CLOSE-UP

There are some on the Hill who resent the implication that membership on the arts caucus carries its own status 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 explosion of caucus membership has engendered a certain amount of envy on the Hill. In the opinion of some observers, the prominence of the arts caucus and its member doesn't have much to do with the behavior of the arts in the House, Richmond is a little coy. "I don't want to make him out to be a desktopaphile," he adds, "but I've been told he's really good at it."

And he begins, considering the deep cuts in the Reagan administration has recommended in the social programs whose legislation he watches.

The Brooklyn district he's represented for four terms is at once the third poorest, and the wealthiest, in the state. His constituency includes a collection of 18th century French furniture that now adorns his three homes here in New York. Of course, he was fortunate to have the help and advice of the late Ruth Costantino, whom he describes as "one of the two greatest experts in the 19th century furnishings in the world, second only to Joel van der Hoop," a consultant on antique dealers and workers and various ethnologists.

Richmond has made a fortune in business as the heir of a multimillion-dollar Waico National Corp. in New York. He had to seek the help of the Board of Water Supply in the mid-1960s, and then again in 1974, when he faced challenges to his personal and financial reputation. A political realist, he smiles, "You remember how Harry Truman said about getting out of the kitchen." In the last election, he proudly notes, he was won by a 6 percent margin.

Fiori has known Richmond "ever since I was a little girl," and says he often joins her and his wife, Susan, their home in Florence, Italy, "We have lots of museum and art friends like to be with. We have a nice time there," she said. Richmond has also accompanied the Fiorittis on trips around the world.

With the affection of long friendship, Fiori portraits Richmond as an avid outdoorsman, who still likes to ski and underwater fish, "he's always doing amazing things, like roller skating "

But he doesn't like people whining or complaining on a trip, "if it's too hot, he'll tell you. And he likes people with energy - like himself."

Mick Jagger to Star In "Fitzcarraldo"

"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."

"If I didn't have much money, I'd go out and buy a piece of art I couldn't afford," he said. "That made me appreciate it that much more."
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 food programs." More recently he has for a frontpage "Valley Voice" column to demonstrate the economic potential of arts organizations and the city's food conservation.

At this break in experiment in rooftop gardening, he recalled with amusement a visit from the governor of Alaska and how surprised he was "when I invited him to step out on the roof to pick his lunchroom salad, instead of our going down to the members' dining room. He liked it much better."

His legislative agenda of the arts began with his introduction of a bill championing the cause of artists, victimized by discriminatory tax laws. He also introduced legislation, which might find more support now that the arts are being cut back in the White House, which would give the arts a special place in the building, perhaps the Lincoln Room.

Jagger plays a Lord Byron-like character who joins his uncle, played by Roberts, in a quest that is part metaphysical and part adventure.

The movie also stars Jason Roberts and Claudia Cardinale.

Jagger plays a Lord Byron-like character who joins his uncle, played by Roberts, in a quest that is part metaphysical and part adventure.

Richard Roth will produce "Dream Grey" as his first picture under his new deal with Warner Bros.