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Maryland Committee for the
HUMANITIES

Elmer Sitar
Administrative Assistant

330 N. Charles Street, Room 306
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
301-837-1938

FOR THE 1982 SENATOR PELL PROCEEDINGS

Pell: federal aid induces support for arts

PROVIDENCE — Federal support of artistic and cultural programs has stimulated an increase — rather than a reduction — in private and corporate contributions to the arts and humanities, Sen. Claiborne Pell told more than 200 members of the National Federation of Music Clubs last night.

Pell, addressing the organization's fall meeting, which continues through Monday at the Biltmore Plaza, said he was "disheartened when President Reagan proposed cutting the arts and humanities

Newport 8/22
endowments in half in his original budget proposal last February."

"The fundamental concept of using federal dollars to engender non-federal support has grown in strength, not weakened as some in the administration originally believed, since the endowments were established 15 years ago," Pell said.

Pell co-sponsored legislation that created the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities.

Federal dollars have provided a "catalyst" that has spurred private contributions, he said. "During the 10-year period prior to 1965, giving from the private sector rose less than 3 percent to a total of \$205 million, but in the 15 years since (the federal program began), the total coming from the private sector has increased to \$2.7 billion — a staggering 1200 percent increase."

Objections to proposed cuts in federal spending for the arts and humanities prompted the President to create a task force to "explore ways to use reduced endowment funds as effectively as possible," Pell said.

In the meantime, he said, the House and Senate have agreed on budget ceilings for 1982, setting the Arts Endowment ceiling at \$119.3 million — a cut of 32 percent.

1810