1981


John Corry

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

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_71/76

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@etal.uri.edu.
Prominent Arts Figures Warn Congress on Cuts

BY JOHN CORRY

WASHINGTON, March 25 — Representatives of the arts warned Congress today that if the Reagan Administration carried out its proposed reductions in the budget of the National Endowment for the Arts, the quality of life in America would suffer.

Those appearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior included Jerome Robbins, father of modern ballet; Patti LuPone, star of "Evita;" and Eliot Feld, who has created a dance company in New York City.

Mr. Yates, who is in charge of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, said, "What is at stake here is the recognition of the importance of the arts in our way of life."

Mr. Robbins, who has a rich voice rising above the crowded hearing room, said, "I know of no other human endeavor that is more serious than the arts."

The Administration has suggested that the Federal Government withdraw support for the arts and offer a tax credit to corporations to raise their ticket prices.

In a kind of enlightened self-interest, they pleaded with Mr. Yates to maintain the budget for the arts. Mr. Yates, in fact, called the arts a "production." He said, calling the hearing "a production.

"We're a bunch of movers, and not just entertainers," said Mr. Robbins, who led the dance delegation. He was followed by Carmen de Lavallade, who, waving her arms rhythmically and bouncing up and down in her chair, apologized for not being able to sit still.

"We must put our energy to work," Miss de Lavallade said. "We're not just an amusement; we're big business."

Some witnesses testified that a cut in the arts budget would make the arts move, not less entertain, forcing arts companies to raise their ticket prices and forcing new companies that had not built up a constituency to close.

Urges Shorter Submarines

Eliot Feld, of the Feld Ballet, said that the $1 million loss in dance companies that the budget reduction would entail would be "a calamity." He suggested that, with nuclear submarines, costing approximately $1 million a foot, it would be in the national interest to build slightly shorter submarines and give the savings to dance.

Mr. Yates, who has been a leader in the campaign to reduce the reductions in the arts budget, said he feared the same thing. "I believe that this reduction is the first step toward Government eliminating its support of the arts."

Mr. Yates, who is a Texas Republican, said he was sure the arts budget would be reduced in the future.

"If we go ahead with the cuts," he said, "the private sector would take up the slack."