state governors, and none of the existing state-based committees (who almost
alone have working experience of this kind of public programming in
the humanities) believe that the amendment would improve upon the current
structure. In all that I have heard, no one has been made for replacement of the
existing voluntary committees managing voluntary commitments to the
programs. Indeed, the overwhelming evidence is that the volunteer committees are politically
non-partisan, financially responsible, a credit to the citizenry of their states, and a
force for good in promoting the national commonwealth.

THE IMPACT OF FEDERAL SUPPORT

I should like, here, to illustrate the cumulative impact Federal assistance can
have in the humanities based on actual grants.

The range of direct, immediate beneficiaries covers (for example) the junior
college teacher who receives a summer stipend for individual study of American
Indian culture; the several scholars who are preparing an historical atlas of
the United States; a group of college faculty who are integrating ethical studies
into their engineering and pre-med curricula; a team of scholars and editors
designing “Courses By Newspaper” on critical public issues; and a museum
exhibition or a television film program.

In all these cases, however, the immediate grantees have received NEH
funds because their work will serve ultimately hundreds, even millions, of
Americans; the junior college teacher’s knowledge of American Indian culture
will benefit hundreds of students during his or her teaching career; the historical
atlas will be used by hundreds of other scholars and in thousands of classrooms
and libraries, enriching education and the future acquisition of knowledge; the
revised college curriculum will be emulated by other institutions and help train
thousands of young people for professional work of broad effect among the
general population; Courses By Newspaper will appear in hundreds of city
newspapers and be read by millions; and the museum and television projects
will be viewed by millions in small towns as well as major urban areas.

In addition, the effects of one small grant can be spread out over different
time periods and felt by ever larger numbers of people at each stage. Thus, for
example, a Youth grant of $2,910 to an 18-year-old youth in Southern Nevada
helped her organize a local history project which directly involved 35 4-H
club members, resulting in four television presentations and an historical
exhibit, at the Nevada State Fair, which helped thousands of people gain a greater
understanding of the development of their state.

Given this mix of program purposes and immediate and long-term audiences,
it is not possible to quantify for any year what a particular budget level produces in “number
of individuals served.” But facts and conservative estimates yield this picture of the reach of NEH programs in the present fiscal
year. They will support the work of 180 individual humanist scholars, for
research, fellowships, and youth-grants. They will fund educational development in 200 schools, colleges, and universities. They will assist 250 research collections, museums, libraries and other humanities-related institutions. They will support 2,250 projects developed in all 50 states through re-grants of the state-based programs, involving 12,400 humanists and reaching an adult audience of
21 million. And they will reach 23 million people through national and regional
television and radio programs; 18 million through Courses By Newspaper; and a further multi-million audience—surely the largest audience ever engaged in
a nation-wide program—through the American Issues Forum and Bicentennial
Youth Debate.

These are not just statistics. Some are grant recipients pushing back the
frontiers of scholarship, learning to become better teachers, or organizing and
presenting humanistic knowledge for academic or general use. Many are active
participants in community discourse addressed to life’s difficult decisions; many
more are seeking out those few hours or pages in which the media have begun
to explore the ideas and works of history’s great minds.

A more measure of the Endowment’s stimulus is in gifts received from the
private sector in support of grant activities. Last year such donations totalled
nearly $6 million. Since NEH began, over $26 million in private gifts has been
received—releasing an equal amount in Federal matching funds—in aid of
humanities programs. (This is apart from the $80 million in non-Federal funds
generated by State-based projects, and from private contributions made di-
rectly to NEH grantee organizations.)