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Hackney, Sheldon: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1993): News Article 63

John McCaslin

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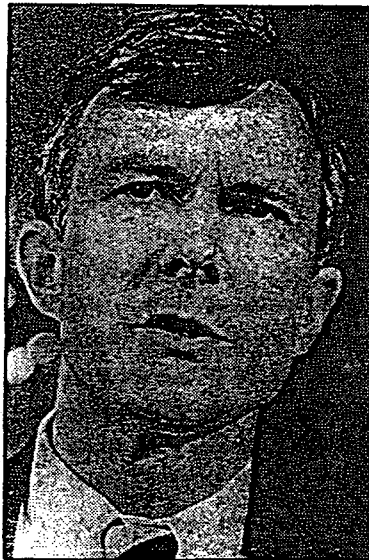
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INSIDE THE BELTWAY

John McCaslin



John Frohnmayer is just waiting by the phone for the president to ask.

Short memory

John Frohnmayer, the involuntarily departed chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts who unceremoniously got the boot by the Bush administration for funding pornography under the guise of art, obviously still doesn't get it. "If Clinton asked me, I'd tell him to stay the course on the NEA," Mr. Frohnmayer told a Portland, Ore., audience Monday. "Let the Republicans filibuster until the next elec-

tion."

But even the hometown audience didn't fall for that one, according to the Associated Press. Howie Bierbaum, director of the Portland Area Theater Alliance, asked Mr. Frohnmayer why he didn't act this tough when he headed the NEA. "He has this great 20-20 hindsight," Mr. Bierbaum said. "He's clearly a smart man and a good lawyer, but it's infuriating to hear history rewritten."

Wetter the better

The Secret Service is praying for heavy rain on Monday, when Hillary Rodham Clinton is scheduled to deliver the commencement address — and get an honorary doctor of laws degree — from the University of Pennsylvania. The problem is, Mrs. Clinton insists on experiencing the pomp and circumstance in its fullest by taking part in the processional and marching onto Franklin Field with the students.

In past years, the Secret Service told Penn officials, first ladies were kept in holding areas until such time as they were to appear. Really bad weather Monday would make their day because Penn would scrap the processional. But the outdoor show will proceed in drizzle or light rain.

Mrs. Clinton will share the podium with Penn President Sheldon Hackney, the administration's friend and nominee to head the National Endowment for the Humanities.