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## Letters (1979): Correspondence 119

Estus Smith

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MAY 29 1979

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39217

OFFICE OF  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

May 22, 1979

The Honorable Claiborne Pell  
United States Senator  
Room 325 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

It was a pleasure to meet you again at the National Endowment for the Humanities Luncheon, held in Washington April 10, 1979. There is a saying, "To understand is hard; once one understands, action is easy." You cleared the air for all of us on your position regarding issues concerning the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Most of all, I appreciated your long commitment to the humanities.

I sincerely appreciated the manner in which you set the tone for open discussions among the participants. You were precise in stating your philosophy, the prevailing attitudes of members of Congress regarding NEH, and the long-range plans which you feel will insure a prominent place for the humanities in this country. We left the luncheon with a stronger commitment to the humanities. I was pleased that you were willing to seek an alternative model for institutionalizing state humanities programs. The Performing Arts' Model is not the best model for the humanities.

All my experiences with you have been most pleasant. If you can find the time from your daily activities, I sincerely hope that you will come to Jackson State University and share your expertise with us.

Sincerely yours,

Estus Smith

Vice President for Academic  
Affairs

ES:vr