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Letters (1979): Correspondence 130

Claiborne Pell

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May 15, 1979

Mrs. A. Royston Cochran
32 Lawnwood Road
North Kingstown, RI 02852.

Dear Mrs. Cochran:

Thank you very much for your recent note in which you mention the "Viewpoint" column in the April 8, 1979 issue of Opera News.

The column, I am afraid, somewhat misrepresented my position on general Federal support for the arts. My aim is to see the National Endowment for the Arts spread the modest funds it gets each year as widely and as equitably as possible so that more people have access to the best our cultural institutions have to offer.

The live radio broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera are a superb way of accomplishing just this. But, as you know, a private corporation underwrites the cost of these broadcasts. The National Endowment did, however, award the Met a Challenge Grant of \$1 million two years ago. At that time, it was the largest single grant ever made by the Endowment.

I very much appreciate hearing from you.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC:CF