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Letters (1980): Correspondence 139

Phil Kaelin

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Dear Senator Fell,

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter which I have sent to Ms. Teresa Hobgood of the office of Citizens Consular Services, Dept. of State. As you or your office is aware, Richard Corey is seeking reparations on behalf of seven-hundred-plus artists involved in the ill-fated American Painters in Paris Exhibition at the Paris Convention Center December 15, 1975 to January 15, 1976.

Also as you may or may not know, Ms. Hobgood is accepting complaints to be presented to the French Government from those artists who were victimized by this exhibition. Livingston Biddle, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts has also indicated his support for a speedy resolution of these claims.

This exhibition preyed on the fact that artists live in a pitiful socio-economic state and it presented itself as an opportunity for an artist to rise above this fact if only for a while. It then stole from the artists it attracted.

As an active supporter of the Arts I am sure you do not wish to see this kind of lowly activity slip by unnoticed.

I would sincerely appreciate your support for our efforts in achieving a favorable settlement.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Phil Kaelin
41 School St.
Newport, R.I.
02840