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Letters (1979): Correspondence 141

Claiborne Pell

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STEPHEN J. PARADISE, GENERAL COUNSEL
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May 7, 1979

Mr. James Billington
Director
Woodrow Wilson International Center for
Scholars
Smithsonian Building
Washington, DC 20560

Dear Jim:

It has come to my attention that the writer Geoffrey Wolff is making application to the Woodrow Wilson Center for a fellowship to begin in the Fall of 1980.

My purpose in writing is to add my own personal support to Mr. Wolff's petition for a fellowship at the Wilson Center. As you know, he is one of our finest writers both of fiction and biography in addition to being a noted literary critic and professor of creative writing.

Mr. Wolff has been honored with a number of distinguished awards among which are two Guggenheim fellowships, a Fulbright Scholarship and an Honorary Woodrow Wilson Scholarship. He hopes to devote his tenure at the Wilson Center to the research and preparation of a book on Melville--to be published at a future date by Random House.

Until the Fall of 1980, Mr. Wolff plans to teach in Columbia University's creative writing program for one semester to be followed by an appointment as Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton.

I am certain that you and the Fellowship selection committee will share my enthusiasm for Mr. Wolff's work, and I hope that after due consideration, his fellowship application will be approved.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education,
Arts, and Humanities