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Letters (1979): Correspondence 170

Claiborne Pell

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March 6, 1979

Honorable Joseph D. Duffey
Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing you to express my strong support for a grant application submitted by Professor Virginia Floyd to the Division of Research Grants at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Professor Floyd, a member of the English Department at Rhode Island's Bryant College is one of this country's leading scholars on the life and works of Eugene O'Neill. She was selected by the Curator of Yale University's American Literature Collection to study and document the O'Neill papers at Yale that have not been available, even to scholars, since the playwright's death in 1953.

The significance of Professor Floyd's work is undeniable. Her grant request from the NEM will supplement her half-pay sabbatical salary and allow her to live in New Haven close to the collection she will be working with. Her research will, in time, lead to an important book about the ideas that gave shape to O'Neill's plays.

I sincerely hope that the Endowment will share my enthusiasm for Professor Floyd's work. It is thrilling for me to note that a Rhode Islander has won this highly-coveted project. I urge you to give this grant proposal your most careful consideration and ultimately act favorably on it.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC:CF