1981

Letters (1981): Correspondence 02

Claiborne Pell

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_44

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_44/28

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Letters (1981) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.
December 15, 1981

Mr. John Brademas
President
New York University
70 Washington Square South
New York, New York 10012

Dear John:

I thought you should have a copy of the recent New York Times article as it appeared in the Record on December 7, 1981. It comes with my best wishes. If I can send you additional copies, please let me know.

With warm personal regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

Enclosure

AC/jb
JOHN BRADEMAS AS PRESIDENT

This is an interesting story about the new President of New York University, our former colleague John Brademas. As one who worked closely with John on numerous legislative issues in education and the arts and humanities, I am especially delighted to know that he is settling into his new life as a university president with such ease and enthusiasm. The next few years will be tough ones for all academic institutions but N.Y.U. is fortunate indeed to have such an experienced and dynamic leader at its helm. I am also pleased to note that John has been speaking out so eloquently against the magnitude of cuts in federal education programs - a concern I certainly share.

I commend this article on John Brademas to my colleagues and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the Record. It appeared in the New York Times on December 7, 1981.
Electric Lines and Send Trashing Flying

It was the cold inside the Big Apple Circus tent that tumbled the 50,000 fans, stung from the of skyborne debris on construction ears, muffs, ski wear were the seemed, waste of flying like tangles was tumbling, torn from the be mounting private carting

And Jim ting up 150 balloons the Big Top, sold out his customers and up chasing the rest, he said.

The Big Apple Circus blue tent that was cold inside the mid-30's, but terrors at a mixture of beer on and harder to keep down more pales, said DeWane. And Jim ting up 150 balloons the Big Top, sold out his customers and up chasing the rest, he said.

Features: Baseball: Steeler try to win the series to the点 at 3-1-2

Steven's try to win the series to the point at 3-1-2

Tomato's Cork, he was one of President Roosevelt's principal participants in the development of many such historic innovations as the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. He was 80 years old. (D1:1-4)

Florida for New N.Y.U. President, a Fast Pace

By DEIRDRE CARMODY

John Brademas of South Bend, Ind., and Washington — Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard, Rhodes scholar, member of Congress for 22 years and former majority whip — is now Dr. John Brademas, president of New York University. It's as if he had been preparing himself all those years for the job.

"He's a natural president," said L. Jay Oliva, provost of the university and vice president for academic affairs, who has worked in one capacity or another under five N.Y.U. presidents. "No one hit the ground running as well as Brademas. All his instincts were university presidential."

"I think he's working harder here than he did in Washington," said Mary Ellen Brademas, his wife. "He works all the time."

"The truth of the matter is, I'm enjoying myself enormously," said John Brademas.

Inaugurated in October

It is still the honeymoon period, but sure, and universities, like the nation at large, tend to look kindly at first on fledgling presidents. Dr. Brademas arrived on the Washington Square campus of N.Y.U. in July and was inaugurated in October. He took over from the acting president, Ivan L. Bennett, who had replaced John C. Sawhill in 1978, when Mr. Sawhill took a leave of absence to become Deputy Secretary of Energy.

While Dr. Brademas's instincts may indeed be university presidential, there are times when his style is still distinctly Congressional. In his first few days on the job, he learned dozens of names and shook the hands of everyone in sight.

Then he buckled down to the business of administering a university with an enrollment of 44,000 students and an annual budget of half a billion dollars that refers to itself as the largest privately supported university in the country.

His pace is whirlwind. There are continual meetings with aides, students, deans, trustees, visiting dignitaries, heads of N.Y.U.'s 13 undergraduate divisions and 10 graduate departments on the island to participate in its annual Christmas Shoppers Stroll, found shelter in emergency accommodations. [A18:14]
Former Congressman Sets Fast Pace as Head of N.Y.U.

Continued From Page B1

"Committees take time," Mrs. Levine said.
"They are asking me because of my brother," he insisted.
"Silence from Mrs. Levine." Dr. Brademas sighed and turned to the other.
"Be sure that my brother, Jim, knows that I can't do that," he said.
Dr. Brademas says that he is still learning about the university and has not fully decided what the priorities of his administration will be. He has, however, already taken a strong public stance against the Reagan Administration's proposed cuts in funds for education, particularly student aid.
"It is a subject with which he is quite familiar, having played a principal role in helping to write most of the major education legislation during the 22 years he served on the House Education and Labor Committee.

In his inaugural address and again last month in a speech in Washington to the Carnegie Foundation for the Ad- ven
tude of Higher Education, Brademas pointed out that students at N.Y.U. last year received more than $2 billion from Federal programs and that the proposed cuts would be devastating to a university such as N.Y.U. which is dependent on 70 percent of its income on student tuition.

"Everything that makes it difficult for students to enroll here," Brademas said, "is pulling our capacity to continue to offer education of high quality," he said in his inaugural address and has been saying repeatedly since then.

"Universities, if they do anything, should produce ideas," he said. "University presidents should be more than fund-raisers. I do not think I should always look to time I feel I have something to say on the issues in the wider society, I intend to say.
"For the time being, he says he is not talking but listening. Following his policies around for two days makes that evident. He gives his full attention to whatever goes on in hand, waiting until the speaker is through and then usually commenting quietly.
"He listens but not only that," says Dr. Oliva, the provost. "You find out later that he has heard. He is a maker and user of information. He's someone who is not threatened by opposing views. A lot of people are who are university presidents these days have stern and rigid personalities. But he's very assured and doesn't need the feel to prepare. He's a person who can take all that information and put it together.

"I'm an administrator," says Brademas. "What distinguishes me is that I have a Doctor of Philosophy degree in social sciences from Oxford University — not the only doctor in the family. My wife, Mary Ellen, is a resident in dermatology at the New York University Medical Center.

She came home the other day to the elegant penthouse on Washington Square that comes with the presidency of N.Y.U., flipped on the white in the large oak-paneled and mirrored living room and kicked off her shoes. She had been up all night because she had been on call, and she said she was very tired.

"I'm a pill to live with when I'm tired," said Mrs. Brademas. "I get grumpy, and then I feel guilty because I have promised John I'd go out with him to something and then I just can't do it.

"Most of our life is formal," she said. "We go out to dinner, to parties, with people associated with the educational or art world. We love it here.

"But we never, ever do anything on weekends with other people," she added. "Last weekend we just went to the movies. We love movies. We saw 'Dr. Zhivago.' Last year we went to 'The Lost Ark' and John loved it. Then we walked through Bloomingdale's. He doesn't often get to do that kind of thing because he's always haunted by the pile of papers on his desk."

Mrs. Brademas lived in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., for years, raising four children, and, as she puts it, playing tennis and going to fashion shows. At the age of 38, divorced and with her children mostly grown, she decided to go to medical school.

Five years ago, while she was at the Georgetown University School of Medicine, she married Representative Brademas, then 50 years old and illegally referred to as one of Washington's most eligible bachelors.

With her busy schedule these days, Mrs. Brademas says cooking meals for the family — her daughter, Jane Branda, who is doing postgraduate work at the N.Y.U. School of Medicine with them — is a problem. Mrs. Brademas, however, has found a rather original solution for the nights when dinner at home is too much.

"Look!" she said the other day, hauling a vast purse onto the kitchen counter and removing aluminum foil-wrapped bundles.

"Chicken a la poulette," she exclaimed proudly. "And rice — and John can have whatever they want.

The food was straight from the New York Medical Center cafeteria, for which, as a doctor, she gets a certain number of free meals. She has found that it is easier to buy herself a light lunch and save the chits to feed the family of the president of the university.

"This is the most fantastic life," she said.