ENDOW

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Some $28 million spent on programs operated through volunteer state humanities committees in the past four years was matched by $30 million from private individuals, corporations, foundations and other institutions, he said. Throughout this period, there has never been a single accusation of fiscal mismanagement against any state committee, Berman said, although more than 3,500 projects in 5,000 communities were funded. Even though the "bedrock" assets of the disciplines known as the humanities are scholars and research institutions and collections, about 80 percent of endowment funds go into programs making the humanities available to all sectors of the public, Berman said. Only 20 percent of the funds are earmarked for production of humanistic knowledge, he said.

WAXING ELOQUENT. Berman asserted that the nation "owes its being to thinkers and leaders who were truly great humanists, exercising public responsibility with a deeply conscious reference to history and philosophy."

The senator rejected the "contemporary search for the public good" — as they have been for years — the humanities, the instruments of judgment, "

In short, the humanist concluded, "the arts are more visible but the humanities are more substantial."

Pell asked Berman what he thought of the idea of breaking up endowments, permitting each to go its own way.

"I think the union ought to be maintained indefinitely," Berman replied, because of its advantages. They share administrative staffs and actively complement each other.

Think of it as a ship, he suggested. "In addition to a highly visible canvas sail, it needs a good deal of ballast."

Pell commended the endowment chairman for his "articulate" defense of the humanities. But he was not persuaded that the endowment couldn't win wider interest if the state committees were opened up to appointments by elected state officials. Unlike the state arts councils, the humanities committees are self-perpetuating after initial appointments are made in Washington by the National Endowment.

PELL HAS proposed that state humanities councils be created in the same way they are in the arts, which equal bank grants going to each state council to be matched by state funds.

This current practice, he said, "carries with it the problems of appointing by some Federal official of a chosen people within the state who must pay very close attention to a Washington base."

"It is like a laying on of hands, and the appointed chairman similarly lays his hands on others," Berman said. He preferred to characterize the practice as a "responsible delegation of power."

Better, said Pell, to open the selection process up to people thrown up by the people.

ppard members were interviewed this week to gain an overview of the humanities programs in their states.

Berman said the opposition to volunteerism in the arts may also have been a result of the humanities committees' being funded by Congress rather than the states. Volunteers, he said, do not feel as beholden to the committees as non-volunteers.

"I see the arts and humanities as being two different, but related, things," Berman said. "The arts are much more visible."

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Pointments of state committees by state officials would require Congress to be restructured for the lines of the state arts councils.

Pell wants the composition of the state committees to be broadened with labor representatives and others from the community at large, and he wants state governments to take a greater interest in humanities programs. Berman wants to avoid what he feels is unnecessary bureaucracy at the state level even if he has to give up some measure of control. The outcomes of a deal appeared on the horizon at the close of yesterday's session.

But the basic problem remains: Do all bureaucrats can turn out an awful lot of press releases.