1981

Letters (1981): Correspondence 22

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August 5, 1981

Ms. Ellen Tamm
Woodwinds
Watch Hill, Rhode Island 02891

Dear Ms. Tamm:

Belated thanks for your letter regarding several domestic and international issues.

I share your view that the United States should support generous funding for the International Development Association. In this connection, I am pleased to inform you that the House and Senate conferees, of which I was one, recently agreed to fund fully the U.S. share of funding for IDA.

On the MX missile, I have grave reservations about the advisability of moving ahead with this program in its present form. I am not convinced that adequate attention has been given to less costly and less destabilizing alternatives.

I am relieved and pleased to report that the House and Senate conferees agreed on figures for the Arts and Humanities Endowments that are 32% below those originally proposed by President Carter rather than 50% as the Administration requested. I will continue my work to ensure that the government's role in support of the arts and humanities remains a strong one.

The Senate and House conferees on the Budget Reconciliation legislation approved additional reductions in the food stamp program that would disqualify some current beneficiaries with income slightly above the poverty line. In my view, this places too great a burden for controlling inflation on low-income and elderly citizens and, therefore, I have voted against the Reconciliation Conference report. Unfortunately, a majority of my colleagues voted to approve it.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

AC+EI/jb

Claiborne Pell