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Curran, Edward: Confirmation Hearing (1985): Correspondence 08

Katherine R. Goodman

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Senator Claiborne Pell  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC  21510

Dear Senator Pell,

As the hearings regarding the appointment of Edward Curran as chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities approach, I urge you to seriously consider rejecting this appointment. In the past the NEH has funded extraordinary and exemplary projects in various areas of interest to me as a citizen and as a scholar. I would be profoundly dismayed if this oasis of federal commitment to intellectual matters should suffer the kind of devastation Curran proposed for the National Institute of Education when he headed that organization (despite prior assertions of his support for that institution). We need someone in the chair at NEH who will continue, if not strengthen, the national commitment to academic, intellectual and humanistic concerns. As a nation we already suffer from too little concern for these areas -- perhaps traditionally so. However, in times of increasingly narrow perspectives -- whether due to economic recessions, technological advances, or world and national politics -- we must be concerned to redouble whatever efforts we can to keep large and various perspectives open. The NEH has a strong record in this regard, no doubt making it an attractive target for some. I am very concerned to see it continue a healthy and vital existence.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katherine R. Goodman  
German Department

cc. Phyllis Franklin, MLA