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Arts and Humanities: Reauthorization (1973-1976): Correspondence 02

Loren D. McKinley

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OREGON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY

4015 S.W. Canyon Road Portland, Oregon 97221

224-9500

J.C. STEVENS, Founder

November 28, 1975

The Honorable Mark Hatfield
U.S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mark:

As Museum Director of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, I would like to present for your review, some comments on current legislation affecting science and technology centers across the United States.

Of major concern is the Arts, Humanities and Cultural Affairs Act of 1975 (H.R. 7216) (S.1800). The Honorable John Brademas, Chairman, Select Education Subcommittee, held hearings on this bill in New York City on November 8, 9 and 10, 1975.

With regard to certain wording in the present legislation:

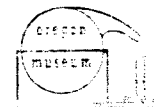
In Section 209, it reads:

"Definition. Section 209. For purposes of this part, the term "museum" means a public or private non-profit agency or institution organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes which, utilizing professional staff, owns and utilizes tangible objects, cares for them and exhibits them to the public on a regular basis."

The major thrust of the science-technology centers has been education and in that sense, collections per se are not critical. Science-technology centers utilize "collections" if they assist in teaching, but it is not always imperative. Traditionally, the history of art is painting, but the history of science is ideas.

For these reasons, the Association of Science-Technology Centers would like to suggest that the wording be changed as follows:

"Definition. Section 209. For purposes of this part, the term "museum" means a public or private non-profit agency or institution organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes which, utilizing professional staff, owns and/or utilizes tangible objects...."



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Another legislative act of importance is the Education Amendments of 1974 (PL 93-380).

Under the present legislation, Miscellaneous Provisions (Title VIII) Policy of the United States with Respect to Museums as Educational Institutions (Section 803), the Congress, recognizing ---

"(1) that museums serve as sources for schools in providing education for children,

(2) that museums provide educational services of various kinds for educational agencies and institutions and institutions of higher education, and,


(3) that the expense of the educational services provided by museums is seldom borne by the educational agencies and institutions taking advantage of the museums' resources,

declares that it is the sense of the Congress that museums be considered educational institutions and that the cost of their educational services be more frequently borne by educational agencies and institutions benefiting from those services."

If the Office of Education recognizes museums as educational institutions, museums would be able to apply directly to state legislatures for Office of Education funds instead of depending upon schools to request funds. As it stands now, museums cannot receive direct funding.

I appreciate you taking time to review these comments, and should you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Loren D. McKinley
Executive Director

LDM/dw