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Theodore Ziolkowski

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Theodore Ziolkowski, *Dean*
205 Nassau Hall

December 18, 1985

Ed
RECEIVED
DEC 23 1985
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I wanted to thank you for your two notes and to add my own personal expression of gratitude to that of Nan Wells and Phyllis Franklin.

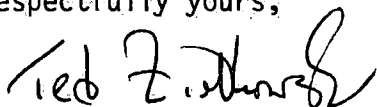
I profoundly appreciated the opportunity to appear before your Committee to testify in the Curran nomination. As you know from my testimony, as a humanist I regard the National Endowment for the Humanities as the most conspicuous symbol of national commitment to the humanities, and I strongly believe that the man or woman who heads that Endowment should be qualified by experience, knowledge, and vision to bring true intellectual leadership to the job. It is not Mr. Curran's fault that he does not possess those qualifications.

I should like to add another word. Since the hearing and the Committee's decision on that nomination I have received a good many letters from colleagues in the Modern Language Association, who have been encouraged by the outcome to believe that their work and their views are taken seriously in Washington. I believe that many people in the humanities, who are sometimes inclined to be skeptical of participation in the governmental process, will be encouraged by the response to their letters in this case to take a more lively interest in the future.

Although I shall be stepping down from the presidency of the Modern Language Association immediately after Christmas, I hope that you will feel free to call on me if in the future I can be of assistance to your office in matters in which I have any competence. We all appreciate everything you have done, over many years, for education and the humanities in the United States.

With best wishes for the holiday season, I remain

Respectfully yours,



Theodore Ziolkowski

TZ:mg