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Curran, Edward: Confirmation Hearing (1985): Correspondence 16

George Fenwick Jones

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

OCT 04 1985

RECEIVED

3931 Cloverhill Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21218
September 26, 1985

Senator Claiborne Pell
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 21510

Dear Senator Pell:

I understand that Edward Curran is being considered for appointment as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. I hope you will be very careful in investigating his qualifications. I know nothing about him, but for that very reason I doubt that he has ever made any lasting contribution to American science, art, or scholarship. Since the purpose of the Endowment is to further scientific, artistic, and scholarly advances, it should be administered by someone who has proved himself in one of those fields. Administrative ability alone will not suffice, no matter how much outside expertise is consulted.

I would suggest that Mr. Curran be requested to submit some evidence of his creativity, which would then be judged by experts in the field, as is done for any applicant for a NEH grant. The American Medical Association is chaired by a doctor and the Bar Association by a lawyer, and it seems fitting for the NED to be managed by a person who has proved his understanding of the creative process.

I trust that you will give careful attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

George F. Jones
George Fenwick Jones,
Professor, U. of Md.