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Robert H. Atwell

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AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION

Office of the President

July 11, 1985

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Labor & Human Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to report to you that there is rising concern in the academic community over the nomination of Edward Curran to be Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Under previous chairmen, this position has become very instrumental in strengthening the humanities and contributing to their broader support and understanding.

The concerns over this nomination center in the fact that it is not apparent from his background that he has been involved in teaching, scholarship, or administration in those disciplines broadly defined as the humanities, nor has he had any prior association with the National Endowment for the Humanities. We are also concerned that his tenure as Director of the National Institute of Education was abbreviated by his expressed hostility to the federal role in education research.

The confirmation hearings will provide an opportunity to lay these concerns to rest through the presentation of information about his background which is not apparent from our knowledge of his past experience. The hearings will also, of course, permit Mr. Curran to discuss his knowledge of and commitment to the work of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Atwell
President

cc: Members of the Committee