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## Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of (1991): Correspondence 18

Derek Bok

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Office of the President

Massachusetts Hall Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 (617) 495-1502

May 1, 1991

Dear Ted,

In recent weeks, several people have talked to me about the nomination of Carol Iannone as a new member of the Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities. As it happens, I know nothing of Ms. Iannone. Nevertheless, I do feel strongly that the Council needs to include genuinely "distinguished" scholars, as the authorizing legislation stipulates, and that every effort should be made to avoid politicizing these appointments.

At present, the humanities are suffering from political and ideological warfare from the left and the right and from assorted other forms of zealotry. What we badly need is a Council composed of intellectuals who command wide respect and who have the rare perspective and judgment to stand above the paltry ideological battles that are so evident today. Whatever Ms. Iannone's merits, I hope that you and your Committee take pains to insure that she and other Council nominees have the stature to gain the confidence of the intellectual and scholarly community.

Best wishes,

Sincerely Bok

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy United States Senate 315 Senate Russell Office Building Washington, DC 20510-2101