

1991

## Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of (1991): Correspondence 51

Arnita A. Jones

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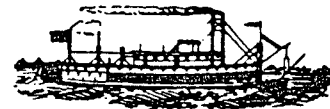
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ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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TEL. NO. 812-855-7311

May 17, 1991

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Chairman  
Committee on Labor and Human Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6300

Dear Senator Kennedy:

The Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians wishes to express its concern over the nomination of Carol Iannone to the National Council on the Humanities. As you know the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act creating the National Council calls for the appointment by the President of twenty-six individuals "...selected on the basis of distinguished service and scholarship or creativity and in a manner which will provide a comprehensive representation of the views of scholars and professional practitioners in the humanities and of the public throughout the United States." The legislation further requests the President to take into account the recommendations of leading national organizations concerned with the humanities in making these appointments.

The Organization of American Historians, founded in 1907, is a professional association dedicated to the promotion of historical study and research in American history. Among its twelve thousand members are not only scholars and teachers of history at all levels but also historians in museums, historical societies, archives, libraries, and a wide range of other organizations which are concerned with the public. We take seriously the Congress' intent that the National Council on the Humanities reflect a broad array of viewpoints and institutional connections. We believe, however, that the requirement to nominate candidates whose records of service in the humanities reflect distinction--whether in scholarship or professional practice--should also be observed and it is for this reason that the OAH Executive Board urges that Dr. Iannone's nomination not be confirmed.

NEH Council members are called upon to make critical judgements not only about support of individual projects but also about the agency's current and future direction. At a time when funds for humanities research and education are increasingly scarce and decisions regarding the NEH budget must be balanced with many other competing national needs, the collective judgement and experience of the NEH Council are particularly critical.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arnita A. Jones".

Arnita A. Jones  
Acting Executive Secretary, OAH

AAJ/klh