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Senate Committee Prepares to Vote on Humanities-Council Nominee

WASHINGTON

The controversy over a nominee to the advisory council of the National Endowment for the Humanities may be resolved with a Senate committee vote next week.

But neither her supporters nor her opponents were willing to predict whether the disputed nominee, Carol A. Iannone, would be confirmed.

Since it was submitted by the White House in January, Ms. Iannone's nomination has drawn opposition from several scholarly groups, including the Modern Language Association and the American Council of Learned Societies. The critics say Ms. Iannone does not have a sufficiently distinguished record as a scholar. Ms. Iannone is a lecturer and administrator in the Gallatin Division of New York University.

Lynne V. Cheney, chairman of the endowment, has accused Ms. Iannone's opponents of playing politics. The scholarly groups oppose Ms. Iannone only because she is ideologically conservative, Mrs. Cheney says.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over the endowment, had been scheduled to vote on Ms.

Iannone in mid-June. But the vote was postponed at the request of Republicans on the committee and of endowment officials.

Since then, Ms. Iannone has met with several members of the panel, and Mrs. Cheney has waged an extensive lobbying campaign in her behalf.

Democratic Votes Crucial

If all the Republicans on the committee vote in favor of Ms. Iannone, at least two Democrats must also support her to keep the nomination alive.

A spokesman for Sen. Paul Simon, an Illinois Democrat who is on the committee, said Mr. Simon had met with Ms. Iannone and Mrs. Cheney and had received at least one telephone call from Mrs. Cheney about the nomination. In addition, two aides to Mr. Simon attended a White House meeting with Ms. Iannone. A spokeswoman for the N.E.H. said 18 aides of members of the Senate committee had been invited to attend the meeting, but only the two from Senator Simon's office came.

Mr. Simon's spokesman said the Senator had not decided whether to support or oppose the nomination. —CHRISTOPHER MYERS

CHRON. OF HIGHER ED.

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