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Karen J. Blair

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Women Studies

May 20, 1980

Senator Claiborne Pell Capitol Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I am an historian, researching a book on government funding for the arts during the 1960's, and I know you have been a strong advocate for many years. I have examined arts archives at the Lyndon Johnson Library in Austin and the John Kennedy Library in Massachusetts. Now I am traveling to Washington, D.C. during the month of July to look at National Arts Endowment records and to New York City in August to look at Rockefeller Papers and other materials.

Although these materials are rich, I need a legislator's perspective badly before I can begin to make sense of the questions regarding the topic. Representative Frank Thompson has agreed to talk with me, but I wonder if we could make an appointment for any day in July in D.C. I would come to Rhode Island in August if necessary. I would like to talk for forty-five minutes or so about your own reasons for support, about Congressional concerns about the arts funding, and about the rewards of the National Endowment from your point of view.

In addition, to maximize productivity during our meeting, I wonder if I could see copies of your speeches on the arts, memoes, correspondence, and any other materials from the 1960's. Are these on deposit at an archives or are they located in your office? I wouldbe happy to reimburse your office for xerox costs.

Finally, might I meet with your legislative aid on the arts before our meeting? I am anxious to learn all I can for this book!

Many thanks for all your help.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen J. Blair Assistant Professor Women Studies, GN-45