

anticipate the first rollcall at approximately 9:30 this morning. It will be probably around 9:40.

Following that vote, it is hoped that Members will cooperate with the managers of the Interior appropriations bill in offering their amendments and working on short time agreements. The majority leader has stated that we will complete action on this bill today.

With that in mind, Senators can anticipate additional rollcall votes throughout today's session of the Senate.

I thank the Members.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 2107, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2107) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Hutchinson amendment No. 1196, to authorize the President to implement the recently announced American Heritage Rivers Initiative subject to designation of qualified rivers by Act of Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 1186 TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ON PAGE 96, LINE 12, THROUGH PAGE 97, LINE 8

(Purpose: To provide for funding of the National Endowment for the Arts)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 20 minutes debate on the Hutchison amendment No. 1186, the time to be equally divided.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up my amendment to the NEA bill, which is the appropriate order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] proposes an amendment numbered 1186 to the committee reported amendment beginning on page 96, line 12, through page 97, line 8.

The amendment is as follows:

Beginning on page 96, strike line 14 and all that follows through line 8 on page 97, and insert the following:

(a) FUNDING.—For necessary expenses of the National Endowment for the Arts, \$100,060,000 to be used in accordance with this section.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount appropriated under subsection (a), the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts shall use—

(A) not less than 75 percent of such amount to make block grants to States under subsection (c);

(B) not less than 20 percent of such amount to make grants to national groups or institutions under subsection (d); and

(C) not more than 5 percent for the administrative costs of carrying out this section,

including any costs associated with the reduction in the operations of the National Endowment for the Arts.

(2) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—With respect to the budget authority provided for in this section, not more than \$1,525,915 shall be available for obligation with respect to the administrative costs described in paragraph (1)(C) prior to September 30, 1998.

(c) BLOCK GRANTS TO STATES OR TERRITORIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award block grants to States under this subsection to support the arts.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State or Territory shall prepare and submit to the Chairman an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Chairman may require, including an assurance that no funds received under the grant will be used to fund programs that are determined to be obscene.

(3) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount available for grants under this subsection, the Chairman shall allot to each State (including the District of Columbia) or Territory an amount equal to—

(i) with respect to a State, the amount under subparagraph (B); and

(ii) with respect to a territory, the amount determined under subparagraph (C).

(B) FORMULA.—The amount determined under this subparagraph with respect to a State (or the District of Columbia) shall be equal to—

(i) subject to subparagraph (D), the aggregate of the amounts provided by the National Endowment for the Arts to the State (or District), and the groups and institutions in the State (or District), in fiscal year 1997; and

(ii) an amount that bears the same relationship to the amounts remaining available for allotment for the fiscal year involved after the amounts are determined under clause (i), as the percentage of the population of the State (or District) bears to the total population of all States and the District.

(C) TERRITORIES.—The amount determined under this subparagraph with respect to a territory shall be equal to the aggregate of the amounts provided by the National Endowment for the Arts to the territory, in fiscal year 1997.

(D) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding the formula described in subparagraph (B), the allotment for a State (or the district of Columbia) under clause (i) of such subparagraph shall not exceed an amount equal to 6.6 percent of the total amount provided by the National Endowment for the Arts to States and the District of Columbia in fiscal year 1997.

(4) LIMITATION ON OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—With respect to the budget authority provided for in this section, not more than \$22,888,725 shall be available for obligation with respect to block grants under this subsection prior to September 30, 1998.

(5) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or territory shall use funds provided under a grant under this subsection to carry out activities to support the arts in the State or territory.

(B) ENDOWMENT INCENTIVE.—A State or territory may use not to exceed 25 percent of the funds provided under a grant under this subsection to establish a permanent arts endowment in the State or territory. A State or territory that uses funds under this subparagraph to establish a State endowment shall contribute non-Federal funds to such endowment in an amount equal to not less than the amount of Federal funds provided to the endowment.

(C) LIMITATION.—A State (or territory) may not use in excess of 15 percent of the amount received under this section in any fiscal year for administrative purposes.

(d) NATIONAL GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to nationally prominent groups or institutions under this subsection to support the arts.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an entity shall prepare and submit to the Chairman an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Chairman may require, including an assurance that no funds received under this subsection will be used—

(A) to fund programs that are determined to be obscene;

(B) for seasonal grants; or

(C) for subgrants.

(3) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant awarded to any group or institution to carry out a project under this section shall not exceed—

(A) with respect to a group or institution with an annual budget of not to exceed \$3,000,000, an amount equal to not more than 33.5 percent of the total project cost; and

(B) with respect to a group or institution with an annual budget of not less than \$3,000,000, an amount equal to not more than 20 percent of the total project cost.

(4) LIMITATION ON OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—With respect to the budget authority provided for in this section, not more than \$6,103,660 shall be available for obligation with respect to grants under this subsection prior to September 30, 1998.

(e) APPLICATION OF SECTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this section shall apply with respect to grants and contracts awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts in lieu of the provisions of sections 5 and 5A of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 954 and 954a).

(f) OFFSET.—Each amount of budget authority for the fiscal year ending September 39, 1998, provided in this Act, for payments not required by law is hereby reduced by .11 percent. Such reductions shall be applied ratably to each account, program, activity, and project provided for in this Act.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would like to just briefly describe my amendment, and then it is my intention to yield 2 minutes to Senator DEWINE. And then of course I know Senator HARKIN is here to speak on the other side.

My amendment leaves the amount for the commitment to the arts at the same level as the committee bill does. It does, however, make some reforms that I think will improve the NEA and most certainly will improve the commitment to the arts and reconfirm the commitment to arts that we have. It cuts the administrative costs of the NEA to 5 percent. I think, since the large part of the bill will require block granting to the States, that the administration does not need to be \$17 million. I think \$5 million then would be quite adequate to administer the national part of the bill.

The Federal grants to national groups would be 20 percent of the total grant. In the Federal grants, we have a requirement for State matching funds, which I think is a healthy thing for us to require, so that any project that is funded with national dollars will also

have a State commitment. Grants may not be used for obscene works, and they will go for groups and institutions.

The rest of the money, the 75 percent, would be grants to the States so that the each State or territory is guaranteed at least what they had in 1997. And, in fact, every State, except California and New York, would get more funding for their arts commissions than they had last year. Each State except California and New York will get more money than they got in 1997, and they will be able to spend it according to the wishes of their own arts commissions. I think it is very important that this happen.

With the 20 percent Federal grants to the national groups, I think California and New York will be able to make up some of the loss that they will receive because they have had the highest number of dollars that have gone to the national arts.

In this, I think we have a good way to keep our commitment to the arts to increase the access to the arts by children and people in all the States of our great country. And I think it also will give the leeway for the national groups that deserve the support of the National Government, because we do want to keep the very top, top quality in our arts so we can be proud, as a Nation, that we do have the world class opera, the world class ballet, the world class art museums that would actually be worthy of the civilization that our country has formed in its 221 years of democracy.

Mr. President, I yield 2 minutes to the Senator from Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, the Hutchison amendment recognizes that there are arts programs, arts projects, that are of national significance and that they should be supported. The amendment does this while at the same time addressing the huge geographic disparity in funding that the NEA elite, the NEA bureaucracy, has consistently and arrogantly refused to address or, for that matter, even to acknowledge.

This inequality in funding is unconscionable. When you have States such as New York getting \$21 million from the NEA, California, \$8 million, while States such as Ohio with our 11 million citizens receiving only \$1.6 million, clearly something is horribly wrong.

Ohio comes in 46th in per capita NEA funding. New York gets \$1.18 per person; Wyoming, \$1.24, Alaska, \$1.21. Ohio gets 14 cents per person.

Again and again, the NEA has failed to address this problem. Let me say this failure on the NEA's part points to broader problems at the NEA. For years now, Congress has been trying to set priorities for the NEA but nothing really has changed. I have grown increasingly frustrated because of the seeming ease with which the NEA flouts congressionally enacted policies.

It sometimes seems as if the NEA uses as much, or maybe more, creativity in skirting our guidelines as NEA-funded artists do in creating their works.

The NEA funds do support a number of worthwhile projects. However, I believe that NEA funding should really be targeted for programs for children and for underserved populations. Our scarce Federal dollars should be used to bring the arts to our children and to the poor. I congratulate my colleague, Senator GORTON, for including language in the underlying bill to indicate this priority, and also to Senator JEFFORDS for including it in the authorizing bill.

I certainly hope the NEA takes today's debate seriously. If, however, the NEA continues to remain unresponsive to legitimate concerns, concerns voiced by the people who are paying the bills, we can certainly expect even more support for moves to abolish the endowment outright. That, Mr. President, would be a great shame—for everyone who loves the arts, and indeed for all Americans. It would be a shame that the greatest country in the world, with some of the most talented and creative artists in the world, could not intelligently and responsibly run a national arts agency.

Mr. President, we can—and must—do better.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, it is now my intention to yield 2 minutes to the Senator from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank my good friend, the Senator from Texas.

I rise today to support the amendment submitted by my distinguished colleague from Texas, Senator HUTCHISON. I think her amendment represents a reasonable compromise to what has become a very divisive issue.

I think every Member of this Chamber would agree that some of the works the NEA has funded in the past have been offensive. They call into question the appropriateness of the Federal Government being involved in the promotion of the arts. Several years ago we had an exhibit here—and it had to be covered. We couldn't allow the Senate pages to see it. It was absolutely unsuitable for public view—certainly for young people. I personally was offended, and I think we all learned something from that.

Art works funded by a Federal agency should be those you take your children to see and, in the case of NEA-sponsored works, this has not always been the case. But, certainly the arts, overall, have a legitimate voice in our society. I think the amendment of Senator HUTCHISON that would take 20 percent of the NEA budget and keep it here in Washington, DC to be distributed to works of national prominence is satisfactory. It also addresses the concerns of those who do not believe it is in the Federal Government's juris-

diction to fund the arts. She has an answer to that—send 75 percent of the money to the States. This amendment will allow each of our States to develop the arts locally, hopefully reflecting the true role of the arts and the role they play in each of our communities.

I think this is a good amendment and merits the overwhelming support of this Chamber.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I yield myself—do I have 10 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 10 minutes.

Mr. HARKIN. I yield myself 8 of the 10 minutes. If the chair will interrupt me, I will appreciate it.

This amendment all but eliminates the National Endowment for the Arts. In other words, it eliminates a Federal role.

I believe the Senator from Texas is well-intentioned. However, the result would be disastrous for the arts. NEA national leadership grants have supported a number of very worthy projects that would not have been supported by a State. For example, the design competition in 1981 that led to the creation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. What State would have funded that if it was not going to be in the State, but was going to be located in the District of Columbia?

The Senator from Ohio made mention of all the money that goes to New York. Let's look at some of that money. Through the national leadership grants, the NEA provided a grant to Chamber Music of America in New York, but this grant sponsored chamber music rural residencies, which brought professional musicians to small towns, such as Jesup and Decorah and Fayette and Mount Vernon, IA. Artists lived and worked in these small towns for up to 2 years. They taught in the schools. They performed concerts for citizens in the communities all over the State of Iowa. Thousands of Iowans benefited from this. But, if you look at the grant, it went to New York. But the artists performed in Iowa, for up to 2 years.

If we take all of this money, as the Senator from Texas wants, and give it just to the States, will, then, the State of New York fund a program that goes to Iowa? I rather doubt it. They will keep the money there. But because we have the NEA making these grants, giving them out, then they can direct and guide those to go out to States like Iowa and Nebraska and Missouri, and States where we don't get a lot of money for arts.

So, what State would fund a program like that? What State? Would Texas? Would Texas fund a program that would send artists to Iowa for 2 years? I doubt that.

The NEA has also supported dance touring programs. The Alvin Ailey dance group traveled to Atlanta, GA;

Redding, OR; Tuscon, AR; Iowa City, IA; Milwaukee, WI. Would Texas fund something like that? I doubt it. Would New York fund something like that? I doubt it. Would California fund something like that? I doubt it. But, because we have a National Endowment for the Arts, we are able to get this out.

A grant to the American Library Association sponsored the "Writers Live At The Library." This program went all over America, to places like Rapid City, SD; Medina, OH; Buchanan, MI; Muncie, IN. Would Texas have sponsored that? I doubt it. Would New York alone have sponsored that? I don't think so. But the National Endowment for the Arts did.

That is my point. You could look at a lot of these grants. They may go to a State. But they seep out and go around the United States. If we adopt the amendment offered by the Senator from Texas, that will end. We will not have a National Endowment for the Arts. We will simply have a bunch of States out there. I rather doubt that States will fund programs that will go to another State.

Mr. President, this amendment has never been reviewed or discussed in any format before. Present law provides 35 percent to the States. Under the bill, under the leadership of Senator JEFFORDS, that goes to 40 percent. It was adopted by a 14-to-4 bipartisan vote in committee.

I might also point out that Federal funds are matched by the States on a 1-to-1 basis. If you increase this amount of money to the States, they will have to go to their State legislatures to get the amount of money up. Will that happen? Well, in some States it might, in some States it might not.

I also will point out that the Hutchison amendment imposes a cap on administrative costs of 5 percent. Right now the President's budget calls for a cap of 14 percent. Here is the problem. Many of the State agencies are quite small, so State support varies from State to State. If you put a cap on like that and you have low spending, that just destroys the program. Obviously, as you know, the more money you have in the program the less the amount of administrative costs there are for administering that program.

So the 5-percent cap would also not only hurt many of the State agencies, but would be disastrous for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mr. President, the Hutchison amendment is a severe and undeserved rebuke to the arts endowment. It may be well-intentioned, but I also point out that if this is so good, why is this opposed by the very agencies that would supposedly benefit from this? The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies is opposed to this amendment. That organization believes that the current distribution between Federal and State is appropriate.

So, again, while it may sound good to give all this money to the States, the

fact is, the Chamber Music of America in New York came to Iowa and lived there for 2 years in our small towns and communities. It may have looked like a grant to New York, but it was run by the National Endowment for the Arts. If you give all this money to the States, if New York got all this money, would they then of their own volition fund the chamber music program that we had in Iowa for 2 years? As I said before, I doubt it, and I don't think Texas would either.

For those reasons, this amendment should be defeated. I am told also, and I have a letter from the White House—I will just read it:

The administration understands that an amendment may be offered to increase significantly block grants to the States, thus severely diminishing the Federal leadership role of the NEA. In addition, the administration understands that an amendment may be offered making it administratively impossible for NEA to carry out its function.

That's the 5-percent cap.

If such amendments were adopted, the President's senior advisers would recommend that the President veto the bill.

I believe this bill is too important to be vetoed. I believe the NEA is too important to be cut up, segmented and destroyed by this amendment.

Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 2 minutes 50 seconds remaining.

Mr. HARKIN. I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mrs. HUTCHISON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would like to reserve the last minute of the debate, so I will take my time up until the last minute and then yield to the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. President, I would like to respond to the remarks of the Senator from Iowa and say that it is most certainly not my intention to do away with our national commitment to the arts. In fact, the opposite is true. That is why I keep the funding level because I do believe that all of our children will gain from having more access to and appreciation of the arts in our country. I want the budding artists of Iowa to have equal access to the education that budding artists in New York have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 1 minute remaining.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, let me just say that we have a lot of budding artists in Iowa, a lot of them musicians. I can tell you, when the Chamber Music of America came out and spent 2 years in our small towns, it was wonderful. These wonderful artists went to these small towns. They got these kids excited about music and about chamber music. I can't tell you how many hundreds of Iowa kids, I say to the Senator from Texas, were enthused and got

involved in music and are progressing now because of that.

That would not have happened without the National Endowment for the Arts. It just simply could not have been funded by the State and wouldn't have been, and I don't think the State of Texas would have funded it either.

Yes, there are a lot of budding artists out there, and that is why we need a national program to reach out to these budding artists.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from Jonathan Katz, CEO of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, be printed in the RECORD, in which he says they are opposed to this amendment and that they are endorsing the current distribution of agency funds.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
STATE ARTS AGENCIES,
Washington, DC, July 9, 1997.

Hon. RALPH REGULA,
Chairman, Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN REGULA: As you consider the resources available to the National Endowment for the Arts, I thought it might be helpful for you to have at hand the principles advocated by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) on behalf of the state and special jurisdiction arts agencies of the United States. These are attached.

Consistent with these principles, at the current funding level of \$99.5 million, the state arts agencies endorse the current distribution of agency funds that enables the NEA to demonstrate appropriate national leadership and also enables it to support the leadership roles that state arts agencies play. As the principles note, the state arts agencies do support a higher level of funding for the agency overall because that would enable more Americans in more communities to enjoy the arts in more meaningful ways.

Please feel free to contact me if additional information would be helpful to your office. Your support of public funding for the arts and humanities is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

JONATHAN KATZ,
Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from Americans United to Save the Arts and Humanities be printed in the RECORD. They also say they endorse the present distribution of moneys.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICANS UNITED TO SAVE
THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES,
Washington, DC, September 4, 1997.

Hon. EDWARD M. KENNEDY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KENNEDY: Americans United to Save the Arts and Humanities is a 501(c)(3) bi-partisan advocacy organization. Our mission is to preserve federal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Americans United represents over 100 U.S. business leaders from across the country who strongly support federal funding for the arts and humanities Endowments.

As you know, these agencies, particularly the National Endowment for the Arts, have recently come under heavy attack. The House has proposed eliminating the NEA entirely.

Imagine how such a loss would impact the economic activity currently stimulated by the non-profit arts industry. As it is, the non-profit arts industry generates \$36.8 billion annually in economic activity; supports 1.3 million jobs; and produces \$790 million in local government revenue and \$1.2 billion in state revenue. For every dollar the NEA invests in communities, there is a twenty-fold return in jobs, services and contracts. That is wise federal investing of taxpayer dollars.

The members of Americans United feel strongly that the NEA and NEH are agencies well worth continued federal funding. Recently, Americans United business leaders sent the attached letter to Senator Lott urging him to preserve federal funding for our nation's cultural Endowments.

We hope that when the issue of funding for the NEA and NEH comes to the Senate Floor for a vote, and subsequently goes to Conference Committee, you will support our nation's culture and heritage and ask your colleagues to preserve current levels of federal funding for the Endowments without crippling block grants.

Sincerely,

RICHARD J. FRANKE,
Chairman.

AMERICAN UNITED TO SAVE
THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES,
Washington, DC, September 4, 1997.

Hon. TRENT LOTT,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR LOTT: As business executives, we want you to know how strongly we support continued federal funding of the NEA and the NEH. While we recognize the tight constraints of the federal budget, it is evident that there is a clear connection between the federal investment in culture and the willingness of corporations, foundations and individuals to support cultural activity. Grants from the NEA and NEH are required to be matched with private money. A "seal of approval" from the Endowments demonstrates that a proposal has passed a rigorous evaluation—a review that many corporations and foundations do not have the expertise to make themselves, and one which they take into serious consideration as they make their own funding decisions.

Business supports the arts and the humanities for many important reasons. A vigorous cultural life enhances our communities, improves the imaginative and creative ability of our employees, and spurs economic activity. The strength of the cultural sector of our economy, generating \$36.8 billion annually in economic activity, supporting 1.3 million jobs, producing \$790 million in local taxes and \$1.2 billion in state taxes, is a direct result of the successful role of the Endowments in fostering a broad range of cultural initiatives over the last 30 years. As much as business values and supports the arts and the humanities, the unfortunate reality is that the corporate world can not replace the critical role of the NEA and the NEH in evaluating and fostering cultural initiatives. However, as business leaders we are very much aware that the explosion of interest in American culture worldwide is a key element of our competitive position in the new global economy.

From the beginning, it has been the role of the Endowments to encourage cultural programs of both local and national importance. The proposal to fund the arts and humanities through block grants to the states would severely limit the cultural impact of federal

dollars dedicated to cultural projects. For example, performances and exhibits which travel widely across state boundaries, often to rural areas and small cities, would be that much more difficult to develop and coordinate.

As the issue of federal funding for the NEA and NEH progresses to the Senate Floor and the Conference Committee, we urge you to recognize the enormous good accomplished by relatively few, yet vital dollars by protecting federal funding and a strong federal role for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sincerely,

Members of Americans United to Save
the Arts and Humanities.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent that a letter from the U.S. Conference of Mayors be printed in the RECORD. I won't read it all, but it says:

We need to maintain our federal commitment to preserve this country's rich cultural heritage and traditions and to nurture imagination and creativity to strengthen the future of this country.

Again, in support of the distribution of funds that are in the bill, from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,
Washington, DC, March 11, 1997.

President WILLIAM CLINTON,
*The White House,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
*Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. TRENT LOTT,
*Senate Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER and MR. MAJORITY LEADER: The United States Conference of Mayors joins leaders throughout this country on Arts Advocacy Day to urge you to support public funding for the arts and humanities at a level that fulfills the federal government's responsibility to help make the arts accessible to all Americans for the social, economic and cultural well-being of the American public.

As we prepare to enter the new Millennium, we see the arts and humanities serve as an essential and forceful vehicle to educate our citizens, help our struggling youth, spur economic growth in our communities, and bring us together as a nation. We need to maintain our federal commitment to preserve this country's rich cultural heritage and traditions and to nurture imagination and creativity to strengthen the future of this country. As mayors of communities of every size and in every corner of America, we can tell you first hand that the arts are critical to the quality of life and livability of our cities.

In partnership with the \$99.5 million federal investment that the NEA made in our nation's cultural initiatives this year (representing a 40% cut), the mayors invested \$650 million in local government funds and the governors invested \$275.4 million in state government funds for the arts through our local and state arts agencies. However, this delicate balance in shared responsibility of public support for the arts is in serious jeopardy now. Congress cannot expect state and local governments or the private sector to make up for the cuts in the federal government's share.

Therefore, we call upon you to oppose the elimination or phase-out of our federal cul-

tural agencies and to oppose any further reductions of their budgets. We further urge you to maintain your federal longterm commitment to our nation's cultural resources in communities large and small.

Sincerely yours,

Richard M. Daley, Mayor, Chicago,
USCM President; Paul Helmke, Mayor,
Fort Wayne, USCM Vice Pres.; Deedee
Corradin, Mayor, Salt Lake City,
Chair, Advisory Bd., Marc H. Morial,
Mayor, New Orleans, Chair, Arts Com-
mittee.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED POLICY RESOLUTION
AT THE 65TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MAY-
ORS, SAN FRANCISCO, CA, JUNE 24, 1997

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE ARTS, HUMANITIES,
AND MUSEUMS

(1) Whereas, the arts, humanities and museums are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities; and

(2) Whereas, the National Endowment for the Arts' and the National Endowment for the Humanities' thirty plus years of promoting cultural heritage and vitality throughout the nation has built a cultural infrastructure in this nation of arts and humanities agencies in every state and 3,800 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; and

(3) Whereas, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are the primary federal agencies that provide federal funding for the arts, humanities and museum programs, activities, and efforts in the cities and states of America; and

(4) Whereas, federal funding serves as a catalyst to leverage additional dollars for cultural activity—the annual federal investment made to these three agencies (NEA @ \$99.5 million; NEH @ \$110 million; and OMS @ \$22 million) leverages up to 12 times that amount from state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals in communities across the nation to support the highest quality cultural programs in the world; and

(5) Whereas, federal funding for cultural activities stimulates local economies and improves the quality of civic life throughout the country—the NEA, NEH and IMLS support programs that enhance community development, promote cultural planning, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, draw significant cultural tourism dollars, and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns; and

(6) Whereas, the nonprofit arts industry generates \$36.8 billion annually in economic activity and supports 1.3 million jobs—from large urban to small rural communities, the nonprofit arts industry annually returns \$3.4 billion in federal income taxes, \$1.2 billion in state government revenue and \$790 million in local government revenue; and

(7) Whereas, federal arts funding to cities, towns and states has helped stimulate the growth of 3,800 local arts agencies in America's cities and counties and \$650 million annually in local government funding to the arts and humanities; and

(8) Whereas, federal funding for cultural activities is essential to promote full access to and participation in exhibits, performances, arts education and other cultural events regardless of geography and family income; and

(9) Whereas, the NEA is in a highly precarious position since this agency has been unduly politicized and has incurred a disproportionate 39 percent cut in federal funding in fiscal year 1996—bringing its budget down to 1977 levels—and Congress has targeted this

agency for complete elimination this year; and

(10) Whereas, last year's draconian cuts to the NEA's and NEH's budget are beginning to have a serious negative effect on the cultural infrastructure and survival of arts and humanities institutions, arts organizations, artists, and cultural programming at the national, state and local level; and

(11) Whereas, the delicate balance in shared responsibility and partnership for public funding of the arts and humanities at the federal, state and local government levels is now in serious jeopardy since local governments cannot make up for the current and future funding cuts in the federal government's share, now, therefore, be it,

(12) *Resolved*, That the United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support of the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and calls upon Congress to fund these agencies at the President's FY '98 request level in order to fulfill the federal government's responsibility to help make the arts accessible to all Americans for the social, economic and cultural well-being of the American public, as well as to help sustain this nation's cultural infrastructure for public support of the arts and humanities at the federal, state and local levels, be it further

(13) *Resolved*, That the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the President and Congress to reauthorize the NEA and NEH and to oppose any attempts to eliminate or phase-out our federal cultural agencies; to oppose reducing their budgets; to oppose mandating that all funds be blockgranted to the states; and to allow local arts agencies to subgrant federal grants.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the Senator from Texas may say she wants to preserve and keep the National Endowment for the Arts, but this really is a stealth amendment. This is the stealth amendment that will kill the NEA. It will do great damage to a lot of our small States like Iowa, States that may not have a lot of money. We have a lot of budding artists, and we need the national commitment to the arts program to ensure that these young poets and these young writers and these young musicians and these young painters and these young artisans know that there is a national commitment and they have the kind of support and the kind of encouragement and the kind of role models that they need to encourage them in their efforts.

No, Mr. President, this stealth amendment would do drastic damage to the NEA. It would kill the NEA, and we cannot afford to do that. I urge its rejection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas has 1 minute remaining.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Has all time expired other than my 1 minute?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That's correct.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, America's strength comes from its grassroots. It isn't Government that provides the spirit of America; it is the grassroots. Government policy should strengthen the people to establish their priorities, and

that's what my amendment does. It strengthens the States to create more access and more appreciation and more education in the arts for all the children of America. I believe that our local control of education allows reading through phonics. I believe in old math so that we learn our multiplication tables in addition to how to work a computer and a calculator. I also think as basic to that is to let our children have access to the arts so that they can produce world-class art and arts appreciation. It shows that it is part of our basic education that we would have a national priority.

Mr. President, my amendment keeps the national commitment to the arts, and it keeps the control in the grassroots and the heartland of America. I think it is the best balance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1186 offered by the Senator from Texas, Senator HUTCHISON. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 39, nays 61, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 246 Leg.]

YEAS—39

Abraham	Gramm	Mack
Allard	Grams	McCain
Ashcroft	Grassley	McConnell
Bond	Gregg	Murkowski
Brownback	Hagel	Nickles
Burns	Helms	Roberts
Coats	Hutchinson	Santorum
Coverdell	Hutchison	Sessions
Craig	Inhofe	Shelby
DeWine	Kempthorne	Smith (NH)
Enzi	Kyl	Thomas
Faircloth	Lott	Thompson
Frist	Lugar	Thurmond

NAYS—61

Akaka	Durbin	Lieberman
Baucus	Feingold	Mikulski
Bennett	Feinstein	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Ford	Moynihan
Bingaman	Glenn	Murray
Boxer	Gorton	Reed
Breaux	Graham	Reid
Bryan	Harkin	Robb
Bumpers	Hatch	Rockefeller
Byrd	Hollings	Roth
Campbell	Inouye	Sarbanes
Chafee	Jeffords	Smith (OR)
Cleland	Johnson	Snowe
Cochran	Kennedy	Specter
Collins	Kerrey	Stevens
Conrad	Kerry	Torricelli
D'Amato	Kohl	Warner
Daschle	Landrieu	Wellstone
Dodd	Lautenberg	Wyden
Domenici	Leahy	
Dorgan	Levin	

The amendment (No. 1186) was rejected.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I move to lay it on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I may be granted leave of the Senate, pursuant to Rule 6, paragraph 2, to be absent from the Senate proceedings as of noon Thursday, September 18 through Monday, September 22nd.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill

AMENDMENT NO. 1219

(Purpose: To express a Sense of the Senate that hearings should be conducted and legislation debated during this Congress that would address Federal funding for the arts)

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have at the desk amendment No. 1219 for myself and the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD. I would like to present it at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending amendment is set aside.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS] for himself and Mr. DODD, proposes an amendment numbered 1219.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 3 . It is the Sense of the Senate that, inasmuch as there is disagreement as to what extent, if any, Federal funding for the arts is appropriate, and what modifications to the mechanism for such funding may be necessary; and further, inasmuch as there is a role for the private sector to supplement the federal, state and local partnership in support of the arts, hearings should be conducted and legislation addressing these issues should be brought before the full Senate for debate and passage during this Congress.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I offer this as chairman of the Appropriations Committee with the hope that the Senate will agree that this matter should now go to the authorization committee, and that the extent of the problem be reviewed with appropriate hearings.

This is a commitment that the Senate will consider legislation in this Congress to deal with what future mechanism, if any, should be used to carry out the Federal role as it may be defined in support of the arts.

I am pleased my friend from Connecticut has cosponsored this. I am hopeful the Senate will agree to it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.