

OCTOBER 10, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Dallas, Texas)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 12838, Arts, Humanities and Cultural Affairs Act of 1976. H. R. 12838 extends for four years the appropriations authorization for the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities and establishes a Museum Institute and the following new categorical grant programs:

- a museum grant program
- a photography and film grant program, and
- "challenge grant" programs for the support of cultural organizations and institutions.

H. R. 12838 establishes two new programs in the Foundation. First, within both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the bill establishes a "challenge grant" program. This effort is designed to increase public donations to cultural institutions by providing Federal matching funds for operating support.

In addition, the bill provides for the establishment of an American Bicentennial Photography and Film Project in the Arts Endowment with authorized levels of \$4 million in fiscal year 1977 and \$2 million in 1978.

It also establishes within HEW an Institute of Museum Services. The Institute will be authorized to make grants to museums for the stated purpose of accelerating the improvement of museum services to the public. The bill requires that the Institute Director (Executive Level V) and 15 members of the National Museum Services Board be appointed by the President subject to Senate confirmation.

H. R. 12838 provides, for the first time, for Senate confirmation of members of the National Council on the Arts and Humanities.

H. R. 12838 will authorize for all programs, including the Museum Services Institute, except for its open-ended matching authority, \$250 million for fiscal year 1977, \$300 million for 1978, and "such sums" for 1979 and 1980, excluding private donations.

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