

Americans in every community in this country. For just 68 cents per year per American, NEH-supported programs to preserve our heritage by keeping our historical records intact and building citizenship by providing citizens to study and understand principles and practices of American democracy. In fact, Congress established the NEH because "Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens."

But the NEA and NEH do not perform this important function alone—the Nation's cultural support system is a complex structure pieced together from many different sources, including earned income, private donations, corporate donations, and government grants. The cultural heritage of our communities rely upon all those sources to remain whole—including the Federal commitment. It's the partnership formed by all these entities, from private investors, to cities, States, and the Federal Government, that makes the system work.

Adequately funding the National Endowment for the Arts, in particular, is absolutely critical to the State of Oregon, which has suffered in recent years from cutbacks at the State and local levels. Portland and other cities in Oregon have managed to make this work by using public funds to leverage as much private investment as possible. Portland arts groups manage to attain about 68 percent of their financial resources from the box office, which is higher than the national average of 50 percent. Portland companies have stepped up to the plate—doubling their investment between 1990 and 1995. The public investment, particularly the investment from the NEA, is absolutely critical to preserving these opportunities.

Why is it important to preserve these cultural investments? A commitment to culture pays many dividends—dividends that promote our economic development and our understanding of the world around us. Economically, an investment in culture as helped promotes tourism. People flock to cities that support the arts and humanities, benefiting hotels, convention centers, restaurants, and countless other businesses related to entertainment and tourism. In fact, the nonprofit arts industry generates \$36.8 billion annually in economic activity, supports 1.3 million jobs, and returns \$3.4 billion to the Federal Government in income taxes and an additional \$1.2 billion in State and local tax revenue.

An investment in culture also helps previously disenfranchised groups gain access to new cultural experiences. The NEA, for example, provides fun and educational arts programs for children that help students and teachers develop arts, environment, and urban planning curricula. Public funds, like those from the NEA, are also critical to keeping ticket prices low, giving lower income individuals and seniors the opportunity to attend cultural events. If ticket prices reflected the entire cost of the event, cultural events would by necessity be denied many of our citizens, especially the young and elderly.

We won't be able to balance the budget by eliminating spending on our Nation's cultural heritage—and if we do so, we will lose much more as a society and a nation than we would ever gain in deficit reduction. This approach is shortsighted and doesn't recognize the long-term economic and social benefits an investment in culture convey to our communities and the Nation as a whole.

The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities recently released a report that could help focus our priorities for American cultural resources, if we listen to their recommendations—restoring Federal funding for cultural activities; enhancing the ability of the Endowments to attract and accept gifts; and ensuring that our Tax Code helps encourage charitable contributions.

We have the tools, infrastructure and innovative spirit in place to make communities across the Nation more livable through cultural opportunities. What we need to promote is a national commitment to improving the livability of our communities by investing in culture. We can develop and promote that national commitment through the NEA and the NEH.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, if a civilization is judged by its culture, Republicans have gone a long way toward destroying America with their actions in the past 2 days. Yesterday the GOP voted to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts, which makes theater, symphonies, and art programs available to Americans across the Nation.

Today, Republicans are trying to eliminate the National Endowment for the Humanities, which plays a vital role in advancing the educational and cultural health of our Nation, and in preserving the landmarks of our history. The NEH has made possible a wide range of activities to improve the quality of education and indeed, the very quality of life in communities throughout the country.

Let me tell you about just one of the projects that could not have happened without the help of the NEH. The Yale-New Haven Teacher's Institute brings public school teachers from New Haven together with faculty from Yale University and gives them the opportunity for in-depth study of a variety of subjects. It gives teachers the opportunity to bring new materials back to their students in the public schools of New Haven and add to their curriculum.

This project is seen as a model for collaborative efforts of universities and public schools to improve education throughout the United States. Yet it may not have happened without a \$750,000 challenge grant from the NEH—which spurred a fundraising drive of \$3 million in private funds to permanently endow this development program.

The NEH and NEA make up just a tiny portion of our budget—and that investment pays off in so many ways, spurring jobs and private investment and preserving our heritage for generations to come. Who knows how many children have had their interest sparked in a whole new subject thanks to an NEH sponsored program. Don't put out that spark. Don't destroy our heritage. Vote against destroying the NEH.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT].

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 181, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] will be postponed.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHABOT) having assumed the chair, Mr. LATOURETTE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the 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, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO FILE REPORT ON DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations may have until midnight tonight, July 11, 1997, to file a privileged report on a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT MONDAY, JULY 14, 1997, FILE REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations may have until midnight Monday, July 14, 1997 to file a privileged report on a bill making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.