

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106

August 4, 1984

Dr. William Bennett  
Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities

Dr. Ronald Herzman  
Director, Summer Seminars for Secondary School Teachers  
National Endowment for the Humanities

Dear Bill and Ron:

I have just completed the six weeks of this year's Summer Seminar for Secondary School Teachers, and I must say that, once again, it has been one of the most rewarding and significant events in my life. If anything, this was better than last year: "I was no longer experimenting with the subject, and I had a better initial sense of the interests and needs of the high school teachers.

We did all of the things we advertised about. That is, we read Alexis de Tocqueville's DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA, some days no more than a paragraph or two. And we concentrated on his interpretations and portrayals of ways in which religion functions in a democratic society. The participants did a tremendous amount of writing: they had four written assignments, each of which I read carefully while providing comments and appraisals. We listened to each other make presentations. And we had a few guest presentors. Had this been all, the seminar would have been a large success.

But there was much more.

Santa Barbara has been absolutely brilliant these past weeks. In the first place, UCSB is an Olympic Village. For three weeks the USA Track and Field team practiced within a quarter mile from where the participants stayed. They saw Carl Lewis, Evelyn Ashford, Edwin Moses, and the others, and some on a fairly regular basis. In addition, for the past week President Reagan has been vacationing on his ranch. This means that the White House press staff has been living in Santa Barbara, staying in a hotel just down the street, as it were, from where I live. We were successful in having some of the members of the seminar witness a press briefing, and on the very day that the major item was the visit of the Papal Nuncio (that is, religious news). We also took advantage -- as we were certain Alexis de Tocqueville would have as well -- of the presence of a monastery of cloistered nuns (Monastery of Poor Clares). The abbess invited our group to come in for a conversation about the nature of religion, the nature of the religious life, et al., and this turned out to be a very provocative session. But this is just the beginning, for we took a day away from the library and the books for an excursion to Anacapa Island, about twenty two miles across the Santa Barbara Channel. The boat,

August 4, 1984

page 2

and crew, was ours for the day. All hiked about the island. Some swam in the ocean. Everyone had a good time. And, on another occasion, we invited one of the track coaches of the U.S.A. team to address the class informally on "Athletics and the American Dream." This, too, was splendid, as he told us more about the pressure that is on athletes, the incentives they have in wanting to perform well, and the expectations the winners have. As a final event, I purchased some on-campus Television Studio time to interview eight of the participants (in two sets of four) on the following themes: (1) The Moral Context of Education, and (2) Revitalizing the Humanities. This, too, turned out very well both in substance and in spirit.

It was a superlative group of people. Their enthusiasm for what we were doing together was altogether contagious. We all worked like beavers, and we worked together. Along the way we developed an extraordinary network of mutual support and affirmation. I know that all of us -- I'm including myself, without question -- left the seminar with renewed senses of vocation, and, more importantly, with greater appreciation for the sanctity of human life.

I don't think I've been through anything in recent years that has so thoroughly recharged my own intellectual batteries.

It is a wonderful program -- the right one at the right time for the right people. Both of you are heroes in the eyes of my group for putting the appropriate pieces together.

I won't come down from it for some time.

Sincerely yours,

Walter H. Capps  
Professor

Thanks so much for writing, Walter.

Regards,

William J. Bennett  
Chairman

P.S. This is as nice a letter as a person can ever want to get.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20306

THE CHAIRMAN

August 10, 1984

Professor Walter H. Capps  
Department of Religious Studies  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, California 93106

Dear Walter:

To steal from the end of your letter, I might not "come down" from the very reading of it for some time.

I can't tell you how pleased we are with Democracy in America Summer II, both with the idea and the execution. Thanks for all the nice things you say about the idea, but let us thank you for all those things that go into successful execution. We can dream them up and as we dream them up, some are good and some not so good, but it is getting the right people to do them in the right spirit and in just the right way that makes the difference. This you have done for us twice now in this program and it makes us pleased, proud, grateful.

Your letter conveys the excitement, sense of engagement and significance that was intended for these seminars. Though the coincidence of the Olympic events, the visit of Nuncio et al was lucky, you didn't need those contingent successes. Already so much was going for you in the original plan.

Thanks so much for writing, Walter.

Regards,

William J. Bennett  
Chairman

P.S. This is as nice a letter as a person can ever want to get.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506



September 18, 1984

Dr. Walter Capps  
Dept. of Religious Studies  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Dear Dr. Capps:

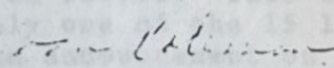
This will acknowledge the receipt and acceptance of the final financial report dated March 23, 1984 and the final performance report on Endowment grant FS-20723-82.

Thank you for the comprehensive and enlightening final performance report. It is most gratifying to learn of the intellectual quality and superb performance of the participants. There is no doubt whatsoever that the participants thoroughly enjoyed the indepth study of de Tocqueville's Democracy in America and left the seminar with renewed vigor and anticipation for the upcoming school year. That the participants were able to gain and accomplish so much during the seminar attests to your dedication and fine leadership. We thank you for your suggestions and continued support of the program.

We look forward to receiving the two video tapes, "Teachers Talk Back" and "Religion in the Schools", as well as the bound volume of participant essays.

You are reminded that Endowment acceptance of the final financial report does not relieve the grantee of the obligation to retain fiscal records for possible Federal audit purposes.

Sincerely yours,

  
Joan Coleman  
Division of Fellowships  
and Seminars

cc: Bert Immel  
William Pass