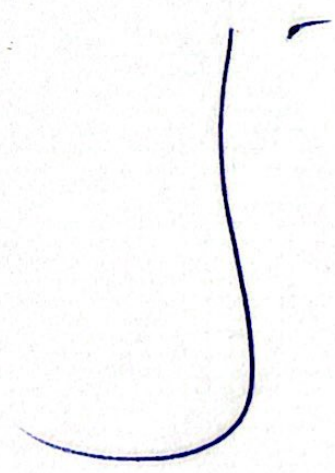


walt -

July 22

can't find my notes on the  
public humanities center. will send them  
monday if i haven't inadvertently erased the  
file! anyhow, here's my regents presentation.  
great to talk with you, as always.





Remarks by Dr. James Quay, Executive Director of the California Council for the Humanities, before the Regents of the University of California, meeting at U.C.L.A. on September 18, 1987.

I am here as a representative of the California Council for the Humanities, an independent, non-partisan organization of California citizens affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Our membership includes humanities scholars, college administrators, businesspeople, labor officials, and community leaders nominated by the public, and six gubernatorial appointees, all of whom serve four year terms without pay.

While presenting the second annual California Humanities Lecture in the fall of 1984, Dr. David Gardner told the Council and an audience of 700 that there existed a once in a generation opportunity to reassert the significance of the humanities and to recapture the place of the humanities in the education of young people. The humanities initiative unveiled before you today is evidence that Dr. Gardner and the University of California mean to use this opportunity to strengthen the humanities. For this leadership, the Council extends its congratulations and thanks to Dr. Gardner, the Regents, and all who have helped construct this impressive initiative.

On this occasion, I wish to recall other words associated with Dr. Gardner, from a section of *A Nation at Risk* entitled "The Learning Society." "Educational reform," the report reads, "should focus on the goal of creating a Learning Society....At the heart of the Learning Society are educational opportunities extending into adulthood and far beyond the traditional institutions of learning, our schools and colleges. They extend into homes and workplaces; into libraries, art galleries, museums, and science centers; indeed, into every place where the individual can develop and mature in work and life."

The California Council for the Humanities, which has as its primary mission the promotion of the humanities to all Californians, finds these words especially heartening. Only a handful of us, after all, have the privilege to make the humanities our fulltime profession, but twelve years of funding public humanities projects have convinced my Council that everyone needs the humanities, even those who do not think so. The University can help create the Learning Society by encouraging its distinguished humanities faculty to find occasions to share its talents with the general public.

Let me give you one example to bring the matter close to home. We are all busy people in this room, daily called upon to make quick decisions and value judgments. With our schedules and responsibilities, it is the rare individual who can find time to read works of literature or philosophy, much less discuss them. But last June, over 100 executives and trustees from major foundations in northern California did just that. They spent a full day discussing with scholars works by Shakespeare, Camus, and Tolstoi and how those works raised ethical issues they face every day as professionals. The response was astonishing. The discussions awakened a hunger for deep thought about values and purposes that few of the participants knew they had, a hunger unsatisfied by the memoranda and committee reports we deal with daily.



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Foundation executives need more such opportunities, regents need them, administrators need them, corporate executives and working people need them. Imagine a series of such seminars ranging from one day to two weeks long and aimed at a variety of groups: public school teachers, labor and management, policymakers and journalists, citizens and professionals of all kinds. Your humanities initiative now makes such programs possible here in California.

The Council, then, sends me here with applause and admiration for the steps you are taking to encourage research in the humanities. We are grateful to the Regents and to Dr. Gardner for acting decisively to take advantage of this once in a generation opportunity. The California Council for the Humanities looks forward to cooperating with the University's scholars and administrators to create new ways for bringing the insights of the humanities to all Californians. I thank you.