ACADEM MONEY

NHF Bill Pushed

By DAVID BOCK
Thresher Staff Reporter

Both Houses of Congress are now considering a proposal to establish a national foundation for the encouragement and support of the arts and humanities.

This proposal can be seen as a response to a growing concern among scholars and educators and the public in general that in the process of emphasizing science our country might neglect the humanities and arts.

Responding to this concern, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States, and the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa joined as co-sponsors of a National Commission on the Humanities.

The Commission released its report in June of 1964. The report, after reviewing the needs of the Humanities and the Arts, and arguing that the development of the Humanities and the Arts is in the national interest, recommended that Congress establish a National Humanities Foundation to complement the National Science Foundation.

There was an immediate and favorable response to the recommendations of this report among certain members of the House and of the Senate. On March 10, Senator Pell of Rhode Island introduced a bill, which has the backing of President Johnson, to establish a National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

This bill, which was co-sponsored by Senators Javits (New York) and Gruening (Alaska) supercedes other bills proposed prior to the administration’s bill. The same bill has been introduced in the House by Congressman Frank Thompson, Jr., of New Jersey with several co-sponsors.

The administration’s bill would create an independent agency, the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities. This agency would have two virtually autonomous subdivisions: a National Endowment for the Arts and a National Endowment for the Humanities.

Each endowment would be given guidance by a National Council. The two Councils would advise their respective Chairmen, review applications for financial assistance, and the decisions of each Chairman would be subject to Council recommendations and approval.

To correlate the work of the two endowments, there would be established a Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.