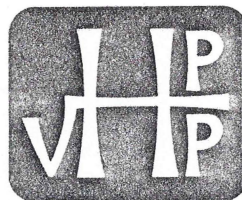


VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES

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AND PUBLIC POLICY

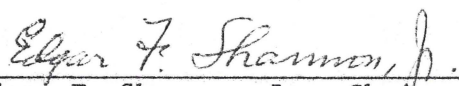
Phone (804) 924-3296

A STATEWIDE PROGRAM IN THE HUMANITIES


FOR GENERAL AUDIENCES

Submitted to the
National Endowment for the Humanities
By the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
And Public Policy

May, 1977



Edgar F. Shannon, Jr., Chairman



Robert C. Vaughan, Executive Director

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

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PROGRAM INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

During its first three years, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy has witnessed increasing acceptance, activity, and quality in its programs -- convincing testimony to the vitality and success of the Foundation's program. More significant, however, is the testimony afforded by the program's success to the vitality of the humanities and to their pertinence to the understanding and development of public policy. In spite of current indictments against the humanities that they are authoritarian and elitist, impractical and inconsequential, public programs in the humanities have shown that the humanities are not extravagant and peripheral but essential and integral determinants in our lives.

The humanities are not unnecessary accouterments to the business of living, not "intellectual finger-painting," a recent Doonesbury characterization. Rather they are valuable resources which should be available to all citizens who would participate in the democratic process. As the name implies, the humanities embrace all of humanity and come to life in the thoughts and actions of people everywhere. Virginia Foundation activities and programs are a serious and persuasive argument that disciplines which deal abstractly with intangibles are decidedly relevant to a world beset with concrete, practical questions of survival.

That the humanities and the public welfare are related is not always accepted as a foregone conclusion. The Virginia Foundation is committed to both, however, and bases its program on the premise that the humanities are an accumulated body of knowledge consisting of both a factual and imaginative record of human experience which needs to be consulted as a

crucial factor in the development of our society. To this end the Foundation's programs work in two directions: to help provide access by the general public to this body of knowledge and to educate the professional scholars to their larger responsibilities in the community. The Foundation does not seek a cultural renaissance; it does not intend to lay the humanities on the unsuspecting. It contends only that there is much that is valuable to be exchanged between scholars and non-scholars and that an educational dialogue will benefit both groups by enriching our common existence. In Charles Frankel's words the humanities contribute perspective, criticism, clarification, and meaning to public discussion and in turn renew their own life when they become engaged in everyday perplexities.

The Virginia Foundation proposes to enlarge public understanding, appreciation, and use of the humanities. Its purpose is summarized in the following statement prepared by a committee of state chairmen including Virginia's Chairman, Edgar F. Shannon, Jr.:

The ideal of a free nation composed of a free people has evolved from that tradition of thought and experience which encompasses the humanities. Each generation must sustain and renew the ideal. Hence, the humanities as disciplines of thought and study are central to the aspirations, values, and purposes of the people of this nation and are a means of uniting the past, the present, and the future.

Public recognition of the critical role of the humanities in the private and public lives of the people is essential, for the humanities must belong to the populace as well as to scholars through shared thought, study, inquiry, imagination and dialogue. The humanities have a dual nature: they are private and reflective, and they are also public and active.

A government achieves its highest potential for the benefit of the people when it encourages increasing use and development of the humanities and is wise enough to avoid any semblance of attempting to control thought. By their very nature, the humanities foster independence of mind -- an independence that must be free of political interference.

In order to improve the human condition and quality of decisions affecting public policy, the Congress created the National Endowment for the Humanities. To promote humanities among the people, who ultimately must determine public policy for themselves, Congress provided for state-based humanities programs in each of the several states. In order to promote an understanding and use of the humanities among the people of Virginia, a citizens' committee formed the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy.

William C. Havard, Vice-Chairman of the Virginia Foundation, elaborates on this purpose and on the role of the humanities in public discussions in a paper which has served as the keynote to the Foundation's activities since its inception. He argues that "the practice of politics is purposive and creative; it is a matter of choice and of interest, one's own and that of others, and is, therefore, more fraught with moral than with technical difficulties," and he continues:

At this point the general objects of inquiry and methods of the humanities seem to me to come into full congruence with the practice of politics in ways that may inform that practice, so it can be enhanced rather than perverted. The humanities are concerned precisely with those aspects of life identified as belonging peculiarly or particularly to human beings, but not to human beings conceived simply as objects, or as the mere accumulative result of discreetly analyzable properties. We are speaking of human beings considered as a whole and as having certain unique characteristics, characteristics that both define them and make it possible for them to define themselves. So far as we are aware, humans are the only creatures who have a self-conscious relation both to themselves as individuals and to

things external to them. They are the only creatures who reason both instrumentally and axiomatically; who distinguish between good and evil, abstractly and pragmatically; who attempt to establish standards of truth, beauty and justice; discern intimations of transcendence; who have inherited and constantly embellish the elaborate logical structures known as languages; who create myths through which they symbolize the meaning of their existence, and who have enough awareness of the past to have generated an intelligible history. Without drawing the obvious connections, I submit that it is these unique qualities which are the most generalized objects that the so-called humanistic disciplines seek to comprehend in whole or in part. And it is because of these qualities and through their mediation that man conducts his practical life, with the result that the humanities, if they are true to themselves, cannot avoid or ignore the practical realms of morals and politics.

It is true that there are purists who argue that the humanities have to do solely with an aesthetic mode of experience complete in itself, and that its devotees should not grub around in anything so mundane as the practical arts of morals and politics, which, in contrast to the absolute ideas of the idealized humanities, are subject to so many contingencies. But I submit that the humanities, if they are not to abstract themselves from the human experience they are seeking to symbolize and explain, must cope with the practical in its own terms, because its terms are so much at one with those of the humanities.

To date Foundation activities have focused on issues of public policy as the means of relating the humanities to the concerns and conditions of contemporary life -- to the practical realm. Although the Board is now exploring the expansion of the program to include concerns and topics other than public policy and will propose new guidelines and programs during the next year, it does not intend to diminish the current emphasis. Public policy has provided identity and continuity to an emerging program,

and the adoption of a comprehensive topic or theme has provoked discussion, suggested ideas and topics, and fostered thoughtful exploration of "the critical role of the humanities in the private and public lives of the people." The Foundation will continue for another year to encourage the development of programs related to the theme, "The Pursuit of Freedom and Equity" in politics, education, health, work, land use, and urbanization. The theme is explained in the following discussion excerpted from a longer article written by staff member Andrew Wyndham for the VFHPP newsletter:

Jefferson's contention that government should work to insure "equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political," is the kind of formulation to which most of us readily assent. The remark seems almost axiomatic; it expresses one of those self-evident truths that are, as it were, interwoven with the very fabric of American life.

But what if "exact" and "equal" justice mean two different things? What if ideals of individual freedom conflict with principles of fair treatment, principles of distributive liberty meant to safeguard the rights of society as a whole?

Jefferson, of course, fully understood the potential for conflict in the philosophical position to which he was committed. He thus speaks of "a wise and frugal government" as one which both leaves men "free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement," and restrains them from injuring one another. A balance, he implies, must be struck between legal restraints that prohibit government from usurping individual rights, and those which are the product of positive governmental measures to insure social justice.

The sticking point here is that there is no cut-and-dried formula for determining when one part of society invades the freedoms of another, or when government efforts to mediate conflicting interests unnecessarily jeopardize individual rights. Subtle distinctions must be made, and complications arise in a system whose democratic ideal signifies -- as Dewey said every true ideal must -- "something to be

done rather than something already given, something ready-made."

Dewey's words are significant. They suggest the "process character" of freedom and equity, concepts which for us can only find their meaning in a dynamic interrelation. They suggest the relative nature of the terms -- the fact that there can be no absolute freedom or equity, only the pursuit of the maximum allowance of each. They suggest the relevance of the Virginia Foundation's theme, "The Pursuit of Freedom and Equity," to the range of increasingly complex social and political problems facing our state and nation during the 1970's. . . .

Freedoms, then, are the product of social and political decisions, and questions regarding their relative importance involve issues of comparative social justice, or equity. We all forego willingly some types of freedom in order to secure others. But, when the interests of one group conflict with rights valued by another, we must mediate between freedoms, in an effort to locate equitable solutions.

We thus accept only with reservations the idea that "the less government there is, the better," for we realize, as did Madison, that "liberty may be endangered by the abuses of liberty as well as by the abuses of power." Liberty and equality, rather than generating or supporting one another, may prove mutually destructive -- unless, of course, they are balanced in a system which allows them to find their limits in each other.

It is this recognition that provides the basis for the dual emphasis in our framework of government and law. We strictly delimit the range of governmental activity, affirming our liberties in a "Bill of Rights." Yet we also ask that the state act positively in securing universal access to those rights. In certain cases, we urge the necessity of enforcing appropriate legal sanctions. Yet we agree that the requirements of simple justice should be mitigated by our sense of fair dealing.

Freedom and equity are, then, the central values in American democracy. The maintenance of their just equilibrium is of fundamental importance in the making of public policy. And it is for this reason that the

Virginia Foundation selected its current theme -- one that seems particularly appropriate in light of the Commonwealth's historical contribution to our nation.

PROGRAM HISTORY

A current grant-supported program planned by the Assembly of Charlotte in Drakes Branch illustrates several of the recent developments and successes of the Virginia Foundation's program. The Foundation has long been interested in extending its activities to all peoples of the state and has made special efforts to interest small towns and rural communities, minority groups, and those with little or no formal education. For obvious reasons word of the humanities program travels more quickly among the better educated, upper middle class, among more densely populated areas, and among educational institutions -- all groups exposed regularly to the humanities, at least in school.

The Assembly of Charlotte, formed in 1975, is a grassroots organization of concerned residents, predominantly Blacks, who felt the need for a community group to help people help one another. The Assembly recently received a grant for a series of eight seminars held on Wednesday evenings in May and June in a church in Drakes Branch -- a tiny, rural community in Southside Virginia tobacco country. The county is sparsely populated -- the largest town has a population of 600 and Drakes Branch is smaller -- and there is no industry and no college in the immediate vicinity. Charlotte County adjoins Prince Edward County, the seat of "massive resistance" at the start of the desegregation era and its people

were caught up in that crisis.

The Assembly was first approached by a young scholar hired for the summer to promote the Foundation in three regions of Virginia. They applied for a grant in December but were rejected because the proposed program was informational and action oriented. They were encouraged, however, by a visit from the staff and applied for and received a small program development grant to employ a consultant scholar and VFHPP project director and to arouse the community's interest through small gatherings. The resulting program series proposed in March has proved extraordinarily successful. Attendance at the first five seminars has ranged from 49 to 65 persons.

The seminars explore some of the issues and problems facing rural communities: topics include education, the rural church, agricultural economics, justice and the legal system, changing family life styles, and the roles of women, youth, and the retired. Among the speakers and moderators are a college president, a provost, a dean, an attorney, a dentist, a VFHPP Board member, a minister, an educator, and professors of philosophy, religious studies, literature, history, political science, and modern language. At the seminar attended by the Executive Director of the Virginia Foundation, he was impressed with the emphasis that the moderator placed on the audience and with the number and quality of the questions asked of the speaker -- a philosopher who had spoken on the essential values underlying formal education. He was well prepared, spoke informally and enthusiastically, and was clear and direct. His remarks were a model for other academics to follow in speaking to non-academic groups. Although there is no typical program, the Assembly's

series reflects many of the Virginia Foundation's concerns and objectives, and it is a realization of what can happen when the humanities become involved with grassroots groups.

Other recent programs in rural areas have been successful, also, and are discussed in detail in the Winter issue of the VFHPP Newsletter (see attached). A few excerpts are included here as a further illustration of various approaches to programming:

The offspring of Raymond's idea, a project entitled "The Changing Values of a Rural Community," was a series of fifteen seminars which ran from May to July, 1976, supported by a \$5,490 VFHPP grant, and held on the Saint Paul's College campus. . . . How successful was the project? In terms of overall attendance, the facts may not seem particularly impressive -- an average of about twenty-five area residents participated in each session. But, Dr. Raymond points out, Brunswick County is sparsely populated and this was the first program of its kind ever held in the Lawrenceville community. "We had to work hard to overcome people's natural suspicions about this kind of thing, to reassure them that we weren't trying to change things, but wanted to talk about how best to preserve the things we all value."

Raymond's view is that building local confidence in, and support for, humanities programs is necessarily a gradual process. "Our first efforts were, we felt, quite successful -- surprisingly so --, but now that we have laid a groundwork and spread the rumor about what we are doing, we are getting an even better response." Presently, the professor is directing a project on "human values" and the future in rural communities. As of this writing, two programs have been held, and attendance at each has numbered over 120 persons. "We are generating some additional excitement now by bringing in speakers from outside our immediate area," he says, "but probably the biggest factor contributing to this increased interest is the continuity in our effort to reach the people."

While the Saint Paul's projects have in the main adhered to an open-seminar format, the humanities series developed last year by the Ad Hoc Group in Rockbridge County employed a less traditional organizational structure, in an attempt to reach the residents of a number

of relatively isolated "pocket communities."

Working with a \$5,350 Foundation grant, project director Todd Lowry sought to devise a program that would foster citizen interest in the heritage of the region, thus promoting awareness of the nature and implications of current changes. "Our philosophy," he says, "was that a community with a sense of its own past can better decide what it wants to make of its present. Giving people a perspective on their own history can also give them the confidence requisite for dealing with the here and now -- hence the title of our project, 'The Historic Development of Rockbridge County Communities: What's Been Lost, and What's Worth Keeping?'"

Bridging the gap between the rural population and academic humanists was the immediate concern of project leaders as they pondered the best way to initiate their program in eight more or less socially autonomous communities. One approach involved the production of a short film that contrasted past and present conditions in a single hamlet. . . . The movie proved to be a valuable educational tool. Dr. Lowry reports the film has been shown at over 40 formal screenings, and been viewed by a total audience of nearly three thousand persons, including members of church groups, women's clubs, civic clubs, parent-teacher organizations, and historical study groups. . . . Other "mini-projects" involved an historian, whose research on the history of the area led to lecture-discussion programs in four communities, and an archeologist, who conducted a preliminary survey of unusual structural remains in one locality. . . .

Overall, however, project leaders feel that their efforts, which grew out of a land use program previously funded by the Foundation, were well worthwhile. Several communities have continued to sponsor meetings on the history of the area, and the Rockbridge County Historical Society was encouraged to apply for a VFHPP grant to develop a film that will explore -- from the perspective of the humanities -- the effects of social and economic change on traditional agrarian lifestyles. "We believe that our program has given people a sense that they have a stake in the heritage and future of the County," says Professor Lowry. "It's something that's intangible; it's not quantifiable. But insofar as we've fostered this kind of local historical awareness, I think we've been successful."

A complete description of each of the programs supported during the

Foundation's third year is attached in Appendix G -- a most important part of this proposal. The Board and staff have not always been optimistic about their efforts to interpret the guidelines, to lead people to start thinking humanistically about issues, to promote and establish programs; but the programs themselves, the only justification for the Virginia Foundation's existence, make evident that the people's response has been gratifying. Beginning with a planning period in the spring of 1974, and eleven regional meetings to lay the groundwork for a broad-based, statewide humanities program, the Foundation has become well established. Its activities reflect a diversity of sponsors, topics, audiences, and formats, and the sameness characteristic of the first year programs is no longer a problem.

During the first year the Foundation received 40 proposals requesting \$405,000 and awarded \$127,500 for 21 programs. Well over 10,000 people attended and a realistically estimated 1,290,000 watched the several televised programs. Sponsorship included 16 college and 47 civic groups, while other groups lent support indirectly -- a large number of colleges, of course, through their faculty who participated and many community groups in planning and promotion and through the active participation of their members.

Second year activities almost doubled the first. The Board reviewed 86 proposals and awarded 48 grants totaling \$204,000 out of a total request of almost \$600,000. About 40,000 people participated and 30 college and 90 civic groups joined in sponsorship. The staff began during this period to handle innumerable inquiries and to advise an ever-expanding number of potential applicants, far more than were encouraged to complete proposals.

Otherwise, the number of proposals reviewed would have increased dramatically, beyond the ability of the Board to consider them. Thorough staff work and a better general awareness of the program has contributed, however, to the much improved quality of proposals received at each successive deadline.

Obvious from even a casual glance at the agenda of Board meetings during the first three years is the ever-increasing proportion of community groups submitting proposals. During the third and current year, the Foundation has awarded 58 grants; for the first time over half (30) are sponsored by groups other than academic institutions. This ratio does not indicate any discrimination against the academy, which has always been aware of the VFHPP. Rather it is evidence that the Foundation is reaching the general public more consistently and that the public is interested and responsive. During the first seven months of the year, the Foundation received 106 proposals; of the total requested, about \$705,000, we were able to grant only \$293,000. Several deserving requests were reduced, turned down, or postponed until next year because funds were not available. In three cases grant funds were stretched by offering challenge grants based on local cash support for a part of the total cost of the program. These were accepted readily.

It is impossible to offer a comprehensive discussion of the third year program since many activities will not be completed for another six months. Imaginative approaches and continuity, two objectives expressed in last year's proposal, are characteristic of many of this year's programs. Traditional seminars and forums are finding more interesting ways to spur the audience to become active participants instead of passive observers, while other projects are using drama, readings, simulation experiences,

debates, role playing, exhibits, and films to stimulate discussion and the exchange of perspectives vital to these programs. Several excellent but inexpensive films, such as the Rockbridge County film mentioned earlier, have been produced under grants and used extensively among various groups. One, shown throughout Richmond, was broadcast nationally in May over PBS and is now being used in Delaware and Hawaii humanities projects. Effective use is always an essential criterion for the funding of any film. Two projects are finding radio to be an excellent medium for engaging a community in continuing discussion, and several have developed short presentations for the regular meetings of civic organizations. The latter have the advantage of an existing audience which always includes people who would not otherwise choose to be exposed to the humanities but who find the programs stimulating and request others. Programs are also finding their way into prisons and hospitals, into retirement homes and community centers, museums and libraries. The most recent program development grant was awarded to a committee of the Virginia Library Association to initiate planning for a program that can be adopted for use by each public library in Virginia. The Virginia History and Museums Federation is already at work on such a program for the state's museums.

Among other special programs is a Conference for Minority Women which has generated enthusiasm from Federal and state agencies and groups in surrounding states and expects to attract about 1000 participants. Although we are not in the figures business, the Foundation is delighted to note that its largest program was a conference attended by over 3000 people and that 800 turned out for a recent forum in Lawrenceville, a town of only 2000. In general attendance at all programs has been remarkably good and

is improving, although an occasional program or even a series suffers from poor promotion and audience development. One project last fall experienced dwindling attendance while another simply failed to produce an audience. The latter was the Foundation's second, and probably last experience, with funding a program conducted by an institution not located in the community where the activity was held. If no local group is vitally interested or involved, if discussions are not directed to specific topics, if there is little special appeal, then we conclude that there is little reason to attend a program. Those that have trouble generally do so for one of these reasons. Clearly, it is important to the Foundation's success that the commitment to well defined topics be made insistent.

A comparison of this year's program with last would indicate that many successful programs have evolved new efforts. Although conscious of the danger of indefinite funding of any one group, successful programs which seek new directions rather than repetition are deserving of continued support. The appended program descriptions often indicate when a new program has evolved from a preceding. Among them are the programs sponsored by the Health-Welfare-Recreation Planning Council, the Rockbridge Historical Society, FOCUS, Averett College, and WMRA-FM. One group with a potential for future development is a committee of humanists now completing what is expected to be a pilot program for commercial television. The initial tape involves a debate between columnist James J. Kilpatrick and Jerry Wurf, President of the American Federation of State, City, and Municipal Employees' Unions, on the unionization of public employees. An historian introduces the issue, moderates the debate, and comments on interviews with workers and state officials to put the controversial issue

into a broad historical and philosophical framework. The Foundation hopes that this tape will serve as a model for other humanities programs on public policy for television, programs that have proved in the past to be extremely expensive in terms of coverage and weak in humanistic content. Examples of program continuation also include developments without grant support, an extremely encouraging sign: creation of permanent organizations as a direct result of several grants (the Rockbridge Conservation Council and the Assembly on Hunger, for instance); conferences and seminars supported by other groups as follow-up activities in countless cases; and the institution of special programs by a college (Ferrum now brings business leaders to campus to meet with small groups of faculty because of the success of a VFHPP series there).

Continuation and new developments are in themselves forms of evaluation, a process that both assesses existing activities and promotes new ones. Even the annual evaluation conference serves equally well as a promotional program for the following year. Two have been held and a third is scheduled for September. The conference provides an opportunity for the Board to review, beyond the written evaluations previously submitted, the accomplishments of each project and to hear directly from the project directors and selected participants their suggestions for ways to enhance the quality and extent of the benefits to the public. Regular project directors' workshops and program development luncheons are direct results of the conference and are themselves means of evaluation and the source of new ideas, new programs, revised procedures and techniques, and improved literature. Both strengths and weaknesses are discovered from a rather thorough review process that includes these activities, as well as

formal reports according to the instructions in Appendix F, audience and participant surveys, outside evaluators, and site visits by the staff and Board. Evaluation is based on the guidelines and the Foundation's objectives expressed each year in the annual report.

A major strength of the program seems to be the consistent involvement of the humanities and excellent scholars. The Board's review of proposals begins with a look at the humanities, and the most prevalent reason for rejecting proposals is weak contribution of the humanities. This emphasis was probably responsible for the program's slow start, the most frustrating experience of the first year, since the term "humanities" is clear to virtually no one and is often confused with humanitarianism. The focus on public policy is also the source of some confusion, especially among faculty members, although it has been a fruitful vehicle as noted in the introduction. In the proposal process the lack of experience, knowledge, and language is a major problem even for many professionals and the source of a need for scholars to be involved in the early stages of program planning. Similarly, scholars often lack experience in public affairs and profit from consultation with community representatives when planning their programs. The Foundation can assist by arranging meetings between the two groups and suggesting consultants for each. The proposal process itself and Foundation procedures have generally been satisfactory.

Evaluation is a difficult process in this program. Statistics are for the most part inappropriate. Whether the programs fulfill the guidelines is only part of the story. Obviously they must fulfill the guidelines to be considered successful, but more subjective questions on the worth of the programs, their impact and effects, and on the difference they may have made

to someone or a group are important measures of success, as well, however difficult they are to quantify. We believe there is evidence that the programs funded during the Foundation's first three years have made a difference and we prepare now for a fourth. Every indication leads us to believe that we are on the verge of radical development, that VFHPP activities will easily double again.

This history of the Virginia Foundation began with a discussion of rural programs on general topics. Occasionally, the Board supports programs on more specialized topics directed to specific groups but of extreme importance to all people -- health care and medical issues, for example. These programs are equally valuable and one such series is mentioned here to round out this history. The following is excerpted from an article to be printed in June:

Project director and philosophy professor Don Self contends, "The humanities are not just frosting added on to, but have something substantive to offer medical education, and the end result of their influence can be better health care. . . ." Applying his philosophical training, Self fulfills a consultative role at Eastern Virginia's medical center. During the last two years, he has directed four Foundation-sponsored programs, each designed to enable scholars in the humanities and health care professionals jointly to examine the kind of ethical issues that confront the medical community and ultimately concern society at large.

Self's most recent projects have included a two-day conference on the role of the humanities in medical education and an on-going series of monthly "Medicine and Society" meetings for medical personnel, ministers, social workers, and the general public. The former was held April 29-30, and brought together nationally known scholars in art, history, literature, philosophy, and religion, to discuss ways in which their disciplines can be related to specific aspects of medical training before an audience of approximately 500 professionals.

The latter, which is being continued throughout the summer, involves a \$3,586 grant, and focuses on the ethical, legal, and social implications of life in the modern medical center. Among the topics being considered are the allocation of limited medical resources, the continuing debate on abortion and euthanasia, the role of art therapy in mental illness, the use of human subjects for experimentation, the potential benefits and dangers of genetic engineering and psychosurgery, and patients' rights, including the right to refuse treatment.

Dr. Self's association with the Foundation began in 1975, when EVMC received a VFHPP grant to organize a pilot conference on "Patients' Rights and Physicians' Responsibilities." This workshop program, in which a patient's advocate-counselor, an attorney, a philosopher, and the director of a major medical center participated as moderators, was attended by over 400 people and generated such interest that EVMC was awarded funds to conduct three additional symposia. These sessions, which focused on public policy questions related to malpractice, the provision of health care for the poor, and the aged, involved a diverse group of community leaders, health care personnel, public officials, and academic humanists. Discussion of policy issues touched on ethical, philosophical, historical, economic, legal, political, and sociological, as well as medical considerations.

"All of our programs have been well attended and have generated lively audience discussions," says Dr. Self, who admits that, in initiating humanities programs at a medical center, he has encountered a measure of skepticism. "Physicians are supremely practical people. . . they often believe that there is simply no time for the humanities." He notes, however, that one of the effects of the projects he has conducted has been the progressive dissipation of such attitudes. . . . A field like philosophy, he says, can be important in "fortifying certain skills in reasoning, by aiding in conceptual analysis." And the humanities disciplines can assist physicians by helping them to frame and cope with questions that move beyond purely clinical considerations. . . . Dr. Self stresses the need for more "clinical involvement" on the part of humanities scholars. "It's often very difficult to comprehend the complexity of medical issues," he says. "It's one thing to sit in an armchair and philosophize, and quite another to stand face to face with a patient and a doctor and try to make sense of the problems with which they are engaged. I spend a good deal of my time

making rounds in Norfolk General. Were this kind of experience available to more humanities teachers, it would be advantageous both for them and the medical profession. If humanities scholars and medical professionals share their worlds and work in concert, society as a whole will ultimately benefit. . . ."

"The Foundation's commitment to medical programs of the sort developed by EVMC and other organizations across Virginia will no doubt continue," says Robert C. Vaughan, the VFHPP's Executive Director. "Such projects provide special opportunities to apply and test the assumptions of scholars in the humanities and to clarify the grounds on which public decisions are made. They focus on value-laden questions which, one way or another, touch all our lives, and with which we need to learn to cope both as individuals and as a society."

PROGRAM PLANS

Most of what should be considered under "Program Plans" is attached in the Appendix and will not be repeated here, other than to point out what is included. Current members of the VFHPP Board are listed in Appendix A. The "State Plan for Compliance with Congressional Legislation" and the Foundation's By-laws, under revision this summer in keeping with the plan, are Appendices B and C. Fund raising is discussed in Appendix D and complete guidelines, application and review procedures in E.

The Virginia Foundation seeks to simplify the entire proposal and regrant procedure to ensure that no group is denied the opportunity to request its support. A simple one-page application and budget form to which the applicant adds a concise narrative description of the project and its relationship to the guidelines has proved to be the best proposal format. The free narrative quickly indicates who has a good idea and

who does not. Although no preliminary application is required, the staff encourages personal consultation with members or staff as the most effective means of ensuring that proposals are of high quality and in conformity with program guidelines. In virtually all cases, such consultation is sought, and the staff devotes much of its time to this specific and most productive form of program development.

The purpose of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy is stated in the introduction and is implicit throughout this proposal. It is not expected to change, even though the Board does intend to expand the program in response to new Congressional legislation and the National Council's considerations. To fulfill its purpose, the Foundation's Board, staff, and associates will work to fulfill the following general objectives:

1. To create and maintain a statewide program in the humanities dedicated to intellectual excellence and high standards of program quality;
2. To develop a broad based and diverse program; to extend the program into new communities, to new audiences, including those who are not usually involved in humanities or policy programs; to encourage new and imaginative approaches;
3. To encourage the continuation and development of programs beyond the grant period.

Other objectives are related to these three:

4. To maintain a broadly representative, active, and participating Board dedicated to program quality;
5. To refine the Foundation's operations, public relations, regrant criteria, and program evaluation;
6. To increase understanding of the Virginia Foundation and encourage participation among four groups: humanities teachers, educational institutions, public institutions and organizations, and adult citizens;

7. To involve all humanistic disciplines with special emphasis on the traditional fields of the humanities - history, philosophy, literature, and languages; to encourage scholars to engage their disciplines in everyday perplexities and in all phases of program development;
8. To increase communication among groups who normally have little contact with each other;
9. To reach policy-makers in order to stimulate a renewed consideration of policy issues from the perspective of the humanities;
10. To seek financial support within Virginia for the future development of the program.

Specific emphasis will fall in the next six months on the following:

1. To explore expansion of the program to include new subjects, formats, and audiences in response to the opportunities announced by the National Council of NEH, and in consultation with the citizens of Virginia;
2. To undertake a thorough review of procedures and operations in consultation with a professional management organization.

While welcoming with enthusiasm the expanded mission of the state-based programs, the Board of the Virginia Foundation plans to move cautiously, continuing its present public policy programs, while considering program mission and gradually extending its efforts into other areas on an experimental basis. No adequate assessment of new opportunities and directions was possible before the submission date of this proposal. The Board reserves the right, therefore, to amend this proposal and its own grant guidelines based on a thorough review and consultation with groups and individuals beyond its own membership. The process has begun. Members have responded in writing to the Council's comments and will meet in a special session on June 10 to discuss the possibilities and formulate a policy and procedure for expansion. The

staff has initiated consultation with other groups through several project directors' workshops and program development meetings held around the state this spring. Consultation is planned throughout the summer and will conclude officially with the fall evaluation conference. Of course the Foundation will continue to solicit opinions on its program, as it has since the initial meetings during the planning period, primarily through the development luncheons held approximately every month in a different city or town. Libraries, museums, historical organizations, project directors, program participants, college faculty, and statewide organizations such as the AAUW and the NAACP are among those who will be consulted specifically.

The most commonly mentioned activities suggested by the Board and others consulted so far involve state and local history -- a dominant concern and influence in Virginia. Programs dealing with American Indian and Black history, architectural characteristics which reflect the history and culture of a community, and archeological studies are seen as a means of developing a sense of place and identity within Virginia's highly diversified geography and population. Other suggested approaches included projects designed to explore the creativity of a local area and public lectures and readings by some of the state's prominent creative people and scholars. The Board also felt that the Foundation might subsidize some inexpensive exhibits and publications in the humanities, provided the interest and distribution is not limited to professionals exchanging their own specialized work with one another.

The Virginia Foundation Board is committed to bringing its programs to a broad cross-section of the state and feels that the expanded guidelines

will assist in reaching new segments of the population. In particular members supported programs which would be made available to the elderly, minorities, and inner city groups and ones which would involve libraries, museums, and historical organizations. As a further means of broadening audiences, the Board also suggested that projects adopt formats which would involve communities as participants rather than spectators and which would combine humanities activities with public celebrations and local holidays. Although the Board expressed the desire to continue the use of seminars, conferences, and workshops, it also wished to make more use of television and radio, taped programs for public distribution, rotating exhibits, dramatic presentations, field trips, concerts, and humanists in residence. Clearly the problem is not what can be done but what limits should be drawn, and the next several months will be devoted to selecting those subjects and activities which will best serve Virginians. Not to be excluded are programs on topics in literature, history, and philosophy -- the humanistic disciplines themselves -- which would interest general audiences.

Program plans also include continued program development and evaluation. In general the Virginia Foundation has taken two broad approaches to program development: promotion and public information to broaden awareness of the program and to increase the number and variety of activities and sponsors; and development of specific programs and resources to improve program quality and to extend its range. Both approaches are essential to the Foundation's success, for without the continual renewal possible through the involvement of new sponsors, resources, audiences, scholars, and activities, the program may become complacent and stagnant. Clearly,

the program's present vitality is indicative of successful development during the first three years.

As the program matures, the second approach to development has become more important. It encompasses the questions of what direction the program should take and what new sponsors and activities should be involved -- not simply who has not participated for lack of information but who should be encouraged directly to participate, what groups might function well together, and what programs might be successful. It is now integrally related to the possibilities and initiatives discussed above.

Personal visitation by the staff continues to be the major effort and the most effective means of program development. The Executive Director and Assistant Director regularly visit campuses, meet with community organizations, and speak before campus, civic, and professional organizations. Often Board members are involved also in this consultation. Both members and staff will participate again in the annual Virginia Humanities Conference to take advantage of that opportunity to meet with a large group of teachers from throughout Virginia. Regrant projects, also, provide an opportunity for the Foundation's staff to introduce the Foundation. A good program is still the best publicity for other programs and often serves as a program development activity in its own right because of the nature of its content or audience. For example, the pilot program on unionization will publicize the Foundation on television stations around the state, and a recent conference for weekly newspaper editors introduced the Foundation to many more small towns in Virginia than we could visit in a year. The Southern Regional Conference sponsored in May, 1976, continues

to be a source of new materials and people for the Virginia program.

Other sources of promotion and development include a regular schedule of publications and public information. In ten months of the year, the staff distributes a quarterly newsletter, a quarterly press release, or one of two brochures. The mailing list now includes 3000 names, while press releases are sent to about 45 news bureaus. An annual report will be added to these publications this fall, and we propose to develop a twice yearly newsprint journal featuring articles on topics pertaining to the humanities and the Foundation's programs. A resource center and catalogue is a special summer project now that the Foundation has films, tapes, and other materials which are of general interest and use. In addition we are interested in including a guide to previously funded programs packaged for adaptation by other groups. Workshops for project directors to assist them in conducting their programs and to enable them to exchange ideas and for special interest groups will be continued as will development luncheons approximately once a month. We also propose to hire a retired scholar as a program associate responsible for promotion in Southwest Virginia and to establish a small advisory council to assist the Board and staff, applicants, and project directors. Also planned are one or two Chatauqua type programs, a series of community visits announced in advance to enable people to consult a Foundation representative, and program development grants of up to \$500.00 to instigate new activity.

BUDGET

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy requests \$900,000 in program funds for an 18-month grant period from October 1, 1977, through March 30, 1979. We also request \$120,000 to administer the program plus a \$4,050 supplement to hire a retired person for a total award of \$1,024,050. The Foundation requests a gifts and matching authorization of \$200,000. The Board believes this request is quite reasonable and perhaps conservative in light of the present health of the program. The VFHPP has emphasized quality growth and has expanded with deliberate care. The Board believes, however, that it has reached a stage when quality is well established and when significant and dramatic growth is both desirable and inevitable. It should be noted that the Foundation's first three NEH grants covered 12-month periods and that only seven months had elapsed when all available funds were committed for the third and current year. This year's program could easily have supported a budget of \$700,000 on an 18-month basis. New program possibilities could easily require an equal amount. The Board and staff believe that \$900,000 is the minimum, rather than the maximum, program budget for the Commonwealth during the next 18 months.

All program funds will be matched equally by the Virginia Foundation and the projects it supports. The University of Virginia will serve as fiscal agency for the VFHPP. The University has generously supported the Foundation since its inception, has graciously made available its many resources, and has recently provided the staff new, improved offices. Ray C. Hunt, Vice President for Business and Finance, is the University's chief fiscal officer.

A detailed budget follows and is relatively self explanatory in light of the discussion of many specific items in the text of this proposal. All publications listed under printing; the workshops, development luncheons, and evaluation conference; and the role of a retired employee have each been mentioned. The workshops and program development luncheons have been the best means to date for introducing a large number of people to the VFHPP. Travel is a major expense under each heading because of the personal consultation, promotion, and evaluation conducted by the staff. It includes the cost of all Board meetings and trips to NEH and to regional conferences. Supplies, telephone, and postage could be divided among promotion and evaluation; indeed, virtually all salaries and expenses are related directly to promotion and evaluation, but are included under operation for convenience in accurate accounting and reporting. The salary for a part-time editor is listed with publications since his position involves promotion almost entirely. Supplies also include miscellaneous expenses such as subscriptions and equipment maintenance.

The director and assistant director carry the burden of operation, promotion, and evaluation with the assistant director charged primarily with establishing contacts through individual consultation throughout the state. The director is responsible for overall administration; for long range planning, development, and evaluation; and for conducting all workshops and development meetings. The director's salary is shared by the University since he has taught one course each semester, an arrangement endorsed by the Board as not only workable but beneficial to the program, and will teach for at least the next two semesters. Consequently, his salary noted in the budget is the equivalent of 62.5% (\$15,000) of his

gross salary (\$24,000) for 12 months of the grant period and 100% of the gross salary (\$12,500) for the next 6 months. The total salary paid from the grant is \$27,500 while the University will contribute \$9,000. If he should continue to teach in 1978-1979, the University will assume a proportion of the salary for the final 6 months of the grant period, thereby freeing grant funds for other purposes.

I. Operation

Salaries and Benefits

Director	\$27,500
Assistant Director	19,000
Secretary	10,500
Benefits (10.5% of salaries -- includes FICA, Group Medical and Life Insurance and Major Medical, Retirement, Workman's Compensation)	6,000
Fiscal Agency	6,000
Travel	3,000
Telephone	4,000
Postage	1,800
Supplies	1,400
Audit Expenses	2,000
Federation Dues	<u>4,000</u>

\$85,200

II. Promotion

Public Information Officer/Editor	4,700
Retired Person	4,050
Consultants	2,000
Travel	4,000
Printing	
6 Newsletters (4000 copies)	4,500
Annual Report (1000 copies)	1,000
3 Brochures (5000 copies)	1,500
3 Newsprint Journals (2000 copies)	2,000
Duplication	1,200
Project Directors' Workshops (Meals)	600
Development Meetings (Meals)	<u>3,600</u>

\$29,150

III. Evaluation

Travel	2,500
Evaluation Conference	
Consultants	1,000
Travel	2,000
Printing	200
Duplication	50
Facilities Rental (includes meals)	3,750
Evaluation Workshop	
Travel	600
Facilities Rental (includes meals)	<u>600</u>

\$9,700

IV. Programs\$900,000

TOTAL

\$1,024,050