



[Letter, 12 September 1967. Mr. Roger L. Stevens, Chairman, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities. [Santa Barbara, Calif.] Unicorn Press, 1967.]

THE SIXTIES PRESS

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EDITOR: ROBERT BLY

12 September 1967

Mr. Roger L. Stevens, Chairman National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities 1800 G Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Stevens:

Thank you for your letter offering *The Sixties Press* a \$5000 grant from the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities. But I oppose the Vietnam War, and I cannot accept the grant.

In my mind there is a link between poetry and compassion. Since the Administration is maiming an entire nation merely to advance our national interest, I think it is insensitive, even indecent, for that Administration to come forward with money for poetry.

Since it is clear that a given sum of government money could go either for a poetry magazine or a napalm canister—and only chance bookkeeping decides between them—there could be no pride in such an award or in such editing. I refuse to participate and I don't want the money.

Yours very sincerely,