The Regents approve the establishment of the Quinn Martin Chair in Drama

November 20, 1981

HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL 2 P.M. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1981

NOTE TO EDITORS: There will be a press conference to announce the Quinn Martin Chair in Drama at 2 p.m., Friday, November 20, in the Mandeville Suite of Tioga. Hall at the University of California, San Diego. Quinn Martin and Dr. Michael Addison will be present to answer questions.

The University of California Board of Regents today (November 20) approved the establishment of the Quinn Martin Chair of Drama at the University of California, San Diego.

Martin, an award-winning television and motion picture producer, donated $250,000 to the campus to set up the endowed chair. It is the third chair to be established at UC San Diego and the first for the arts.

"We are extremely pleased to receive this generous gift from Mr. Martin," said Dr. Michael Addison, chairman of the Department of Drama. "This endowed chair will enable us to provide very strong support for the creative and scholarly work of the appointee, and thus to ensure the presence of a major theater artist on our faculty."

Martin was born on May 22, 1922, in New York City and has lived in California since 1925. From 1960 to 1979 he was president and chief executive officer of Quinn Martin Productions. His company produced 16 network series including "Barnaby Jones," "Cannon," "The FBI," "The Streets of San Francisco," "12 O'Clock High" and the Emmy award winner "The Fugitive."

During this same period, Martin also produced approximately 20 movies for television. Some of the actors and actresses to work with Martin include: Charles Bronson, William Conrad, Michael Douglas, Gene Hackman, David Janssen, Diane Keaton, Karl Malden and Robert Redford.

Prior to forming his own production company, Martin served as executive producer at Desilu Studios where he was responsible for "The Desilu Playhouse" and "The Untouchables." He started out in the industry as a writer but was hired as a producer in 1957 by Jane Wyman for her series.

Martin has served on numerous Boards of Trustees, including that of the Buckley School, where he endowed the Science Building, and that of the Motion Pictures Permanent Charities.

A strong supporter of theater education, Martin endowed an on-going scholarship program at the University of Santa Clara and has lectured at UCLA Extension and USC Graduate School.

"As my wife and I have fallen in love with the San Diego area and are buying a home in Rancho Santa Fe, I wanted to be involved some way with the community," said Martin. "I visited the UCSD drama department and was impressed with the depth of talent headed by Michael Addison and offered to endow the Quinn Martin Chair in Drama.

"This endowment will enable the university to search out the best professor for the chair and go forward with its Master of Fine Arts in Theatre. Michael Addison and his colleagues are deeply involved in theater from both a professional and educational standpoint and will continue to place UCSD in the forefront of theater."

Martin has volunteered to lend his experience and expertise to graduate instruction in theater at UC San Diego. He is also excited about the educational aspects of the Mandell Weiss Center for the Performing Arts, the new 500-seat theater which is a cooperative venture between the Theatre and Arts Foundation of San Diego County and the university. The first performance in the new theater is scheduled for the late spring of 1982.

"Mr. Martin's generous support is particularly welcome as we prepare to move into our new theater complex," said Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "The endowment will enhance an already outstanding drama program and it will ensure a continued high level of theater instruction for our students."

For more information contact: Henry J. DeVries, 452-3120 or Lori Carlson, 452-3793

PRESS CONFERENCE NOTE: The Mandeville Suite is on the 11th floor of Tioga Hall on Muir campus. The closest parking is the Muir College lot off North Torrey Pines Road.

(November 20, 1981)