

(b) The Council shall have an executive secretary who shall be appointed by the Secretary after consultation with the Council. Within the limits of appropriations available therefor, the Secretary shall provide necessary secretarial, clerical, and other staff assistance for the Council, its executive secretary, and its special committees.

SEC. 3 (a) The Council shall (1) recommend ways to maintain and increase the cultural resources of the United States, (2) propose methods to encourage private initiative in the arts, (3) cooperate with local, State, and Federal departments and agencies to foster artistic and cultural endeavors and the use of the arts both nationally and internationally in the best interests of our country, and (4) strive to stimulate greater appreciation of the arts by our citizens.

(b) To these ends the Council shall undertake studies of and make recommendations relating to appropriate methods, consistent with the policy set forth in the first section of this Act, for encouraging creative activity in the performance and practice of the arts and participation in and appreciation of the arts. In selecting subjects to be studied, the Council shall consider requests submitted to it by the heads of departments, agencies, and independent establishments of the Federal Government. The Council shall make recommendations in writing to the Secretary with respect to such studies; and the Secretary shall transmit such recommendations, together with his comments thereon, to the President and the Congress. In the selection of subjects to be studied and in the formulation of recommendations, the Council may obtain the advice of any interested and qualified persons and organizations, and the Secretary may appoint interested and qualified persons to assist the Council in making its studies from among those qualified persons recommended to him by the Council.

SEC. 4. Members of the Council, and persons appointed to assist the Council in making its studies, while attending meetings of the Council or while engaged in the conduct of studies authorized by this Act, shall receive compensation at a rate to be fixed by the Secretary, but not exceeding \$50 per diem, and shall be paid travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 73b-2) for persons in the Government service employed intermittently.

SEC. 5. (a) Any member of the Council appointed under this Act, any person appointed to assist the Council in making its studies, and any other person appointed, employed, or utilized in an advisory or consultative capacity under this Act is hereby exempted, with respect to such appointment, employment, or utilization, from the operation of sections 281, 283, 284, and 1914 of title 18 of the United States Code, except as otherwise specified in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) (1) The exemption granted by subsection (a) of this section shall not extend to the following acts performed as an officer or employee of the United States by any person so appointed, employed, or utilized: (A) The negotiation or execution of, or (B) the making of any recommendation with respect to, or (C) the taking of any other action with respect to, any individual contract or other arrangement under this Act with the private employer of such person or any corporation, joint stock company, association, firm, partnership, or other business entity in the pecuniary profits or contracts of which such person has any direct or indirect interest.

(2) The exemption granted by subsection (a) of this section shall not, during the period of such appointment, employment, or utilization and the further period of two years after the termination thereof, extend to the prosecution or participation in the prosecution, by any person so appointed, employed, or utilized, of any claim against the Government involving any individual contract or other arrangement entered into pursuant to this Act concerning which the appointee had any responsibility during the period of such appointment, employment, or utilization.

SEC. 6. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act, including expenses of professional, clerical, and stenographic assistance. Such appropriations shall be available for services as authorized by section 15 of the Act of August 2, 1946 (5 U.S.C. 55a).

SEC. 7. This Act shall not be deemed to invalidate any provision in any Act of Congress or Executive order vesting authority in the Commission of Fine Arts.