

I believe that we must first have the Advisory Council on the Arts. That, to me, seems the more important of the two bills because that Advisory Council can set principles and basic purposes and present to the American people the status which we have arrived at in our cultural life, and that is increasing daily which is shown by the reports which the President's Music Committee gets out annually.

There is a great moral value, I feel, in these bills. It shows that our Government is interested and is not lagging behind the interest that other governments have shown, such as the Council in Great Britain which is assuming great importance; and I believe that such a council in our country would also assume great importance and be encouraging to the young people who need music in their lives.

I know that those who are following me are going to talk more in detail but, unless there are any questions, I feel that I have just touched on the high spots and have nothing more that I want to suggest unless you have any questions that you would like to ask me, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. THOMPSON. I thank you very much for your testimony, and your analysis is quite right.

I feel, however meritorious the objectives are of the grant bills which are long overdue, that a logical first step is the long overdue and long awaited Federal Advisory Council or Commission, or whatever anyone wants to call it. We call it a Council now. At various times it has been called a Commission. It is in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, a huge Department, very largely because it needs some place in which to reside.

There are a great many people who have long felt that we should have a Cabinet position for cultural affairs including the arts. I agree with that. I think that it is a matter which will get attention within a matter of months or certainly within a very few years.

In the meantime, however, the activities of the Government in the arts are so spread out and so poorly coordinated that this would offer great opportunity to give them a sense of direction.

It is difficult to believe that only 3 or 4 years ago the Government for the first time gave music recognition by the charter granted to the National Music Council.

We have concentrated, I am afraid, entirely too much on automobiles and bathtubs and things like that, and I think it is now quite proper a time to do this.

I thank you very much for appearing.

Maybe Mr. Martin has some questions.

Mr. MARTIN. Mrs. Shouse, I notice that you mentioned that you felt there was perhaps a danger in setting this program up under Health, Education, and Welfare.

Do you have a specific recommendation in regard to that?

Mrs. SHOUSE. The only point that the chairman mentioned, that it is such a huge organization that I hope that the appointees will be strong enough to keep their identity and keep the identity of the Council before the American people because I think this is something, as the chairman spoke of, that the American people want very much. They want Government recognition of the arts in our country and the time has come when it is needed.