

It seems to me that everything I could say on behalf of our organization is being said by other witnesses. However, I might speak of two among the several reasons that I am very much interested personally and I know I represent the will and the wishes of our membership in general. Of course, it is a fundamental reason that should be stated because almost since I can remember reading about the Music Educators National Conference before I became associated with it in 1930 our members through their meetings, through their resolutions adopted at conventions and in various ways have been advocating Federal, let us say, recognition and support of the arts, of course including music.

There used to be a line in the constitution of the organization taking that stand that we should advocate the development of at least some interest and recognition on the part of the Federal Government of the arts. That was not something that originated in the minds of these people here. Many of them were at that time musical products, to a greater or lesser degree, of European musicians and music schools.

In any event, the endorsement and support of the arts with such programs as are provided in these bills will really be a shot in the arm to thousands of voting citizens who are in a position in their own communities to help develop, among other facets of the strengthening growth of our culture, some of the do-it-yourself agencies in the various areas of the arts.

The second point that I will pick out is that Federal endorsement and support of the arts in the manner prescribed by these bills will do much to enhance our stature and our status around the world, especially among those countries which give recognition to the cultural aspects of the lives of their citizens.

Now I will speak of Russia. I see the topic can be introduced here safely. I hold no brief for Russia, but I am very much impressed by what we learn of the things they are doing in education in general and in the arts in particular, and particularly in the specialty of music, of course. I am going to draw only a few comments from the report of our executive secretary, Vanett Lawler, who I am sure was invited to come here and asked me to substitute because she had another engagement that she had to fill in another city. Miss Lawler was one of the mission on the arts to the Soviet Union last year. This was an official State Department-sponsored mission and it involved Miss Lawler, Mayo Brice, and Ralph Beelke, representing the U.S. Office of Education and the Art Department of the National Education Association, respectively.

I knew something about what they would find over there and one of the reasons is a letter from which I think I will take the time just to read a brief paragraph. This letter came from one of our members, a Russian who had been in this country for 47 years and was pretty well Americanized in that length of time. He went back to Russia for a visit with his family.

We realize how far education has reached the masses of the Russian people. I can cite as an example my own large family. In pre-Revolutionary Russia there was not one that I knew of—

that is of his family—

that had a high school education. While I was in the Soviet Union last summer my family included professors of mathematics, physics teachers. Nieces and