

May your bill (H.R. 4172) to establish a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts, as well as the National Cultural Development Act (H.R. 4174) find the needed support for enactment.

For the past 25 years I have watched and, naturally, tried to help the development of an arts program in the United States. It has been a tough and sometimes hopeless task and only now has the note been struck which resounds success.

I would like to volunteer my services in any way to help.

Cordially and sincerely,

FELIX W. SALMAGGI.

Mr. THOMPSON. Do you have any questions?

Mr. MARTIN. No.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much, Doctor.

I also ask unanimous consent that statements in support of the legislation by Harold Weston of New York be included.

(The statements referred to follow :)

TESTIMONY BY HAROLD WESTON RE H.R. 4172, FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT

My name is Harold Weston. I am chairman of the National Council on the Arts and Government. Much to my regret, prior engagements prevent my appearance before the Select Subcommittee on Education on May 15, 1961. Mr. Dick Moore, a member of the NCAG, has kindly consented to present this testimony.

The NCAG is the only national organization in the United States consisting of distinguished representatives of all major art fields and dedicated to forwarding the arts through sound legislative and administrative procedures. It has become widely recognized for its leadership in the formulation and promotion of legislative measures for the arts. Since its decisions are determined by its members, many of whom are prominent in national organizations concerned with the arts, it would seem pertinent to identify the present membership and to request that the attached list be made a part of the record of this hearing.

Our national council took part in the drafting of this legislation in 1955 and made strenuous efforts during the past 6 years to expedite the creation of a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts. Some 20 prominent witnesses testified for the NCAG in April 1956 at a hearing in New York City in favor of Senator Lehman's S. 3419, which was unanimously approved by the Senate on July 5 of that year. The Congressional Record of that date printed the names of over 300 cultural and civic leaders throughout the country who endorsed the NCAG appeal to Congress to enact this legislation. In May 1957 about 15 witnesses testified at NCAG request at a Senate committee hearing in New York City and over 400 eminent citizens signed our second appeal to Congress, a copy of which is submitted herewith to the committee. Representatives of the NCAG also testified at House hearings in 1955, 1956, and 1959 for this legislation.

It seems redundant to restate the arguments in favor of a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts which has been endorsed by an overwhelming majority of organizations and citizens interested in the arts, by both Presidential candidates last fall, by the Democratic Party, and by its sponsors from both parties in both Houses of Congress. This legislation is generally considered the most important first step in Federal recognition of the role of the arts in our national welfare and in the development of closer relationship between the Federal Government and the arts. May I, however, call the committee's attention to one aspect which has not been stressed?

The time has come when the Federal Government urgently needs to encourage the expansion of our cultural resources in cooperation with State and municipal governments and private initiative not only for our own citizens but also to maintain at the highest possible level our cultural ammunition in the constantly intensifying cold war. Consultative bodies for all of the arts do not exist in the Federal structure to advise either Federal administrators or the Congress in meeting these responsibilities. Establishment of this Advisory Council would provide a system whereby committees of experts for advice about any field or fields of art could be promptly appointed when and as needed. This feature is relevant to the proposed National Cultural Development Act which this committee also has under consideration.