

also be sufficiently free from other responsibilities to be able to devote the necessary amount of time and energy. Also it would be preferable if his interest was not concentrated on only one field of art. There should, of course, be no restrictions as to the choice of chairman. However, the committee report might appropriately suggest that, in making appointments of persons who had a general interest in the arts, qualities of leadership and willingness to spare adequate time to such efforts might be given special consideration.

In conclusion, the members of the National Council on the Arts and Government are thoroughly convinced that the creation of a Federal Advisory Council will greatly stimulate the arts for the benefit of our people and our country. We are confident that the Committee on Education and Labor will expedite the enactment of this long-overdue legislation at this session of Congress.

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TESTIMONY RE H.R. 4174 FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT

The National Council on the Arts and Government considers the proposed National Cultural Development Act to be the most valuable way for the Federal Government to assist in forwarding the arts in the communities of the United States. We are enthusiastic about this legislation because it will stimulate State, municipal, and local action for the arts and therefore help in the long run to develop the arts more than any other method. However, there are areas of our country where there is pressing need for assistance to the arts to make them available to the population in those areas where State and local initiative is now lacking. Consequently, we believe that the establishment of a U.S. Arts Foundation for the performing and visual arts is also and almost equally important.

We agree that Federal aid for the arts is best channeled through State art agencies and based on grassroots support. But this method actually may not amount to much in the near future and those areas of our country that most urgently need Federal help to develop their cultural resources may not obtain it. Few States at present have State art agencies of the operative character required to receive grants under this act. It will take several years to establish such agencies in a majority of States. This is an argument in favor of early approval of this act rather than a reason for delay. By the example of even a few States enriching the lives of their citizens through this means, other States will make the necessary effort to obtain similar Federal assistance. Until most States participate, the National Cultural Development Act will not by itself be able to provide the Federal cooperation needed to augment effectively and broadly the cultural vitality of our country.

The NCAG wishes to submit a brief amendment for consideration by the subcommittee. This act wisely places upon State art agencies the responsibilities of proposing, supporting (at least to 50 percent), and carrying out any art projects or programs for which Federal aid is received under this act. A minimum of Federal control or direction is involved. However, unless the required approval of the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for such projects or programs is merely perfunctory, some judgment must be exercised by him about matters which may be of a specialized nature relating to any field of art. The Secretary cannot be expected to have special competence in such wide areas. In the opinion of the NCAG, whenever advisory opinions are necessary, they should be obtained from impartially selected professionals and through channels specified by Congress in this legislation. We do not believe the Secretary should be required to request advice in all instances, but the source of whatever professional advice is obtained should not be left to the personal judgment of the Secretary.

It is therefore respectfully suggested that in H.R. 4174 in section 4 subsection (b), page 4, line 9, the following sentence be inserted after the words "of subsection (a):" "In reaching such decisions, the Secretary shall, whenever he deems it advisable, request the Federal Advisory Council on the Arts to provide advisory opinions from a special committee or committees in the field or fields of art concerned." The Federal Advisory Council on the Arts is instructed in H.R. 4172 section 3(3), page 4, line 3, to "cooperate with local, State, and Federal departments and agencies to foster artistic and cultural endeavors." The method suggested above will be an effective way to do so.

The National Council on the Arts and Government wholeheartedly supports the National Cultural Development Act and urges its early approval.