

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.

We believe that the method suggested above will be an effective way to do so.

In closing, may I say, Mr. Chairman, that the National Council on the Arts and Government wholeheartedly supports the National Cultural Development Act and urges its early enactment.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much.

I have been looking at the suggested amendments and I agree that they have great merit. Also the suggestion for the report I consider has merit.

In the original drafts of this legislation we did not require that the Advisory Council be confirmed by the Senate. I still have doubts as to the wisdom of that course or the need for it. However, on the full committee there are some members who fear that undesirable souls might find their way into this thing, people with whom they would not agree completely or with whose ideas they would not agree, and this is supposed to be the device by which subversives are kept off the Council.

We have gotten, you know, beyond that stage where everyone who reads without moving his lips is suspect, but there are groups who still worry about the possibility of un-American, I should say, influences on the Council. If this attitude persists, I suppose that we will have to have these people nominated by the President and approved by the Senate where there appears to be a remarkably high degree of sophistication in the field of the arts, and in other matters, of course.

Thank you for these very fine statements.

Mr. Martin?

Mr. MARTIN. I have no questions.

Mr. MOORE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Martin.

Mr. THOMPSON. Our next witness is Mr. Eddie Weston, vice president of Actors' Equity Association.