

**STATEMENT OF EDDIE WESTON, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, ACTORS'  
EQUITY ASSOCIATION**

Mr. WESTON. Sir, I have a very brief prepared statement which I would like to read if I may. I have additional copies for the members of the committee.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eddie Weston. I am the second vice president of Actors' Equity Association, representing 12,000 actors in the legitimate theater throughout the entire United States. I am appearing today on their behalf.

Our president, Mr. Ralph Bellamy, had hoped to be able to attend this session personally, but is in California at the present time. However, he has asked me to read the following statement for him.

GENTLEMEN: I regret my inability to meet with you again today, but I wish to take this opportunity to assure you of Equity's complete support for the arts legislation which you consider now. This is not the first opportunity I have had to express my views on the establishment of a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts. In previous appearances before you, both as a private citizen and as president of Actors' Equity Association, I have spoken on behalf of such legislation. As you know, both the Democratic and Republican administrations have supported establishment of the Federal Advisory Council on the Arts. Currently before you are several bills, introduced by members of both parties, which would establish such a Council; similar legislation has been introduced into the Senate. Everybody has come out for this bill. Nobody has expressed themselves against it. Yet the bill never has been passed.

We share a deep conviction that the abilities, skills, and talents of our artists will stand comparison with those of the citizens of any country in the world today. But the Government is not yet making full use of those abilities. Other governments put vast sums of money into the arts, not because they are esthetes or idealists who love the arts for themselves, but because the arts strengthen the bonds of unity and understanding between people, and explain them and their aspirations and ideals to their neighbors and the world at large.

In the firm conviction that enactment of H.R. 4172 (to establish a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts) and H.R. 4174 (which would create the National Cultural Development Act) are in the best interests of our culture, our citizens, and our international relations, we urge their speedy adoption.

RALPH BELLAMY.

I would like, if I may, to read excerpts from two additional statements that may be of interest to you. One is from the President of the United States, John F. Kennedy; the other from former Vice President Richard M. Nixon. During the recent presidential election campaign our official publication, Equity magazine, posed questions to both candidates concerning their views on matters of particular concern to our membership.

Here is that portion of their reply which deals with the proposals we are discussing today as quoted in the November 1960 issue of Equity.

Incidentally, I note that Mr. Kenin, of the American Federation of Musicians, was kind enough to refer to this article, and one of the other witnesses referred to an article in the New York Times which, if I am not mistaken, is just a quote of this article from the Equity magazine.

If I may, I will just read this brief paragraph because I think it bears repeating.

President John F. Kennedy:

I am in full sympathy with the proposal for a federally supported foundation to provide encouragement and opportunity to nonprofit, private, and civic groups in the performing arts. When so many other nations officially recognize and