

support the performing arts as a part of their national cultural heritage, it seems to me unfortunate that the United States has been so slow in coming to a similar recognition.

Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon:

I wholeheartedly support the objective of stimulating the advancement of the performing arts and promoting increased public appreciation of their important role in our national life.

I think that a good first step toward meeting that objective would be a proposal by this administration to create a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The Council would explore all aspects of the question—including the proper function of the Federal Government in cultural development—and make recommendations as to the best methods by which we can encourage activity in the performance and appreciation of the arts as well as fostering participation in them.

It seems to me that laying this groundwork is necessary before we go on to consider specific proposals such as the establishment of an independent U.S. Art Foundation to undertake operating programs, as provided in the Javits-Clark bill.

Once we develop the basic guidelines, we can then study alternative programs and choose the one that will effectively promote the full development of our performing arts.

It is our earnest hope that this committee will take speedy action and give bipartisan support to H.R. 4172 and H.R. 4174 as the first step in a series of bills to revitalize the arts in our country.

We are most grateful for the courtesy you have extended by allowing us to appear today. Thank you.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much and we would like through you to thank Mr. Bellamy who appeared personally the last time we had hearings on this legislation.

Mr. WESTON. Yes. He was very sorry he could not be here today, but I will communicate your kind wishes to him.

Mr. THOMPSON. Are there any questions, Mr. Martin?

Mr. MARTIN. I have no questions.

Mr. WESTON. Incidentally, I have, if you would like them for the committee, the copies of Equity magazine with the full comments of Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Nixon.

Mr. THOMPSON. We would like very much to have them.

Mr. WESTON. Thank you.

Mr. THOMPSON. Our next witness is Miss Peggy Wood of the American National Theater and Academy.

Good morning, Miss Wood.

STATEMENT OF MISS PEGGY WOOD, AMERICAN NATIONAL THEATER AND ACADEMY

Miss Wood. Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I thank you.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, it is a gratifying experience both as an actress and as president of the organization which Congress endowed with a Federal charter, the American National Theater and Academy, to be received here today on behalf of the bills you are considering.

I might say that I have written what I am going to say, but I doubt if you would be able to understand the interlineations. Therefore, I will go on.