

H.R. 4172 and H.R. 4174. The Federal Government would be put directly in the art business, and every Member of Congress would soon become an art critic. We had a taste of this situation in the WPA art project days. More recently, the art at the Brussels World Fair and the Moscow Fair has been criticized. There was the famous case of the National Symphony being forced to cancel a program it had scheduled for General Eisenhower's first inaugural. Art, just like education, must be free of Government control. The secret to a flourishing art program in our country is Federal financial aid free of centralized control. H.R. 4172 and H.R. 4174 are long steps in the right direction. I shall include a statement on this subject prepared for delivery by Mr. Weston of the National Council on Arts and Government to the National Music Council.

STATEMENT BY HAROLD WESTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT TO THE NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL

It is a pleasure to speak to you on legislation for the arts, but the time allotted is too short to do more than touch a few high spots. I shall concentrate on three bills before Congress of special concern to the National Music Council. However, let me comment first on recent State developments.

References are often made to the system of Government aid to the arts in England through the Arts Council of Great Britain. That system seems to many of us who have studied the problem far more suited to individual States than the traditional European method of an official department of the arts. New York is the first State to inaugurate such a plan. The New York State Council on the Arts was established last October as a research agency. Last winter a number of us worked very hard and the legislature finally granted Governor Rockefeller's request and appropriated \$450,000 for this council. It has now become an operating art agency. The allocations of the funds were announced last week together with the names of many of the 50 cities and towns which will benefit from this program—\$80,000 of the total will underwrite special tours upstate by the Buffalo, Rochester, and New York symphony orchestras.

At least 14 States have art commissions of one sort or another, usually limited to architecture and allied arts. One was started in Florida last year. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has one under study. A number of States help to finance special ventures in the performing or visual arts, but, as far as I have been able to find out, New York is the only State which assists both performing and visual arts through a State art agency. Other States will watch this experiment keenly and, it is to be hoped, will be encouraged to establish similar or comparable systems. The two States almost prepared to do so are Michigan and Washington, which recently created art commissions of somewhat different nature. The much larger Michigan Cultural Commission was only formed in November and the Washington State Arts Commission in March. Neither has been granted more than administrative expenses, so it is premature to report their plans or just how they will attempt to advance the arts in their States. If Congress approves the National Cultural Development Act, which I will describe later on in some detail and which seems to me the most significant forward step in relation to State aid to the arts, States will have a real incentive to create operating State art agencies.

The three major art bills before Congress of interest to the National Music Council concern (1) a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts, (2) the National Cultural Development Act, and (3) the U.S. Arts Foundation. There are several other bills I would mention if there were time.

It hardly seems necessary to restate the many arguments in favor of a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts which is generally recognized as the most important first step in Federal recognition of the role of the arts in our national welfare and in the development of closer relationships between the Federal Government, State and municipal governments, and private enterprises and the arts. For this purpose Senator Humphrey sponsored S. 741 with eight cosponsors and Congressman Thompson of New Jersey introduced H.R. 4172 in the House where six other similar bills were introduced by members from both parties. The Select Subcommittee on Education of the House held a hearing on this legislation and on the National Cultural Development Act on May 15.