

Fine Arts \$20,000; Kansas City its Nelson Art Gallery \$21,211; Newark (N.J.) gives the Newark Museum \$525,426; New Orleans gives its Delgado Museum of Art \$40,000; New York gives the Metropolitan Museum of Art the magnificent sum of \$1,849,514; Norfolk gives its Museum of Art \$69,083. Philadelphia gives the Philadelphia Art Museum \$624,760; Pittsburgh gives its Arts and Crafts Center \$25,000; St. Louis gives its Art Museum \$320,007; San Diego gives its Fine Arts Gallery \$57,159. San Francisco, with a population of 775,000, gives its three city-aided art museums a grand total of \$658,891.

Washington, D.C., with a population greater by 100,000 and one of the wealthiest cities in the United States per capita, doesn't give its splendid local art museums, such as the Corcoran Gallery, one red cent.

The District of Columbia Commissioners have requested \$10,000 for the Water-gate Concerts for the past 2 years and Congress has gladly appropriated this sum. There is every reason for believing that if the Commissioners requested an equal or greater sum for the Corcoran Gallery from local tax revenues Congress would gladly appropriate this also.

It is high time the Commissioners displayed a concern for cultural matters at least equal to that of other U.S. city governing groups.

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*National Committeeman,*

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The VICE PRESIDENT. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

The bill (S. 2796) to provide for the adoption in the Nation's Capital of the practice common to many other cities in the United States with regard to cultural activities by depositing in a special fund 1 mill out of each \$1 of tax revenue of the government of the District of Columbia to be used for the National Symphony Orchestra, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and other nonprofit art programs of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, by amending the act of April 29, 1942, introduced by Mr. Humphrey, was received, read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. THOMPSON. American artists, as citizens of a relatively youthful nation, have long carried on their activities under a considerable handicap. Many of their fellow citizens belittled the significance of the arts, and a good number of those who did view artistic creativity with respect looked across the ocean to Europe as the true home of western culture.

Now, however, there are indications that we are moving into an era in which the American arts will be encouraged to flower in their own land.

I believe that artists play a vital role in showing us the deeper meanings of our world and I approve of governmental acts which indicate the concern of the Nation for the artist and his work.

A number of actions taken already by the Kennedy administration indicate that a view similar to mine is held by the President. The President invited Robert Frost to read at the inauguration ceremonies. (As Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall noted in an article in the New York Times magazine, Mr. Frost is the closest this country has to a poet laureate.) The President subsequently invited 150 distinguished representatives of the arts to attend the inauguration as his personal guests. Then, earlier this month, White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger called for the establishment of a White House prize for distinguished achievement in music and the arts. I, for one, heard this proposal with considerable enthusiasm and am awaiting with interest the report from the committee which is to study the matter.

There are many ways in which the U.S. Government might underscore its support of the arts.