

of the National Symphony fund raisers yesterday that his proposed award would "be an affirmative step in the cultural field." Financing would come from private sources.

Salinger stressed that his award proposal is still in the idea stage, and he did not indicate whether the project has been discussed with President Kennedy. The prize should not be any ordinary prize, he said, but one with prestige enough to be sought by artists throughout the world.

He laments the fact that so many Americans never have the opportunity to know music, and he feels education in both music and art should begin with children. "It is said that in this country, in spite of the great opportunities, such a small percentage of the people know and understand music, compared to the people of Europe," he said, adding: "So many people go through life with a plug in one ear."

Salinger's own performance at the piano was a composition he wrote at the age of 15. It was a moody, Gershwin-sounding piece of music he never gave a name.

Salinger was the speaker for the occasion. Mrs. Dean Rusk, wife of the Secretary of State, was a special guest, and had been told she didn't have to speak. But she became so enthusiastic that she couldn't restrain herself. She got up and told the workers what a privilege it was to be there and to represent the Secretary of State and his coworkers. "It's very exciting to back here after 10 years," she said, to "find how magnificently the symphony's program has developed."

The President's press secretary began studying music when he was 5 and for a time it was thought he might become a concert pianist. He gave it up, however, when he was 12 years old.

Music has continued to play a part in his life and he told his audience yesterday that he's in favor of establishing a national student orchestra with teams throughout the country. They would tour the United States playing on college campuses and later possibly visit colleges in Europe.

[From the New York Times, Monday, Dec. 8, 1958]

U.S. ROLE IN THE ARTS IS FOUND TO HAVE INCREASED IN DECADE SINCE WORLD WAR II

(By Milton Bracker)

In Washington, a bill authorizing a National Cultural Center has been approved by Congress and signed by the President. The 9.4-acre site is there and some day—if about \$25 million in private funds can be raised within 5 years—the building may be.

In another part of the Capital a white-haired New Englander (who happened to be born in California) is paid by the Government to serve as consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress. His name is Robert Frost. He remarked with hearty irony in an interview that "I'm there chiefly to thank the Government for recognizing our existence."

In New York, preparations are being completed for the departures on January 13 of the San Francisco Ballet for the Near East; on January 17 of the Westminster Choir for Africa; and on February 23 of the Little Orchestra Society for the Far East.

AIDED BY STATE DEPARTMENT

All will be backed by State Department funds, administered by the International Cultural Exchange Service of the American National Theater and Academy. ANTA—like the American Red Cross—is a private body holding a charter from Congress.

In St. Louis—at the city art museum—a show of American painting of the last 25 years is being assembled for a tour to open in Italy next September. About 25 artists will be represented, in what one non-Government expert describes as potentially the "most important exhibition of American art to go abroad under Government auspices." This is a venture of the U.S. Information Agency.

In New Delhi on January 5, a new U.S. chancellery will be dedicated. It is a spectacular example of the work of a modern American architect, Edward Durell Stone, who was commissioned by the State Department through the Office of Foreign Buildings.