

If this Nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need more new ideas for more wise men reading more good books in more public libraries. These libraries should be open to all—except the censor. We must know all the facts and hear all the alternatives and listen to all the criticisms. Let us welcome controversial books and controversial authors. For the Bill of Rights is the guardian of our security as well as our liberty.

9. The "Voice of America" should be revitalized and strengthened. The "Voice" is only one part—shortwave broadcast—of the U.S. Information Agency. Shortwave radio is the media best suited to carrying news, commentary, and music. At this time, the most popular program is American jazz, which, incidentally is very good propaganda. The news operation should be speeded. It is in a life-and-death competition with Radio Moscow and Tass. With television becoming more important the world over, I feel that the USIA should also concentrate on producing documentaries for foreign broadcast.

10. Pay TV is currently being tested in both the United States and Canada. I prefer to reserve judgment until these tests give definitive evidence upon whether pay TV is in the current interest.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. KENNEDY,
U.S. Senator.

American political leaders learn very quickly. The quickest conversion in history, however, apparently took place in the case of President John F. Kennedy.

Let me illustrate by recalling the question asked both Presidential candidates which the *Saturday Review* published on October 29, 1960:

To what extent should the Federal Government assist in the support of symphony orchestras, museums, opera companies, etc.?

To this, Candidate Kennedy replied:

The Federal Government already operates the National Gallery and the Freer and Corcoran Galleries, plus the magnificent Smithsonian museum. The Library of Congress is perhaps the world's greatest repository of culture. The National Archives preserves the historical record of the Nation. I favor expansion of all these facilities so that all citizens have easier access to the cultural resources now centered in Washington. I do not believe Federal funds should support symphony orchestras or opera companies, except when they are sent abroad in cultural exchange programs.

Let us pass over the obvious, that the Federal Government does not operate, or contribute one smidgeon of support, to the Corcoran Gallery of Art in the Nation's Capital.

Let us simply point out that by early November, and before the election, Candidate Kennedy was taking a strong position in support of Federal financial aid for the fine arts.

His exact words in *Equity* magazine, published by the powerful Actors' Equity Association, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, only a few days later are as follows—and this leads me to hail this as a "conversion";

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 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.

I think the civic and cultural leaders of the United States (who are as deeply interested in the advancement of American art and culture as they are in the preservation of the ancient treasures of the Nile—which President Kennedy has asked the Congress to appropriate \$10 million to accomplish) should pay particular attention to whether