

it. These funds are small in amount, and far from what a city the size of Washington should be contributing to its orchestra if we are to judge by what other American cities contribute.

"But, in any event, the National Symphony Orchestra and the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia should come to the Congress with clean hands and, especially, in view of the worldwide interest in what we as a people do about solving our own problems of bias and prejudice, they should make an honest attempt to end the longstanding bias of the National Symphony Orchestra against Negro musicians."

Now I read in the New York Times:

"RACIAL CURBS BANNED—KENNEDY CAUTIONS AGENCIES ON RECREATIONAL GROUPS

"WASHINGTON, April 20.—President Kennedy ordered Federal agencies Thursday to take immediate and specific action to bar the use of their names or facilities to any employee recreational groups that practice racial discrimination.

"Current practices in each department are to be brought into immediate compliance with this policy, and a report by the head of each executive agency filed to that effect before May 1, 1961," the President said in a memorandum to the heads of all departments and agencies.

"Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary, said he did not consider the memorandum to be based on anything specific when asked if the President was hitting at any particular group or agency.

"Mr. Kennedy said his order was in line with his March 6 Executive order affirming that 'discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin is contrary to the constitutional principles and policies of the United States.'"

The newspapers report that the National Symphony Orchestra, about which the Democrats are hurling these segregation charges, is using the new State Department auditorium for its concerts.

Will the Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, actually bar the National Symphony Orchestra from use of the fine new auditorium in the State Department, which the President uses for press conferences?

Or does the President's order with regard to segregation apply only to Federal employee organizations?

Of course, it may be argued that the Democratic charges that the National Symphony Orchestra is biased in its hiring practices have nothing to do with art.

This is true, for the charges are only more politics.

One is inclined to suspect that politics are involved because, or so it is said, all other major American symphony orchestras have exactly the same hiring policies that the National Symphony Orchestra does.

In any event, to sum up, it is clear that the Democrats have done little for the arts during the first 100 days of the new administration to carry out their campaign promises of last fall.

The destruction of the Lafayette Square buildings will give our country a definite and major setback in world opinion.

The lack of response to the people by the Democrats in this regard is monumental, and is more typical of a monarchical form of government than of a democracy or a republican form of government such as ours is.

The Democrats are going to have to do much better than they have done so far to match the splendid record of President Dwight Eisenhower in the arts.

Among the cultural steps taken during the Eisenhower administration was enactment of the Humphrey-Thompson Act—Public Law 860, 84th Congress—under which our great orchestras, artists, and talented groups from our colleges and universities are sent overseas to demonstrate the cultural accomplishments of the people of our country and to counteract Russian propaganda that we are a nation of materialists.

Other steps taken under President Eisenhower included the adoption of the Thompson-Fulbright National Cultural Center Act; and the Thompson-Humphrey-Anderson Act transferring the historic Patent Office Building to the Smithsonian Institution as a permanent home for the National Collection of Fine Arts which the Congress established in 1840.

The Patent Office Building, designed by the great architect, Robert Mills, who designed the Washington Monument and the Treasury Department Building, will also house a National Portrait Gallery.

These are far-reaching and important steps of which the Republican Members of the Congress and President Eisenhower can be proud.