

Then he applied the stiletto. President Eisenhower, he said, had further called for the establishment of a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts, but the Democratic-controlled Congress has been sitting on the bill since 1955.

Kearns, who used to be a music director at schools and colleges, and has conducted the Air Force Band on world tours, saved his Sunday punch for Secretary of State Dean Rusk. He did it by subtle stages.

First he quoted from a bill introduced recently by Democratic Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, which condemned "the undemocratic hiring and employment policies of the National Symphony Orchestra," for employing no Negro musicians.

He pointed out that the Kennedy administration has granted the symphony permission to use the new State Department auditorium where JFK holds his news conferences, and purred:

"Only last week President Kennedy took specific action to bar the facilities of any Federal agency to any group which practices racial discrimination."

Then he blandly asked: "Will the Secretary of State actually bar the National Symphony Orchestra from use of the fine new auditorium in his Department?"

Symphony Manager Raymond Kohn cried out that Adam Clayton Powell doesn't know what he's talking about—the only reason the symphony lacks a Negro musician is because one with sufficient background and symphony repertoire has yet to be auditioned.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE,  
New York, May 9, 1961.

HON. CARROLL KEARNS,  
Member of Congress, House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KEARNS: Many thanks for sending me the extracts from the Congressional Record. What you say is, of course, entirely true; you know the score and you know the facts. Yet I cannot altogether subscribe to the conclusions.

While a Democrat (more correctly an independent who often votes Republican) I never took those promises on their face value. So long as Congress counts among its Members a mere handful of your enlightened persuasion nothing can be done. The notion that culture is a private affair (President Eisenhower in the *People to People* pamphlet), that public money cannot be spent on the cultural welfare of the citizenry, is too deeply imbedded in our social and political makeup. Yet even the anti-intellectuals would like to reap the kudos—if it could be done without spending any money on it. That some advance was made during the last few years is solely due to the Russian competition.

I think that President Kennedy is sympathetic to the cause, but he is a practical politician, as is Mr. Nixon, which means that both of them duck, instinctively, when the "money for culture" issue comes up.

And I don't blame them. Just look at the publicity emanating from Lincoln Center and the Washington Cultural Center: palaces, air-conditioned restaurants, underground garages, 100 million here, 70 million there, etc. The humble and untutored millions, raised on television and perfectly satisfied with the fatuous fare they receive, cannot see why these "rich people" should be subsidized. Kindly read my next Sunday column about Lincoln Center where I spell out some of these things.

The accent is on prestige and patriotism, neither of which is involved in the Nation's cultural life. If you can wean the Nation—and your colleagues—from this concept, if you can establish the fact that the Government is responsible not only for the economic well-being of the Nation but also for its cultural health, perhaps the elected officials from the President down will be a little less cautious and more positive.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

PAUL HENRY LANG.