

pressure on the opinions of teachers. But citizens never for a moment consider abolishing public education because of such strictures. Instead they put pressure on the government to keep hands off when it shows signs of tampering.

Music, like education, is a thing of national concern. We don't have to be told that Van Cliburn's achievements abroad—which incidentally cost American people nothing—have brought more prestige to America than all our space rockets put together. Nor that the New York Philharmonic playing at the Berlin Festival on September 22 and 23, 1960, was of such propaganda value as to warrant the hard-headed Ford Motor Company paying \$150,000 to fly the 106 musicians over specially. What helps Americans abroad would, it is plain, help her to a like extent at home. Yet we are content to leave the nurture of this great cultural field to occasional philanthropists, whimsical in their favors and all too mortal in their life-spans, and to the loyal but much-put-upon "friends of music" working overtime to edge the indicators of those campaign thermometers to the top. To depend on such spasmodic giving in the field of music, which of all professions needs continuity and consistency of support, is to court defeat.

For it is clear that, to become professional, musical artists of symphonic calibre require longer growth and steadier nourishment than even the professions of doctors, lawyers and scientists. Nor are symphony orchestras organizations mushrooming overnight either. These need years and years of quiet and careful adjustments, years and years of accustoming players to each other, to their repertoires, to their conductors.

Under the circumstances, it is errant nonsense to say a government assist to our musical enterprises would hamper them or circumscribe them in their aims.

The recipients of grants from foundations and private philanthropies are decided on by the grantees and individuals according to principles evolved in their own private conclaves. No public pressure can be brought to bear on these organizations in making their decisions or in changing them after they are made. With government sponsorship, on the other hand, citizens would at least be able to insist on publication of the decisions and the reasons which brought them about. Public-minded individuals could set up a hue and cry if the government began overstepping its authority. In a word, government subsidy could be made subject to realign-