

We have found that in towns from California to Maine, from Florida to Montana, this is being decided in about as many ways as there are communities to decide. The wealthy sponsor, the pooled resources, industry's contributions, ticket sales—these have all been resorted to in varying blends. But, because of the haphazard and sporadic quality of such means, orchestras, we have found, have fallen into some sorry practices: conductors chosen as much for their way with words as for their skill with batons; musicians become adept at living incognito as insurance agents, clerks and office workers; and music lovers resigning themselves to waiting for the millenium when music, instead of being a hanger-on "on the town," will be cherished and supported as its true love.

Lately, we have had reason to hope that the millenium might be within sighting distance. Newspaper readers have been getting used to seeing that word, "subsidy," in headlines, in business reports and in editorials. In February, 1961, periodicals from coast to coast carried the news that Representative Frank Thompson, Jr., of New Jersey, and Senator Jacob K. Javits of New York State had introduced a bill calling for the establishment of a United States Department of the Arts. At about the same time word got around that Representative Carroll D. Kearns of Pennsylvania had introduced legislation to provide Federal aid for the fine arts through allocations to be administered by the various States. Among the bill's aims are: assistance to the States in making inventories of already existing musical organizations; help in establishing new ones, including symphony orchestras; aid toward the construction of cultural centers; and encouragement of educational institutions in the development of their musical programs.

Federal support of the Arts was debated on the NBC-TV network on February 11, 1961, before a nation-wide audience. J. Kenneth Galbraith, special consultant to President John F. Kennedy and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, who took the affirmative in the debate, scattered a few hopeful hints that President Kennedy's administration may do something for the Arts.

On March 3, 1961, *The New York Times* headlined on its front page, "Cultural Subsidy Is Asked of (New York) State—\$400,000 Urged in Aid for Areas Lacking Art." Though this was a state rather than a national effort, still the essentials were there for all to see. "The State Council on the Arts," the article read, "urged today (March 2) that