

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C.

HON. STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary, Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Along with many other Members of Congress I have consistently supported measures to advance the educational and cultural life of the Nation's Capital and make our Capital City ever safer and more attractive to live in. As a member of the District of Columbia Committee, it has, in fact, been my duty to do this because of the historic intent of the Congress that this great Federal City must represent the best of American life and reflect the deepest educational and cultural aspirations of the people of this Nation.

The Nation's Capital in 1950 observed and celebrated the sesquicentennial of its establishment as the seat of government. In connection with and as part of this occasion the Congress authorized the erection of the Carter Barron Amphitheater and appropriated nearly \$1 million to build it. The purpose of the Congress in creating this great cultural and artistic facility was—as the records clearly reveal—to advance the cultural, educational, and artistic growth of the Nation's Capital. The Congress lodged the management of this amphitheater in the Department of the Interior. For the full development of the aims of the Congress had in mind, it would perhaps have been wiser to have placed the management within the Smithsonian Institution, a Federal agency concerned more directly with the diffusion of knowledge.

I think the time has come if it is not, indeed, long overdue—to make a study of the Carter Barron Amphitheater operation which would take into account the major summer cultural programs in other U.S. cities and in leading European cities. The State Department, and our ambassadors abroad in other countries, would be delighted to cooperate, and their reports on summer cultural programs in Europe should be an important part of such a study. The Department of the Interior's stewardship of the Carter Barron Amphitheater as a cultural facility over the years should be subjected to a critical and searching analysis and no attempt to justify sins of omission or commission should be permitted. Nor should any bureaucratic whitewash be attempted. Perhaps a special advisory committee made up of educational, cultural, and fine arts experts and leaders should be set up to help you carry out the study. This would assure the public of its impartiality and the soundness of its conclusions.

The major purpose of the study I propose, which I urge you to undertake, should be to find ways to make the Carter Barron Amphitheater a far greater and much more significant educational, cultural, and artistic force in the Nation's Capital than it has ever been. Such a study should certainly show conclusively what other major cities here and abroad do toward encouraging and developing and assisting in the growth of their own local artistic groups, their own talented artists, their own young artists; how much "commercial talent" they import; the role of civic, nonprofit groups similar to the National Symphony Orchestra and the Washington Opera Society; and whether they import all the talent presented on their summer programs from other cities as the Department of the Interior does in its programs at the Carter Barron Amphitheater.

No doubt professional, commercial entertainment of the kind which the Department of the Interior presents at the Carter Barron Amphitheater, including at times, I am told, sick jokes and a burlesque-hall-type of humor which would not be permitted on the family television set (which is significant, I think, at a time when broadcasting is being blamed by irate parents for some of the rising tide of juvenile delinquency), has its place. However, whether that place is in this great cultural facility to the utter exclusion of the National Symphony Orchestra and other civic, nonprofit educational and cultural programs, activities, and groups, would be thoroughly explored by the kind of a study I have proposed. It might well be that it would be found during the course of the proposed study that some of these programs which are presented at the Carter Barron Amphitheater should be presented in a privately owned theater or night club under commercial auspices for private profit and not be given the endorsement of the Federal Government which presentation at the Carter Barron Amphitheater implies.

I shall now suggest some additional matters which the proposed study should cover. For instance, I find it shocking that the Department of the Interior has no place in its Carter Barron Amphitheater programs for the National