

Symphony Orchestra and other nonprofit cultural groups of the Nation's Capital. The National Symphony Orchestra is the only major symphony orchestra in the United States without a summer season. At the present time, the highly talented musicians of the National Symphony Orchestra must turn to other forms of employment to eke out a livelihood. Their resourcefulness in this regard is little short of amazing, though it does little to advance the cultural life of the Nation's Capital. Some of these musicians are summer salesmen, and summer guards carrying guns in Federal buildings including the Library of Congress. This situation persists year after year in the Nation's Capital without any sign that top officials of the Federal Government, who are sensitive to the cultural aspirations of people abroad in other nations, are aware of, or understand, its full implications in a world in which the United States in this cold war period has assumed leadership of the free world.

New York City, with the solid backing of the city administration and the mayor, has its summer music programs and its free Shakespeare in Central Park. Other U.S. cities have summer programs in all of the arts, many of them free to the public or available at nominal sums. Philadelphia's Robin Hood Dell concerts are world famous, and the city of Philadelphia contributes \$75,000 annually to make them possible.

The St. Louis Municipal Opera, the Hollywood Bowl concerts, the Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts at Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass., these and a hundred other famous summer music programs are in the mainstream of the tradition established by the free band concerts on the common or the courthouse square—one of the oldest and most universal of American cultural institutions.

You may rest assured, Mr. Secretary, that any step you may take to broaden, deepen, and to raise the educational and cultural, and artistic level of the fare offered at the Carter Barron Amphitheater will meet with powerful and respectable support from all sections of our country from people in all walks of life who are fed up with the tawdry, the cheap, and the spurious cultural values and fare which are so easily available to them and their children. They want something better, something nobler than the art factories of New York's Broadway, and Hollywood, and radio and television offer in such massive doses. They want something vital, alive, and close to the American dream and the American promise.

The sweep of history has made the United States the leader of the free world, and we must compete with the Soviet union for the minds and the hearts of men everywhere in the world. The Nation's Capital must take its rightful place beside other capital cities of the world in cultural matters if we are successfully to carry forward our high mission.

That the Department of the Interior, in its management of the Carter Barron Amphitheater, has not been able to accommodate the National Symphony Orchestra—or even the Washington Civic Opera Association—is nothing short of preposterous. It is high time that a study was made of how such groups could use this great cultural facility in view of the statements made repeatedly by national publications that the Nation's Capital is a "hick town" behind even such a provincial capital as Tiflis, U.S.S.R., in the fine arts.

A second step which you could take would be to create immediately an advisory panel of civic, educational, cultural, and fine arts leaders to help to develop a challenging and significant cultural and artistic program at the Carter Barron Amphitheater which would rise to the level of some of the world-famous cultural festivals in this country and in Europe. The Pablo Casals festival in Puerto Rico should be an inspiration and a guide to you in developing a major cultural program for the Nation's Capital at the Carter Barron Amphitheater and in the other facilities controlled by the Department of the Interior.

Sincerely yours,

CARROLL D. KEARNS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C.

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

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: It is always instructive to us "old hands" in the Congress to have replies shot from the hip at us by minor officials in Federal departments and agencies which hit the front pages of the newspapers whenever we write to the heads of those agencies; and even before we get an official answer.