

I wrote to you on June 1 pointing out, among other things, that Puerto Rico, in the Pablo Casals festival, had a much higher cultural content to that program than the Capital City of the richest Nation in the world had in the Carter Barron Amphitheater program run by the Department of the Interior. So far, I have had no reply to my letter.

You are advised that my letter was hand-delivered to your office on May 31. This morning I have had a reply of a kind to my complaint that the Department of the Interior "has no place in its Carter Barron Amphitheater programs for the National 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."

In a front-page article in the Washington Post of June 5, 1961, we find the following information:

"We would love to have them there," T. Sutton Jett, Superintendent of the National Capital Parks charged with administration of the amphitheater said, referring to the National Symphony, "but we can't afford them."

A study made by the Library of Congress in 1959 and inserted in the Congressional Record by both Senator Hubert H. Humphrey and Representative Harris B. McDowell, Jr., showed that the Nation's Capital spends annually on the arts the fantastic sum of \$16,000. This is the lowest amount of any city in the United States except Hagerstown, Md., which spends \$12,500 on the fine arts, according to the study.

In the 86th Congress bills were introduced by Senator Humphrey, Senator Morse, Representative Harris B. McDowell, Jr., and Representative Frank Thompson, Jr., setting aside 1 mill, or one-thousandth of a dollar, out of local taxes for cultural programs. It was estimated at the time that this would raise \$185,000 at a minimum for cultural programs.

This year, Senator Clark, of Pennsylvania, Congressman Frank Thompson, Congressman Powell, of New York, Congressman Chelf, of Kentucky, and Congressman Celler, of New York, have introduced legislation providing a Federal-State grant-in-aid program to help the fine arts. I have cosponsored this legislation and I am happy to advise you that \$100,000 would be provided annually for the District of Columbia art programs, including those at the Carter Barron Amphitheater.

However, since the Department of the Interior has the largest cultural facility in the Nation's Capital in its charge it should have come to the Congress for the funds necessary to properly present the National Symphony Orchestra and other nonprofit cultural programs such as the Washington Civic Opera Co., the Children's Theater of Washington, the Washington Ballet Co., and other groups at the Carter Barron Amphitheater.

The present appropriation of \$16,000 for the fine arts won't be raised unless the Congress, which is in charge of the purse strings regarding local appropriations of the city of Washington, raises it. It won't raise it to anywhere near the sums spent on the arts by other cities until you, Mr. Secretary, and others, including the District of Columbia Recreation Department—which is charged by the Congress with carrying on cultural programs in the Nation's Capital together with the Department of the Interior—seriously get down to the business of developing the kind of cultural program which the Congress authorized in the Carter Barron Amphitheater Act, and the act establishing the District of Columbia Recreation Department.

It was with this in mind, Mr. Secretary, that I suggested in my letter that a special advisory committee made up of educational, cultural, and fine arts experts and leaders should be set up to make a study of how the Carter Barron Amphitheater could be made a major cultural force. I said that 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.

In view of the evident feeling at the Department of the Interior that the richest Nation in the world can't afford a worthy cultural program in the Carter Barron Amphitheater which was the gift of the people of this Nation to the Nation's Capital for such programs, the special advisory committee should undertake a study of how such programs are financed in other major cities of the United States and Europe.

The Federal Government cannot continue any longer to occupy its present anomalous position which, by its control of the purse strings, denies to the people