

tary of State for Education and Cultural Affairs. This is a higher rank than the position of assistant to the Secretary held by his predecessor, and, since it is established by Executive order, no legislative confirmation is required.

The choice of Mr. Edward R. Murrow as Director of the U.S. Information Agency is another development encouraging for the arts. The international cultural exchange program managed by ANTA for the Department of State has fortunately not been subject to any serious attempts to impose censorship by Congress. The USIA, which manages the visual arts portion of that program, has come under concerted attack for its liberal attitude, specifically in connection with the paintings and sculpture sent to the Moscow Fair in 1959 but also several times previously. Mr. Murrow can be trusted to defend to the utmost any attempts to censor the arts in any unwarranted manner. Precedents must not be established for governmental censorship of the arts.

We are very happy to be permitted to draw attention to the most recent evidence of the President's and Mrs. Kennedy's concern for the arts—specifically for legislation to promote the arts in America. This is due to the initiative of Congressman Carroll D. Kearns who recently wrote to Mrs. Kennedy about Federal legislation for the arts during the past 8 years, stressing that several major proposals had not been enacted. "If the fine arts are to advance in our country as they should," he wrote, "it is my firm conviction that a bipartisan national committee for the arts must be created to work for the passage of the legislative measures which have been introduced in this and previous Congresses." Mr. Kearns expressed confidence that if Mrs. Kennedy and former President Eisenhower were willing to serve as cohonorary chairmen "of this highly important national committee—it could be organized quickly and become firmly established, and the cultural, civic, and political leaders of the 50 States (including the Governors) would consider it an honor and privilege to serve with you."

Mrs. Kennedy replied on February 8:

"DEAR CONGRESSMAN KEARNS: Thank you for your letter of February 3 with its most stimulating contents. Both the President and I were interested in your exposition of the past and present status of Executive participation in cultural affairs. We are in complete agreement with you 'the unfinished cultural business' is most important.

"I would like to study your letter in relation to current projects. I will be in touch with you at a future date on the whole subject.

"Again, thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

"With very best wishes,

"Sincerely,

"JACQUELINE KENNEDY."

The NCAG most heartily supports Mr. Kearns' admirable suggestion. As Howard Lindsay stated in our annual report, 1960: "The slowness of the Federal Government in recognizing the role of the arts in our national welfare is largely due to the failure of American artists and the public to impress upon Members of Congress their support for measures concerning the arts." The arts clearly need a powerful national committee to speak for them in a voice loud enough to be heard.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 86TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION

Pathetically little was accomplished for the arts. Legislation to create a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts was not enacted before the Rules Committee did not permit the House to vote on it. The "Florence agreement" to reduce tariffs on educational, scientific, and cultural materials, which had been initiated by the United States in 1950, was ratified. However, this is an empty gesture until legislation is enacted to alter current tariff regulations which legislation was not even introduced. Our country's tardiness in joining the 33 nations participating in this cultural treaty seems inexcusable. (See below, H.R. 2537 in No. 6.) The so-called cabaret tax was reduced from 20 to 10 percent as the direct result of a most effective campaign initiated by the American Federation of Musicians. This achievement demonstrates the value of an organized campaign. Similar results can be accomplished if enough people care enough to take the time and trouble to express their views to Congress.

LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE ARTS, 87TH CONGRESS

For each new Congress all legislative proposals are given new numbers. These numbers are valid for both sessions of that Congress. Where identical