

the newspapers, the magazines, the arts, and the different professions, each with its feeling of separate life, each with customs and standards that have the force of law in its separate domain. The literary profession is one of those domains, and I should like to see it enforce its own standards. In one sense the critics are its courts of law, but it is even more important for them to honor good writing than to condemn cheap and careless writing; also the standards they enforce should be those of quality, not those of method or doctrine or political opinion. There should be many theories of literature and many centers of literary activity. If writers need financial help to do their best work—and many of them do need such help, because the rewards for distinguished writing are not always enough to support them, and also because it takes a long time for a writer to become established—then the help should come from privately endowed institutions, at present, rather than from the Federal Government. All that the writers can fairly ask of the Government is that it shouldn't discriminate against them. Notably, it shouldn't interfere with the institutions that have been helping them, nor should it try, as some congressional committees have been doing, to force universities and foundations into a great coordinated—gleichgeschaltet was Hitler's word—system of correct mass opinion.

We would in general subscribe to these views of Mr. Cowley and specifically we would recommend that the several plans for direct encouragement of the arts incorporated in other bills be turned over for study and recommendation by the Federal Advisory Council on the Arts, which we believe should be established.

In conclusion, our views may be briefly summarized as advocating the establishment of a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts with a large measure of independence, and the referral of other proposals for direct support of the arts to such a commission for study and recommendation as a first priority in its work.

STATEMENT OF MRS. HORTENSE AMRAM, WEAVER, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mrs. AMRAM. Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on Special Education, my name is Hortense Amram. I am a practicing weaver and I live at 431 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, D.C. It is there, in my home, that I have my looms and weave the cloth and various other items that provide a part of my income.

As a practitioner of one of the handicrafts, I have a deep interest in Congressman Thompson's H.R. 4172, to provide for the establishment of a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare as recommended by President Eisenhower in several messages to the Congress in recent years. I wish to address myself to that portion of Congressman Thompson's bill which seeks to provide for recognition and encouragement of our American craft movement. I wish to commend Mr. Thompson for his insistence that the crafts be listed in the bill now before this committee.

My own interest in this bill lies in its ability to increase the interest in, and recognition of, the importance of craft work among all our people. Creative work is well within the capacity of everyone, from kindergarten to old age. Witness the countless manifestations of this in the growing number of those practicing the many crafts now flourishing across the country.

The strength of this urge to creativity is not only the deeply human one, but in our country it stems from a rich and varied tradition. The early Americans expressed their feeling for beauty in the crafts