

STATEMENT OF DR. FREDERICK FALL, FORMER DIRECTOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA; DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR OF OPERA ACTIVITIES OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECREATION DEPARTMENT; FORMER MUSIC DIRECTOR FOR U.S. ARMY OF OCCUPATION IN AUSTRIA

Dr. FALL. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am Dr. Frederick Fall, of 1771 Church Street NW., Washington, D.C. I was born in Vienna, Austria, where I studied music and was graduated from the State Academy of Music and Fine Arts.

Before coming to the United States I was conductor of various major opera companies in Germany, Czechoslovakia, and finally conductor in chief of the Vienna Volksoper. I also conducted symphony concerts with practically all of the major European symphony orchestras. In this country I have conducted concerts in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, New Orleans, and Dallas. After the Second World War I was music officer for the Austrian Occupation Zone under Gen. Mark Clark.

For 10 years I conducted the Agriculture Symphony Orchestra of the U.S. Department of Agriculture here in the Nation's Capital. I reorganized this orchestra in 1949, and it is now considered by many to be one of the country's outstanding amateur orchestras.

Also, I am director and producer, as well as conductor, of the opera productions of the District of Columbia Recreation Department. We have annually produced a major opera for the last several years; the Medium and the Telephone; Madame Butterfly; the Merry Widow; Hansel and Gretel; Tales of Hoffman; the Student Prince; the Bartered Bride; and the Gypsy Baron. If anyone thinks these productions, involving in some instances 120 people, do not require a vast amount of hard work and discipline, then they don't know anything about opera production.

Both the Agriculture Department's symphony orchestra and the District of Columbia Recreation Department's opera productions use preponderantly musicians, singers, stagecraft workers, production helpers, and so on who do not make their living with music, singing, acting, or in the theater, but who use these media to give meaning to their leisure time. Such activities are splendid examples of the creative and constructive use of leisure time. There are too many people to whom leisure time is synonymous with time spent aimlessly—this, in my opinion, is one of the major reasons for delinquency, both juvenile and adult. A fine example of the constructive use of leisure time follows:

I conducted a homegrown, grassroots, locally produced opera, with local singers, at the Watergate to an audience of 10,000 avid listeners. This was one of the largest audiences of the Watergate season. Sponsors of this event were the District of Columbia Recreation Depart-