

In Europe the governments of our times have assumed the patronage of the arts from the courts, the princes, and the church. The high development of music, drama, ballet, and of the Beethovens, the Goethes, the Dantes, the Shakespeares, the Michelangelos, the Da Vincis, the Hans Christian Andersons—these did not spring untended from a hostile soil.

They were the product of an education and an environment that was sympathetic, that was constantly helpful, that honored the industrious and able youngster, the budding painter, the coming poet, the developing musician, dancer, weaver, and sculptor. Many young people tried, and many failed but the talented young people found patrons, they found encouragement, they were prodded, they were driven, rewarded, and they kept on trying. The great artists that developed out of this rich soil lifted mankind on wings of song, and mankind was ennobled when beauty was created such as was never known before, with the new songs, the new paintings, the ever extending vision of the artists.

The greatest single thing the Federal Advisory Council on the Arts can do, in my opinion, is to give new stature to the arts, and increased status to the artists.

It can give art and the artist the recognition they need when they are young, when they need it most. It can recommend ways to encourage the artist to forge ahead, to be creative.

It can advise us on ways to enrich the soil, to nurture the young, to help them to go forward.

The arts ennoble, they uplift, they give the people vision, and a people without vision will surely perish.

The Federal Advisory Council which Congressman Thompson's bill, H.R. 4172, would establish can show the way to a maturer and happier people, a people which will make the United States the cultural center of the world.

Mr. THOMPSON. We will now hear from Congressman Harris B. McDowell of Delaware.

STATEMENT OF HON. HARRIS B. McDOWELL, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Thompson and members of the subcommittee, I appear in support of the bill offered by Congressman Frank Thompson, Jr., and several other Members of Congress from both parties to establish a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts.