

So far the President's special international cultural exchange program has devoted almost its entire congressional appropriations to sending major professional groups abroad. The State Department overlooks the opportunity of utilizing young talented American artists in this program. This shortsightedness must be corrected if we are going to effect a massive interchange of mutual understanding through student exchanges. The legislation which I have proposed would make permanent the inclusion of young American artists in our cultural exchange programs. No longer would this endeavor be subject to the whim of individual officials or of any political administration in Washington. The enactment of this legislation would insure that a specific provision for young artists has the support of the Congress which is vital if we are to enhance America's cultural image.

In addition to the need for the Federal Government to place a broader emphasis on the arts in direct connection with international cultural activities, we should provide a means to promote among more of our own citizens a knowledge of and interest in the creative arts. For example, I believe we should establish in Washington, D.C., a national showcase program to display the very excellent fine arts programs of our institutions of higher education. The primary purpose of the showcase would be to encourage the further development and growth of all the arts in colleges and universities. The time is right to establish a permanent program to encourage our young people with interest and talent in the arts, instead of leaving their discovery—as in the case of Van Cliburn—to the U.S.S.R.

As R. L. Bruckberger emphasized in his recent book "The Image of America," "America does not always give its own creative minds the recognition due them, indeed it sometimes ignores them altogether. This is so often the case that an observer as casual as the average European traveler in America finds it only too easy to assume that in certain fields there are no creative minds. \* \* \* In their hearts, Americans do not believe that there could ever be found among them men of such stature as Stravinsky, Picasso, and Bergson."

It is my firm conviction that we do have talent which can be encouraged through the showcase program by giving national recognition and encouragement to young American artists. The bill I have introduced is sponsored also by Representative Carl Elliott, of Alabama; Representative Edith Green, of Oregon; Representative Frank Thompson, of New Jersey; and Senator Wayne Morse, of Oregon. It would inaugurate an International Olympiad of the Arts and Sciences. This program, to be held every 2 years, would present high quality international exhibitions, productions, festivals, and programs in these fields. I am sure that such an enterprise would greatly strengthen the mutual understanding of the peoples of the world.

I have often been asked how I would expect the International Olympiad of the Arts and Sciences to be initiated, organized, and operated. Here are some answers to the questions that have been raised.

The President of the United States would communicate with the heads of all the nations in the world, inviting them to send representatives to Washington for a conference. This meeting could be under the chairmanship of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, who would be responsible for practical arrangements. The President would address this conference, calling upon the nations to join with the United States in competitions in the arts and sciences.

Following this conference I would expect that most of the nations would set up committees which would be responsible for arranging participation in the competitions. An American committee would work through the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, under appropriate guidance from the Department of State. Distinguished private citizens would be appointed by the President to serve on this committee.

As I mentioned before, my bill calls for an International Olympiad of the Arts and Sciences to be held every 2 years. I would hope that the first Olympiad might take place in the new Lincoln Center in New York, and that our proposed National Cultural Center in Washington would be completed in time for the second. If a cooperating nation extended an invitation for the Olympiad, I think that this invitation should be carefully considered and accepted if approved by a meeting of representatives of all participating countries. Pending the assurance that there would be facilities for the competitions overseas, I believe we should continue to hold them at 2-year intervals in the Nation's Capital.