

State is not the only agency of Government concerned, even modestly, with the arts. The Library of Congress operates a music division which not only collects material relating to music, but also conducts a performance program. While the program is financed by private gifts, the aegis of a Federal agency gives it a special impulse. The General Services Administration, a little known but vastly important branch of the Federal Government, is charged, among other things, with the responsibility of design and construction of all buildings of the Federal Government. Its annual payments to architects, muralists, sculptors, and painters are quoted in astronomical figures.

Strange as it may seem, the Department of Defense carries on its payroll more than 3,000 employees categorized by the Civil Service Commission as being concerned with the "fine and applied arts." This is more than one-half the total number of such employees in the entire Federal Government. One would not consciously select the Defense Department as a vehicle for stimulating the arts.

You will recall the surge of patronage of the arts—painting particularly—initiated during the depression by the Federal Government. These programs were intended primarily to provide jobs for unemployed artists.

The proposals now pending in the Senate and House have turned the eyes of Congress and the country squarely on the fundamental question: What should we do for the arts?

To such a question most of us respond with three more: What is the need? Can we do it? What will it cost?

There doesn't seem to be much doubt about the need to do something. Our Federal dealings with the arts are chaotic. Innumerable subdivisions of offices, of bureaus, of departments are struggling with problems of vast significance. They are operating programs dispensing millions annually, and they have done, all things considered, a remarkably good job.

But duplication, lack of direction, lack of integration have been the byproduct. There appears to be a crying need for coordination, for a study of objectives, for a systematic and informed review of results. The proposal of Representative Frank Thompson, Jr., of New Jersey, embodied in H.R. 4172, and my proposal embodied in H.R. 5408 are directed toward this need. The proposals would authorize the formation of a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts. The Council, to be a branch of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, would be composed of 21 members, all of whom would be private citizens appointed by the President. They would represent in approximate proportions the major art fields, which the bill describes as—

music, drama, dance, literature, architecture and allied arts, photography, graphic and craft arts, motion pictures, radio, and television.

The Council would have the power to undertake studies and make recommendations toward maintaining and increasing the cultural resources of the United States; to propose methods to encourage private initiative in the arts; and to foster artistic and cultural endeavors and the use of the arts both nationally and internationally in the best interests of our country.

In my opinion, this proposal is a sound and logical step which the Federal Government can and should take. A strong Council would make itself felt throughout Government. It would introduce an ele-