

were going to concerts. Little by little, we began to see the results of this unique program.

Last summer, I became very concerned about the young people in the poverty war, and within 3 weeks of my initial contact with the Office of Economic Opportunity I was off on a first Job Corps tour. I went into areas that I don't think are even on the map, besides going into the large cities. And the reception was not just a polite acceptance; these Job Corps youngsters stood up and yelled as if somebody had hit a home run. Young corpsmen are writing to Mr. Shriver, and they are writing to me, asking, "When are we going to have more?"

And now Congress has legalized the performing arts in education, through passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of last year. And it is time now that we have a fruitful marriage. We wish, as performing artists, to build audiences that will fill to the brim the cultural centers that are coming up now. You, as educators, are in a unique position because you can make it possible for us to work together. There is nothing frightening about the performing arts; on the contrary, they provide education with marvelous re-

source materials, and with a marvelous motivational force. I can see no more perfect union in this country, at the present time, than that now coming into existence between the performing arts and the educators. I only wish that we had had this opportunity when we were all going to school.

When you are applying for artistic performances to be brought into the schools, however, please make sure that the experience will be of the highest professional excellence. Because it is very easy to introduce mediocrity in the arts, as in anything else. There is plenty of mediocrity around waiting to get a foothold and, once it does creep in, it's twice as hard to dislodge it as it would have been to provide excellence in the first encounter.

You may have to do some negotiating as far as fees are concerned, but our great American artists are available to the schools, if you want them. It seems to me that Title I of the new education act offers you the means to bring these people within reach of young people everywhere. Through them, we can build a new and fantastically productive cultural era in the United States.