

HR 11045
~~SUGGESTED MATERIAL FOR JOHN E. FOGARTY~~

Mr. Fogarty,

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express sincere congratulations to my distinguished colleague, Congressman Thompson, for his notable dedication and perseverance in seeing H.R. 9586, the National Arts and Cultural Development Act of 1964, through to the floor of the House.

On this occasion, I again strongly urge passage of this legislation. It is of the utmost importance to the vitality of the arts and humanities in the United States and is a very big step in the right direction. The National Council on the Arts will be a much-needed coordinating and integrating device to serve the States in their rapidly developing assumption of responsibility toward public institutions of the arts such as theater groups, symphony orchestras and museums. It will provide all of our citizens with the benefit of some of the most experienced and discerning people in the country working toward the clarification of national needs and the definition of practical goals in the arts and humanities.

This is truly far-sighted legislation and the benefits, in terms of stimulation, inspiration, and the dissemination of knowledge, will reach every corner of the land.

The enormous and nationwide increase of popular interest in the arts as reflected in recent statistics of attendance at theaters, concert halls, and museums presents an unmistakable mandate for action. Our country has more than 1,200 symphony orchestras. Eleven million adults play a musical instrument. There are now 26 State arts councils and commissions. Over 3,000 U.S. museums recently reported that their attendance during the past 10 years more than doubled and the total well exceeded the national population.

In this decade, we are establishing a new museum every three days. Yet despite this massive interest and participation, training and ~~support is~~ ^{public programs are} suffering because of inadequate support. Consequently, I have been convinced for some time--as you know--that Federal support should be provided to States and professional groups working in the arts and education at all levels. Accordingly, I shall reintroduce in the next session of Congress a bill, presently designated H.R. 11045 and introduced on April 28 of this year. It calls for the creation of a National Arts Foundation and a National Institute of the Arts and Humanities.

My bill provides the necessary implementation of the basic aims of the National Council on the Arts by the creation of a National Arts Foundation and a National Institute of Arts and Humanities. These two programs are designed to meet the needs of the arts and humanities as they function both within American educational institutions and through our public organizations and institutions of the arts.

The Foundation, an independent agency in the executive branch of the Government, would make grants-in-aid to State arts councils or commissions and public institutions and non-profit organizations such as museums and music, dance, and theater groups.

The Institute, operating within the U.S. Office of Education, would deal with the arts in education at all levels. Its grants-in-aid to States would be to State departments of education, to colleges and universities, and to professional organizations of the arts in education. Museums, which act at all levels, would apply to either the Foundation or the Institute, whichever would be appropriate to an individual project.

The advice, guidance and research of the Council will be invaluable, as will be the implied sturdy recognition of the value of our creative artists and performers. But recognition without vigorous implementation is a relatively shallow accomplishment. All the evidence indicates that one result of the labors of the Council will be the documentation and delineation of a crisis in the arts and education which imperatively calls upon our Federal Government for leadership and support.

My bill provides the required mechanisms. I believe them to be logical and workable. The two titles I have briefly described, together with the National Council, which I trust you will establish today, supplement and complement each other and respond to national needs in a manner consistent with the support provided in other areas, such as science and technology.

I should like to emphasize, however, that I consider passage of the present bill of central importance and believe it represents a noteworthy historical event by initiating a new, mature, and valid relationship between the Federal Government and the arts.

In closing I would like to call the attention of the Members of the House to the earnest efforts of my good friend and fellow Rhode Islander, ^{the Honorable} Senator Claiborne Pell, whose untiring labors in the other body have contributed in such a large measure to the enactment of this legislation.