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HR 2043
Sent to all Press

PRESS RELEASE BY THE HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY
SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

Congressman John E. Fogarty (Democrat, R.I.) today hailed President Johnson's appointment of the National Council on the Arts as a historically important first step in Federal Government encouragement of the arts.

He pointed out that this is the first permanent group exclusively concerned with the welfare of the arts throughout the United States to be created by Congress. But it is, he cautioned, a first step only.

"There remains," he said, "the matter of practical implementation. The bills I introduced on January 7 of this year are designed to build upon this enormously encouraging beginning."

Congressman Fogarty emphasized the fact that the function of the National Council on the Arts is entirely advisory. His arts and humanities bills propose a broad program of support for the creative and performing arts and the humanities. One bill includes a program of matching grants to States and to non-professional groups concerned with the development of the arts. The second bill would establish a National Humanities Foundation which would include a program for the creative and performing arts and support for the humanities.

In a statement addressed to the Special Subcommittee on the Arts and Special Subcommittee on Labor today, Fogarty re-emphasized his "belief in the rightness of Federal involvement in furthering greater public understanding and enjoyment of, and participation in, the broad fields which are the realm of the arts and humanities."

"In these realms," he said, "are to be found not only the artistic creations and intellectual achievements of our past, but also the aesthetic and spiritual satisfactions which must remain a vital part of our future if the Nation is to achieve its full stature among the countries and cultures of the world."

"It is my belief that community, private, and State support for the arts and humanities would not be lessened by Federal recognition and support, but would, in fact be increased. Some of the States, notably New York, have already proved the validity of this assumption through the additional local funds generated as the result of the expenditures of limited State funds by their respective State arts organizations."

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