

4/29/65

HR 605 ✓

Mr. Fogarty,

Mr. Speaker,

I rise in support of HR 4714, a bill to amend the National Arts and Cultural Development Act of 1964 with respect to the authorization of appropriations therein.

My colleagues will recall my long-standing and profound interest in Federal legislation to promote nationwide support for the arts and humanities. In its earlier forms I have recommended this legislation since 1962. This bill, HR 4714, would simply correct a technical error in PL 88-579 since the clear intent of this act was to establish the ^{National} Council ^{on the Arts} on an ongoing basis and I urge favorable consideration of the measure

It is my earnest desire that this legislation under consideration will be but the beginning of much greater expansion in this area and on March 10 of this year it was my privilege and satisfaction to be associated with Congressman Thompson of New Jersey in the introduction of a bill to provide for the establishment of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities to promote progress and scholarship in the humanities and the arts.

On that same day the President transmitted the Administration's recommendations supporting this bill and declaring, in part, that

"...government can seek to create conditions under which the arts can flourish; through recognition of achievements, through helping those who seek to enlarge creative understanding, through increasing the access of our people to the works of our artists, and through recognizing the arts as part of the pursuit of American greatness. That is the goal of this legislation."

I feel that the President's carefully chosen words express the essential meaning of this historically important legislation.

It is my hope that the members of the House of Representatives will soon have the opportunity to approve this legislation and I want to take this opportunity to call attention to some of its features:

First. We are dealing here with a force vital to society which cannot sustain itself without help

Second. The United States must not limit its effort to science and technology but must give full value and support to the other great branches of man's scholarly, literary, and artistic activity.

Third. This bill provides the necessary implementation of the National Council on the Arts which was established by PL 88-579 - the National Arts and Cultural Development Act of 1964 which is presently under consideration.

Fourth. It provides assurances against Federal interference in scholarship, teaching, research, and artistic endeavors.

Fifth. Community, private, and State support for the arts and humanities will be increased by this legislation. Some of the States, notably New York, have 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.

Sixth. The bill emphasizes cooperation with existing Federal programs.

Mr. Speaker I believe

Passage of HR 4714 today/will provide the necessary groundwork to get this show on the road.