

**NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
FOUNDATIONS**

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**JOINT HEARINGS**  
BEFORE THE  
**SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ARTS AND HUMANITIES**  
OF THE  
**COMMITTEE ON  
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE**  
**UNITED STATES SENATE**  
AND THE  
**SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR**  
OF THE  
**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS  
FIRST SESSION  
ON  
**BILLS TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL FOUNDATIONS ON THE  
ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

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**PART 1**

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Senator Pell, my colleague here, and Senator Randolph, of West Virginia, I have introduced a bill (S. 310) to establish a U.S. National Arts Foundation. And I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and my statement with respect to it be made a part of the record.

Representative THOMPSON. Senator Javits, that already has been entered. Senator Kennedy?

**STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, U.S. SENATOR FROM  
THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Senator KENNEDY of Massachusetts. I have a statement, Mr. Chairman, which I would like to make at this time.

Mr. Chairman, I consider it a particular privilege to be a new member of this Subcommittee on Arts and Humanities, and I look forward with great interest to the forthcoming testimony supporting the establishment of a National Foundation for the Promotion of the Arts and Humanities.

I feel that this is a very important cause we are pursuing here; perhaps a crucial one. For years, we have had a National Science Foundation which has, through grants and contracts, supported basic research in the hard sciences, and has been particularly concerned with improving science education and the training of scientists and science teachers at various academic levels. This organization continues to conduct basic studies into our scientific resources which will provide the basis for formulating long-range national policies in science. This year, the administration is asking for an appropriation of \$530 million to carry out its program. This is a substantial amount of money, but it is necessary, and vital, because the National Science Foundation helped provide the intellectual resources from which we have built, and will continue to build, our record of scientific achievement in the world.

Basic as this scientific achievement may be, it must at the same time be balanced and augmented by social and cultural development. We may make great strides in atomic energy, and space exploration, in automation, in biology and chemistry. But we will be dull and listless men, amid all these wonders, if we do not also expand the human mind and spirit. We will waste the leisure machines have released for us. We will not fully enjoy our higher incomes. We will travel without appreciation. We will not achieve the kind of development for our future citizens, that we want. They will know nothing about painting, poetry, music, architecture, drama, and philosophy. The wonders of science are nothing if we do not relieve human suffering, excite human thought and creativity, and provide a vehicle for understanding and respect between men of all races and cultures. We have learned from the past that national leadership, maintained through material wealth and technological superiority, cannot last if it does not appreciate people—their wants, their fears, their beliefs, their history, and their intelligence. We must encourage the development of culture, its expression of truth, and its broadening of all men. It is in the development of this wisdom that the humanities and the arts have such a vital role.

It is in pursuit of this kind of excellence that I have cosponsored the bill proposed by the very knowledgeable Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Pell), which would establish a National Arts and Humanities

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Foundation. I agree with the opening paragraph of section 2 of the bill that—

the encouragement and support of the humanities and the arts, while primarily a matter for private and local initiative, is also an appropriate matter of concern to the Federal Government.

We are making an effort, Mr. Chairman, to achieve excellence in the arts and humanities in this country. We are trying to make the fruits of culture available to all our citizens, just as we have been trying to make the fruits of abundance available to all our citizens. The United States now has 40,000 theater organizations, 1,400 symphony orchestras, 750 opera companies, and 200 dance groups. New art galleries, large public and small private ones, are spreading throughout the country. Programs by great institutions like the Metropolitan Opera and the Boston Symphony Orchestra are broadcast nationwide.

This spread of these institutions of culture in recent years shows that the thirst for culture among the people of our country is tremendous. But that is where the problem lies. We are not able to satisfy this thirst, in the way it should be because the artists and performers needed are not getting the economic incentive they need to do the job.

The average annual income of members of Actors' Equity is \$2,000 a year. The salaries for members of symphony orchestras range from \$2,000 to \$9,000. As for dancers, Agnes Demille has said they "eat sawdust." Thus promising young men and women, who could be great performers in the arts are going into other occupations, not as personally satisfying, not as challenging to their talents, because they cannot afford to do otherwise. Is it not a distorted system of values when stagehands at theaters make more money than performers? And when the occupations in our country which are forced to moonlight to make ends meet involve teachers and artists?

The same type of distress is obvious in humanities. The humanists are the forgotten people of our educational system. Hundreds of millions of dollars are poured into research for science but humanists get almost nothing. People who want to teach and do research in the field of humanities are also going into other occupations. The supply falls short of both the demand and the need. Twenty-five percent of our secondary schools offer no art courses at all. Only 10 percent offer any courses in art history. These are some of the problems this bill is designed to solve.

I want to say that I am not wedded to the language of this bill, or to the particular machinery it provides for accomplishing the purposes set forth. There are other thoughtful bills under consideration, from both the Senate and the House. Some of these would separate the arts from the humanities. Some would alter the mechanics of directing foundation activities. All, however, are concerned with the need to coordinate the development of culture and the social sciences at the Federal level, and all emphasize the importance of this development to our future as a world leader.

Thus, I want to offer my cooperation, Mr. Chairman, in your efforts to work out effective and acceptable legislation in this field, with a view to early passage in this Congress.

In conclusion, I should like to make some general observations which express my immediate concern about the legislation proposed. Most of the bills suggest a yearly authorization of no more than \$10 million. I would hope that this could be increased because I feel there is an immediate need to accelerate the program contemplated.

With respect to the administration of funds in connection with promoting the arts, I would hope that the legislation would require the widest geographical distribution commensurate with need.

In connection with humanities, I would hope that special attention be given to research and development in the behavioral sciences, and that there be provisions for joint studies and recommendations with the National Science Foundation.

In particular, I would hope that the forthcoming legislation would help provide for the widest opportunity for sharing our knowledge and our artistic efforts with cooperating countries, and that the foundation would also help to promote a mutual exchange of information on common problems, so that artistic achievements could better be appreciated on an international basis.

The example set by President Kennedy and President Johnson, by Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Johnson, have stimulated appreciation of the arts and humanities among all our people. Now is the time to put the resources of Government behind the broadening of the effort.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the time to express these views. I wish you well in these hearings, and in the legislation proposed.

Representative THOMPSON. Thank you very much, Senator, for that excellent statement. The ranking Republican member on the House Subcommittee on Labor is our colleague, the very distinguished gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Griffin.

Representative GRIFFIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only would remark that it seems to me—and I am sure to many other Members of the House who went along with the passage of the bill in this last Congress to create an Advisory Council on the Arts—that we might be a little premature in beginning hearings on legislation to create the National Arts Foundation before we have even had the advice of a council appointed to study ways and means by way of which the Federal Government might encourage this. Many of us in the House believe that there are many ways that the Federal Government can possibly encourage and promote the arts without subsidies.

I certainly agree with the distinguished Senator from New York, Mr. Javits, who said that Government will never do enough by trying to promote the arts with direct subsidies. We ought to be very careful if we embark on a program of direct subsidies—if we do—that we do not dry up the private sources.

We are approaching legislation that provides direct grants while we still have on the books taxes on entertainment and pictures which actually restrict performances in this area.

Certainly we have areas in the copyright laws where we could, without getting into the direct subsidy of the art, we could provide tax incentive to encourage more private support without having direct subsidies as is proposed in this legislation.

I certainly would join with those who have urged the President to get busy with the appointing of an advisory council which is sup-