

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUMPHREY AT THE
FIRST MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS
JANUARY 15, 1958

1.

I have special reason, perhaps, to take pleasure -- and even pride -- in appearing before the members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts at your first meeting. Whether you realize it or not, the birth of ~~this~~ this Committee took place only after an unusually long gestation period. As sponsor in the Senate of the legislation *The International Cultural Exchange and Trade Fair Participation Act* that was enacted as Public Law 860 of the 84th Congress, I believe

I can claim some credit for helping to bring about its final delivery.

Today, I know we all join in hailing what we hope will be an active and enterprising new member of the family of those who seek to help the creative arts in this country in achieving their rightful role on the world stage.

I would like also to pay special tribute here to the real parent of this Committee. I refer to the United States Advisory Commission on Educational Exchange, which has also provided a distinguished chairman for your deliberations in the person of Dr. Rufus H. Fitzgerald.

Over the past several years, this Commission submitted a number of recommendations to the Secretary of State -- the first in 1952, the last in 1955 -- that a committee with special competence in the arts be appointed under authority granted by the Smith-Mundt Act -- which was and is the basic charter for the educational exchange program -- to appoint specialized committees.

For a number of reasons, some of which have never been entirely clear to me, no final action was taken.

I am certain there was no lack of interest among State Department officials in the cultural aspect of our international relations. From time to time when this legislation was under consideration, they renewed their assurances that an arts committee would be created.

Nevertheless, it seemed important to me that there should be specific provision in law for such a committee, and that the provision should not be discretionary.. The Senate bill was modified to include such a requirement; the same addition was made to the House bill by its sponsor, Representative Frank Thompson;

and the result may be seen in Section 10 of the International Cultural Exchange and Trade Participation Act of 1956. I am more convinced than ever of the wisdom of our including such a provision, under the broader frame of reference provided by this Act, and I trust the Department of State ~~now~~ shares ^{some} this opinion.
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Having mentioned a birth, I should like now -- reversing the usual progression -- to talk briefly about a marriage. I mean the marriage in this country between Government and the arts, a marriage which is to a degree symbolized by the Humphrey-Thompson ^{Ph 800} Act and the international program carried out under its authorization.

Of course, There are a few of our fellow citizens who have sought ~~to~~ ^{and} protest ~~the law~~ for this marriage, who believe sincerely that such partners cannot be compatible, and that such a union will inevitably founder on the rocks of undue control on the one side or the shoals of undue license on the other.

Shakespeare no doubt expressed what is in the minds of the first group of skeptics when he spoke of "Art made tongue-tied by authority." Coming nearer to the present, H.L. Mencken, in his book of essays appropriately entitled Prejudices, perhaps voiced the apprehension that has been expressed by the other side -- by a few people in the Congress ^{and possibly by some} ~~as well as~~ in the Executive Branch. He referred to artists as being "never Puritans, and seldom even ordinarily respectable." (I hasten to assert not only my own disagreement, but my belief that even Mencken would not have dared to say this in present company.)

For my part, I firmly believe ~~that~~ that this marriage can succeed. I would go further to say that if our country is to prosper in its culture and to assume a proper stature in the eyes of the ~~the~~ rest of the world, it must succeed. In many other democratic countries, governments have supported the arts to the mutual benefit of both parties. I am confident that the United States, though a latecomer to this particular relationship, can evolve the necessary formula for success.

Some of the ingredients are the same as are needed for any successful marriage, particularly when dissimilar partners are involved. One is patience -- on both sides. Artists are impatient of rules, while Government cannot exist without them. In their mutual cooperation, artists must be prepared to accept rules so long as they are reasonable, and Government to exercise proper caution so as not to constrict or stifle artistic creativity.

Again, in a program such as this one, the management of the budget -- like the management of the household budget -- is important. It was in order to further a proper financial partnership between Government and the arts, as well as to reduce the burden of cost on the taxpayer, that Public Law 860 provides that appropriated funds "are to be used, as far as possible, to contribute toward meeting expenses of activities effected through private channels and by private means," as well as that, "to the maximum extent feasible, private individuals and organizations shall be encouraged to make contributions of funds, property, and service..."

Finally, some married couples seek the guidance of a counsellor. The principal role of this Committee, in my judgment, is to act as just such a marriage counselor to the union of Government and the arts in the furtherance of our relations with other countries. I believe the beginnings of this cooperation have already proved highly successful in contributing to this end. I urge you to review the relationship carefully and to stand prepared to help it over any obstacles it may encounter.

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You have a real opportunity to break new ground. Yours is the first top level Federal Commission established by Congress in the field of the arts at home and abroad. You will work with a wide variety of responsible officials from the President on down.

It may interest you to know that I am joining Senator Fulbright in the Senate, and Congressman Thompson in the House, in introducing legislation ^{Thompson} ~~today~~ to ~~authorize~~ authorize the appointment of a Coordinator for Cultural and Technical Exchange, with the rank of an Assistant to the Secretary of State.

Many of you know that such a position was recommended in May, 1956, by Dr. J.L. Morrill, the president of the University of Minnesota, who is so vitally interested in this program. I am sure that Congressman Thompson, who intends to be with you tomorrow, will outline some of the other projects which are currently attracting Congressional interest in the arts and on which some of us are cooperating legislatively. — Brussels Fair

Meanwhile you can be sure that there are those on the Hill — *in Congress* — who will be watching your activities closely, not in the manner of some notorious Congressional investigating committees, but in quite the opposite manner — of intense interest, sympathy and support.

We will welcome your advice.

Congratulations to each of ~~you~~ ^{the} Commission members on

your appointment, and good luck in your challenging assignment.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOR THE PRESS

JANUARY 14, 1958

NO. 12

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS TO OPEN
2-DAY SESSION IN WASHINGTON
JANUARY 15 - 16, 1958
NEW STATE BUILDING,
21ST AND VIRGINIA AVENUES N.W.

The Advisory Committee on the Arts appointed by the Secretary of State, under the terms of the International Cultural Exchange and Trade Fair Participation Act of 1956, will meet at the State Department for a two-day session to inaugurate its duties.

The members of the Committee will take their oath of office at 9:40 A.M. Wednesday January 15, and will be greeted by Secretary Dulles at the opening session.

The Committee, under the chairmanship of Rufus H. Fitzgerald, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Pittsburgh, will devote its first sessions to receiving a general briefing concerning international programs in the arts sponsored or assisted by the United States Government. On the basis of such information they will conduct their subsequent evaluations of the effectiveness and the adequacy of these programs.

Members of the Committee in addition to Dr. Fitzgerald are:

Gilmore Clarke, Architect
Sumner McKnight Crosby, Art Historian
LaMar Dodd, Artist and Art Educator
Thor Johnson, Musician
James Albert Michener, Author

Robert Montgomery, Actor
and Television
Executive
George Lloyd Murphy,
Actor, and Motion
Picture Executive
Charles Nagel, Art Museum
Director
Mrs. Helen Crocker Russell,
Civic Leader and Art
Patron

The Wednesday and Thursday program will include addresses by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey and Representative Frank Thompson, authors of the aforementioned legislation, by Dr. Thurston J. Davies, Executive Director of the Office of the United States Commissioner General for the Brussels Fair, Mr. Robert V. Dowling, Chairman, Board of Directors, American National Theater and Academy, Andrew H. Berding, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Donald B. Cook, Staff Director, Departmental Staff of the United States Advisory Commission on Educational Exchange, E. Allan Lightner, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Russell L. Riley, Director, International Educational Exchange Service, The Honorable George V. Allen, Director, United States Information Agency, and Thomas Beggs, Director, National Collection of Fine Arts.

The purpose

The purpose of the International Cultural Exchange and Trade Fair Participation Act "is to strengthen ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States, and the contributions being made by the United States economic and social system toward a peaceful and more fruitful life for its own people and other people throughout the world; and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." It provides for appointment of an advisory committee on the arts to advise and assist the President and Government Departments and Agencies in the conduct of the cultural program authorized by this Act and -- with special reference to the role of the arts -- in other international cultural activities.

The Committee members were selected, under terms of the Act, for their experience or interest in one or more of the arts.

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State--FD, Wash., D. C.



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