

Full Fund for Arts Is Sought by Nixon

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 15—In a time of economic stringency, when many Government budget requests are likely to be cut back, President Nixon has decided to ask Congress to appropriate the full authorized \$60-million for the National Arts and Humanities Endowments in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Administration officials confirmed today that in making this decision the President was affirming a policy of such a policy in a special message to Congress in December, 1969, but did so, these officials said,

Continued on Page 17, Column 1

Nixon to Seek Full \$60-Million To Assist Endowments in Arts

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

with a certain tentativeness.

This year's decision, which will be reflected in his Budget Message to Congress in several weeks, was described by one official as one of the most significant he is making this year in his budget deliberations. This was said to be because it was now fixed Government policy "to provide consistent, substantial support in a partnership that avoids Government domination and encourages institutional and artistic independence."

Dissemination of Art

The President's hope, it was said, was that an increase in the appropriation would lead to a continuing rise in the dissemination of art and humane knowledge throughout the country. He is also said to hope that young people would be brought into greater involvement with the arts and humanities.

Whether Congress will vote the full \$60-million remains to be seen. But Administration officials are convinced that a bipartisan consensus in favor of raising the fund for the arts and humanities endowments has been established in Congress.

Last year, following the President's recommendation, Congress voted a three-year authorization for both endowments that provided for \$40-million in fiscal 1971, \$60-million in fiscal 1972 and \$80-million in fiscal 1973. More than 100 members of the House, who in the past had opposed Government support of the arts and humanities, reversed themselves to support the bill.

The actual appropriation for fiscal 1971, after Congress got through making some cuts, was \$15,090,000 for the arts endowment and \$13,560,000 for the humanities endowment.

In expressing their optimism that Congress would go along with the President's budget recommendation, Administration officials pointed out that in previous years much smaller budget requests for the two endowments had been slashed 40 per cent.

Nationwide Partnership

Asked whether the newly formed, nationwide partnership in the arts, headed by Amvas Ames, chairman of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and of the New York Philharmonic, had influenced the President with its campaign for annual Government support of \$200-million for the arts, an Administration aide observed that Mr. Ames had urged that the first step be approval of the full authorization for fiscal 1972.

Nancy Hanks, chairman of

the National Arts Council, said she was "ecstatic" at the President's decision to ask for \$30-million for the arts endowment. Wallace B. Edgerton, acting chairman of the humanities endowment, also expressed his pleasure at the potential for good programs that \$30-million would make for his endowment.

Both chairmen outlined some of the new and enlarged programs their endowments would be able to undertake if the increased appropriations were voted.

Miss Hanks said that \$5.5-million would be used for direct distribution among the states. The amount granted to state arts councils or commissions would rise from \$75,000 each, the maximum in fiscal 1971, to \$100,000. She added that she could not stress sufficiently the importance and value of this direct encouragement of local initiative.

Tours to Be Enlarged

Touring programs will be enlarged. Modern-dance companies will be sent out in increasing numbers, and three major ballet companies—the New York City, the Joffrey and the American—will be helped to make trips that will reduce exhausting and expensive one-night stands.

More than \$3.5-million will be allocated for help to 73 major and metropolitan orchestras in 38 states. In addition, 29 resident theaters in 18 states will be aided. Assistance to museums, at \$1-million in fiscal 1971, will be increased. Opera and choral institutions will receive substantial assistance for the first time.

A jazz program, started this year, will be broadened. Programs to aid creative artists will be pursued in music, drama, dance, literature, films, architecture and folk arts. A special effort will be made to aid artistic development in neighborhood, inner-city, minority groups.

The humanities endowment under Mr. Edgerton has as its target the two-thirds of the nation that are not in school. It has begun to send out humanities teams, comprising academic men and performers, into small towns where two-day sessions three times a year are held on such themes as justice, the creative process and the media.

The endowment intends to work more intensively in the field of minorities. It will broaden its fellowship program, and it will continue its support of institutions to encourage them to teach the humanities in improved ways.

The endowment will also offer help to state and local historical associations, and will continue its support of museums of history and science.