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In the Morning Mail

Endow the Trinity Players

Much has been written concerning federal funds for a theater to provide performances of classical drama for our school children. At first glance this appears to be a great boon to the state to be received with enthusiasm. However, as we read more about this proposed project, it appears if not analyzed thoroughly, the opposite effect might occur. Rather than helping the theatrical balance, it might wound if not actually destroy the existing repertory theater in this state.

The various newspaper articles indicate that the federal funds provided will actually subsidize a theatrical group from outside the community. Where this group will be formed we do not know. It seems that the only local interest will be to provide a suitable theater for this group. Somehow, this does not seem to make sense. It would imply that we had no existing repertory theater here to assume this function. Indeed, we have the Trinity Repertory Theater in our community. It is a full grown, professional dramatic company, of which Rhode Island must be very proud.

In the short period of its existence, it has presented a varied fare of dramatic literature to be an artistic contribution to any community. Working along with a professional staff, local people have worked hard with great dedication and intelligence to help establish a firm foundation for this theater. The Trinity Theater is acknowledged as

one of the best repertory theaters on the East coast. The Providence Journal need only refer to its own coverage of the theater's activities to confirm this. To further establish its commitments to the community, Trinity Theater spent last summer at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston to work as a professional group in an academic community. Their efforts brought activity, enlightenment and dialogue to a state campus where students were involved in the discussions provided by plays such as "Rhinoceros" and "Dutchman."

Now, if we have this amazing group in our community directed by the most dedicated of artistic individuals, Mr. Adrian Hall, and if this group could present plays for the

community's school children as demonstrated by their production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," then why shouldn't this group receive federal funds to do so? What this community lacks now is certainly not another repertory theater, but rather funds for the existing institution. It is no secret, like many other theaters of its type, Trinity is also in need of funds. It cannot be any more self-supporting than the community's libraries or museums. Certainly if Trinity were to receive such funds to establish a program for the school children it might find its present house too small. But, this is a problem of quarters. Many solutions are available if larger seating were required. If the climate is right for a fully developed theater, the problems of real estate are of least importance. Brick and

mortar can never balance artistic integrity, taste and dedication. We have all witnessed productions of such mediocrity in the great entertainment halls. To see "A Long Day's Journey Into Night" in this little theater, housed in a church building, is to see artistry at its best. Perhaps Representative Fogarty, who was so instrumental in getting this grant from the National Endowment for the Arts Committee might consider the theater existing now in his community as the artistic vehicle for making great drama available to all the residents of the community, school children and adults.

Federal funds to provide good drama for school children is an excellent idea and no theatrical company could be more qualified to present this program than our own Trinity Repertory Theater.

Morris Nathanson

Harmony



Prov. Journal - March 2, 1966