

# The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

## JOHN HIGHTOWER

Washington, D.C.      April 25, 1970

John B. Hightower, who becomes Director of The Museum of Modern Art on May 1, has been Executive Director of the New York State Council on the Arts since 1964. During his tenure, the Council dramatically increased its efforts in support of the arts with the addition of such new projects as the Film Program, the Poets and Writers Program, the inclusion of a children's theater in the Touring Program, the Museum Aid Program, the Ghetto Arts Program, and the Festival Program.

Under his directorship the Council also helped the American Dance Theater become a permanent repertory company for modern dance, contributed to the first Buffalo Festival of the Arts Today and initiated "Summer on Wheels," which sent mobile units in theater, dance, jazz, film and puppetry to upstate New York communities. The Council was formed in 1960-61 with the first appropriation of \$450,000 being granted the following year by the New York State Legislature. By 1968-69 this appropriation had risen to \$2,491,861 and by 1969-70 it had been increased to \$20,000,000.

Mr. Hightower was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1933. After graduation from Yale University in 1955, he served for two years in the U.S. Marine Corps. From 1957 to 1961, he was in an executive training post at the First National City Bank. In 1961, he went to the American Heritage Publishing Company as general assistant to the President and Publisher.

Mr. Hightower has been a frequent advisor to the arts councils throughout the United States. He was Chairman of the State Planning Panel of the Associated Councils on the Arts which led to the formation of an international assembly of arts councils, The North American Assembly of State and Provincial Art Agencies.

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Recently Mr. Hightower was the United States representative to the UNESCO Seminar on the Performing Arts held in Canberra, Australia.

Mr. Hightower was cultural advisor to the Presidential Latin American Commission headed by Governor Rockefeller last summer. He is also a director of the MacDowell Colony, an Honorary Member of the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, a member of the M.I.T. Commission to Survey the Arts and a member of the Century Club, New York City.

Mr. Hightower is married to the former Caroline Warner. They have two children and live in New York City.

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Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. (212) 956 - 7501.

During the Meeting: Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.