

OLDER AMERICANS IN RURAL AREAS

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
UNITED STATES SENATE
NINETY-FIRST CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

PART 7—EMMETT, IDAHO

FEBRUARY 24, 1970



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OLDER AMERICANS IN RURAL AREAS

(Emmett, Idaho)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1970

U.S. SENATE,
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING,
Emmett, Idaho.

The committee met at 9:45 a.m., pursuant to call, at the Senior Citizens Center, 118 North Hayes Street, Emmett, Idaho, Senator Frank Church presiding.

Present: Senator Frank Church.

Staff members present: Mr. David Affeldt, counsel, and Mr. Thomas Patton, minority staff.

OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR FRANK CHURCH, PRESIDING

Senator CHURCH. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. First of all I want to thank all of you for coming out to this hearing. I know it's going to be a very constructive and helpful hearing to the Special Committee on the Aging, of which I am a member. Before we begin our proceedings, I'd like to introduce a few people that I think you should know, because many of you have had dealings with them and others of you will no doubt have occasion to do business with them in the future.

These are the ladies who came with me who are on my staff. First of all I want you to meet Mrs. Verda Barnes who is my administrative assistant. She's the chief of staff, really, of my office in Washington, but she is familiar to many of the people in Idaho; she comes from eastern Idaho in the Idaho Falls area, and many of you know her. She is the most able administrative assistant in Washington today. Verda Barnes.

Then in my Boise office, I maintain as you know, all the year around, an office here in Idaho, and there are two young ladies in charge of that office. The one sitting next to Verda Barnes is Miss Patsy Young. Patsy, would you stand up? And the other is in charge of the loud speaker system here this morning, and that's Mrs. Clareene Wharry.

Now, there are two staff members of the Senate committee, the Special Committee on Aging, who are here. Mr. David Affeldt and Tom Patton. They are assisting me here at the table.

To begin today's proceedings, I will say that few sites could be more appropriate for a hearing by the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging.

This center has come into being because the people of Emmett—and its neighboring communities—wanted an instrument for enriching the lives of the elderly in this region.

The spark for change was local. The means for change came, in part, from certain Federal programs—but only when those programs made sense. When, as a matter of fact, they did not get in the way.

And so the Committee on Aging wants your testimony for our hearing record. Your example may well be helpful to other communities, and it will certainly be instructive to the Congress. Seeking out facts in the field, I might add, is in the tradition of the Committee on Aging. We on the committee must have firsthand information if we are to fulfill our function—which is to alert the Senate about problems affecting the elderly, and to make recommendations for dealing with those problems.

Here, in Emmett, the committee is continuing its study of Older Americans in Rural Areas. Already, testimony has been taken in Iowa, Kentucky, Indiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS

Our witnesses have already told us about many problems, such as:

Generally inadequate social security benefit levels, particularly because of low earnings during the work lifetime of a beneficiary or because of limited coverage.

Inability of counties or communities to provide badly needed services because of relatively small tax bases.

The migration of younger people to urban centers, increasing the percentage of the elderly in rural areas. In Iowa, for example, several counties have more than 30 percent of their total population of age 65 and over.

The general problems of isolation and loneliness; increases in property tax assessments; and many problems related to housing.

If we dealt only with problems in this study, however, we would overlook what is one of the most significant resources available to the elderly in rural areas.

That resource is a spirit of sturdy self-direction. It may not be limited to the farms and small towns of this Nation, but it certainly flourishes there. For the elderly—who have nurtured self-reliance for the greater part of their lifetime—the later years in life should not be years in which that spirit is threatened.

For that reason, I am very much heartened by the examples given at earlier hearings about federally-assisted projects which make good use of this resource. This morning we will hear about several such efforts, made possible by the Older Americans Act and the Economic Opportunity Act. I supported both pieces of legislation, but I think that both are in need of continuing revision, based on practical experience. This afternoon, in Boise, we will continue our hearings and inquire into other programs that work—or should work—for our elders in rural regions.

As the guest of the members of this center, the committee will hear first from several persons who have a great deal to do with its success. Mrs. Evelyn Russell, would you introduce the first panel of witnesses to get the hearing underway? Mrs. Russell.

Mrs. RUSSELL. I'd like to introduce Mr. Paul Owens of Eagle, Idaho; he will come forward and sit at the table. Mrs. Evelyn Wright of Payette, Idaho, Mr. Fred Korup of Weiser, Idaho, Mr. Blanchard Morgan of Emmett, Idaho, Lillian Bornhorst and George Smith. Our first witness is Mr. Paul Owens; he will talk about our people in rural areas in Idaho.

STATEMENT OF PAUL OWENS, EAGLE, IDAHO

Mr. OWENS. I don't want to hog the whole deal here, but I just thought of three things the older people need. One is companionship; the second, nutrition, and work to do—and this gets into all the rest of them—but these people mean so much to me that it's a little hard not to be emotional when I talk about you, because so many of you have lived lives very similar to my own. We are products of the Middle West, many of us came out here because of the Dust Bowl or some other reason. There are a few people that were born here, believe it or not. Senator Church happened to be. I don't know whether anyone else in this room was or not, but I knew him when he was a boy in Boise, of course. We didn't know he was going to grow up to be one of the greatest men in the country. Anyway, these older people have done the hard work. They have harvested the timber; they did some mining; they have run the mills; they have milked the cows; they have picked the fruit and they built the churches and schools and raised tremendous families and nothing is too good for these people for the years that they have left.

FINDING COMPANIONSHIP

Now, I have been very fortunate to have worked with this program and with the W.I.C.A.P. This has been a tremendous privilege to me. So many of the people sitting here I know very personally. I know which town they are from and even know which one of the old widows they are making eyes at. This is one of the wonderful things about these people getting together—they do find companionship and some of them find partners and this is the thing that keeps them around longer and happier and I think it's a lot cheaper to maintain the well horse than the sick one. This bunch right here are about the happiest bunch of people that you will find in the whole community. You just couldn't sort out a group of people like the senior citizens that have been working in this program and find as many happy people. The lady that came up here with her sick legs just a minute ago, that gal dances with me on this floor. She complains that she can't dance, but she does, and this is why I think the program should be maintained, Frank, and expanded if possible, so that more of these people, and many people we are not touching could be here in these meetings and in the other communities. There's no reason why every community in the valley shouldn't have as strong or stronger program than we have in Emmett, and the small towns in the country need the same thing and it will be a little more expensive to service a smaller group, but I think it's important that it be done.

Senator CHURCH. Paul, may I ask you just one question? You knew the situation before these programs were undertaken. You have been

close to the program and you have watched the situation develop since. Do you think the program has helped to improve the morale and helped the quality of life for the older people in this area?

Mr. OWENS. I could tell you some stories, and probably shouldn't here, because it's about some of the people here, but I think some of the human interest stories that have come out of this program are tremendous ones, and somebody should read them, but they are too close to home for us. Very great, the things it has done for our people.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Paul. Who is next on the panel?

Mrs. RUSSELL. The next one is Mrs. Evelyn Wright from Payette, and she is going to talk about our nutrition program.

STATEMENT OF MRS. EVELYN WRIGHT, PAYETTE, IDAHO

Mrs. WRIGHT. Thank you.

First, let me say in this nutrition, before I get into that, you would be really surprised to see the manner of dress and the hairdo and the sparkle in the eye, you might say, that has come into these people since they have been in these programs. And it's wonderful to see. There are people that get out that never would not have come out otherwise.

I heard a story the other day about this lady that was put in a rest home. She had to be spoon fed. They even had to massage her throat to get her to swallow and now, I'm happy to say that she is eating on her own and doing very well. She has become something more than you might say a vegetable.

Well, nutrition is very important to all of us. We are a big country, and yet, there are so many that are low in their nutrition. We need dairy foods, which Idaho has plenty of and we need the meat. That's another product from Idaho. And we have lots of fruit and vegetables and the breads and cereals and nuts all go along with these things. And these all make for better nutrition. And these meals—well, while they are nutritious, they come for better companionship. A lot of them come to these meals, maybe they'll come a half an hour or an hour before the meal just to visit. And it makes better eating habits, which I think, I, myself am guilty of not eating what I should every once in a while. Oh, just something to look forward to and be interested in, and it gives you an interest in other people.

Senator CHURCH. Mrs. Wright, for the record, could you spell out just how the meals are prepared and where they are served and where the food comes from, so we will have it in the record of the proceedings?

Mrs. WRIGHT. Well, a lot of food is donated in a lot of places. And the people go out and they pick fruit and will can it. They get the vegetables and they will can those. I can't think of any more in that direction, other than these older people are doing this. They are not asking for anybody else to do this for them.

Senator CHURCH. And are the meals served right here?

Mrs. WRIGHT. The meals are served and they are cooked by these cooks here and the tables are set up real neat in a very attractive manner.

Senator CHURCH. How often are the meals served?

Mrs. WRIGHT. Payette has them once a week and I think Emmett here has them three times a week.

MOBILE MEAL SERVICE

Senator CHURCH. What about elderly people who are unable to come into the Center to eat. Is there any program to reach them?

Mrs. WRIGHT. Yes, they have a service that goes out. People volunteer sometimes. Sometimes they will take the bus and go out and gather these people in around and bring them to the Center and take them home.

Senator CHURCH. This has been one of the most difficult parts of these programs, is the transportation problem.

Mrs. WRIGHT. That's right.

Senator CHURCH. And we are very happy to get the testimony on that, because I think here in this community that problem has been better solved than in most any other place I know. So we will hear some special testimony on that. Is there anything else you would like to add, Mrs. Wright?

Mrs. WRIGHT. I can't think of anything else.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much.

Mrs. RUSSELL. Our next one is Lillian Bornhorst, and I think she will get down to when she was an invalid for a period of months and had meals served to her home. Lillian.

STATEMENT OF LILLIAN BORNHORST

Mrs. BORNHORST. Yes, I did. Here in Emmett we serve our meals three times a week, on Wednesdays and Thursdays and Fridays. This week is an exception, of course. And we also have a mobile meal program where meals are taken to people who cannot come to the Center. The meals are set up here on trays and they are taken to them. We have two cooks here. They work on a salary. They are paid for 12 hours of work a week, 4 hours a day, three times a week. They don't work that much; I mean they work nearer 48 hours a week than they do 12. They come the night before and they work. They come early in the morning and they leave late in the afternoon. They have help in preparing the food; they have help in setting the tables and in clearing off and washing the dishes afterwards. That is all volunteer help and nobody is paid for it, and they serve meals that are nutritious and they are well balanced and they were well received, very well received.

The nutritional needs of our old people are quite similar to those of the very young. They need vitamins and minerals, the same as we do, but so many of us live alone. Our husbands or wives have gone, the families have scattered and we just simply will not prepare a balanced meal for ourself. I'll take a glass of milk and eat some crackers rather than cook something.

Senator CHURCH. I know that's the way with my own mother. When I was growing up and the family was there she was a great cook, but now she cooks less and less for herself. She is just falling out of the habit.

Mrs. BORNHORST. When we cook something, we don't feel like sitting down and eating it because we are alone.

Senator CHURCH. Sure.

MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO EAT

Mrs. BORNHORST. And it's no fun to eat anything alone. When I cook it ends up in the freezer and eventually is thrown out. This place serves not just simply as a place to eat. We come in here—I've noticed people so many times, they lived back—and I did it. I lived alone, I got into a shell and the longer I stayed there the tighter the shell got and the more difficult it was to get out. Pretty soon they come in here and they blossom out, they come out of that shell and they make new friends.

You read these quizzes that are in magazines. I took one some time ago. There was one question that interested me particularly. It said: Have you made one new friend this year? And when I went back to the answers, it said if the answer is yes, you can say that your life is successful. Well, this is ridiculous. We make dozens of new friends, and not only make new friends, but we meet old acquaintances we haven't seen in years and years. And it's a very good program, people come out and they enjoy each other. We have activity and meals here. We not only come early, we stay late. And we play games or sit and visit or we can bring our sewing and quilts, do all sorts of things. And I think that's about all I have.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much.

Mrs. RUSSELL. The next witness is Mr. Blanchard Morgan. He was on the very beginning of the program in Emmett when we started the program with no money and lots of hard work.

Senator CHURCH. We are very happy to welcome you, Mr. Morgan.

STATEMENT OF BLANCHARD MORGAN

Mr. MORGAN. Honorable Senator Church and people. We started this with nothing as Mrs. Russell has stated, and we had one free hot meal a week. We started up there in the Community Center at the corner of 3d and Johns and Mrs. Russell was the director of the Community Center at that time. We all got in and worked and I remember she called me one afternoon and asked me if I would help her the next morning, and I said: What do you want help with? She said: I am going out to solicit food. Well, we started out the next morning. We were not turned down anywhere and we were treated very well. But Mrs. Russell had her sights set a lot higher than I did. I thought a few chickens would be a gracious gift, but she was asking for a beef to butcher.

As we went to various places where they might have such a gift to give we were told various things, but basically I didn't actually expect anybody to give us \$300 or more in one lump. That's a lot of money. But we went to this one place and I thought they might set the dog on us or something like that, and finally we were at the door and no one answered and pretty soon a lady called and we looked and here was the lady out in the shed and she came out and introduced herself and Mrs. Russell told her what our purpose was and she said: "Well, we don't have any beef ready to go, but I'll donate three ewes." Well, that's a pretty good start, you know.

We had gone to various places inquiring on the price of beef, and it was all about 50 or 60 cents a pound for a half beef. We got down

here to Crown Custom Pack, who is no longer in business, and he said: "Well, folks, I'm not in a position to give you a beef or half of one or anything of that kind, but if you find a live beef, you bring it in, I will dress it, cut it and wrap it and sharp freeze it for you." Well, that's about \$40 worth. And that's the way we were treated everywhere we went.

JUST KEPT GROWING

And then I would come in some Tuesday morning up there and somebody would say: What are we going to have for meat Thursday? Well, there were a few times we were pretty desperate, so I would dash out to Carroll's poultry farm and for each dollar you spent to buy eggs or milk they gave you a stewing Leghorn hen. Sometimes they are pretty thin, but they do. So, I'd get in my car and drive out there and tell them our problem and Mr. Carroll would say: "Well, come on out here." And we'd go out to the place where they had the stewing hens separated and he'd catch 15 and tie their feet together and put them in the trunk of my car, and I'd go home and start picking feathers and insides and we had something to eat on Thursday. We had meat. So, that's the way we started with all of this and it just kept growing from a little beginning and gradually bigger.

I have heard the remarks here amongst our senior citizens and having been with them this long, I know it's not a joke, even though we make it such, that we ate beef tongue, liver and ox-tail for so long we thought that was all the critter had. But we have survived and come through it all, and now we are fortunate enough to have this beautiful place to meet, a piano for music. We have a few amongst us who can play the piano and once in a while we have a get together and maybe we don't plan on it, but we have a dance. And like Mr. Owens told you about this lady. It is surprising what they can do when the music starts.

It's all been very exciting to me. I was home alone, very unhappy, and I can name you many others that were the same way. And some of them didn't come out for one reason or another, and we find that in some instances the men are harder to pry loose than the women. The women seem to be more inclined to get out and get with people and things like that, but if we get the man out here once, or the woman, either, there are very few instances they haven't come back willingly by themselves. And these other things they do like making quilts and making a sofa pillow and things like that, and they have accumulated a few dollars with raffling and so on and everybody is busy and to me the program deserves a very high success rating. We have all struggled hard. Sometimes we have perhaps given something, and I don't think there has been one of us that doesn't have a keen interest in the program.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Senator CHURCH. Mr. Morgan; I think that testimony is very helpful for putting us in perspective. You have given us a little history of the origin, back at the time when it was entirely undertaken on a volunteer basis. Now you get some Federal help on the food.

Mr. MORGAN. Yes, I didn't go into that.

Senator CHURCH. And that has enabled or made possible, has it not, to enlarge the program, to give many more than one meal a week?

Mr. MORGAN. We receive about 18 cents a meal grant. The rest of it is donated and our group has been active each fall in harvesting fruit that perhaps would have gone to waste. In fact, I know most of it would have. They have picked tomatoes, they have canned fruit and they have done various things to help our organization. In the beginning we didn't even have 18 cents a meal. We are very, very appreciative of that, and if there is somebody in the room that cooks for a group that knows what it costs to prepare a meal, I am sure 18 cents wouldn't go very far.

Senator CHURCH. The instructive point here, as far as I am concerned, is how—if you have a program that's good and people participate and want it, then a little bit of public money, a little bit of Government money can be matched with local effort and so much is achieved. I can't help but contrast it with the kind of money that is being spent for, well, for weapons, for example, or military equipment, where I know the Government has to spend two or three times as much to buy an item as you could obtain it if you were buying it privately. This is a type of racket. But here we have a program that people support, a program that helps people, and there is a great deal of local cooperation, local volunteer effort. This 18 cents a meal with the volunteer help that goes with it make for a very successful program, as this one has for many people. Now that is really making the money go a long ways. And so it means to me that these programs work if they have local support and if they are tuned to the needs of the people in the community.

Mr. MORGAN. If you would go through the group, we have representatives here from at least five counties that I saw this morning. I think if you would go through them and take each one separately and ask them to tell you something about the program, what they get out of it, let's put it that way, what each one gets out of it, they probably would rather tell you what they see someone else get out of it rather than what they get out of it. They are not people that go around blowing their horn, well I get this and I get that, because they have been through the mill and they know what goes on in the world, and they are not green, that just walked out yesterday and started rubbing the sharp corners off. These are people that have been around a lot. They have operated the sawmills, each one his own little spokesman, and they have operated many things no doubt. We have real estate salesmen amongst us that have been in that some time in their life. They have done everything. I don't think there's anything missing here—bookkeepers, the works. We're all here. So when you get us all together and we start working for a common cause we can do a lot of good here. And we call on a lot of experienced resources, and perhaps there is more we could do if we had the opportunity and in some areas they take over citizens or whatever you wish to call them, and they organize pools of people who are retired in different lines of work and if some man who has a special job wants a week or a month off they get in there and get a man out of there to take his place, and there's a lot of good in us, but the employer can't use us any more.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, very much, Mr. Morgan. Who is next on our panel?

Mrs. RUSSELL. Our next one is Mr. Fred Korup, and he is going to talk about our Senior Citizens A-Go-Go, our transportation program.

STATEMENT OF FRED KORUP

Mr. KORUP. First I want to say, Senator Frank, it's a pleasure to have you amongst us, and also, in behalf of all of these senior citizens, I wish to say that you have endeared yourself in their hearts tremendously, because we all know that you have spent many efforts in trying to help us and get to the right place.

Second, I want to say if you smell the aroma of turkey, I've been out in the kitchen rolling in it.

SENIORS A-Go-Go

My topic is transportation. I've been in the program for about a year and a half, and when we first started our program our transportation was volunteer service. People that we asked to help us bring these people to us, and people that we—our own individual self, we would get them into our dinners. Through the efforts of our wonderful friend, Evelyn Russell, we were given a school bus. And with this school bus, we give our seniors something wonderful to look at and look to. We have gone all around Idaho looking at the points of interest.

We've been to Hells Canyon, we've been to Davidson's flower garden, we've been to Silver City, we've been down to the Job Corps center down here, and this is something tremendous, due to the fact, as you know, a lot of these older folks have not been out of Weiser, or out of Emmett or any place for years. Only when they probably come to the place. But now we give them a chance to get out and see the wonderful things that our community is doing and the progress that we are making.

We have three meals a week in our Washington County Center and we have what we call Out-reach. These are the people that have no transportation, these are the people that can't get out unless they have help, so we use our bus to go and bring them in for our Friday meals. And this is something wonderful because we are getting to people that have to be gotten. And I am very well pleased with the progress that we have had in our transportation in our area. On a Friday afternoon every week when we go out and get those who can't pay their bills and can't go see the doctor or can't go to the drugstore, we leave them off in a place that is centerly located and they go out and they pay their bills and they go see the doctor and they get around and gab with people around and then we take them home with their groceries and one thing. And this is something else that has done a tremendous job towards giving them something that they needed in all this time.

I'm very sorry Evelyn didn't give me a very big topic to talk about because I could talk for 4 or 5 days on this situation. I am very much sold on the program. I love each and every one of my seniors. They are the most wonderful people that ever lived, and if these younger people just realized that someday they are going to

be where we are right now. So, all in all this program has done so much for our senior people.

Now, we have gone on record down in Washington County, and I think Emmett and Payette, too, that this word poor is not known to them. They are just low income people. And I think this is wonderful, because it don't work that way. One fellow says to me, well, how come that this fellow is out here living off of you fellows and eating off of you fellows. He should have his money now and set up, he's at the age of 65 or 70. I said, you know, mister, that sickness and a lot of things will take place that we never foresee, and this is something that we never know what's going to happen to us, and it's just something that does. So, with that, I think I'll sign off at this time.

Senator CHURCH. Fred, you emphasized the busing and how important that is in making it possible for people who have no transportation.

Mr. KORUP. That's right.

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Senator CHURCH. And it also brings them together. You know, in a way, that is what is really lacking in this country when you live in a big city like I have to. I have to live in Washington 9 months out of the year because of the sessions of the Congress, and the thing that strikes me about big city life is that it is becoming so atomized. There is no community feeling, there is no neighborhood feelings. People live in high rise apartments, they don't know one another, even next door. They go to work, they go down in the elevator, they get in a car, they are in their own separate compartment going to the office, they go up another elevator into their office and they live in such a manner that there is less and less community feeling. And this is one of the reasons that there is so much trouble in the cities, people hardly know each other any more. I think one of the great things that can come from this type of program is that it brings people together. It gives the sense of community, which I think is necessary to happiness.

Mr. KORUP. We all know that when we become older one of the two of us is going to go, that leaves the other one. Well in most instances, and I think everybody here will tell you, that when one is left they stay home, they are in a shell. Our senior citizens have brought them out. Our senior citizens have brought them—why there is a man here that is in the crowd, that his wife passed away, and we've got him in our senior group and he is one of the best seniors that we have got. He has worked in EMPACT, he was worked in everything. And this is something that has brought our seniors socially together. It's what they need, somebody to talk to. We don't care if they want to tell what they have done 40 or 50 years ago. This is something they like to tell about. The fact of the matter is, we have got a school ma'am in here, our senior center director, that has taken notes on the oldtime goings-on, you know what I mean, what happened years ago. When anybody starts talking about 50 years ago she is up with a paper, pencil, and paper. Stand up Fern, let them see you. There you are.

Senator CHURCH. Thanks, Fred, very much.

Mrs. RUSSELL. Our next witness is George Smith, and he drives the bus for Emmett. George.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE SMITH

Mr. SMITH. I drive the bus and I am proud of the bus. I want to ask you one question. I want you to look at this crowd and see what you see. I take these people on the bus, to Idaho City, Silver City, Lewiston, McCall Lake, and you can fill that bus full and you have got a happy people. They live in their homes, they love their four walls, no place to go, no way to go, and that bus furnishes it. When you get on the bus you look up and there is a mirror, one of the prettiest mirrors you ever looked at, that's the picture, people going somewhere that couldn't go. To me, these people have that privilege, to let them ride. They didn't have any way to go, and they like to go. They looked at the walls and they couldn't get out. You've created something, given them some place to go. They want people to talk to. They want to visit with them. They need companions. To me that bus is like the Cadillac you have. You take the Cadillac away, he's grounded. As senior citizens, you take our bus away, it's the same thing. To leave one satellite on the ground, to leave one \$3 billion plane on the ground don't mean as much to the United States as the transportation does to the older folks. Take the President's plane away, he'd have to stay on the weekends sometimes. But he can take his plane and go where he pleases, he will have a wonderful weekend in Florida, or have a wonderful weekend in California or somewhere else.

NO WEEKENDS WITHOUT A BUS

But our senior citizens, you take our bus away we've got no weekends nowhere. Of course we've got an old bus, holds about 40 people, and you look in that bus and you see a happy people. And I want to issue a challenge to anybody from our President down to the bottom, to ride that bus one day and look at the people, and he won't go back to Washington. Thank you.

Mr. RUSSELL. Senator Church, I would like to make a statement on Mr. Smith. When he was first hired as our bus driver he didn't believe too much in the program, but the darndest things happen, you wouldn't believe it.

Senator CHURCH. George, you were a good one to climax the panel because you left me without even a question to ask.

Mr. SMITH. I get to thinking about these people, and I have neighbors there in their house who can't drive a car, they don't have a car, and no way to go unless they get somebody to take them or ride the senior citizens bus. And without this bus we haven't got anything.

Mr. KORUP. May I say something, Senator Frank?

Senator CHURCH. Sure.

Mr. KORUP. I wish you could hear those seniors sing when they are coming home or going some place on this bus. This is something else. This is something wonderful. I used to be a pretty good singer and I tried to lead them, but they got me beat all to pieces.

Then, another thing I'd like to say, and I'm talking about our own particular county, we have a wonderful person there that is connected

with the newspaper down there that helps us take pictures of our seniors at their golden wedding anniversaries, any special thing, and she puts every darn thing we do and it's right in the paper. And I'd like to introduce Kathy Simpson to this crowd, that does a wonderful job for our Weiser seniors. Kathy, stand up.

Mr. SMITH. I would like to add one thing. We made one trip and this one guy went on that trip from here to Lewiston. We went up there late in the afternoon and we had a potluck supper. He and his girl friend and me and my wife. We sat down to the same table, and he said: I've got to see a doctor. So I went to the center up there, tried to locate the one in charge and told him what our trouble was, and in a few minutes we had the hospital and he had to be operated on before we could leave. I know that we have had people that felt bad on our trips, but we have never had a complaint, neither did he complain. And I don't think, if he was to do it over again, if he thought he might get sick, I don't think he would stay at home.

A COMMUNITY ACTION

Senator CHURCH. Well, I want to thank you panelists very much for your contribution here.

You know, very frequently I am asked, challenged, really, by constituents why I supported these programs. They'll say, you're in favor of socialism. And I really think they are ill informed because there is nothing about a program of this kind that isn't in the best traditions of what we want to stand for as a people, you know, and this is a community action. And it's serving a need, and it's costing us, if you compare how much it is costing the Federal Government to support all of these programs, it's not a drop in the bucket to what we are spending for armaments, flights to the moon and unnecessary tragic warfare in distant countries on the opposite side of the globe. And just think of the money that is wasted, and yet that kind of expenditure is never criticized. If anybody says that's an extravagance, that's always accepted, you know, completely right, unquestionable. But programs of this kind are the first ones that come under fire. I don't understand why that is, but it seems to be the case. That's why I think it's important that we get this kind of testimony on the record from people who know, from people who are actually participating, from people who are affected, because the criticism, I find, comes largely from people who don't know.

Mrs. WRIGHT. Senator Church, you take these programs, I know they are expensive, but what if all these people were in homes and the State had to take care of them. There is another big expense. And I fully believe in this program myself that a happy people will live longer and be less ill if they are happy.

Senator CHURCH. I am sure that's so, and in the end the program might very well develop from that savings.

Mr. SMITH. May I say something?

Senator CHURCH. Yes.

Mr. SMITH. Some people want to do away with this program. They say it is expensive. This program is one of the least inexpensive programs that they have. They will appropriate money to build this and build that. They will pay \$250 for a \$2.50 bolt and that's not extravagant. And if that is not true, the paper and the press is wrong,

because it came out that there were a bunch of parts they paid \$250 each for and they found out the actual cost was \$2.50. That's not extravagant.

Senator CHURCH. Yes, that's been one of the burdens of the military program. You know the overruns on weapons have gone into the billions. I think in the last few years just for new weapons we spent \$20 billion and more than we anticipated the cost at the time that the weapon systems were authorized. This is the way the cost has been going in systems were authorized. This is the way the cost has been going in the military. I think that for every dollar invested in this kind of a program, I think we are certainly getting our money's worth, as compared to other expenditures.

Now, Evelyn, do you have something to say?

SO INVOLVED, NO TIME TO WORRY

Mrs. RUSSELL. Yes, I do. Senior citizens that are involved in this program, any part of the program, we find that they aren't going into nursing homes, and they are so involved. And one of the main problems of people who are in nursing homes is they are depressed. They can't face the outside world. But these people are so involved that they don't have time to worry about their own personal problems, and it isn't just a run of the mill, play cards and dance group. This group is involved in other people's lives also. This policeman that was killed, this group gave a dance and the money that was taken was given to the family to help them. So, the only thing they want is a part of the platter, which isn't too much to ask for.

Senator CHURCH. No, it certainly isn't.

Thank you very much, panelists. We want to move on to the next phase of our hearing. Before I forget it, let me say that this hearing record will be left open for 30 days for any written testimony concerning this program that anyone cares to file. You know we do have a problem of limited time for the hearing itself, but we don't want to deny anybody a chance to furnish us with testimony or information that would help fill out the picture concerning this program that we are looking into today in these hearings. And in that connection, I also think, Evelyn, we might before we go to the second panel, we might open this up for a while, say about 20 minutes or so, so that we can be sure that we have a chance to hear the second panel before lunch.

To you people out here who have problems and want to have something to say, I know that some of you may have critical remarks to make about this program. I want to hear them, I want to hear about weaknesses in the program if you feel there are any. I want to have recommendations as to how this whole thing can be improved, the whole effort can be improved. So, any of you who would like to come up, come forward and testify, who are not scheduled to be on the panel, and who want to be heard, now is the time to do it. And then for anyone who don't have time when the time is up, remember we want to invite your written testimony, and we will hold the record open in order to get that. All right, now is there anybody out in the audience who would like to say anything?

Mrs. TRULL. I have a question I would like to pose. I am Fern Trull from Weiser. Would it be of any help if the various senior citizen

groups in the county gathered together a few stories of testimony such as the lady here gave Mrs. Bornhorst, I believe, and sent it to me and I could compile it and send the copy to people who are on the Committee for Aging. Would that be of value?

Senator CHURCH. I think that would be of great value. May I make another suggestion? We, on the committee, have been investigating the problems of the elderly, all aspects, for a number of years, and we have made a number of recommendations that have been enacted in legislative form by Congress. We are quite aware as a result of our studies of what the elderly are up against, and we are very much aware of the present program, and the proposed program. I think the most important thing you can do is to make the younger people in your own community aware of how you feel about our program and what is being accomplished because they are the ones who do not know. And often times they oppose the program, because of not knowing what they are and never hearing from the local newspapers of what is going on and how the people who are participating really feel. So, if you could get that word out. I often look at "Letters to the Editor," you know, in local papers, and so frequently these letters are just extremely critical of anything that the Government tries to do. And so if you really feel that this is a good program and a helpful program I think that getting that information out to other people in the community is just as important as getting it to us on the committee.

Mrs. TRULL. Well, we will work on that.

Senator CHURCH. Work on it in both directions.

Mrs. TRULL. Thank you.

Mrs. RUSSELL. A gentleman from Weiser.

STATEMENT OF RAY CLARK

Mr. RAY CLARK. My name is Ray Clark. What I have to talk about hasn't anything to do with food or entertainment, but I just got out of the veterans' hospital, and I didn't have time to chisel in on the panel here, but I have been wondering for some time about our checks, the social security checks. The law clearly states that they are not subject to taxation. Yet, at the same time when any man or woman goes to the grocery store or any place of business, he lays that check down, starts spending, starts paying taxes on it right there. I learned from her, that once a month people on social security can come in and sign up and they get a refund on that, 10, 20, or something like that a month. That appeared to be all good and well, but wouldn't it even be simpler yet if each social security recipient would have an identification check whereby they could—identification card, that they could present at the time they purchased anything and be immune from that tax. Otherwise they pay it in, then the grocer has to pay and then that money has to go the merry-go-round and then come back. That takes time and costs money to handle that money. Wouldn't an identification card be better?

EQUAL TREATMENT FOR WORLD WAR I VETERANS

Now then, the next thing, I want to talk about, every veteran of World War I is a senior citizen today. Now then, I have asked for and I have asked our local representative from time to time, I think

one time I wrote you a letter on that, or intended to, that what is wrong with veterans of World War I receiving the same consideration and the same benefits that veterans of any other war, particularly the Spanish-American War, are receiving. Our own Spanish-American War—better than 50 percent of those men never got out of the United States, but yet they draw the same benefits as those that fought on the battlefield under Teddy Roosevelt. Well, I think there is a Senator by the name of Yarborough of Texas, was the first man to introduce that bill to make us people with those of the Spanish-American War. Well, here there has been a lot of time wasted in men preparing bills that would be two and three thousand words in that bill, to get some benefits for veterans of World War I, when they knew at the time that that bill would never get out of committee. Let alone to get on the Senate floor or before the House of Congress. But they would please their constituents by making that kind of a bill up. I think there has been time wasted long enough, and I was going to write you in regard to that and try to see if we couldn't get a bill for you to get the veterans of World War I the same consideration of Spanish-American War.

The next one is this criminal insurance law that we have. Now I happened to drive 55 years without any insurance at all; never had a charge of any account against me. It was only brought to my attention over here when there was a case of me avoiding a drunk or running into a school bus. I had to take one or the other, either the drunk or the school bus. Well, I elected the drunk. I was brought to account on that and found out that when a man doesn't have any insurance, he's guilty to start with. It doesn't make any difference whether he was—whether the accident was his fault or the others, if he don't have any insurance, you are just as guilty as if you are drunk. Well now then, when I went to get insurance, one of them was what age I was. I'd have to pay \$125 a year and then have to renew it every 6 months, so that the next 6 months I might be so old and decrepit I couldn't get insurance. Now we have to pay, if you are driving a car we pay insurance on that; if you are driving a pickup it calls for another additional; if you are driving a stock truck, you pay for another one, not quite as much, but they are all there. Those people that have one blanket insurance, everything is covered, down to the dog and the cat. Well, my contentions are, if a man is physically fit and mentally fit to drive his car, why isn't he mentally and physically fit to drive a pickup or stock truck or anything else, without having to take out this additional insurance each and every month. Then his wife or son or daughter would still have the pickup. So, I figure that senior citizens as well as other citizens are imposed on with what I call the criminal insurance law. It should be wiped off the books.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much. You mentioned three things. The first suggestion you made concerning the coupon identification is a very good one, but the last problem you raised considering insurance, these are matters that relate primarily as a State law, and it's through the State legislature that you will have to look for solutions; but the second problem you brought, the matter of equal treatment for veterans of the First World War with the Spanish-American

War veterans is a Federal matter strictly, and you are quite right that a number of bills have been introduced into Congress over the years and none of them have been acted upon. I never introduced a bill because I knew it would not be acted upon as long as we are spending a hundred million dollars a day in Vietnam, as long as that war is going on, there isn't money enough, no disposition in the Congress to give the First World War veterans equivalent treatment to what we gave the veterans of the Spanish-American War. But as soon as we get the Vietnamese affair behind us then I think the opportunity is there and I hope, then, that Congress will move to give the veterans of the First World War, who now average 72 or 73 years of age, the same kind of treatment that they gave the veterans of the Spanish-American War. I favor it, I've said that to the World War I veterans organization, but I've told them not to expect it to be done until the Vietnamese war is over. When that happens, I think you can get it.

Mr. CLARK. Thank you, Senator.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you. Is there anyone else now who would like to speak?

STATEMENT OF BLANCHE McCOY

Mrs. McCOY. I am Blanche McCoy from Bannock County. I'm a senior citizen aide there, and we have got a very small committee and they are working like everything to get things going up there. We have got things pretty well started up there, but it is slow because we are so isolated that we don't have the establishments that they do down here. I was born and raised in Idaho, too, in that part of the country and my uncle was Governor of the State at one time, so we are very interested in our senior citizens and our people up there.

We have quite a few projects going.

Senator CHURCH. Well, I do appreciate your testimony, Blanche, and I am sure you will get a lot of help from others who have had quite a lot of experience in this program in getting yours started.

Mrs. McCOY. Mrs. Russell has done very much to help us. If it wasn't for her we wouldn't even have been on the board, but we are really isolated up there, you know, so much more so than others. And in the winter time especially, when the roads have so much snow and everything, but our community has got so many widows that never get out to anything.

Senator CHURCH. Evelyn says they are going to ship you some bachelors.

Mrs. McCOY. OK. Well, thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you. I have a note here that Walter Carr was detained this morning in the legislature with important business in Boise, but he is on his way over right now. He will be here in about 30 minutes and will try to get into the second part of our session this morning. We will be happy to welcome him here when he arrives.

Now, how are we doing on time?

Mrs. RUSSELL. We are out of time.

Senator CHURCH. Are we out of time? Well, let me again emphasize anyone who has a comment they think ought to be furnished for the purpose of this record, we will distribute forms here, we have the

forms, and I think you will notice on the forms it says something to the effect that if I had testified, this is what I would have said. And that will go into the record just as though you had said it at this meeting in person.¹

Our next panel consists of Mr. Leonard Harbison. Leonard, would you introduce the ones on the panel?

STATEMENT OF LEONARD HARBISON

Mr. HARBISON. Yes; thank you, Senator. As they are seated here I will introduce them to you after they are completely seated.

Senator CHURCH. Before we commence the second panel here, Leonard, I am told that one thing that should have been mentioned in connection with the bus activity is that the bus is used to take people on Sunday to church services, the church of their own choice, which I think ought to go into the record. I think that was very important, the additional function of the bus.

Mr. HARBISON. Thank you, Senator. On my immediate left we have Mr. Ross from Weiser. I will let Mr. Ross say a few words here after we complete the introduction of the panel. Next to him is Mr. Clark from Emmett. And the lady in the center is Mrs. Prawitz and next to her is Mr. Anderson from Weiser, and sitting at the end is Mr. McConnell, the EMPACT specialist in our area here.

EMPACT, MORE THAN DOUBLE DUTY

Senator, I would like to read to you just a little description of our new program called EMPACT. To the people in our area here it is not a new program, we've had it going here for 6, 7, 8 months, but it is the only one like it in the Nation, and the project called EMPACT was originally formulated to fight poverty, through employment of older unemployed low-income persons. To justify this program, it was only fair that the money expended benefit the greatest number of the elderly people. So in the W.I.C.A.P. area, which consists of six counties here, I might say that EMPACT, if you hear that word EMPACT, what it means is Employ More Productive Aging Citizens Today. And, of course, we believe that there is nothing like the present time to do it. The hours spent in this program do more than double duty. It benefits the worker, financially and physically; the recipient—monetary and physically, and it also helps the economy of the area. It is far from being what you would call a handout program as you will notice as we go on through. Only those age 55 and over who are willing and able to work receive recompense for aiding other low-income elderly who cannot work over the age of 60. Both workers and recipients must be under the poverty level of income established by the OEO standard.

In some of our counties 26 percent of the population are senior citizens of which 47 percent are eligible for this program and 41 percent of the surveyed populace have been involved in this program. It took a little time to get this program started, but the last half of 1969 there were over 16,000 hours worked by these senior citizens with approxi-

¹ See appendix 2, p. 511.

mately 1,500 individuals benefitting either as a recipient or participant in the program. Had we had the money, we could have worked twice as many people. And I might add right here that the EMPACT program as we know it here, we are striving desperately to get it funded for another year. We are out of funds, as of March 1 the program will close down unless there are funds from some source.

At this time I would like to introduce the man again on my left and let him say a few words.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Leonard. Mr. Ross, we are happy to have you here today. You may go ahead with whatever statement you would like to make.

STATEMENT BY MR. ROSS

Mr. Ross. Would you like me to give the audience here a little of my background?

Mr. HARBISON. Would you do that?

Mr. Ross. Well, Senator, I was raised in Weiser, or out of Weiser on what is known as Poverty Flat. I was born in 1886. I spent my years there until I was, oh, possibly 17, and then I was alone. Of course, you know, us old folks we have a lot of trouble. In the first place, in my early years I had to help Dad run sagebrush, and later when I went to school and finished the eighth grade, he said: "Well, son, you have got enough education. We need you at home." So that was it.

Later I drifted away, and I worked for several. One thing I thought I liked was painting but I discovered later that I couldn't work all the year around because they'd lay me off in the winter, so I took up barbering.

Now, we'll get back to the senior citizens. I lost my wife about a year and a half ago, so I'm alone. Well, I heard about the senior citizens. I couldn't take my wife at that time because she was too ill to go, so I thought, well, now I'll have to go to the senior citizens and mix with them and make new friends, as well as visit with old friends. And I found it so wonderful.

ROOMS BRIGHTER AND PEOPLE BRIGHTER

Well, after I attended a while I became acquainted with my good friend Jim Anderson, who said "Ed, you've had a little experience in painting. Why wouldn't you like to go out and do a little of this work for these old folks that can't afford it otherwise?" Why, I said, "Yes." So everything, of course, had been prepared. Jim had gone around and he had explained all this, and when they met me at the door and I told them what I was there to do for them, you should have seen their faces. Well, I'd walk in and I'd look around and there was cobwebs. It didn't look good. "Well," they'd say, "What do you want me to do?" Just sit still, I'll move all the furniture. So we would move the furniture and get everything ready, put down the drop cloths and we'd go ahead and finish the room, both ceiling and walls. We'd move everything back and we left that room looking so much brighter and the people looking so much brighter.

So, I can't say enough for it.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Mr. Ross. Thanks very much. Be-

cause of the time factor, perhaps we should hear all of the panelists and then I'll save my questions until afterwards.

Mr. HARBISON. The next one is Mr. Clark, who is a senior aide worker in the EMPACT program.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM L. CLARK

Mr. CLARK. Thank you, Senator, in 1941 I had the pleasure and the privilege of accompanying Senator Church to Milwaukee to the National American Legion convention in company with him and Ann Southern. At that time I think she was Miss Idaho. Anyway, he won the National Oratorical speaking contest with a scholarship for \$5,000 at Stanford University where I had studied medicine and flunked out. I'm an old World War I officer who has lived in Emmett many, many years and I was very elated to be appointed as an EMPACT aide here, and it was very rewarding due to the fact that I had been practicing these same things that I have been doing recently and being paid for them where I had done them for free before. I think I've said enough now and we have the rest of them coming in on my profession, it's a little different. As I said I flunked out.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Mr. Clark. Before we go onto the next panel, you might tell us what kind of work you've been doing worker in the EMPACT program.

Mr. CLARK. As the aide, we have been employing and servicing senior citizens. We have to do a lot of research work in order to select men and people that are eligible. In so doing we have placed many of these senior citizens in good jobs, supplemented their income with part-time work and then serviced the people that were deserving of having this work done. You will hear this in detail from our panel.

Senator CHURCH. Fine, thank you.

Mr. HARBISON. Our next one is Mrs. Prawitz, and she happens to be a recipient, also a participant in the EMPACT program.

STATEMENT OF MRS. CLARA PRAWITZ

Mrs. PRAWITZ. Well, the way I was first recruited to this was that I came to the dinners and I didn't know much about EMPACT at all, but they explained the program there. And through the help of the EMPACT aide who helped me fulfill my needs for help, I got my work done and was very proud of having it done. And the activities of the home repair, I think, is one of the most important things of all. There are so many homes that need some work done, some property need shingles, most of them need paint, and sometimes the yards need a little cleaning up, too. I do think these old folks that live in these places really would be happy to have someone come and do their work for them like that.

EMPACT has meant quite a bit to me. It makes me feel much better to see how my home is painted and fixed up, even my neighbor came out and looked things over and tried to see what work they have done, and he told me my home looked so much better. That made me feel real good, too. I think that's about all I have.

Senator CHURCH. Mrs. Prawitz, did you have to pay for this paint job?

Mrs. PRAWITZ. Well, I paid for the paint.

Senator CHURCH. Paid for the paint?

Mrs. PRAWITZ. Yes.

Senator CHURCH. So, that you couldn't have had this work done if you'd had to pay the going rate?

Mrs. PRAWITZ. No; I couldn't have done the work myself and I couldn't have hired it done either.

Senator CHURCH. This was the only way that would have made it possible for you?

Mrs. PRAWITZ. Yes.

Mr. HARBISON. May I interject?

Senator CHURCH. Yes.

Mr. HARBISON. Mrs. Prawitz was 80 years old in May and she is not only a recipient, but she is also one of our best workers and in great demand.

Mrs. PRAWITZ. Well, most of the work I've done is for folks that have been in the hospitals.

Senator CHURCH. I see. Well, that's wonderful. I know I'm not going to be as good looking as you are by the time I get to be 80, but I hope I'm as healthy as you.

Mrs. PRAWITZ. Well, thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Is Jim Anderson next here on the program?

Mr. HARBISON. Yes; Jim Anderson.

Senator CHURCH. Jim's brother was on the Supreme Court at one time, isn't that right?

Mr. ANDERSON. Yes.

Senator CHURCH. Well, Jim, we are pleased to have you on the panel today.

STATEMENT OF JIM ANDERSON

Mr. ANDERSON. Thank you. Friends, I've only been with EMPACT for 6 months. I started in July. But I'd like to tell you a little of my history first.

I was born and raised in Canada and came to the United States in 1919, which is the most wonderful country in the whole world as far as I am concerned. I went through the grade schools, through high school. I was raised of a family of eight, and we didn't have an easy go of it. My father was a dairyman, and being the second oldest in the family we had to get out and work, hoe beets, thin beets, pick apples and everything there was. It was just hard labor work. We saved our money. Dad saw that we got through high school, but if we wanted to go to college that was up to us. We had to make our own way. I went to the University of Idaho 3 years. I used to go out and work with a combine up in Washington. I would save my money, I saved about \$300 during the summer, and then I'd get a job at the university doing janitor work. I made \$25 a month, while a football player that signed up for the same kind of a job gets \$75 a month. I did the work. But that's the way I got through college.

"JUST HAD TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO"

I got out and taught school. I didn't have enough money to finish, so I taught school for 6 years, then went back again and that's when the depression hit in 1929, 1930, and 1931. So I came back home and

I got a job for a dollar a day working out in the field, haying or whatever there was to do. Well, that ended my college career. So then I went on from there and went into dairying and I became County Commissioner and now this last year I quit farming and I did run for reelection for County Commissioner of Washington County this last term and I just quit entirely and was just lost, I didn't know what to do. In fact, I think I was losing a few of my morals, I just had to have something to do.

Well, this job came up with EMPACT and I applied for it, and they hired me and I went to work. I said, "What am I supposed to do?" Well, go out and get these surveys, find out if you can find some jobs for some of these older citizens and help the others. So, I did. I went out and took the surveys and they said: "Well, what are all these questions for? Is the United States Government going to take away our social security now?" I said: "No, no, they are going to help you." Help me, what do you mean, help me? Nobody has ever helped me before. I've always done my own. Well, we are if you want us to. It's up to you. If you come under our OEO guideline you can work for us or we can work for you, whichever is necessary. Well, if you say so, Jim, you've been County Commissioner. I'll believe you. And I said: "Well, it says right here in black and white. You can read it." Well, if you say so.

So, I got this one gentleman to work for me and he was up in his years, he was around 79. He went out and raked yards. The first day he wouldn't talk to the people. He was withdrawn within himself, he wouldn't speak out. I went down to see how he was doing, he was my first man I had put to work and he was doing all right. So I took him in and introduced him to the lady that he was working for and she came out and talked to him a little and he didn't quite get through that evening, so he went back the next day. He was down there before 8 o'clock. He didn't even check in. So I went out to see why he didn't come, and they said, "Oh, he's gone to work." I went down to where he was working and sure enough he was out there. "Oh," he says, "this is a nice job. I really like this. I feel so much better." He said: "You know, this morning, I thought to myself, now I wonder what Jim is going to do with me after I get this job through." "But," he said, "I got to thinking now I am doing some good for this lady and helping myself." And he said, "I just feel 100 percent better." He said, "In fact I don't think I'll ever have to take any more medicine." He said: "I think all that was wrong with me I was despondent and blue and down-hearted." He said: "Now, I just feel like a different man."

WANTED AND NEEDED

Well, I could go ahead and tell you a lot of more stories that I have come in contact with, but I don't want to take all of your time. But I would like to say that if I was a millionaire I would still want to be one these American citizens and one of these Senior Citizens and work for EMPACT if possible, because I have got more out of these last 6 months than any 6 months I believe. Because it has helped me, it has helped them. I get \$1.75 an hour, but the feeling down inside of me is worth a hundred dollars an hour as far as I am concerned. I would

like to say, also, that there is something to do, some place to go, you feel wanted, you feel needed. And also you make new friends. What these gentlemen and ladies both do, they do make some new friends, but they also renew and make old friends that they have forgotten, they hadn't seen for 20 years and they live in the same community so to speak. They haven't visited with them, they haven't been around. My bifocals help my vision, my false teeth fit me fine, my brow gives me an uplift, oh, how I miss my mind.

Senator CHURCH. Thanks very much, Jim. I've been eager to learn all about the EMPACT program. The more I have learned about it the more I have thought that it is one of the best programs in the package of programs that we have been discussing this morning. And I am very much distressed with this thing of being cut off in the general budget cutback. So far we have been unable to find another source for the money, and I'm afraid that we face the prospect of having this program shut down the first of March. I hope not. We are going to continue to work on it and do everything we can, because I think that work opportunities are definitely important for people who still work and want to work, because it is good in every way. Not only good from a physical standpoint, but I think it's good from a mental standpoint to continue to contribute and to do things that are constructive. And it also helps with the income, a little supplementary income. In these days the social security income is frequently not adequate to pay the cost of food and keep, and so I think this EMPACT program is a very important one and I hope that the record here will help the committee in its fight to save the program.

Mr. ANDERSON. Honorable Church, there is one of our gentlemen that worked for me only received \$46.30 a month. That is the total amount, that's all the money he had and since he has been working for Empact, he only received \$30 or \$40 a month from Empact, but it has helped him. Before he had to debate whether he would buy medicine or buy groceries or pay his rent or maybe go without both of them. And since he has done this he has been able to go fishing a little and he has been able to buy a few presents for his grandchildren. He feels like an American citizen, and it has just really given him an uplift. It has helped a lot of them that way. And a lot of it hasn't helped so much financially, they probably have enough to get by on, but it has helped them in feeling that they are wanted and needed and help somebody that needs help.

Senator CHURCH. How much better if we could take like the person you mentioned, getting so little on whatever it was. Social Security, getting so little that he has got to supplement his income to get by, he does it by working, helping other elderly people who couldn't pay for that kind of work if they had to get it out of the open market. It keeps this fellow off of public assistance.

Mr. ANDERSON. That's right.

Senator CHURCH. So, see how well the money is spent. In every way it is spent better than to have them rely upon a handout, and many of the people want to stay away from that if they can.

Mr. ANDERSON. Well, he couldn't—these folks couldn't have this work done for them. They couldn't pay for it if it wasn't for this EMPACT program, they just don't have the money. One lady, we fixed

rails along her steps so she could get down. She bought the rails and we put them in. And she said: I've wanted that for years, but I haven't been able to do it until you folks came along with this plan. And as luck had it she died a few weeks after that, but she was satisfied. When I went up to have her sign the claim she said: "I'm satisfied, Mr. Anderson." She said: "I just feel like I've completed my life now, everything is complete." Well, that's worth something to give her that feeling.

Senator CHURCH. Jim, I think you have been worth a lot to the program, too, because your own testimony revealed, I think, subconsciously, I believe that a lot of people have been brought into the program because they know you and therefore they come and participate and find out what the program is all about.

Mr. ANDERSON. I know a lot of them trust me and believe me, and I am going to keep them believing me.

Senator CHURCH. Now, can we hear from Mr. McConnell.

Mr. HARBISON. Yes. Mr. McConnell, the EMPACT specialist here.

STATEMENT OF WINFRED McCONNELL, EMPACT SPECIALIST

Mr. McCONNELL. So much has been said already pertaining to the good of the program that I won't dwell on that at all. We had difficulty getting started, but it kind of took off after it proved itself to be worthwhile. It was a pilot program, and then when it proved itself, why they cut the money, which I can't understand. As you say, you are still working on it and I am real glad to hear you say that you are in favor of it. It's been a little controversial, as perhaps you know. I think you received quite a few letters, as well as the others in Washington. We wanted to make EMPACT and W.I.C.A.P. known and at least be recognized, and I think we did that. But, I could sit here and talk for an hour on various phases of the work and various jobs, and how much good it really did these people, but I believe that my aide here and the workers can tell it just as well as I can, so if you want to go ahead and ask them questions, I will listen. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mr. McConnell. I notice an old friend of mine sitting over in the audience, who has been of great service to the people of the county in the legislature over the years, that's Clay Sutton. Clay, will you stand up? And Mr. Herb Whitworth, who is, of course, the State director, has come in. Herb. Mr. Heth is here from the regional office of the A.L.A. Mr. Heth, it's nice to have you. Has Walter Carr come in?

VOICE FROM AUDIENCE. His wife is here.

Senator CHURCH. Mrs. Carr, we'd rather see you anyway.

Well now, let me again emphasize that these forms are available at the table here for anyone who would like to leave written testimony with the committee. The hearing record will be held open for 30 days and so if you want to take one of these forms with you and take it home and in your own spare time write out your testimony and send it in to the committee, the instructions are on the form, you may do that.*

*See appendix 2, p. 511.

The second thing I want to say is, we are going to hold a hearing in Boise this afternoon at the YWCA building on other aspects of the general program for the elderly focusing on the rural elderly, which is the purpose of this full day's hearing schedule. All of you are invited. If you would like to come, you are invited to attend in the Boise area. We have some buses here and after lunch, we are going to have lunch here, and after lunch those of you who would like to go to Boise to attend the Boise hearing are invited. I am going to go over in one of the busses and we will go directly to the YWCA, hold the hearing, and the busses will be available afterwards to bring you back again. So please know that you will be very welcome if you would like to come, we would like to have you come.

Now, I think our time is just about up, and is lunch ready? Lunch is almost ready. We have about 10 minutes I am told. I want to use all the time we have, so is there anyone else in the room who would like to come to the microphones and testify on any aspect of the program that you think the committee should know about that hasn't been covered. Any criticism that you want to offer, please feel free to come and make any statement you care to.

STATEMENT OF DAVE VAHLBERG

DAVE VAHLBERG. Ladies and gentlemen, I think everyone here knows me, or ought to anyway. I live just beyond the school out here. I saw so many children out there and I just wondered where they all came from. But now I know that this is the foundation of the population explosion. You know this day and age it is getting where doctor bills, funeral expenses, hospital and so forth are so expensive, that you can't afford to get sick and you can't afford to die, so it is better to keep alive. That's what we are trying to do. And outside of that I think that from now on, being president of the sons and daughters of the pioneers, that we will meet here in this area annually if it's available, and I hope you all come. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you.

Mr. Ross. Senator Church, may I say just a word?

Senator CHURCH. Yes, Mr. Ross would like to say a word.

Mr. Ross. I understand that this program, senior citizens program, originated here in Idaho by a good woman. God bless her. But she is in Kansas City today. So, is it any wonder that we are enthused over carrying on something our good lady did.

Senator CHURCH. I am very glad to hear that. It was a very appropriate remark.

STATEMENT OF EVERETT DUNN

Mr. DUNN. Senator Church.

Senator CHURCH. Yes.

Mr. DUNN. I am Everett Dunn of Weiser. I know a big lot of these people around here. I want to register as being, my late wife and I, in favor of all of this program. They say that a true statesman is one who, through various means in a democracy, finds out the wishes and defines the wishes of the people, and I feel like, Senator Church, you

are the one of the others—too few in number—that are doing this. And I feel like that a little humanitarianism such as this aging citizens program of humanitarianism can go further, \$1 can go further than tens of thousands of dollars in war, and I speak as a veteran of World War I. A very interesting thing is that in World War I the aviation part, the only aviation sector was the Signal Corps. I happened to be in that section, and that war was supposed to be a war to end all wars, and if there is anything to end wars, such a program of humanitarianism such as this we are testifying today. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Dunn. Mr. Dunn, I didn't know about your wife's passing. I am very sorry to hear that. Mr. Dunn is an old friend of mine.

I think, perhaps, we could close on a note that comes from the Pennsylvania Dutch country. I go up there on weekends sometimes with my boy, Chase, to do some skiing. Bethene and I and Chase go up. In this farm country there are always sayings. You can go into the little stores and there are all these sayings, and in the houses, and there are these X marks up on the barns for good luck. There is one saying that comes back to me this morning after hearing so much testimony, and that's a favorite among the Pennsylvania Dutch people. It goes, if I remember correctly, something like. "I am too soon old, too late smart." I think there has been a lot of wisdom reflected in the testimony we have heard this morning, and it is going to be very helpful to the committee to have it. I am glad to come to a hearing where so many people seem to feel that there is a program that is doing something for people. That's what Government is supposed to be all about. If we spend more attention to programs that do relate to the well-being of the people, we have fewer troubles in this country today.

So, thank you for coming. Let's have lunch, and you are invited to come to Boise afterward. Thank you.

(Whereupon the committee was recessed to reconvene at Boise, Idaho, February 24, 1970.)

APPENDIXES

Appendix 1

STATEMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

ITEM 1. STATEMENT FROM W. C. McCONNELL, PROGRAM SPECIALIST FOR "EMPACT"

The program, EMPACT, was originally formulated to fight poverty through employment of older unemployed low-income persons. To justify the program, it is only fair that the monies be expended for the greatest results to benefit the greatest number. EMPACT is one program that benefits the needy directly.

Any new unfamiliar program, where federal funds are concerned, needs to be sold to the people. To sell tangibles requires time and salesmen. To sell intangibles requires an extra length of time. This is a true fact that is so easily overlooked. This program was in that category and necessitated more selling time by the salesmen, or Aides, before the recipients were made aware of the benefits.

As of July 1, 1969, there had only been 27% of the workers' funds expended. Note that this was for 6 months. In the ensuing 5 months a fraction under 62% of the years' allotted workers' funds were spent. This is irrefutable proof that salesmen and time are a necessary commodity in program success.

In the WICAP area comprising 9,088 square miles in the 6 counties involved, there is a population of 38,155 persons. People over the age of 60 make up 6.2% or in round numbers 2,361, of the total population. Undoubtedly some have not been contacted due to remoteness and out of the way places in which they live. The number of 60 and over (47% of the 2,361) is 1,123 who are eligible to work or receive aid. This shows that a good percentage are classed as being in the poverty group.

There were 1,590 separate jobs performed in the past 11 month period for 332 individual recipients, by 141 individual workers. The average total cost per job was \$31.34. The workers averaged an additional income of \$174.70, or in some cases a yearly raise in income of up to 25%.

The figures show a moderate number of workers in comparison to the total number of older eligibles. However, there are very many who are physically unable to work. These are the ones for whom various types of work are done. It is impossible to place a dollar and cents value on therapy for both worker and recipient. The figures show 41% of the surveyed populace as being involved in the program, or 463 people. I would call that pretty good coverage. This involves the 45 years and over group that have been surveyed.

If there is an increase of the Federal Minimum Wage of 15¢ per hour, more money is needed to achieve the same results. With administration costs well stabilized, all increased monies can go toward alleviation of poverty as established by the Federal Government's O.E.O. guidelines.

With a reduced budget, activities must be curtailed where help and work for and by the needy older people is the prime objective.

As outlined earlier, the efficiency and desired results more than doubled the last 5 months as compared with the first 6 months of this year. If the program were to be continued at its present rate, approximately \$100,000.00 of funding would be necessary. Elimination of the program at this time will put some of the involved people right back into black despair.

Perhaps a word about what EMPACT does is in order. Elderly low-income people perform work for other elderly low-income people who are either financially or physically unable to do some of these chores for themselves. These odd

minor jobs consist of minor home repair and home upkeep. Minor yard work jobs are performed to help reduce health and fire hazards. House cleaning, mending and some sewing is performed by capable seniors. Wood chopping, snow shoveling, meal preparation for the indisposed are also part of the program. Minor jobs to alleviate distress and clear up undesirable home conditions are performed. No nursing or anything that interferes with an on going business is done.

If a re-evaluation is done in this area, it would be a very revealing experience to some of the team to talk directly to some of the seniors who work and receive aid under this program.

Appendix 2

STATEMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE HEARING AUDIENCE

During the course of the hearing a form was made available by the chairman to those attending who wished to make suggestions and recommendations but were unable to testify because of time limitations. The form read: "Dear Senator Church: If there had been time for everyone to speak at the Committee hearing in Emmett, Idaho, on the subject of Older Americans In Rural Areas, I would have said:"

MRS. VERNA L. ANDROES, EMMETT, IDAHO

Please do not take our Senior Citizen Centers and programs away from us, as we all enjoy them so much, and look forward to them each week. The "Older Americans have been a forgotten race of people" and we owe them so much, as most of them here in our "Valley of Plenty" are old pioneers who worked hard to make it what it is today, and was first called "Paradise Valley."

I came here with our parents and family in 1902 from Wisner, Nebraska when 8 years old and have lived here since. We all helped to make this valley what it is today. My father was a veterinary here for years, bought town lots and built upon them, several houses, which he rented out and sold.

My husband, who came here from Kansas was a minister of one of our churches from the depression years to the time of his death 17 years ago, so I feel we have had a "small part" in this valley's growth and prosperity. I have learned to love this valley above every other place I have ever seen or lived in for a short time.

I am a widow and live alone which makes our Senior Citizens Center and our trips to other centers and places of interest so much more precious to me. We are trying to be as self supporting as possible.

I also belong to the Sons and Daughters of the Old Pioneers.

ELSIE ARTMAN, WEISER, IDAHO

I am sorry the EMPACT has been closed. I feel like I should say I am sorry as it was a fine thing.

I had a room painted and helped the senior citizen and sure helped me.

Also I had a little work in yard and that I couldn't do and more and I can't afford to pay for. Jim Anderson has been so helpful, I sure hope we can continue to help one another, as that make life rather like living. Thank you.

MRS. ALBERT B. BARTLETT, EMMETT, IDAHO

I'm sending my request in. I lost my husband in 1957 and have been a widow since. I have raised five children. The youngest one is fifteen years old now. I am handicapped in my feet due to polio at the age of sixteen. I get along well.

The day you visited the Senior Citizens I volunteered my service setting tables and I like to do that kind of work helping other people. Before I got into this

kind of work I was home with my children. I later got a janitor job at Senior Citizens and worked there one year. By helping others you can still be of service to your community, regardless of handicap and gives me joy in helping others who are worse off than I and you overcome an inferiority complex.

IRA BLEDOSE, WELSH, IDAHO

I would like to see the EMPACT program stay the way it has been in the past, as it has helped hundreds of elderly folks find themselves and feel they still have a place in the whirl of things.

This program does have its rewards and will add to their needs without having to skimp so heavily on bare necessities. The elderly in our community look forward to every time the senior citizens meet. This program is a real help in our community.

ALICE S. BRENNAN, BOISE, IDAHO

Thank you for your concern for the welfare of the aging. The agencies already functioning have been very helpful in making lives of the elderly more pleasant and in getting retirees a new interest to make their life more dignified.

I urge your continued support in legislation which will help the aging to be more independent and less dependent on welfare agencies.

LULA CHAVEZ, EMMETT, IDAHO

1. Why not lower hospital cost instead of going to the moon.
2. Make Welfare benefits harder to receive. Let these girls work like the rest of us.
3. Why not stop so much spending of our money on moon shots and foreign aid and lower the taxes.

MRS. S. M. CHESNUT, WEISER, IDAHO

I have never seen anything do so many elderly persons the good that the EMPACT Program has done. Many elderly persons cannot afford to hire someone to do their yard work and odd jobs around their homes and it not only helped the home owner but it helped the Senior Citizens that did the work, both financially and otherwise.

Weiser is a small city and even if you could afford to hire someone there is practically no younger persons who would do this type of work. During the months that this program was going there was a great improvement in the looks of the yards of the elderly.

I am a widow and will be 84 on my next birthday and have no one in my family in Weiser than can help keep my yard work done since my grandson graduated from high school in 1962 and left the area. Some years I was able to hire a man to do the heaviest of the work and I would do what I could but now I am unable to do anything at all and last summer I was sent a man to do clean up yard work and I was so very grateful. Weiser is full of older people, many of whom are widows who cannot do their yard work and some of their house work anymore and I feel that a very worthwhile program for these people should not have been taken away from them. I truly hope that something can be done to restore this program.

MRS. EDITH CHRISTOFF, CASCADE, IDAHO

The senior citizens need transportation to Doc, bring home groceries, go shopping and to laundromat. Also shovel snow at homes, mow lawns, prune trees and shrubbery. Have a telephone call every day to check on one. Very necessary.

The ones alone.

LORETTA AND GUY ROSENFELT, MOUNTAIN HOPE, IDAHO

Please get more programs and money for the smaller area where the people live miles about, not the cities.

For instance, our county Elmore in Idaho. We need a lot of things we didn't have for the older people.

We started with 7 people in our group. We have it up near a hundred and no place to meet. No way to travel. So many aren't able to drive their own cars if they do have a old car.

Please all of the Senators think of them. They will be there themselves someday.

MARY ANNE JACKSON, WEISER, IDAHO

I surely hope the IMPACT and Sencer could continue as they have been. So much help and enjoyment to me—I am a widow and live alone and 80 years old—and only income is my SS check and which is \$55—and Small Public State Check which is \$40—and I am not able to keep my yard cleaned and the IMPACT came up last summer and painted 2 rooms for me—and clean my yard 3 times and I know the men that came and worked got small SS check—and surely need the small wages the IMPACT give them—because it help them to have more to buy clothes and better living—and it surely help me to have my home & yard more liveable and I truly hope we can keep the IMPACT in our city and location. Thank you.

ART W. JORDAN, EMMETT, IDAHO

I am very much in favor of the projects continuing. Think it is one of the nicest things for senior citizens we have ever had.

I am 76 years young and my wife is 72 and we only get \$131.00 social security. This does not pay our expenses and if I can get a few little jobs of work it sure helps. I am able to do some work like painting, yard work and some carpenter work. Also shrub training. I got some work before they closed it down. And would like to get back on if they would continue the service.

ALFRED A. JUSSILA, BOISE, IDAHO

We have spent billions in fighting the various wars, foreign aid programs, space programs and et cetera, and we are still doling out excessive amounts to keep these programs going and here they are cutting off the funds to keep the program to help the aged.

The government has got to realize that we who are now aged were once and some of us still are in the group that are heavily taxed to keep the various programs going. It is not fair to us who have spent a lifetime of toil keeping America strong and moving ahead to be neglected in our declining years when we should be reaping the fruits of our labors.

Those who were fortunate enough to lay away few dollars for their later years now find out that these same dollars due to the inflationary trend have lost their purchasing power when they are needed the most, and there are those who through no fault of their own but through sickness or personal tragedies have seen their savings wiped away.

We have spent billions in foreign aid to the various countries throughout the world and some of the results have not been too gratifying, in fact some of these countries are now our enemies opposing the very plans that they were helped with. I say it is about high time that we had a little *for-in-aid* for our aged people. These people will appreciate what ever can be done for them, a friendly visit, a reassuring word and any form of entertainment or trip to make them feel that they are not neglected and are still a part of the good old United States of America.

ELIZABETH KNOWLTON, EMMETT, IDAHO

I am a new participant in the programs, but have already received considerable benefit from it. A couple of the men have helped me with some heavy work, and

one of the ladies comes to the house once a week to help me in the house. I appreciate it very much, and hope you will continue this service. I am sure a great many of us need it badly.

JOHN W. LIPPERT, WEISER, IDAHO

I am writing you about our EMPACT program. Weiser is a town that needs help awful bad it is practically all poor people. They don't get social security money enough to keep their home up. Some is so poor that their house roofs are leaking. With out help they have to let their places go to the dogs. I think with these poor people paying high taxes that they should have help. Don't you think so?

EMMA LIPPERT, WEISER, IDAHO

The EMPACT program is one of the best programs ever to help the older people in making there life so much pleaster, in all ways. As it gets the people out to meet others, and they can come to the dinners, and visit instead of staying home, and waiting for the end as they were doing before he program started. Now there are not near so many going to doctors and buying so much medicine as they have other interests now.

So please, if you have a heart for the older people, don't let this program stop. Thank you.

ROXIE MCGILL, WEISER, IDAHO

I am thankful for the Senior Citizens Programs, Its such a help to us old people—and they did some work for me I am in hopes that we can still keep the program, thank you for all you have done. Its hard for us widows to get work done since we get old until this program came to Weiser, Idaho its been a blessing to me.

GAIL MCGATH, WEISER, IDAHO

I deeply am sorry about the Impact program closing, I would not of had anything to go on only my small Social Security, had I not had work through the program. I could not have met my financial obligations, after all I turned 70 February 5 and climb 8 foot ladder doing everything anyone else does even to yard work and pruning. So I have not ask for anything but what a true American citizen deserves but does not get. How can one live on \$1600 a yr. With all obligations? We have and high cost of living with no end to it. *Why* is all our hard earned dollars go to helping foreign countries helping them with our planes our food money and how are we going protect America. We won't have the strength to protect our own country as we've sold our protection to others and we true Americans a very large percent fight to exist in a land of plenty. We are loosing our Democracy every day I pray for the young generation. Can you can all the high paid officials live in \$69 a month with nothing in sight. This program gave those who needed help and others that could work the work they could meet a way of life which is and was America Our Freedom is being lost to countries they can not be trusted and are taking advantage of it everyday which American suffer who deserves help just and can't get it.

GERTRUDE NEWMAN, WEISER, IDAHO

This Empact is a good thing if they hire the people that need the work. Like families that can't get work. I know it helped us two different times. They plowed our garden which my husband couldn't do, he has heart trouble and high blood pressure, and can't exert himself. Then this fall they cleaned our garden off. We have a low social security of \$92.80. My husband is 80. I am 76 and we think we should be exempted of these taxes. They are \$181.00. Does Idaho have a law to exempt people that are sick and old?

D. L. RAYMOND, WEISER, IDAHO

The Empact Program has been the best part of Wicap. It has helped more elderly people than the other programs. It has helped them to get things they needed that they did not have the money to buy. So I think the Empact should be kept going to help the very low income people to a better way of living.

MRS. VIDA REED, EMMETT, IDAHO

That I think the Senior Citizen program is a truly wonderful one. The cost so little compared with the trips to the moon and Vietnam. To me it has been a life saver. I get so lonely at home—nobody has time to visit any more. After thirty years, my husband and I have started to dance again. We enjoy the visiting and pinochle games and also the meals. Not that we don't have food at home, but it is a joy to eat and talk with others. To make it short we've found companionship and friends who are in the same boat as we are.

CHARLES D. REYNOLDS, WEISER, IDAHO

That is was the greatest thing that ever happened to the senior citizens it has given them something to do and look forward to, it keeps them busy doing things for themselves and each other. It helps them to pass the time away. The Bus Trips is wonderful also for lots of them. Have never seen Hells Canyon the big dam, old mining town like Silver City, the Dee cave, the old mining town of Idaho City where they took out more gold than all of Alaska.

My house needs painting and it leaks around the chimney leaks through into the room upstairs. I don't have the money to pay 5 or 6 dollars per hour to have it painted and the roof fixed.

This Empact has been a great help to the senior citizens for most of them can't afford to have any work done and are not able to do it themselves. Lots of them have got their houses painted and their places cleaned up through Empact. I think is a wonderful thing.

NORA M. REYNOLDS, WEISER, IDAHO

It was the best thing that could have happened to the Senior Citizens. It has given some new lease on life getting out amongst other people, also it is something for them to do for themselves besides doing and helping others, it all helps pass the time away.

The bus trips have been wonderful too, all of them have been of real interest, something they will always remember and be responsible to those that have made these trips possible.

ED. R. ROSS, WEISER, IDAHO

I would have enjoyed many more things relative to W.Y.C.A.P. and our Senior Citizens organization at Emmett but as time was short due to so many people saying a good word for same. Now may I express a few; too you as we feel you bear much weight and can give us much help. I feel you were much interested in this worthy cause by the expression on your face. I feel certain our Government is not going to see this wonderful program go by the way; that's doing so much for us Senior Citizens. I love to spend as much time as I can and almost sleep on it nights. I never felt coming up the hard way as I did when I was a boy that I would ever be blessed by a program like this. I have made three trips to Emmett and Boise, and I am leaving at 7:30 in the morning on another one, in hopes we will not loose it. I returned from the hospital this evening, calling on two of our lovely old ladies whom we have sent flowers and they both seemed so bright and cheerful due to being remembered by us. I am sure they would have been forgotten if it had not been for our wonderful organization. So-Senator Church; can you give us a little help. God bless you.

FERN ROTH, WEISER, IDAHO

We have enjoyed the EMPACT program so much. It not only helped me but has helped so many of us older people that can't do for ourselves. It has also helped the ones that are able to do odd jobs. Makes life so much more meaningful for them.

I had some yard work done also a room painted so we would like to see the EMPACT continued. Thank you.

JAMES H. SIMPSON, WEISER, IDAHO

I think the Senior Citizens program should be continued in its entirety. In our area it is a well administered program which offers the senior citizen financial and emotional assistance at that time of his life when he needs it most. As medical knowledge progresses more and more of our citizenry are living to become senior citizens. It is to our own personal advantage to see good senior citizen programs established and become part of our permanent environment.

EDITH MAE SMITH, NEW PLYMOUTH, IDAHO

I would like to see more money appropriated to further development of this program in different categories. Also could Payette County get commodities for their dinner they have every Wednesday?

STEWART T. SUSSEX, WEISER, IDAHO

I do not often write to my congressmen and perhaps this is more to my shame than to my credit. I have always felt that if I expressed by opinion at the polls, which I do after considerable deliberation, then I should leave those who are elected and who are far more knowledgeable than I, free to regulate the workings of our nation.

My philosophy has been somewhat changed in the past few years. It seems that everyone is expressing himself in one form or another. This may run from stealing anything that is not nailed down, to the taking of drugs, and even despoiling of our national flag.

There are any number of things of course, which are open to comment by the general public today: pollution of all kinds, race relations or segregation, welfare programs, inflation, and so it goes on and on.

However, the primary subject that I would like to bring to your attention is that of the rising crime rate in our nation. It would seem that everything is directed toward the rights of the individual as judged by the rulings handed down by our Supreme Court. It is good that the individual should be protected under our system for government, but I feel that it should apply to all individuals, not just those who exist outside of the law. Don't I, as an honest, tax-paying individual of my community, have a right to protection? Don't I have a right to send my children to school, safe in the knowledge that they will not be approached by scum offering them all forms of drugs, indecent literature, and possible abduction and molesting? Am I not entitled to as much, or more protection than those who are caught in an illegal act? Should I not be entitled to be able to walk the streets or use the park after dark without fear of attack?

I hear on the radio, see on television, and read in the papers that one should lock his car when leaving it, bar his house windows, have an alarm system, or keep a dog. Now I realize that some of this is only common sense in our present day society, but is this the way that it should be? Why shouldn't I be able to leave my house to go on vacation without fear of losing everything I own? Of course, this could go on and on in the same vein, but I think you see my point by now. The individual should have his rights, certainly, but when will the honest people of this country be given the same individual right of protection that the criminal element has? It seems that those who commit a crime are groveled over, and they cry the loudest about their rights when caught, while the honest person who was the target of their actions is totally disregarded.

A policeman is shot by someone who is taking part in an armed robbery, and what do we hear? The police are investigated for shooting at the "suspect", or undue force was used by the officers who made the arrest, or the man was not advised of his rights!

What about the police officer, doesn't he have rights also? Doesn't he, and all honest citizens, have the right to protection by our courts? Doesn't he have the right to expect that we will back him in carrying out his assigned task of protecting the public?

Now we come to another segment of this topic and that has to do with penalties which are imposed on those who are guilty of wrong-doing. A man is found guilty of the crime of armed robbery and is sentenced to 20 years in prison. How much of this time does he spend in prison? Possibly 7 to 10 years depending on how he behaves and how permissive the local parole boards are. If we are going to impose sentences on those who break the law why don't we make them serve the full time? If 20 years is too long a sentence for a particular crime, then it should be adjusted to a reasonable term and that term should be served. Also let's get rid of the silly fine system for criminal offenses. What good does it do to fine a dope pusher \$50 and turn him loose? All he does is try to sell that much more dope to recover his losses and in general it costs me and all other taxpayers both in dollars and the damage that the pusher does to the users of his product.

This reminds me greatly of a problem that is prevalent here in the state of Idaho, as is all across the country. That is the rising death rate on our highways. And what do we propose to do to stop these deaths—hire more police, fasten our safety belts, promote greater safety features in our cars, etc. But do we reach back to the source of car deaths for an answer? No! The car manufacturers keep pushing up horsepower that is at the present time all out of reason. Automobile advertisements, all stress the fact that their cars are capable of going from 0 to 60 MPH in 7.3 seconds, or some such figure, and have a top speed in excess of 130 MPH. Most of these advertisements are aimed at the younger members of our society and we are in fact daring them to try out these speeds on our highways. Is it any wonder that our vehicle death rate continues to climb? While all of the safety features are good, wouldn't it be simpler and more certain to limit the amount of horsepower a manufacturer could put in his cars?

I have sort of wandered off the track, but I feel that it does point up the fact that we are attacking some of our problems from the wrong end.

To reiterate, I would like to say that I feel we the honest citizens are being denied our rights in favor of the giving of extended rights to those who, in a manner of speaking, have forfeited a certain portion of their rights by committing crimes against society.

Thank you for listening to my comments. I had not intended this to be quite as long as it has turned out to be, but I get somewhat carried away on this subject.

JENNIE L. THOMPSON, PAYETTE, IDAHO

I am one of the senior citizens of the city of Payette and Payette County. I helped to make this country what it is today with many hours of work with very little relaxation as I was raised on a farm where there was always plenty of hard work to be done.

My husband and I worked early and late until he passed away in 1957 at Fruitland, Idaho. We paid out many dollars in taxes over the years and now that I am alone and getting by on a small Social Security check I feel that I deserve something in return.

Would like very much to stay with the W.I.C.A.P. as it keeps the older citizens active and some that are not able to get out really enjoy getting around a bit by bus furnished by Senior Citizens Community Action Center, for a small charge. I play every week for a large number to dance.

I am sincerely hoping we can retain W.I.C.A.P. for another year or as long as possible.

Hoping this will come to your attention.

I am a senior citizen.

MRS. ELEANORE TOWSE, WEISER, IDAHO

I think that the EMPACT program is the best program for we Senior Citizens that the U.S. Govt. has brought into action and I want to see it carried on.

They fixed the roof on my house, so it doesn't leak any more. I couldn't have had this work done if I would have had to pay for it.

This help has made me feel wanted again. It makes me feel as if someone cares about me again.

Please keep it going.

It has helped the Senior Citizens that did the work too. As some of them only get \$50 a month Social Security and this \$1.60 an hour really helps them in living again like American Citizens. Thank you.

SAXON UBERUAGA, EMMETT, IDAHO

As a woman too old to be among the youth group and too young to be eligible for the Senior Citizens Group, I find this group is of tremendous benefit to all of us. I only hope that others realize the impact of the side benefits we reap from the efforts and effects of the Senior Citizens.

Those of us who have aging parents, who previously relied solely upon their children for every need, both material and emotional, have at times known great stress imposed by the financial and emotional needs of aging parents. While we may give this willingly through love and duty; nevertheless, it can be a great burden at times, draining the mental and emotional energy as well as the pocketbook. Those aging parents who find companionship, work, help in need, and happiness among others of their own age and interests, relieve a great burden from their children.

As a working woman, through necessity to supplement an income to help pay for a home, educate several children, and plan for some security in my own old age; my time, energy, and money are limited. As an only child, I have at times "stretched myself pretty thin" to do the many time consuming errands and little jobs for a widowed mother who is too crippled by arthritis to do some things for herself. To compound the problem, my job with the U.S. Forest Service, requires that I live approximately five to six months each summer at a Ranger Station 126 miles from my home and family, where it is then impossible for me to care for my mother in any way. Were it not for EMPACT and an active and inspired group of Senior Citizens in Emmett, I would not know where to turn for help. Because of their energetic devotion to their cause, my mother is able to live alone in a small apartment next door to our house. She is inspired to enjoy her personal hobbies, such as oil painting and carious creative crafts. And I am able to concentrate my efforts to better advantage in a job which requires much from me, both in time and constant progressive study; whereas, I would otherwise expend precious time and mental worry on an innocent aging mother who does not wish to be a burden or a problem.

Through the united efforts of the Senior Citizens Group and EMPACT, my mother is much more happy, healthy, and active; I, in turn, enjoy those same benefits, which through the chain reaction is spread throughout the entire family.

Therefore, since the youth group is indirectly concerned much more than many of them realize, and our middle age group is decidedly affected with full knowledge and appreciation, I sincerely hope that all persons will give this program complete support in every possible manner.

As a taxpayer and a voter, I must admit that I strongly resent paying taxes for certain programs. As the same taxpayer and voter, I certainly wish to stress that I'd like to see more of my own taxes appropriated to the EMPACT program, which has proven many successful and beneficial results for all of us.

GEORGE VONDERSCHMITT, NEW PLYMOUTH, IDAHO

There is very little I can add to what was said by the people at the hearing. Of course there is one thing that is always topmost in my mind. The education of the senior citizen in the proper operation of motor vehicles. Most of our senior citizens learned to operate a motor vehicle by merely getting in an auto

and driving away. That could perhaps get an operator by in the past but this is not the case under present traffic conditions.

I am attempting to interest the senior citizen centers to institute classes for senior citizens in the proper operation of motor vehicles. This is especially necessary in the metropolitan areas but is also important in any area. I believe this should be a national undertaking. Thank you.

MRS. ETHEL YOUNGBLOOD, WEISER, IDAHO

We thank you for your support: we are so glad that you are working for us; we do need the EMPACT program so very much. I think it is the most needed of all. There is lots of things us older people can't do. Like climbing ladders and washing windows and ceilings and some of our yard work. I sure hope we get it back again. We don't get much social security so it just doesn't go around. So with this program it gives the ones a little more able to work a job. So they can help the ones not so able. Then we will all be more comfortable in our old age. Just keep working for us and maybe we will get it back. Thank you.

GEM COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER

As the adjusted census shows, there are approximately 1800 senior citizens in Gem County representing roughly 28% of the entire population of that county. 200 of these senior citizens are actively participating in the senior citizens center activities. There is a definite need and desire for rent subsidy housing by 30 of these people.

Beyond this 30, other senior citizens have stated their desire for more adequate housing. Some are living at home without water or plumbing.

This is to briefly inform you of the general conditions and needs of the senior citizens in Gem County. We the undersigned represent the Western Idaho Community Action Program and the Senior Citizens Committee request your assistance in supporting any planned and approved housing that will satisfy the needs of senior citizens of Gem County.

Yours very truly,

G. WATTERLIN, MAY HOOPES, FLORENCE HARRIS, BLANCHE SMITH,
BLANCHARD MORGAN, ALFRED H. HERMAN, A. M. AYRES, HOWARD H.
CAYFORD, MRS. CALVIN REED, LEONARD HARKSON.

