

Senior Citizens Heard



SENATE SUB COMMITTEE continued hearings yesterday at Suffok U. auditorium on geriatric problems. Here U. S. Sen. Patrick McNamara, D., Mich, answers questions of, l. to r., Mrs. Rose M. O'Donnell, Mrs. Mary K. Hilenski, Miss Ida M. Smith, Mrs. Mary A. Deveau, and Mrs. Elizabeth M. Kramer. Senior citizens turned out in full force.

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Senator Pat Gets Earnest Thanks



Age Survey To Convene

- 2-Month Study Ends
- Hearing To Follow

Social Security Adequate Income For Aged Urged

By RAY HENRY

A special Congressional subcommittee headed by Sen. Pat McNamara (D-Mich.) has ended a six-month investigation of problems of the aged with some firm ideas about what should be done about them.

In final hearings in his home town of Detroit, he threw in a lecture for the young about their obligations to their seniors.

"The younger part of the population seems to forget that it, too, will someday be part of the aged population. What they do today to help solve the problems to the aged will directly affect their own future when they become 60 and 65 years old and beyond."

TURNING to the problems of the aged he said: "We are talking about the vast majority of older people who suffer from the lack of one or more of the following requirements of a decent human existence:

Sufficient money, sound health, comfortable housing, recognition in the eyes of others—dignity, meaningful activities in retirement."

Then, he presented what he called "a declaration of rights for America's older citizens" which he hopes to make the basis of Congressional legislation to solve some of the problems of the aged.

THE DECLARATION made these points:

Older Americans have right to a retirement income large enough to live as self-respecting human beings. Because Social Security is the most important source of income for the aged, a substantial and not a token increase in benefits is called for in the next session of Congress.

All Americans have a right to equality in the highest standards of health and social facilities. The aged are no exception. McNamara urged to present to Congress ideas on how equality established.

Senate Studies Plight Of Aged

The U. S. Senate's new subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging has started a probe of financial, medical and social problems facing the nation's 16 million elders — men and women over 65. The aged citizens themselves are being urged to testify before the subcommittee during nationwide hearings beginning in Boston, Oct. 13. The following article, based on testimony from experts who appeared in Washington, defines the problem and gives the statistical face of aging in the United States.)

By PATRICIA McCORMACK
NEW YORK (UPI) — If you are 65 or older — and a typical elder — you are struggling to stay afloat financially, medically or socially.

If you are 20 or 30 or 40-plus, problems facing the nation's 16 million elders may be affecting you indirectly — at home or on the job. If you live long enough, the problems will affect you directly.

The average age at death in the United States today is about 70. Experts say it should be 82 in the year 2000.

With further progress humans may live to 125 years during the next century, predicted Sen. Pat McNamara (D-Mich.), chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging. The subcommittee, embarked on a comprehensive study of the problems of the aged, hopes to come up with proposals to make longevously something better than a problem-plagued fate.

IN PREPARATION for a grass roots tour of leading cities and local hearings, opening Oct. 13 in Boston, the subcommittee recently invited some of the best informed persons in the nation to testify about problems of the aged in four major areas — employment, housing, health and income. First solutions suggested call

for cooperative action by individuals, voluntary agencies, local, state and federal government. McNamara warned against "relegating older people to the sidelines — financially, medically and socially."

"If we continue to do this, the financial burden to this country of a growing number of institutions for the aged will be too fantastic to conceive," he said.

THE STATISTICAL face of aging, drawn for the subcommittee, follows:

—The aged are increasing nearly 1,000 a day. By 1975, there will be 20 million aged.

—Three-fourths of all aged persons live with some family member. About 15 per cent of the aged live alone or with non-relatives. About three per cent live in institutions; another three per cent in hotels or rooming houses.

—Total income of all the aged was about \$25 billion last year. Some \$6.7 billion was from social security; \$1.7 billion from public assistance, and \$2.2 billion from other governmental programs. About \$1 billion came from private pension plans and an additional amount from individual insurance contracts.

—Most of the aged have low incomes. Last year, three-fifths of all persons age 65 and over had less than \$1,000 in money income. Another one-fifth received \$1,000 to \$2,000. The other one-fifth had more than \$2,000.

—Of the aged persons, only about one in five in December of last year had a paying job.

—Six out of every 10 were receiving social security payments last year. The average benefit for persons retiring in March, 1959, was \$82, compared to an average of \$72 for all aged persons or rolls at that time. About half of all aged married couples receive less than \$125 a month.

—Aged widows have the lowest incomes. Widows benefits awarded in March, 1959, averaged \$61 a month under social security.

—Days of hospital care used by persons 65 and over are about two to two-and-a-half times as much as those used by persons under age 65.

—About 65 per cent of the aged do not have any hospital or surgical insurance.

—Over half the retired aged quit work for health reasons.

—The average state old age assistance payment in March, 1959, was \$64 a month.

—The aged are not a homogeneous group. Some are between 65 and 70; most are over age 70.

SOME ARE working; most are not. Some are in good health; most are not. Some live in institutions; most do not. Some are living with husband or wife; most are not.

Some live alone; most do not. Some have a high school education; most do not. Some have adequate incomes; most do not.

Some do not receive social security benefits; most do. Some have hospital or surgical insurance; most do not.

Oldsters Tell Of Financial 'Fix'

Senate Group Hears 14 Here

By MARY O'HARA
An articulate group of nine citizens stepped up to the microphone in City Council chambers yesterday afternoon and spoke of well-thought of pieces on the plight of the aging. Sen. Joseph S. Clark, Pennsylvania Democrat, presided over the hearings held by the subcommittee on problems of the aged and aging.

In effect, the hearing was a lobby for passage of the Forand bill (H. R. 3566) as the 14 persons heard urged support of Sen. Aime J. Forand's proposed welfare legislation.

Forand would pressure the Federal Government to relax its requirements. The Federal Government would get its share of the cost about present maximum amounts.

One of the witnesses, 80-year-old Leslie Carter, a retired steelworker, distributed printed appeal to Senator Clark, urging his support of Forand's bill in the name of humanity and on behalf of millions of aged Americans who have to submit on meager Social Security pensions. All the appeal needed is a signature.

Mr. Carter's case was well illustrated by a check of costs for medical expenses.



MRS. WALTER PATTERSON



ALEXANDER LIPMAN



U. S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE BEGINS HEARINGS ON PROBLEMS OF AGED Mrs. Rona Thalheim Talks To Sen. Randolph, Right, And Sen. McNamara

Senators Predict