

# ENERGY EQUITY AND THE ELDERLY IN THE 80's

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HEARING  
BEFORE THE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
NINETY-SIXTH CONGRESS  
SECOND SESSION

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PART 2—ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

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OCTOBER 28, 1980



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# ENERGY EQUITY AND THE ELDERLY IN THE 80's

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1980

U.S. SENATE,  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING,  
*St. Petersburg, Fla.*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:20 a.m., in the North Ballroom of the Bayfront Concourse Hotel, Hon. Lawton Chiles, chairman, presiding.

Present: Senator Chiles.

Also present: E. Bentley Lipscomb, staff director; Deborah K. Kilmer, legislative liaison; Eileen M. Winkelman, minority professional staff member; and Dianne C. Pearson, clerical assistant.

## OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR LAWTON CHILES, CHAIRMAN

Senator CHILES. Good morning.

I would like to welcome you all to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging's hearing on "Energy Equity and the Elderly in the 80's." This hearing is being held in conjunction with the mini-conference on energy, which is one of the many special-interest meetings being conducted nationwide in preparation for the White House Conference on Aging scheduled for December 1981.

The White House Conference on Aging is a significant platform for drawing attention to the growing number of older Americans in this country and the policies needed to meet their needs and share their contributions to society. The two previous White House Conferences on Aging, in 1961 and 1971, were productive contributors toward development of such major programs as medicare, the nutrition program for the elderly, and the SSI program.

Today, we shall discuss energy. It is important to note that in the 1961 and the 1971 conferences, the subject of energy was never mentioned.

Today is a very different world. With the oil embargo of 1973-74, the continuous price hikes from the OPEC countries, the breakdown of relations between the United States and Iran, and the current war between Iran and Iraq, the "energy crisis" has become one of the major, if not the major, foreign and domestic issues of this decade and most likely in the next.

Yes, the energy crisis has strained international relations. But the ever-increasing price in fuel oil has caused unprecedented burdens for the people of this country, especially our older citizens. For this reason, energy is a major subject of the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

I don't have to tell any of you how fuel and electric bills have affected our budgets. But I would like to throw a few statistics at you about the dramatic impact energy prices have had on our elderly households.

In just 5 years the average low- and median-income households energy budgets have skyrocketed. In 1975 the average low-income household had an income of \$3,153 and was spending \$637 or 20.2 percent of it on energy costs. By 1980 that same household's income had only increased by about \$500 to an average of \$3,703. Yet its energy expenditures had increased by almost \$700 to \$1,322 a year. That household was spending approximately 36 percent of its income on energy.

Many elderly households today spend 50 percent of their limited incomes on energy. Many elderly people need help. In the 5 years that fuel and electric rates increased by 200 percent, their social security, SSI, and pensions increased by roughly 40 percent. No one can blame their budgets with those kinds of numbers.

So the Congress responded by creating several programs we call energy assistance programs. Some help with utility bills while others help to conserve energy by weatherizing homes. Today some of you will tell of your experiences with these programs.

Energy costs have also affected our ability to move. We all are learning to curb our recreational motoring, but transportation is a necessity for visits to the doctor, home-delivered meals programs, home-health programs, ambulances, and many other services. We will also hear firsthand about these problems in those areas.

We have also learned by very unfortunate circumstances this summer, that heat affects our elderly as severely as the cold. The record temperatures of July and August caused the deaths of nearly 2,000 persons, many of them elderly. Thousands more were hospitalized. Medical evidence shows that many of these persons could have survived if they had simply used a fan. Witnesses told our committee in July that many of the victims were found to have fans or air-conditioning units but the fear of the cost of running the appliance kept them from using it. The threat of a mere \$13-a-month increase in electricity bills caused severe illness and even death.

Many Southern and Midwest residents learned how to cope with the heat and how to assist the most vulnerable elderly. Federal, State, and local services programs, disaster programs, armed services, and neighbors helped to make the disaster less severe. Valuable lessons were learned from these experiences which should be incorporated into the existing energy assistance programs. I believe such programs must have the flexibility to meet the total needs of any weather-related crisis, whether it be heat or cold.

As I mentioned earlier, today's hearing is being held in conjunction with the miniconference on energy which is being sponsored by the National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons. We are pleased that the executive director of NRTA/AARP, Cy Brickfield, is with us today. Before I turn the mike over to Cy for a few remarks. I want to commend him and his organization for their support of this conference and the similar one in Boston. I am particularly pleased that you had the foresight to hold one in the South, where we also believe, we have energy problems. Energy is not

a regional problem but a national one and I thank you for recognizing this fact.

I hope that Cy or a member of his staff can stay with us at the hearing and help answer any questions that might come up about the miniconference on energy. As many of you can see, there is a microphone in the audience and we certainly encourage you to use that microphone and participate with us today. After each panel we are going to try to have time for a few questions or comments from the audience.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like you to now hear from Cy Brickfield, who is also a member of the Advisory Council for the White House Conference on Aging.

**STATEMENT OF CYRIL F. BRICKFIELD, WASHINGTON, D.C., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION/AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS**

Mr. BRICKFIELD. Thank you very much, Senator Chiles.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to start off, Senator, by acknowledging several people in the audience who are members of our boards of directors and I think you would agree that it is a wise move on my part as they are my bosses. They also deserve to be recognized.

I would like first to introduce the national president of the National Retired Teachers Association, Mildred Moore, from Grand Island, Nebr.; Frances Smith, a member of the board of directors from Arizona; and the vice president of the American Association of Retired Persons, Vita Ostrander from Georgia.

Senator, I have a prepared statement but in listening to you read your statement I find that we are in such close agreement that I prefer to submit the statement for the record rather than reading it and repeating many of your thoughts.

Senator CHILES. The statement will be made part of the record.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. BRICKFIELD. I will now make such remarks as I can from my notes.

I might point out, Senator, that I heard this morning on the radio that there is a convocation of the public utilities companies, the electric companies, the gas companies, and the fuel oil companies over in Tampa today. They are meeting there by themselves. Since all of us are in Florida today it would be helpful if they could find time to meet with us. We could emphasize to them that in the city of Chicago last year there were 21,000 fuel shutoffs because people didn't pay their bills. They didn't have the money and the utility companies came and shut off the home heating fuels. In Rhode Island in 1 month there were 1,600 shutoffs with some of these companies defending their actions by saying we are not in the social service business.

I feel that these public utilities companies must become more greatly involved in the social service area. They should create and expand this capability within their own organizations. Public utilities owe it to the American public to put in social service assistance programs within their own organizations. Some of them are already

<sup>1</sup> See page 93.

doing it. I don't mean that company attitudes are all wrong. It simply takes time and education to bring them around. We all have to participate and work together, not only the Government agencies but the private sector as well. One big area of the private sector is the area of public utilities.

To go on to my notes, I would like to point out that, as the Senator mentioned, our associations were privileged to be picked by the White House Conference on Aging to sponsor a miniconference on energy. There are many, many conferences; some are on minority problems, others on transportation, others on housing, and so forth. We were the one selected for the energy conference and we are very pleased.

You will notice that the title of today's hearing is "Energy Equity and the Elderly in the 80's." The key word is equity, and equity means to me fair play or a fair share, and this is what we are talking about when we are talking about elderly concerns and fair treatment of the elderly in the energy area.

I might point out, too, that in addition to this hearing today there is a meeting tomorrow made up of what I would call the professional people, the people that represent the energy producers—that is, the utility companies and people that are experts in aging matters—and also people that represent consumers and we hope from this group to be able to develop an agenda for the White House Conference on Aging.

There will be many experts representing Florida, also representatives for consumer interests. For example, we are going to have medical doctors who are specialists in the area of geriatric medicine. State and Federal officials will be there. People from universities, people from Florida universities, and gerontologists will be with us.

Agencies which are in the delivery of these services such as the area agencies on aging and the State units on aging will be with us. Voluntary organizations such as our own, and architects and engineers very involved in housing designs will be there. I think it is most important.

It is very good that today we are going to hear, among others, from individual people who will relate their personal experiences. I remember last week in Boston a lady came, her name was Smith, a widow, and she has an income of \$390 a month. She pays \$200 for rent. That left \$190. She paid \$160 out for her fuel bill which left her about \$30. She has a real problem. These are the histories we need to know because as individual cases unfold a pattern is developed which points up real areas of needs for which to seek remedies.

I listened as Senator Chiles read the fact that since 1972 fuel costs have risen 200 percent. They exceed the CPI, the Consumer Price Index, by three times. So it is no wonder that the personal economics of millions of our older Americans are affected sharply by rising energy costs. When energy costs rise the Department of Energy and the Department of Health tell us that many older people cut back on the basic necessities, the core necessities. They cut back, for example, on food. It may be hard to believe but many skip meals. When they do eat they often are not eating nutritious meals.

Many are on maintenance drugs who don't renew their prescriptions and they forego visits to their doctors. Somehow or other they resort to using home remedies to take care of things. This creates problems.

Energy costs cut into their budgets, too. For example, there was a recent study in nearby Georgia, a study in the files of your committee, where the incomes of a group of people between the ages of 63 and 79 were examined. Their average income was \$212 a month.

This makes them the elderly poor. You multiply \$212 a month times 12 and you can figure out how much that is a year. It is not very much. It turned out that these people were spending between 40 and 50 percent of their monthly income on energy items. The Department of Energy also estimates that these low-income people will spend 40 percent of their monthly household income on energy payments. Also these rising costs affect the lifestyle of older people.

I listened as Senator Chiles pointed out that the elderly adapt less to rapidly changing temperatures, especially extremes of hot and cold weather. They can be seriously physically affected by hot weather and by chilling temperatures. The Department of Health and Human Services tells us that 83 percent of all older Americans over 65 have chronic illnesses, such as respiratory ailments, heart disease, strokes, or you name it, and these diseases are aggravated either by continuing cold or by excessive heat.

In another area, and I don't wish to take too much time, but I want to cover as many of these areas as I can, high energy costs create living problems. We are told that the majority of the elderly, who own their own homes, own homes that are more than 30 years old. These homes generally are poorly insulated.

Rising energy costs affect the elderly in other ways, such as in the area of social services. For example, meals on wheels, hot lunches at senior centers, transportation, home health care are more difficult to provide simply because the cost of producing and delivering is going up due to energy shortage. Another area that our associations are seriously concerned about relates to our large number of over 1 million members here in the State of Florida. Our volunteer members use their automobiles in connection with the delivery of social services. More and more there is a hesitancy on using these automobiles because of the rising costs at the gas pump.

So we are going to be considering today, as Senator Chiles points out, and tomorrow, too, when we have our professional technicians with us, these problems of elderly income, health, housing, delivery of services.

I would be remiss, however, if I didn't note that Congress has not been standing idly by. They have passed many public laws. I would like to cite three or four.

There is the low-income energy assistance program which helps householders pay energy costs, and that means paying for the direct cost of electricity or the repair of air-conditioners, things of that nature. There is the home improvement loan program which is available. There is the weatherization assistance program for house insulation, weather stripping and things of that nature. There is also the crisis intervention program to provide clothing and emergency home repair of the elderly.

But as good as these programs are, they need improvements. Good beginnings. For example, the home weatherization program provides up to \$800 and \$1,000 for both materials and labor. This is good if



your house needs only insulation, but many of these older homes need major repairs, and it is not good to just insulate or weatherize the outside doors or windows if the house needs major overhaul.

There is another program called the home improvement loan program that makes money available for these major repairs. The difficulty is that to be eligible you must be able to pay the ongoing costs of the loan and under the law banks can charge up to 12 percent on home repair loans, so you can see the difficulty. As I say, we think these laws are good, but work has to be done to make qualifying easier.

Another area is the administration and management of these energy services. There are three levels of government. The Federal Government develops the programs and provides the financing. The State governments do the planning and they develop State plans. It is then the local agencies that either deliver or provide for the delivery of these services. Unhappily, there is intervention on each level and this causes problems. There is a fragmentation, if I could put it that way, of responsibility.

For example, I have a book here somewhere outlining 24 Federal programs in the energy area. When you look on the back pages you will find that these programs are serviced by a whole host of Federal agencies—the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture, Community Services Administration, and others. Somehow or other, Senator, there has to be better coordination. In the short term, coordination should be placed at the local level and there are agencies there that can do it—the area agencies on aging and the State units on aging. Their very mission is to coordinate the services in the area. Their purpose is to be a catalyst in this area where improvements can be made.

There is need of an outreach program. It is very hard especially in rural areas to reach the elderly and tell them about their eligibility. Also, as you know, and it is not hard to understand, that many of these elderly live in fear of bureaucracy. They need help. Information has to be distributed. For example, notices could be piggybacked with social security checks, telling the elderly about possible eligibility. I see some veterans in the front row at this hearing. Veterans receive pension checks. Information could be piggybacked to those, as pensioners are low-income veterans and doubtless many are eligible.

Finally, we feel that this outreach program can best be developed at the local level because it is at the local level where the people best know what the energy needs of the areas are. Here I would like to bring myself back to what I said earlier on. When you develop these outreach programs at the local level, it is not only the local government agencies and the private organizations, but you have to involve private industry as well. It is important to bring in the utility companies, the Tampa Power & Light Co., and so forth. Whatever it is has to be part of this outreach program. The companies that deliver home fuel, and here in St. Petersburg, I guess it is bottled propane gas, must be brought in to be part of this outreach program so that we have a united approach to the whole matter.

Finally, I think the greatest resource of all which we can use is the older American himself. These people are capable and they could serve our Nation on energy conservation and energy assistance programs.

For example, the elderly could be recruited to conduct home energy audits and help in home repair programs. They could give advice on ways to save energy. They could make referrals to agencies providing for financial assistance. They could sensitize the public to the need for energy conservation.

We are organizations of 12.5 million people and I know I speak for all of us when I say we are ready to help in any and all energy programs where we can be of help.

One last note, Senator. We note that just before Congress recessed they passed a continuing resolution providing \$1.8 billion in energy assistance, and we are pleased with this, because, among other things, it provides money for this low-income outreach program, but that money is not sufficient to go a full fiscal year. We noted that the Senator introduced an amendment on it before the Senate Appropriations Committee which was approved, that would raise the total sum to \$2.3 billion. We hope that when the November elections are over and the Senate reconvenes for a short session, Senator, that the full Congress favorably acts upon your amendment and it becomes the law of the land.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Senator CHILES. Thank you very much, Cy. Thank you for your statement. Your prepared statement will be entered into the record at this time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Brickfield follows:]

#### PREPARED STATEMENT OF CYRIL F. BRICKFIELD

Mr. Chairman, I wish to extend our thanks to you, Senator Chiles, and to members of the Senate Special Committee on Aging for your initiative—and splendid cooperation—in holding this public hearing.

The 25 million Americans who are 65 or older are deeply indebted to your committee for the many valuable studies which have focused national attention on the aspirations and problems of older citizens. We are also most grateful for public hearings that have enabled older Americans to present their views and have a sense of participation in legislative decisions affecting their well-being.

Beginning this evening and continuing throughout tomorrow, the associations I serve as executive director are privileged to convene an official miniconference to the White House Conference on Aging. At this miniconference, 50 representatives of energy producers, experts in the field of energy and aging, and older consumers will discuss energy issues and make recommendations for consideration by the 1,800 delegates who will attend the 1981 White House Conference on Aging. Last week we held a similar conference in Boston.

Certainly, older citizens have a valid reason to be worried about the escalating cost of heating oil, electricity, natural gas, and gasoline. Between 1972 and 1979, fuel costs increased nearly 200 percent, or three times more than the increase in other items included in the Consumer Price Index.

On average, the income of retired Americans is only 52 percent of that received by younger employed people. Moreover, many older Americans are living on incomes below or just above the poverty level, as it is officially defined: \$3,790 for single persons and \$5,010 for couples.

It is evident that one of our chief concerns should be the elderly poor. They consume less energy than any other group, but spend a higher proportion of their total income on energy. An advisory committee to the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that the low-income elderly will spend up to 40 percent of their household income this year on energy payments as compared with a maximum of only 20 percent by those in middle-income brackets. Thus many older people are being compelled to cut down on expenditures for other essentials, such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical care.

To compound matters, 51 percent of persons who are 65 or older live in the Northeast and North Central portions of our Nation, where winters are usually

severe. Many live in houses built more than 30 years ago and are poorly insulated. The Urban Institute of Washington, D.C., made a study which revealed that about 17 percent of the elderly living in cities and 30 percent of those living in rural areas occupy houses or apartments that lack sufficient insulation or are substandard in other respects.

Extremely hot weather can be as devastating to the elderly as extremely cold weather. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that last summer's recordbreaking heat wave resulted in 1,265 deaths. Missouri, with 311 deaths, had a higher toll than any other State in the Union.

According to the official Government report, many of those who died from last summer's heat were elderly poor persons who could not afford to live in air-conditioned homes or apartments.

The rising cost of energy is affecting the elderly in many ways other than their home utility and fuel bills. It is also having an adverse effect on social services provided to the elderly—such services as meals-on-wheels, hot luncheons at senior centers, transportation, and home health care—because it is costing more to provide these services. Moreover, it is becoming increasingly difficult to enlist volunteers to help in hospitals, senior centers, and elsewhere if they must use their automobiles in providing these services. They look at the price posted at the gas pump and wonder how long they can afford to continue their volunteer work.

Despite all of these difficulties facing elderly Americans, one thing is certain: We as a Nation must decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

Seven years have passed since some Arab nations embargoed shipments of oil from the Middle East to the United States. During that time, the price of a barrel of OPEC oil has risen from \$1.77 in 1973 to the current price of \$34 to \$36 a barrel. It is clear that we experienced the end of low-cost energy during the decade of the 1970's.

In the mid-1970's, our associations opposed immediate decontrol of prices for domestically produced oil and natural gas because of the inflationary effect decontrol would have had. We think the Congress acted prudently in enacting legislation which provided for a gradual removal of price ceilings.

Today, we do not have price controls on heating oil and industrial fuels. The price of crude oil produced here is being allowed to rise, month by month, until October 1, 1981, when price controls will be lifted.

Our associations accept the decontrol of prices for domestically produced oil and natural gas as a necessary action to decrease our dependence on foreign fuels, encourage our production of oil and gas, and strengthen our national security. At the same time, we contend that programs are required to provide assistance to those most vulnerable to higher energy costs—in particular, the elderly poor.

Since we knew that decontrolling oil and natural gas prices would yield large additional profits for domestic oil and gas producers, we have long argued that a portion of the revenues of any windfall profits tax should be set aside to help fund the cost of an energy relief assistance program for lower income individuals and families.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, before Congress recessed earlier this month, a continuing resolution was passed providing \$1.85 billion in low-income energy assistance through December 15, 1980. Of this amount, the Community Services Administration receives \$85½ million for emergency assistance to low-income persons. We are pleased that some of these funds will be used by CSA in a national outreach program. Without this effort, many elderly persons would not be aware of the energy assistance program. The bulk of the funds—\$1.706 billion consists of energy assistance grants to the States.

Our associations believe that the funding provided is sufficient to meet the goals of the energy assistance program through December, but we contend that additional funds will be needed for the remainder of the fiscal year. For that reason, when Members of Congress reconvene in November, we shall urge them to increase the total appropriation to \$2.3 billion—an amount previously recommended by you, Mr. Chairman, and approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

We do not pretend to be experts in the technology required to develop new sources of energy, but we are happy to see that steps have finally been taken to move ahead in this area. For example, funds have been authorized to establish a Synthetic Fuels Corporation, which will work with private industry in building plants to extract oil from shale and liquids and gases from coal. We are well aware of the environmental problems involved, but we believe they are solvable.

We would also like to see more effort devoted to the production of energy from hydroelectric plants, urban waste, solar power, and gasohol. All of this will require

a huge, sustained effort by Government, private industry, and citizens working together.

Our associations believe that strong incentives must be provided the private sector to develop and expand domestic energy sources. We simply cannot afford to perpetuate our dependence on foreign oil, and recent developments in the Middle East clearly demonstrate why.

We must learn to conserve energy in every possible way— through greater use of public transportation, carpooling, elimination of nonessential driving, insulation of our homes, and architectural design that makes fuller use of the Sun's energy.

Fortunately, we have already made some progress in reducing our consumption of foreign oil. From a record 8.8 million barrels a day in 1977, or 48 percent of consumption, imports have declined to 7.5 million barrels a day, or a little more than 42 percent of our total consumption. But having said that, we must readily admit that we have a long way to go in seeking energy sufficiency and in building a strategic stockpile of oil to carry us through an international emergency.

I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we have a great human resource that is not being fully utilized in our effort to conserve energy. I am thinking of the many able-bodied and skilled older Americans who would welcome the opportunity to serve our Nation as energy conservation volunteers. At relatively little cost, we could harness this virtually untapped source of manpower and womanpower. They could conduct home energy audits, help in home weatherization programs, advise others on ways to save energy, make referrals to agencies providing financial assistance, and sensitize the public to the urgent need for energy conservation. Our associations, with their 12½ million members, stand ready to participate in any way deemed feasible.

In closing, I wish once again to express our sincere appreciation to Senator Chiles and to the Senate Special Committee on Aging for their fine support in helping us formulate energy guidelines for the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

Senator CHILES. Now we will go to our first panel. Margaret Jacks is going to lead off for us. Margaret is an advisory council member to the White House Conference on Aging. Margaret has been an advocate for the elderly for a long, long time.

If Pat Imperato will come up, too, we will put you on next.

**STATEMENT OF MARGARET H. JACKS, TALLAHASSEE, FLA.,  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER, WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE  
ON AGING**

Mrs. JACKS. Thank you so much, Senator. I am particularly appreciative of being asked to be here today because, in addition to being on the Advisory Council for the White House Conference, I am chairing one of the subcommittees that has the responsibility for discussing factors which impact on the quality of life of older people. If there is anything that really impacts on the quality of our lives—and I say our because I am a senior citizen—it is the energy crisis and resulting inflation. Those of us who are in our later years are very aware of the need of all older people for adequate heating, adequate cooling, and the other things in our surroundings that affect our well-being. I hope that the White House Conference will come up with some very good recommendations in this area. For that reason, I am glad to be here so that I may hear many of you in the audience speak about this. I can then take this back to the Advisory Committee of the White House Conference. This can result in the Conference making some constructive recommendations to the Congress. This experience will help me to bring home to the committee the details and the factual data that will back up such recommendations.

I think we all recognize that for the sake of our children, and for the sake of our grandchildren, we have got to conserve energy. I believe that the older people can be a real force in this—in trying to conserve energy to the extent that they can. It is good that there is a lot of research being done on funding sources of energy, other than our present sources, so that we can perhaps be a little less afraid of what we are facing.

Fear is something that destroys the quality of life for all of us, and there is a great deal of fear, particularly on the part of older people, attached to this energy crisis. It shakes our foundation. For so many years we have felt that we didn't have to worry about this. There was so much oil, and there were so many sources of energy, but all of a sudden it is not there and this is disrupting to our lives.

Older people are particularly vulnerable in this area. We are subjected to a great deal of stress in many ways in our lives because things are changing so fast. Would you agree on this—that stress can be caused by rapid changes, and this scarcity of oil is one of those changes that make us all feel just a little more insecure? A feeling of insecurity is not good for any of us.

When you talk about the oil crisis and resulting increase in the cost of utilities, one specific thing I would like to bring out is that the utility costs usually involve an inverted pricing structure which provides for lower rates for higher users. This penalizes the elderly, who usually consume less energy compared to the average household. This is an unfair practice.

I would like to tell you that in my spare time I am a lobbyist for the Florida Council on Aging and work with the Florida Legislature. In the last 2 years, we have tried very hard to get the State legislature to do something about requiring that the utility companies, which Mr. Brickfield mentioned, change this practice and give a break to the smaller users of utilities so that they do not have to pay a per unit higher rate than the heavy users. You would not believe the large amount of lobbying that the utility companies used to try to stop action on this matter. They argued, as Mr. Brickfield has said, that this was another welfare effort. It is not. It is a matter of equity for the small user—many of whom are in their later years.

Older persons make up over half of the victims of hypothermia. The very old and poor are highly susceptible. Heating homes for the elderly is a necessity if they are to maintain a state of health and well-being. That is true in Florida, not as true to the same degree as it is in the Northern States, but I can assure you that in north Florida and northwest Florida in the panhandle, it gets cold in the wintertime. I am sure that those of you who live down here in the southern part of the State also find it very hard, on many winter days, to be comfortable. In Tallahassee, it gets down in the low thirties and the twenties, and that is cold weather.

This makes us all concerned about the older people who do not have the proper amount of heating for their homes. It also gets very warm in the summer, requiring some method of cooling the home, particularly for the frail elderly.

Because Florida has the highest percentage, as most of you know, of people over 60 in our society, the Governor has been very concerned and his energy office has been working on this. They provided

me with some information which I would like to share with you, because you need to know that the Governor has been trying to do something about the energy crisis in Florida. During 1980, there was \$13.8 million spent for energy. That is a lot of money, and it is expected to continue rising faster with inflation. That is a frightening statement to all of us.

State energy programs call for an estimated expenditure of \$5.8 million per year. This amount is small compared to millions spent nationally in energy and research activities. Additional funds are spent on incentives for the production of new alternative fuels and for planning analysis. This includes energy conservation and methods to improve efficiency for producers. As I talked to the Governor's energy staff, they were particularly sensitive to the needs of older people, and I believe that program will give us some helpful guidelines here in Florida on solving our State's energy problems.

Being very specific about ways in which this energy crisis is impacting on older people, one of our first concerns is transportation. If older people are going to exist, they must have the mobility to get from their homes to the sources of services, to buy groceries, to buy clothes, to go to the doctor, to do things that they need to do to exist. Transportation is being tremendously affected in our State by the lack of energy and the lack of sources of transportation.

A lot of older people drive their own cars as long as they are able to do so but the price of gasoline and the purchase of a new car or the maintenance of an older car, because of the inflationary costs, is making it almost impossible for many older people to continue to drive their own car. Several dealers in secondhand cars have reported numbers of older people are giving up their cars because they simply cannot maintain them any longer.

In rural areas of Florida there is little if any public transportation. It was once a common belief that the neighbors in rural areas provided transportation. I am afraid this has gotten to be something of a myth. I have questioned people out in the rural areas where transportation is so badly needed. I have found that this is no longer true. Most of the neighbors now charge—they cannot afford to buy the gas if they don't, or perhaps their generosity is tempered by their own needs for income, so they must charge on the service. This service is not available free to the majority of older people living in rural areas.

Social service agencies have tried very hard in Florida to develop transportation services for the elderly through the use of Older Americans Act funds and title XX funds. As a part of a needs study made while I was the director of the Florida Division on Aging, most of the older people told us that lack of transportation was their No. 1 problem because it was basic to other things. As a result of that study in planning for services to older Floridians, we placed particular emphasis on using funds from the Older Americans Act to make transportation available. We also made use of many volunteers who provided transportation to older people in urban communities. However, let me tell you what is happening to some of those services now. They are disappearing. Many of the volunteers are still working with projects for the elderly, but volunteerism that provides transportation is fast becoming a thing of the past. Volunteers just cannot afford to pay for the gas to offer such volunteer transportation.

In one county where they have been using 2,100 volunteers in their meals-on-wheels programs, they have had to do several things. They have had to shorten their meals routes and not go to some people that live at a great distance, and for some of the routes the project has been completely unable to get volunteers to handle the delivering of the meals. They have considered paying volunteers for their gasoline, but for them to do this they would have to cut their other social services.

In another county where they use 250 volunteers, the project director simply could not replace a number of volunteers that had to give up providing those services. As a result, the project started paying the volunteers for the gas used. They also had to hire some staff to replace the volunteers who could no longer afford to give their services. As a result, expenditures have gone up \$32,000 a year for the gasoline and the staff to replace those volunteers. This has cut drastically into other services being provided. This is a direct result of the cost of gasoline and the energy crisis.

The energy crisis is also affecting the living arrangements of older people. This was mentioned earlier, but I would like to be a little more specific for the purpose of emphasis. Homeownership is becoming a problem for many older people. They are finding they can no longer live in their own home and maintain that home because of the rising cost of utilities and the inflationary costs of everything resulting from energy crisis. They simply are not being able to maintain their own home. In the rural areas of Florida, and in some of the communities where there are large numbers of black elderly, home conditions are particularly deplorable.

Recently, I took a number of pictures of rural housing to Washington, D.C., to share them with the White House Conference on Aging Committee who were considering housing and transportation. Those pictures showed where there were more holes in the sidewalls than there were boards. In one house, where the family obviously had a great deal of pride in their home but simply had not been able to maintain it, the only dry place was over the bed. A piece of corrugated iron had been put across the open rafters to keep the bed dry, but there was not another dry spot in that home because there were so many holes in the roof.

This is housing for the elderly in many of the rural areas of Florida, particularly the northern section in 1980. Something has got to be done, not just about weatherization of houses, although it is badly needed, but to provide adequate housing for older people that will protect them against the elements. This is a must. The escalated costs of providing housing is directly related to inflation, which again goes back to the energy crisis.

The rent charged for houses and apartments that are equipped with good heating and cooling systems is so high that elderly persons on limited income simply cannot meet the payments nor can the elderly on limited fixed income pay to maintain their own home if they are going to have food, if they are going to have clothing, if they are going to have medical care. There is a direct relationship between this choice the elderly must make and the health of older

people. In the northern part of Florida, where it gets very cold, the death rate for older people goes up dramatically in December and in January. This is not just the result of their lack of medical care. It happens to many because they just cannot take the cold weather and the unnecessary exposure to the cold weather while living in ill-heated houses.

At a recent White House conference—miniconference on rural elderly—some interesting things were brought out with respect to nutrition and the elderly and the effect that energy has on this. They suggested, for example, that older people are cutting down on the preparation of nutritious foods because they are afraid to run their stoves, they are afraid to use the energy because their bills will go up. The conference suggested that perhaps microwave ovens, if they could be supplied at a reduced cost for those older people who can safely use them, might be appropriate. Provisions of toaster ovens and burner plates were also suggested as a way to help older people to cut down on the use of energy.

It was also suggested that incentives be provided to the manufacturers to reduce the cost of such equipment for older people, to encourage the use of the smaller heating and cooking equipment. It was recommended that the Federal Government should develop some tax incentives in order to accomplish this end.

I am sure that each of you could bring up other things that could be done. I am more interested in hearing what you are going to say than I am in what I am saying because you are right there on the firing line and you know what you have to deal with. I truly believe in this country we have a commitment to provide a high quality of life for older people. The Senate Special Committee on Aging and the House Select Committee on Aging in the Congress have demonstrated this. These committees are made up of dedicated people.

I particularly want to commend Senator Chiles for the leadership that he has given as chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. His commitment and that of the other concerned persons in the Congress and in our Nation must be translated into action if all older people are to live in health, in comfort, and in decency. For one thing, there must be better coordination of sources of funding to meet these needs. There cannot be the fragmentation among many funding sources that currently is occurring. We have got to be sure that agencies that are directly dealing with these problems, work together in planning and in the coordination of funding so that by the time money for a variety of programs, gets down to the State and local level, maximum use is made of funds available under the Older Americans Act, title XX, housing funds, energy funds, and all other sources that we have to draw on. Such coordination will impact directly on the individual well being of the individual elderly person.

Thank you so much for letting me be here.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

We are delighted to have with us, Pat Imperato, who is representing the National Council of Senior Citizens of Upper Pinellas County in Palm Harbor, Fla. Pat has been a spokesman for lifeline rates, which he will explain. We are delighted to have you.



## STATEMENT OF PAT IMPERATO, PALM HARBOR, FLA.

Mr. IMPERATO. Thank you, Senator.

Actually, I am not representing the National Council of Senior Citizens today, I am a member of it. I am president of the civic association that is No. 04116. I am actually representing the West Coast Coalition of Condo Home Owner Associations. We number about 46,000 people, and I am a pipeline to the powerful east coast coalition of the CCED. I think we are looking at 300,000 on the east coast.

I am not going to tell you what is wrong and what has happened because a lot of you people know it, and the United States knows it, everybody knows it. I am not going to waste time to tell you that you are suffering; you are here because you are suffering. How you are going to get relief is another problem.

I have been a member of the AARP for many years. For many years I have been a member of Common Cause. Last Thursday up at the Public Service Commission they heard me representing the same coalition on the so-called lifeline electric rate. I think I scored some victories for us. From here in it is us and them—us the people that are suffering because they are poor and because they are too old to do anything about their condition.

The utility companies, through their attorneys, asked me outright, I think it was a concession, would I accept a lifeline rate for the indigent elderly as against the 26 to 28 million people we call elderly, because the Public Service Commission had already recommended denial of that particular lifeline rate. I accepted what I thought was a victory, because we had nine witnesses for the utilities, all attorneys, and every other witness was more or less knocked out of the box through some kind of legality.

I came on rather strong. I don't speak like most people that are educated, I never made it through high school, but when you hear what I have got to say, I speak from experience. I speak from 40 years in the field of developing land and for those of you who don't understand what that is, that means I got to know every official in government. I am about as familiar with the stealing—these are my words—the outright graft and corruption that takes away the millions of dollars, which, in a budget, supposedly is to do the job for all of us, and that is why today there is no money left for us. We are at the bottom of the barrel.

I am sure that these minutes are being recorded and my coalition wants a copy of them and insofar as the cost is concerned there is no problem there.

Generally everybody knows all about what they are suffering from. It all comes out in my estimate as money, the lack of money. We have had 7 years' time in this Nation that our Congress has been aware of the fact that the poor and the elderly and others are suffering, and that only spells out one particular answer—our Congress has turned us down because it is the Congress that makes the policy and gives out the money. The reason we have not gotten an energy program off the ground through Senator Chiles' arduous efforts is that we have too many Congress people running around like chickens without a head, trying hard to get reelected, and giving away frivolous gifts to their constituencies, and therefore not having any stinking time left for a

national effort to resolve the problems of this Nation, and energy is away up there, and we have others.

Now I am going to have to get a little deaf for some of these poor Congressmen, they are fighting so hard to retain a very beautiful job, obviously—they lie up and down the scale, they even ask if they are going to be reelected. I have brought a message from my constituency, and I assure you people my constituency votes. I love to use that word because I come on strong, it is the only thing you people have left.

We are going to have to have the voting record of every Congress person in these United States—in these not so United States—and publish them. They will go out to the constituency. Those people who do not understand that we are suffering, and are only concerned with their own little domicile and kingdom, are going to have to be defeated and thrown out. We are going to have to find somebody to cooperate with our Senator to get the relief we so desperately need.

Of course, recommendations. I have got a lot of recommendations. I would like to first point out to you some of the things that we can do. I am not going to mention meals on wheels, and the normal set of valid premises on which you can base relief, I have got some new ones. I picked them up over 40 years. It all has to do with money, because when you get down to it, we have got the money in the budget, but it is leaking through in every State to projects other than the priorities.

I agree that I think the energy priority is where it belongs, practically up there with No. 1. We have in this particular county, a group of people living up in the Highland Lakes subdivision on Highway 19; they have been chosen as the best community in the State of Florida 2 years running for a number of reasons. They have no transportation needs. They have all of the social amenities they need—swimming, boating, golfing, playing cards, shuffleboard, movies, M.D.'s, banks.

We have access to the airport through the backroads and don't even get on Highway 19. That is a horrible word in this audience, Highway 19. I would love to tell you how it happens, and this community has committees. We have quite a group of retirees—attorneys, doctors, ex-legislators. These are people whose jobs are no longer on the line and they are beginning to talk. What a wonderful thing it is to have pros get on the firing line and admit they have been stinkers. A little late but better late than never.

We are already into solar energy, solar devices. We are licking the energy program in this complex, we don't get out and disturb anybody else. We have a phone alert system. We prevent vandalism. We prevent the need to have the sheriff's cars get in there at 80 miles an hour and tear up the road and kill people and use a lot of gas because we monitor our own area. We have 300 people on these committees. You sit 5 minutes in your car and don't get out, you are in trouble.

Now this is the recommendation I made at the end of this gratuitous time, that we begin to look at creating, through zoning control, through a variety of needs that I am aware of, communities that are self-sufficient and do not drain the much needed money in that particular area. When you put together something like 46,000 complexes like ours, although not doing the things we are doing, then we can make a bite in the use of energy, we can give that back to somebody else that needs it.

We have a government committee and we keep abreast of everything that is being said and done in the line of energy and conservation, and it is going to come out, conservation is way, way up there in our priorities. You are going to hear a lot more about it.

I am going to have to throw some curves at the so-called parasites we have in society. When your Congressman gets the message from his people that they want certain things, he is going to get up there in Congress, and he is going to go to the various committees, and he is going to talk to the other boys and girls—God bless the ladies. I would say that he knows that his task is practically hopeless if we are talking energy, because the fellow from Oklahoma, who has a vested interest in oil, is going to fight desperately to get his measure, or he is not going to get elected.

So bear in mind that if we ask our Congressman to make sure we get jobs down here, we are not using sense at all, we are creating a void of the national consequences. We have to get behind our Congressmen from here, and make them understand we no longer are concerned with our own little piddling problems, we are concerned with the national effort to lick this particular crisis, and it can be done and will be done, and that is the only way we can do it.

We ourselves are to blame for the conditions we have in this Nation and it is through the way we have made these Congress people our servants; that is exactly what we have done. We have made them go out and find our little social security check that was hiding in the desk somewheres and they get it back to us.

We can lick this thing if we tell our Congressmen they better go back to Washington: they had better sit together as a group. They cannot lean on these rules any more, and they cannot have their wine, women, and song any more. They have to get the hell down to business, and they better pay attention to what the voters are going to do to them. That is the only language they understand. Put that in your pocket, don't ever forget it. That is all you have left and if you lose that—these meetings are wasted.

I have a funny feeling that all of this evidence is going to go back to Congress and who is going to debate it, who is going to determine what this is all about? The very same people who are on the edge of going to jail, because they are stupid, and they are ignorant, and most of all because they are human beings, and indicating a little bit of greed and have forgotten what America is all about.

America is all of us together. We don't have it. We do not have a United States. That is what the job is, and we are here to do it. We have to be the United States again. We are going to have to sacrifice—not only the poor, nor the elderly. We are telling them we need those votes because we are going out on the road, we are going to show them how these people are taking away our lives.

I have many references here and they all have to do with everybody suffering. Everybody knows why. People here in the audience will tell you why after I am through.

I would say generally that I would recommend, No. 1, that we look very closely at my recommendation of finding out what it is in this particular subdivision that costs a lot of money in services. That money we can use for the elderly. We can give them more meals-on-wheels, or whatever.

I have, of course, been busy trying to find out—and not too successfully—just how many millions of dollars are being thrown away in the use of energy in the manufacture of so many frivolous items that we have on the market and backed up by the advertising media. I ran into some pretty heavy flak there. I can't fire the manufacturers, I have to fire the Congressmen, and I got out of there in a hurry.

What is coming out a heck of a lot more is that conservation may very well be the answer. Not having quite made it through high school, I read these reports, and basically it takes about six readings to understand what those words mean. It takes me only 15 minutes in any conference to find out who is stealing your money, so I apply the same technique. Who is making money? I go look and when I find the culprit sure enough here he is, here is the fellow that is causing all the problems.

Finally, I was prepared here for about 3 hours of waving the flag. That is ridiculous. People are hurting. I had occasion to monitor a hearing in Tallahassee not too far back when there were a lot of professional people in the audience. These are semiretired professionals. Some 6 years ago I made the same recommendation that I am making today to our Senator. Hopefully when he goes back to Congress, and he gets into some of the committees, and they sit around, and they shuffle all of this stuff and say, this looks good, this looks good, that looks bad, and then he comes across a few people who are not even listening, because they are busy back in their bailiwicks trying to get reelected.

I think we have to answer to some of the moneys that are being wasted—by the use of the retiree himself and as a manpower element. We are getting into a lot of things slowly, not fast enough, but we have. I have right now a list of retirement attorneys, accountants, engineers, legislators, pharmacists, M.D.'s, all retired, and in the business that I have been pursuing for the last 40 years. I retired 12 years ago, and I have been making noises ever since like this, and the media didn't pick it up very well.

I have found that if we were to take all of those professional people who have retired, and we use their services, and we use their knowhow, their experience, I would like to see this group of people—and there are thousands of them—placed in some kind of a position of monitoring; that is, looking over the shoulders on every project that is being supported and subsidized by your tax dollar—the building of bridges, the buying of land for roads, the public buildings that are always being purchased for these needs that we have, the way the concrete is mixed, the way that contracts are written, with tremendous loopholes in them favoring the contractor, a variety of ways in the welfare field where we are being clobbered to death.

The way the figures come out in the General Services Administration—you read the papers—there is corruption there. You are getting that proverbial tip of the iceberg, the little old people out there who never even made it out there. The tip of the iceberg means somebody didn't get a payoff and he rats—that is English—and he yelled at somebody. He didn't get paid off for the stealing that is going on in contractual obligations, but this is only one of them, or two or three of them. Down below the tip is where the bigger part of the iceberg is in the water, three-quarters is big. Down below there

are the thousands of these little tidbits of information. We are getting only the tip.

I am going to say that this, to me, above all other recommendations, will produce the answers. I doubt whether Congress is ready to have somebody go out into their State and look over the shoulders of a civil engineer, who is busy collecting so many yards of concrete that is not going into that road that you use, and taking it back to one of his constituents, and forcing us to repair that road in less than 5 years. I doubt that they are going to receive it, but I am here, I think, in the public eye. I think today I want the public to know it through the Senator, that he does not have the proverbial Chinaman's chance.

I think if the public knows it, I would like to see every governmental program monitored by a retired professional, to stop this stealing where it begins, and that is because nobody worries about the Government dollar, it comes every day, it is easy, nobody is watching it very carefully.

I did do my homework very carefully and it is there. I am looking at close to \$200 billion a year that my careful research shows is being stolen out of your \$500 or \$600 billion budget by the ethics of the crooked parasitical society that we live in.

Now those are recommendations. I tried hard to put it all in line. I am an emotional fellow. I get carried away with just one single item. That is the only reason I am here, not so much that you people know or don't know how you are suffering, but the fact that we have a system of government which has eroded because we have not worked at it very hard, and we have made it what it is. We are going to have to change all of you in this audience. I want you people to go back, like I am, to my 50,000 constituency, and the pipelines to the east coast, and then gradually learn who endorses this equity today.

I want one message to come across. When we have one particular representative in Congress who comes across with a rather good voting record—I mean this fellow here, Senator Chiles. I checked him—he is young, he is subject to all kinds of pressures. I should know because I have been there. We have got to go back to the people and tell them. We are going to have to put into Congress, people we can trust, people who have morality, people who are honest. That is an unknown word any more.

The Congress people won't have any more time to go here, to go there; they are going to have to sit there, they are going to have to work, they are going to have to come to these meetings, because there is only one thing we have got. Get the vote out for that person. He is the person that can save this Nation. We have a few. We have a few—maybe 6 out of 10. That is what I have discovered.

That is probably the biggest thing we have because in conjunction with what the Senator's efforts are, he is going to need that kind of help on all of this material that is put together, and he has got to carry this message. Hey, fellows, down in the St. Petersburg area, we have a bunch of old people who are going to raise hell if you don't step into line and get behind this program. We need you and you are here listening. I tell you people, not only listen but work at it. I will get these lists published. They will have voting records and they are

not my records, they are congressional records which always speak from a qualified source.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

FROM THE FLOOR. Why don't you run for President?

Senator CHILES. Thank you for your statement.

Pat, you mentioned the lifeline rates and, Margaret, I think you also referred to such rates. I wonder if you could explain, for the sake of the audience, what you are speaking about when you say lifeline rates. In addition, Pat, would you tell us what the reaction was when you made your statement to the Public Service Commission the other day about your offer to compromise that with a rate for the indigent elderly.

Mr. IMPERATO. I appeared on the 23d, that was last Thursday, before the Public Service Commission. There was a public hearing. They were going to discuss lifeline rates, and at that hearing which was public, there were about six public, three of them witnesses, and the rest were representatives from the utility companies, mostly attorneys doing a job that they get paid for.

The lifeline rate generally means an amount of electricity that we need. When I say "we," I am automatically a poor man. I was poor once, now I am a millionaire, and live on \$700 a month. Talking about the amount of electricity that the people actually have to use to cook, to heat, and for most of those with pulmonary problems to create a condition of clean air through air-conditioned filtered air. The Public Service Commission has come up with close to 750 kilowatt-hours which is absolutely minimal and necessary for you to be able to be well, the minimum amount to be able to keep warm and to cook. That is the lifeline, without it you die. So with it—supposedly—you will have enough relief to carry on.

Now many of us are using more than that, but what the lifeline rate applied itself to was to at least guarantee that we can give that amount of electricity to the people at cost. In other words, no profit to the utilities. No matter which way you tell it, it meant relief for the indigent mostly. It means we cannot pay the electric bills any more so please give us enough electricity to live on and make the rate a lifeline rate.

I hope that that is an answer, Senator.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

Margaret, I wonder if you would share with our audience some pointers on how they can let their State officials know about the energy crisis.

Mrs. JACKS. I would be glad to. To begin with, I think each of you have a vote. This has certainly been emphasized by our last speaker, and that is one way to do it. Get out and vote. In addition, you have to watch closely as to what is being done by the State legislature and by the Federal Congress. Keep yourself informed. There frequently is publicity when something is being considered by the State legislature about a bill that might affect you. Watch the papers, watch reports on the TV, listen to the radio, and express your opinion to your legislators.

Legislators and Members of Congress both listen very carefully to their constituents. You have a vote, you have strength in your vote. It is up to you to let your legislators in the State legislature

and your representatives in the Congress know what you want done when something is coming up that affects your welfare. This means that you have to be alert, you have to read the papers, you have to follow what is being suggested. You have to let the lawmakers know what you think should be done.

If any of you have ideas as to new legislation which needs to be initiated, I am sure your own local legislator would like to have them. He depends on you to bring to him the ideas that you have which would render a valuable service to you, the voter. That is the way he gets elected, so don't feel hesitant to speak up.

I think some of us sometimes think that a legislator is somebody very special and you hesitate to go to him. A legislator however could be you, or I, if we decide to run for office, so why be afraid of him? Why hesitate? They need your input. As I said earlier, I happen to represent the Florida Council on Aging. The Congress of Senior Citizens, the Council of Senior Citizens, the AARP; all of these organizations, if you have membership in any of them, will be glad to listen to you. I urge that you watch, you listen, you speak, you be an advocate for the group of which you are a member.

Senator CHILES. Thank you very much.

Now we want to take a little time and see if some of you in the audience have some questions of our panel or a statement that you would like to make on the subjects we are talking about right now. We certainly want to hear directly from you all because this is the area of our conference where we want to have input from older persons about how energy costs are affecting you. We will be talking a little bit later about some of the programs.

So if you will use the mike. I am going to be here for a while, and we hope to have as many people participate as possible.

Identify yourself for our record and then either ask the question or make a statement.

#### **STATEMENT OF CARL A. BROWN, TAMPA, FLA., FLORIDA DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART**

Mr. BROWN. I am Carl Brown, commander for the Purple Heart, State of Florida, national legislative officer in Washington.

First, to start off with I want to thank you, Senator, for the outstanding job you have done for the veterans and the senior citizens, and keeping us well informed of what is happening because, we, as veterans, are very concerned. The average World War II veteran is 60 years of age. We have a due problem with the veterans. The due problem is we have what we call a limbo. We have veterans who are drawing nonservice-connected disabilities and it varies from \$250 to \$300 a month. These veterans between the ages of 50 and 60, we call limbo, due to the fact that they are not considered senior citizens and they are not considered to be young, and they are having a time, due to the fact folks with a low income can get assistance for housing.

Now as a veterans organization we have our own welfare fund, but here in the past few years we don't have the funds to continue to do these jobs and we have to do something with our veterans who, like I

say, are between 50 and 60 years of age. A good example is a man who has a 100-percent service-connected disability can happily get by, but if a veteran who is drawing non-service connected disabilities, they are the hardship cases soon to become senior citizens. My wife and I will be 60 years old in November, so we are very concerned about what happens to the senior citizens, because we are getting close to that age ourselves.

The main thing we have to consider today, too, is these veterans between the ages of 50 and 60 years of age who get \$250 or \$300 a month and cannot afford to get by. A good example, we had a veteran here recently up in Illinois, and the electric company shut off his electric and he froze to death. He was 53 years of age. He could not get out of bed, and we didn't find him until 2 days later. There are other cases that I think very much that we have to consider, and some senior citizens who draw disability social security in that same age bracket.

Thank you, Senator.

Senator CHILES. Thank you very much. We appreciate your participation and the work that you do as a voluntary organization to try and help the veterans.

Next, please.

#### STATEMENT OF HAROLD SHONG, ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

Mr. SHONG. I am Harold Shong. I want to thank the gentleman for his political speech. It is pretty hard to find an honest politician.

On energy, there is a lot of energy being wasted in shopping centers on Saturdays and Sundays, with lights all over the place. Not only there, but other places where it is really wasted, not by the citizens, but by the Government, the Federal Government.

My main point is I am a senior citizen. I came from the north. I live in a KOA trailer park in St. Petersburg, and I would just like to know what rights senior citizens have in these parks. They make different rules. I live in a small trailer. Last year, they had a rule we could not have a clothesline, and they cut them down last year. Then we had a meeting and raised cane about it, and finally the management forgot about it. Now, they say we can have the clothesline back.

When I first put my trailer down I got permission from the management to put a platform in and tie the trailer down. This year I have to take the platform out or they will. They sold us a little shed to put in the back rear of our trailer, and the agreement was to have the shed 18 inches from the bumper. When the management installed them and changed the measurement to 14 inches, we could not even open up the back door or the back window. We would like to have the sheds on the side, where everyone says they should be, so as not to block the back view.

Now this is a form of harassment by the trailer park and they want us to take the platform out. We have it under the awning. Probably it does not mean too much to you, Senator, but we live there 8 or 9 months of the year and then go back up north. It is sort of a harassment. I was just wondering what rights the senior citizens have in Florida. I also ask if this form of dictatorship is allowed in the State of Florida?



Senator CHILES. Well, certainly what you raise is an important point. About one out of nine of our citizens in Florida live in trailer parks, so it is certainly an important area. That the State of Florida has passed a bill of rights in regard to trailer park recipients, certain rights which should be protected because there were so many abuses in past years. I will get somebody with you to make sure that you have a copy of that. Part of the subject you are dealing with goes beyond what we are trying to touch on here today.

Senator Don Chamberlain was here this morning and will try to come back. I will get somebody to get you information with regard to that bill of rights for trailer parks. The other thing is, I think you will have to get in touch with your State elected officials, because they are the ones that are governing most of the areas which you are talking to us about today.

Mr. SHONG. Thank you.

Senator CHILES. I might mention to you that where we can, I would like to hear about your experiences in regard to energy. We are trying to focus this 3-day conference on energy problems so that we can compile data for the White House Conference. The conference will deal with many subjects, and I know you have many problems, and anyway we can help you with those problems; we will try to do that.

Thank you.

Mrs. MANNING. Good morning, Senator, I seem to walk proud and I may take the vote for you this time.

Senator CHILES. Thank you very much. Would you give us your name.

**STATEMENT OF FLORENCE MANNING, PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY ACTION SOUTHSIDE CLUB, ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.**

Mrs. MANNING. Florence Manning, and I am representing the Community Action Southside Club on energy. I am the president of that club. We all need energy. We are all elderly people. You know what I call elderly? That means elderly, and we need energy, we need it bad. If we don't get the energy, I don't know what the elderly people are going to do, because it may not seem cold to you but it is cold to the elderly, because they cannot stand what you can stand or they will pass out.

Anyway, it has been nice hearing all of you discussing it but the light bill, the gas, and the fuel oil, we do need it on the southside of St. Petersburg that I am representing and I hope that we will get that, because if we don't get it, I don't know what the elderly people are going to do.

Senator CHILES. Can you tell us how the increased prices, what you are having to pay now, as opposed to what you were paying last year and the year before, how is that affecting elderly people?

Mrs. MANNING. Well, I didn't have gas the year before. I only have gas now since they fixed my house. That gas costs me \$79 every time the man comes and puts the gas in the tank; \$79 and they want that \$79 within 10 days. I said, well, you don't get it from me in 10 days because I don't have it. She said, well, try to pay it within 30 days. If I don't pay it in 30 days, I will wait until next month, pay you what I have, because that is the way we all do.

Thank you very much.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

I want to ask you one more question. You said until they fixed your house.

Mrs. MANNING. Yes.

Senator CHILES. Who fixed your house and how did you get your house fixed?

Mrs. MANNING. I got my house fixed through the Government.

Senator CHILES. Do you know what program it was?

Mrs. MANNING. It was a 5-year program.

Senator CHILES. Then that was a low-cost loan for 5 years.

Mrs. MANNING. Yes; it was HUD.

Senator CHILES. How did that work? Did you get your house fixed right?

Mrs. MANNING. They did fairly well. I didn't look for a new house anyway but they did very well.

Senator CHILES. Are you saving any more energy?

Mrs. MANNING. Well, yes. I know I am because I can tell the house is much warmer than it has been. I have only been there now for one winter. I went in in February and it was warmer than it was before I moved out.

Senator CHILES. What kind of workmanship did you get in the fixing of your house? Did they do a decent job?

Mrs. MANNING. They did pretty good. It could have been better but they did pretty good.

Senator CHILES. Thank you for being here today.

Mrs. MANNING. Thank you.

Senator CHILES. Yes, ma'am. Maybe we need to get that mike pulled down a little bit.

#### STATEMENT OF RUTH CARLYLE, TAMPA, FLA.

Mrs. CARLYLE. Either that or higher heels and I cannot wear those any more. We are the little people, Senator.

My name is Ruth Carlyle. I live in Hillsborough County.

Senator, I would like to tell you I have not been so well represented in the Senate since Senators Wagner and Lehman retired, and for that I am very, very grateful.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

Mrs. CARLYLE. I will tell you about my energy experience and I would also like to address questions that were raised by the panelists.

Last year, while waiting for a bus, I was overcome by the heat, and since then when it becomes very, very hot I literally black out. My electric bill went from \$18 during the winter because we are very lucky we don't need very much heat, a sweater will do it, and although, I was not the landlord up North, but that is an old trick for keeping yourself warm and keeping the heat down. My electric bill went from \$18 a month to \$92. I found myself keeping cool by going to the shopping malls and sitting in ladies' lounges in the department stores.

I am not going to wave the flag. This has been a very, very good country to me, and I don't expect it to support me, but on \$280 a

month disability income I find it very hard to pay \$90 a month. On the other hand, I don't want to be considered a loiterer while I am trying to be comfortable.

I would like to address Miss Jacks' statement.

Senator CHILES. Can I ask you this. Did you receive any energy assistance last year in the new program?

Mrs. CARLYLE. No, Senator. Last year I was not that ill. It began at that time. I was bedridden. You know, when you are sick you just crawl into your corner and wait until you are well enough to holler.

Mr. Brickfield, I believe, had addressed the fragmentation of senior citizen programs. I would like you to see if Congress can attach a provision to its grants for these programs to have an affirmative action requirement, whereby the senior citizen is the employee of these agencies. Ninety percent of all grant programs go into administrative costs and the people for whom those programs are designed receive the crumbs. I have gone to too many meetings where employees, on being asked why a senior citizen cannot get the program benefits which were provided, for example, transportation to a classroom, I am told that is not an emergency.

We heard of cases where somebody's social security was 50 cents too much a month to get medicaid and a very unfeeling young person—and my children are young, I love the young; I think I am young, I am a senior citizen but a young one—but they speak of us falling through the cracks. I am not dust yet and the good Lord willing I won't be for 20 years. Until I return to whatever the Lord grants me, I don't want to be called dust.

We senior citizens are the historical textbook, we are not laboratory specimens. I have gone to mental health programs, and I have had some young intern indicate when I say, "Nice day, isn't it?" that the client is confused about the weather.

I have been a lobbyist for years, Senator. Way back in 1928 is when I began to be a lobbyist. About 2 years ago I had occasion to call the Governor's office on a message I was interested in, and when I came to the program I told my group leader that I expected a call from the Governor's office, and her reply was, "If you hallucinate in public, we will have to invoke the Baker Act." This is not what I want.

There are physical activities programs. If I am well enough to participate, I am well enough to be a group leader. I believe these programs should be run by the people who know what the problems are, not the young people who have behavioral theories, and then try to fit us into the mold as teenagers. [Applause.] We are sort of fixed, so let us teach them.

Senator CHILES. I want to say that really one of the great purposes of the White House Conference on Aging is to see how we can involve seniors more in running these services programs. Title III of the Older Americans Act is the effort of Congress to try to provide for some moneys that will not be based on need and will not be based on age once you are over 60. With this program, we kind of fill in the gaps of a lot of other special programs that all have a criteria that you have to be indigent in order to participate.

So we are trying to work in that regard.

One other thing I wanted to point out to you is that the application time for the home energy assistance, that is the direct cash

payments, is going to be from December 15 to January 30. I want to point this out to all of you in the audience, and hopefully to the news media, so that it will get this information out. Applications will be available in many of the local program offices, senior centers, the area agencies on aging, and your district HRS office. Those benefits will be issued in February.

Jim Drake from the HRS is here today. Jim, would you stand up. I think he is in the audience. Fine. Thank you very much.

If any of you have any particular questions about application for these programs, Jim has kindly agreed to be here and to help anybody with those kinds of questions, and we very much would like to get that information out.

Mrs. CARLYLE. Senator, in closing I would like to ask you to exert any influence you have on the committee to see that we are hired and to see that the cracks are closed.

Senator CHILES. Thank you, ma'am. We certainly will. [Applause.]

Mr. BRICKFIELD. Could I make a comment?

Senator CHILES. Yes.

Mr. BRICKFIELD. You know, it is awfully hard to come up with solutions, and I suppose if we knew all the answers there would not be a need for a White House Conference to come up with answers. I think this lady makes some very pointed remarks. For example, she talks about the fragmentation of services or the proliferation of services. One agency is running title XX, another agency is running title III, that is the low-income assistance program, and they are all over the lot, and they all have supervisors.

One of the suggestions that has been made, and I don't say it is good or bad, but it would be what they call a block grant, where the money for the total energy would be given to a local community who would best know how to make the money available rather than have it fragmented.

The other point I want to make is on the question of participating, maybe even being paid; but I know, for example, in New York they have these nursing homes. It does not make any difference whether it is a private nursing home or a nursing home that is being run for profit. There is a requirement in some of the counties that the board of directors of these nursing homes have consumer representation; namely, the people from the neighborhood, even a for-profit nursing home. The people from the neighborhood have to serve on the board of directors, so that when management is making a decision it is not made by management in and of itself, but is being made by management which has a community interest in it. I think this kind of brings about better efficiency and better service to the elderly.

Mr. IMPERATO. In the State of Florida, as everybody knows, we did have some relief in cash funds to those people who could not afford to pay for their bills. I was informed by Rose Morgan of Tallahassee that even though last year's funds for relief in the field were inadequate, they are going to be inadequate this coming year. You people that need that money, the State of Florida is going to cut those funds in half.

I would then address the Senator that amongst his priorities to see to it that we get a little more flow of money down on that assistance program. It is definite that those funds are being cut in half and for you people receiving it—

Senator CHILES. Pat, I want to mention that the energy crisis assistance program—ECAP—is being cut essentially in half, but at the same time the home energy assistance program is going up and Florida will receive approximately \$23 million. So the total funds for energy assistance is going to be much more this year than it was last year. So one is going, but the other one will be up substantially.

Mrs. JACKS. May I make one response to the lady that was speaking. I would like to give you some assurance about what the White House Conference on Aging is going to try to do on identifying roles for older people. One of our problems is that many older people are just nonpersons, they really don't have a role in today's society. One whole segment of the Conference will be spent on trying to look at the age-integrated society—older people in education, in politics, in the religious institution, in the family, in every aspect of our society that will open the doors for older people to once again have a true role in our society. I think this change is basic, that we, as older people, are not just pushed under the rug because they don't want to see us. We, as full-fledged citizens, must have a true role in our society. We hope the White House Conference on Aging can bring this off and again establish roles which we can fill.

Mrs. CARLYLE. May I respond very briefly?

Senator CHILES. We have a number of people that are standing there and the line is growing. I want to make sure we hear from them and then maybe we will have a chance to hear you again, or you come and tell Margaret what you have to say.

Mrs. CARLYLE. No; I think that should be said publicly.

Senator CHILES. I don't want to cut anybody off.

Mrs. CARLYLE. I understand. I have had my chance.

#### STATEMENT OF GONZALES J. ORTEZ, ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

Mr. ORTEZ. I am Gonzales Ortez. Senator Chiles, ladies and gentlemen, we have a problem here in St. Petersburg with the elderly people who are on fixed income. As you probably are aware, maybe not, we have a State law that says that 4 cents on each gallon of home fuel oil. It was passed in 1978. St. Petersburg and Gainesville are the only two cities, to the best of my knowledge, that levy a 10-percent tax. This is an unjust tax. I have been fighting this thing since 1979. I have brought this to the attention of the city council and also to most of our State representatives who seem to have a deaf ear on this particular problem.

I would like to read a letter to you and I have the documents that back this up regarding this matter. I would like to read this letter that I wrote to the St. Petersburg Times.

Although I am not a user of home fuel oil, I am very concerned about the present home fuel oil tax. Due to the inflation in fuel oil prices, the 10-percent tax levy hurts low-income persons. As you know, in 1978, a State law set a tax limiting to 4 cents per gallon in the city of St. Petersburg, and Gainesville continues to levy the 10-percent tax.

In 1978, the price of fuel oil was about 60 cents per gallon and now the current price is about \$1.50 per gallon. As it presently stands the money collected to pay the \* \* \* however, there is an excess collection which goes into the city's general fund. It seems unjust to collect more money than is needed for the bond issue.

On February 1, 1979, Councilman Richard Martin placed on the city council agenda a request that the city council consider a reduction of this tax but no action was taken.

I am pleased to note that the Evening Independent has presented to the public all of the facts on this tax matter. In my opinion St. Petersburg should follow the example of Gainesville on this tax which would help to reduce the cost of fuel oil for low and fixed income persons. As President Abraham Lincoln so wisely said, faith in right makes might and let us do our duty as we understand it.

Now I have documents here which I wrote to the Gainesville Sun and they have provided me with information that the Gainesville people received the first 50 gallons free and thereafter they pay 10-percent tax.

Senator CHILES. They only pay the tax then after the first minimum allowance.

Mr. ORTEZ. I am not referring to the older people, I am referring to all the people. In other words, our city, as you know, has a 10-percent tax. So what Gainesville has done in order to help these people, is by giving them the first 50 gallons gratis.

Senator CHILES. With no tax?

Mr. ORTEZ. Yes, sir, and then charge the 10-percent tax. Now I have tried to bring this to the attention of our city council and they refused in the way of avoiding this, because they claimed they would be sued by the bonding companies, which I disagree. If Gainesville can do it, I am sure that St. Petersburg can, and I would like to present to you documents that I have here for your records. The reason I am bringing this to the attention of the Government is, even though you seem to understand, to a lot of people this is not a Government problem, because actually our taxes go and pay so much for home fuel oil to poor people in our State, so therefore it goes to the HRS and the HRS in turn gives it to our fixed-income people in St. Petersburg, and then it goes back into our tax for the city government. This is the reason I am bringing this to your attention and I hope you understand that.

Senator CHILES. Thank you. If you would just come on up.

#### STATEMENT OF GEORGE SPINNETT, HENDERSON, N.C.

Mr. SPINNETT. George Spinnett. I am from Henderson, N.C. I am a member of the board of directors of the North Carolina Senior Citizens Federation. We are very interested in these hearings and we have been to several of them.

Senator CHILES. We are glad to have you in Florida. Henderson is a good place.

Mr. SPINNETT. It is sure warmer here than there.

Senator CHILES. We would like to go to Henderson in the summer.

Mr. SPINNETT. The NCSCF would be honored, sir. I am here because this program has greatly affected our senior citizens. We have some questions that we would like to ask which we feel may be instrumental in curing some of the existing problems particularly with the utilities.

No. 1, your commercial and business enterprises with the special rates they get on kilowatt usage is a discriminatory policy. As far as we can ascertain the Federal Power Commission does nothing about it. As far as we can also ascertain the Federal Power Commission is pretty well run by the utilities corporations.

No. 2, we are suggesting equitable rate structures.

Senator CHILES. Your first question is what we have already been referring to here in the conversations about lifeline.

Mr. SPINNETT. Correct.

Senator CHILES. This would be a way of squaring that out and making that fair.

Mr. SPINNETT. In conjunction with that, it has been already proven in many States that fuel cost adjustments have grossly overcharged the people because of inaccurate estimates by the utilities.

No. 3, many utilities own the coal mines themselves. They add that cost on to the consumer and this is particularly difficult for the low-income people who are most affected by costs, as they own them. They are making a profit on top of a profit. Is this right? Isn't this an abuse of the free enterprise system?

Senator CHILES. I think that is a good point, the fact that some of the utility companies now are owning the sources of energy.

Mr. SPINNETT. I can give you 10 or 12 examples that the coal companies make a profit, and you pay for it as a consumer, and this affects the low-income people generally.

If you go back to World War II—a good part of you folks here are my age—we had a national emergency and what happened? Industry, business, commerce, overnight went into the production and manufacture of the products we needed for the war effort. Now why in the devil can't this energy shortage be converted the same as it was before? You have solar energy that can be developed, geothermal, and all types of alternative energies, which if industry and Government work together, like they did during World War II, we can solve this problem.

Senator CHILES. We have the beginnings of the foundation in the synthetics fuel bill that we recently passed, in trying to provide the incentive for the experimental development of solar, gasification of coal, geothermal—a lot of these things you are mentioning.

Mr. SPINNETT. In most States we find a great number of people who were formerly employees of the utilities, or people with a lot of stock in these corporations, running the commissions. How, then, can the people have much of a say in regulating the problems that affect the poor, particularly the poor who have no input?

As far as unemployment—and this is another very serious problem of poor senior citizens—the average person's income on social security is \$1,436 per annum in North Carolina, not for 6 months but per annum. All right. That means that there is a need for employment. I have a suggestion—in fact, two. One, CETA is a work-training program. Millions of dollars plus the internal problems it does have under the Federal legislation, 10 percent of the personnel that are hired are supposed to be senior citizens. This has not been done. That would open up a lot of jobs on a 20-hour basis. Thus, they could supplement income to meet some of these other increasing survival costs.

Senator CHILES. I had something to do with trying to put that provision in there, and I think the problem is, it is 10 percent, and they have still not seen the 10 percent. I think that is very wrong, and I am going to continue with my efforts to have the 10 percent.

Mr. SPINNETT. The people will be behind you and we know you and the committee are doing one heck of a job to create a better life for senior citizens.

Senator CHILES. Thank you for your appearance here.

Mr. SPINNETT. I have one more comment to make.

It seems to me, from looking at all the agencies that handle all types of programs for senior citizens, that we need a consolidation of effort and cut out all this fragmentation, cut all this double-deck redtape before you go from one department to another; get it all under one heading. I don't mean creating another bureaucracy. Let key personnel spend a number of hours of their time working on the problems together as an ad hoc sort of thing. Then appropriate the money and set up the programs and run them properly. I think we would save a lot and it could be a lot more effective.

Thank you very much for your time. I am tickled to death that I was able to have time.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF LESLIE JOHNSON, ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

Mr. JOHNSON. I am Leslie Johnson, and I stand here to convey my thoughts on the low rate of enterprise. You see, I am standing for the southside St. Petersburg POC. I would have to go further than the southside. I would say for the State of Florida because all of us are in need of the same thing. I would say for all of the United States of America because the senior citizens, No. 1, would see we have register age over 60; some of them are 70 and 80. Yet we have worked out a generation; we do not have anything.

Here we set aside just what they want but we don't have enough to come up to what we need. All right. You read the paper this morning, fuel is going up. Where we have been paying \$60, now it is \$70. On this lower income, how can we come up with it when we don't have it? Some of us are going to have to go to—and I just do believe myself, Senator, if you would go back there, we cannot get to the President, we cannot get to the White House, we have got to have someone speak for us and I do believe you could do the job.

So I am saying, if you would just speak these words. Some of us have the oil assistance, some of them have gas heat. That is fine, but when you don't have the money, it is going to be cut off. So we just will not have the money. All right. The heater, all right. Some of us, the heater is not working like it should. You light it and it catches fire and burns.

The people who are old cannot do it. I can't do it. I am volunteering to do the very best. I can only go so far. I back up and sit down. So we need somebody to give us a little raise or something to help us out. I thank you. What I am saying is that we need help and I believe with my body and soul if you can do the job, you have my vote.

Senator CHILES. I thank you very much for your comments.

Mrs. LOFTON. I am Serena Lofton and I represent the business center. On almost all of the announcements the amount of fuel you get after in December will be raised from what it was last year.

Senator CHILES. Part of it depends on what the individual's income is, what the size of the household is, and what kind of fuel the household is using.

Mrs. JACKS, you stop me if I am not hitting any of the points. What they have is a formula to try to divide the money that is coming into



Florida, based on what region of the State you live in. This is the amount of the cash assistance you will be able to get, and it will be based on what the individual's income is, what the size of the household is, and what kind of energy the household uses.

Now that information will be available at your HRS office, and also I hope we will get that information out to some of the senior citizens, at least the applications. I want to repeat again those applications need to be made between December 15 and January 30 and that is a 45-day period of time. So anybody that wants to make application, needs to make it within that period of time, to make sure that they are going to be able to get the assistance if they qualify. There will be considerably more dollars available in Florida over what was available last year.

Mrs. LOFTON. For myself I had the fuel oil, electricity, and I have a time getting from one place to the other after the bills come in. Now, is the money coming to a certain place to be paid, or are you going to have to run around and do like you did last year?

Senator CHILES. If you qualify, the money will be sent directly to you this year. You won't have to go anyplace, it will be sent directly to you. You have to go get the application and you must apply for it. If you don't make application for this, you won't receive any funds. Once they apply, if they are qualified, it will be sent to them.

Mrs. LOFTON. Explain what you mean.

Senator CHILES. This is just the cash assistance program. I am talking about money to help pay for some of your energy costs in your home.

Mrs. LOFTON. Another thing, is the HUD program going to be—

Senator CHILES. The HUD program is different now. We are talking about weatherizing your home and we are going to talk about that more specifically in another panel. I would like to hold those questions, because they will answer some of them on the panel. That is the weatherization program for insulating your house and trying to fix it so you will use less energy. We are going to be talking about that in a few minutes.

Mrs. LOFTON. Do you have the meals on wheels?

Senator CHILES. We are trying to provide the funds for those programs to combat the increased energy cost. But we really won't talk about the specific meals on wheels program, but rather the increased cost in trying to provide those programs with transportation.

Mrs. LOFTON. Thank you.

Senator CHILES. Yes, ma'am.

#### **STATEMENT OF TOMI CROFUT, CRESTVIEW, FLA., SPEAKER EMERITUS, FLORIDA SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE**

Ms. CROFUT. Senator Chiles, I know that you know that I am the speaker emeritus of Florida's Silver-Haired Legislators. It would upset me if I thought everybody in this room did not know about the Florida Silver-Haired Legislators, but to give some credibility to my remarks I want to review for you exactly what it is.

The Florida Silver-Haired Legislature is comprised of 160 volunteers over the age of 60 who have been elected by their peers to the Silver-Haired Legislature House and Senate. To further give credi-

bility to our status, let me tell you that during the 2 pioneer years of the Silver-Haired Legislature, 1978 and 1979, we passed through committees and debate, the same as the real legislature does, 28 nonduplicative issues. Of those 28 issues, 4 were favorably resolved by the executive branch of our government, meaning the Governor and the Cabinet, or the administrative commission. That left 24 to go before the legislative body. Of those 24 issues, only 8 failed and 16 concerns, as expressed from the ground roots up, not from any agency down, but by an expressed bias up, have been incorporated into the State statutes during the 2 years of the past State legislative session.

Senator Chiles, the Silver-Haired Legislature in 1979 and 1980 forwarded a memorial to the U.S. Congress. Being a neophyte in politics, I was determined that perhaps the best way to get it to the attention of the Congress was to hand carry it, which I personally did, on a volunteer basis, to the Speaker of the House, and Senator Byrd.

However, now being a little more knowledgeable about bureaucratic channels, I would like to again submit to you both of these memorials, and I would like to read just in part, so the audience could know the feeling of the seniors from the grass roots of Florida. It was our resolution to encourage maximum production of domestic energy supplies, including coal, uranium, and natural gas. We know that conservation is only part of solving the problem.

Public transportation, the maximum use of domestic energy sources, including coal and nuclear power. Encourage and support development of energy, including solar, geothermal, wind, and others.

I would like to submit that to you.

Thank you.

Senator CHILES. We will make that part of the record.

[The prepared statement and attachment of Ms. Crofut follows:]

#### PREPARED STATEMENT OF TOMI CROFUT

The steady increase in the cost of energy is well documented. From 1972 until today the increase has been in the neighborhood of 200 percent. The Consumer Price Index is only one-third of that figure for other items. The hardship upon some 35 million Americans including those millions below the poverty level has been tragic. Those on fixed incomes have had no opportunity to combat this increase and the end is not in sight.

Therefore, I believe the message of this hearing must be that our Government act now to encourage maximum production of all forms of potential energy, including coal, natural gas, uranium, solar, geothermal, wind, and others.

For weeks the war in the Middle East has forced some 80 oil tankers to lie idle and empty in the Persian Gulf. Our lifeline between this Nation and the OPEC oil nations has been broken, so it becomes increasingly apparent we must develop our own resources, now. We must also drastically reduce our use of OPEC oil and save a major portion of the \$70 billion we annually send to them, which is a tremendous factor in spiraling inflation.

Under today's circumstances we must not permit the dangerous omission of development of all forms of our potential domestic development.

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#### MEMORIAL TO THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATURE BY THE 1980 FLORIDA SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE

Be it known, that the third annual Silver-Haired Legislature of the State of Florida convened in the Capitol Building in Tallahassee from July 27, through July 31, in the year of our Lord 1980, has approved the following resolution for

due consideration and action by the duly elected representatives of this State and those of all States of the U.S. Congress.

Whereas the United States continues to face an unparalleled energy crisis, and Whereas all Americans, especially the elderly on fixed incomes, need reliable sources of energy supplied at reasonable prices, and

Whereas the cost of energy continues to spiral upward because of our dependence on the uncertain supplies of oil from overseas and the resultant inflation: Therefore, be it

*Resolved and approved by this body herein assembled*, That the Silver-Haired Legislature of the State of Florida reaffirm the action of the 1979 session and urge State and national leaders to immediately draft, adopt, and expedite a responsible energy policy to:

- (1) Encourage maximum production of domestic energy supplies including coal, oil, uranium, and natural gas;
- (2) Provide corporate and individual incentives toward conservation of our scarce energy supplies;
- (3) Encourage improved public transportation with greater quality and convenience for the consumer;
- (4) Advocate and encourage maximum use of proven domestic energy sources including coal and nuclear power; and
- (5) Encourage and support development of alternative sources of energy including solar, geothermal, wind, and others.

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#### MEMORIAL TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Whereas this country faces a crisis of energy supply unequalled in our history, and

Whereas all Americans, particularly those elderly living on a low or fixed income, have a need for a secure energy supply at a reasonable cost, and

Whereas the price of our country's energy has skyrocketed because of America's increasing dependency for its critical fuel supplies upon the whims of OPEC and other foreign energy producers, be it

*Resolved, therefore*, That the senior citizens of the State of Florida as represented by 160 members of the Silver-Haired Legislature, encourage their State and national leaders to immediately adopt a responsible energy policy which:

- (1) Encourages to the fullest the production of domestic energy supplies including among others coal, oil, uranium, and natural gas;
- (2) Encourages conservation by, among other methods: (A) Providing incentives for those individuals and businesses who conserve energy, (B) improving the convenience and quality of public transportation, (C) restricting unnecessary uses of energy such as commercial outdoor advertising and decorative lighting, (D) reducing energy consumption by Federal, State, and local governments and institutions;
- (3) Makes maximum use of our proven energy sources such as coal and nuclear power, as well as other domestically produced fossil fuels; and
- (4) Devotes whatever resources necessary to develop during the next 25 years all alternative sources of energy including solar, geothermal, wind, synthetic fuels, and others.

NEEDHAM W. SMITH, Jr.,  
*Silver-Haired Legislature,*  
*President of Senate.*

TOMI CROFUT,  
*Silver-Haired Legislature,*  
*Speaker of the House.*

Ms. CROFUT. I would like to be a little parochial. I am a representative of the Silver-Haired Legislature from a very, very rural area of northwest Florida where, as Mrs. Jacks said, it does indeed get cold.

I am sorry but I did leave something out of my previous testimony. When I stated that we were able to get these laws through our State, we did not do it alone. We had a tremendous coalition. I worked very, very closely with Mrs. Jacks, with other representatives of the NRTA, the AFL-CIO, and on and on and on, and it was because of coordinated efforts that that happened.

Mr. Imperato, you mentioned you have access to so many retired people of great professional skill. I hope you will encourage them to run for the Silver-Haired Legislature. From personal experience, even though by age alone we have a little closer walk with God, I don't have the confidence that you have that seniors are less corrupt than others, because from my day-to-day contacts I know it is human nature to just be as selfish as you can, and that is what is wrong with our Government. Until we, the people, look around and say not what we want for us but what is necessary for others, we are not going to solve the problem.

I want to talk about northwest Florida for just a little bit. It is my understanding that the energy emergency assistance funding is going to be handled by HRS and it is also my understanding it is limited to SSI recipients.

Senator CHILES. No; not necessarily.

Ms. CROFUT. In the State of Florida?

Senator CHILES. They are included, but Florida is talking about an eligibility level of 100 percent of poverty. So, it is not restricted only to SSI recipients.

Ms. CROFUT. Is that correct? Then my information is wrong. I am pleased to know that seniors who do not seek SSI, because of the pride which made America great to begin with, may now seek this type of assistance. So I am glad I am incorrect. Thank you very much.

Senator CHILES. Thank you very much.

#### STATEMENT OF BENTON S. LOWE, BELLEAIR BLUFFS, FLA.

Mr. LOWE. Senator Chiles, I am Benton S. Lowe, the current president of the senate of the Florida Silver-Haired Legislature, a member of the AARP Florida State Legislative Committee, and I am a national columnist on national affairs for a group of Florida weeklies. I am retired from the CIA.

I would like to say that some of the things I heard earlier in this hearing do not reflect the views of the majority of senior citizens regarding the Congress or its Members, and that goes for the members of the State legislature. Members of Congress work very hard, they are very diligent, and very dedicated, from my standpoint, but put it on the record that senior citizens in the State of Florida and the United States owe a great debt of gratitude to all of you for the impossible tasks that you often have to face.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

Mr. LOWE. Since observing the scene with senior citizens I have noticed that the Congress especially has begun to zero in on the various problems of senior citizens. Retirees are really a relatively new problem to America, a whole new situation. The problems are complex, not easily understood, and covered so many aspects, but the Congress now, I think, is beginning to get everything in perspective and come down to the relatively few and major problems that need careful attention.

Energy is one of the great problems because energy is changing the way of life not only of the older American but every American. Energy has been responsible for much of our inflation, it has been responsible for hardship, it has been responsible for many, many things

that Americans never thought they would have to face, and I think it is going to get worse as time goes on.

I think that we also have a new race of retirees coming on the horizon. We had the first generation of retirees which you are now working with. The coming generation of retirees will have different needs and will require different solutions. For example, it has been found that many new retirees will not move to warmer climes, and so we will have greater problems in facing up to the relief of those who stay where they are.

Many, many retirees will not move out of their single-unit dwelling houses where most of them live to a greater proportion than younger people; and those houses need weatherization and they are inefficient, and just one person may live in a seven-room house, as an example. All of these things are going to complicate the energy situation for all Americans. I do not know how you are going to solve these kinds of problems, the constitutionality of meeting some will have to be considered, so I sympathize with you.

I know that you are gathering a lot of facts and I am not going to take up much more of your time. I was wondering after you get a certain perspective, if you could use the Congress, and form a coalition with the utility industry, and come up with a code of operation which would cover such things as discontinuing electric power when somebody just could not meet the bill for that particular month and many, many other things. I was wondering if the Congress could not build a voluntary coalition with the utility and affiliated industries and solve some of these problems which will never be solved if communities try to solve them in a separate way, or every State tries to solve them in a separate way.

Again, I am very glad that you are holding this conference and we all appreciate the results you will get from it.

Senator CHILES. I just wanted to mention that Congress is trying a little bit to do what you are talking about in the Home Energy Assistance Act. We have provided that utility companies shall not shut off the power until given 30 days written notice, and that, of course, is to try to allow some time for any assistance groups to come in and provide assistance, but your point is well taken. Perhaps we can go further than that.

Yes, sir.

#### STATEMENT OF ROOSEVELT WALKER, ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

Mr. WALKER. Senator Chiles, I am Roosevelt Walker. I went to the hospital last year and stayed in there about 16 days. I went home to the house and in about 1 week I got worse. I would just sweat all day and all night after changing clothes three times a day. I went back to the doctor and he told me to get an air-conditioner and sleep with the air-conditioner on. I told him I could not buy an air-conditioner. I called the Social Security board and they said no.

The doctor put me on heart pills. I asked if he would give me free medicine treatment. He said I should go back to see him. He said, "You know, you are a sick man; do some walking." I could not get free medicine from him. I am out of work so I go get free treatment.

Thank you. Whether you win or lose, I'll vote for you.

Senator CHILES. All right. I just wanted to mention to you that the energy crisis assistance program which is run by your local CAP agency here—is there any representative here that we could kind of get with? They could provide you assistance.

I don't know whether he has been to ECAP or not, but they could provide him information to get a fan and/or an air-conditioner. That is where he would go. I wanted to see that he got that information, so if you would help us followup on that it might be helpful to him. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF JEREMIAH BRYANT, ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.**

Mr. BRYANT. Senator Chiles, I am Jeremiah Bryant. I am glad to see you.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

Mr. BRYANT. My wife fell in 1972 down at the hotel and she broke her knee and she has never been able to walk on that knee. She is handicapped and I have to do all the heavy work around the house. Sometimes she falls in the house and I have to pick her up. She is a large woman and I hurt my back picking her up sometimes. She is 80 years old, I am 83. I look like I am 97.

Senator CHILES. You look real good for 83. I hope I look like that when I reach your age.

Mr. BRYANT. I am having a time. My heat bill for energy, she wants heat all day long and all night long in the house and she can't see so good. She is in the room all day long and in the kitchen for the meal. It makes my light bill and also the fuel bill and my gas bill very high. So I would like you to do something about that, because she can't get on the bus because of her knee, she has to wear a knee cap on it. I want to know if something could be done.

Senator CHILES. Jeremiah, you want to make sure you apply for the home energy assistance program. You need to go to the HRS office here or the senior center and get those applications and make sure you apply for that between December 15 and January 30.

Mr. BRYANT. Thank you.

Senator CHILES. Yes, sir.

**STATEMENT OF ANTHONY B. PROVENZANO, PRESIDENT, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, WEST, TAMPA, FLA.**

Mr. PROVENZANO. Thank you, Senator Chiles, for your invitation. This letter came to me, I don't know how you got my name and address.

I am Anthony B. Provenzano and I am president of the Hillsborough County Retired Teachers Association, West.

I am not going to raise the roof. I could ask 1 million questions but I have just one comment and one question of the two panelists.

First, Mr. Imperato, will this lifeline rate be make known to the public and, if so, when?

Mr. IMPERATO. You mean when it is passed will the public know about it?

Mr. PROVENZANO. Yes.

Mr. IMPERATO. The service commission received all the input. I called them this morning. They have not as yet put it all together for a decision. When they do, I will receive it, for I have also done what you are asking for. I have told them to make a public media announcement that they have or they have not, one of the two.

Mr. PROVENZANO. Thank you. I am concerned. My wife had to retire after 34 years of teaching.

Senator Chiles, something crept up on me slowly and I find myself a senior citizen. I didn't realize at first that I had become an advocate of the senior citizens. I, too, am a silver-haired legislator and I belong to a few other groups concerned with the senior citizens. Since we are here today concerned with energy saving, and so forth, I am not being offensive, Mrs. Jacks, please, but you made some remarks on a fuel-cost container, and so on, of using a hotplate. I want to warn and caution that your hotplate would operate on AC, whereas your electric range operates on 220 and it is cheaper to use your 220 than a hotplate. I believe perhaps we might have to study this or do some research because a hotplate will cost us more to operate. I don't ever want to go out and buy a hotplate because we are not going to save energy, we are going to use more.

Another comment then. Your microwave oven is good. Of course they are costly, but you can obtain one without all these frills and it certainly will be lots cheaper to operate. Your microwave oven operates on 700 watts, whereas your conventional oven operates on 2,500 watts, so there is a saving there. I just wanted to make a remark on that hotplate. I don't think it is the best thing to do at this time.

Mrs. JACKS. Thank you. This is the report that came out of the miniconference on rural affairs. I think you are very right that before anything like this is done we need to get the complete facts on it. I happen to know from experience that the toaster oven is very cheap to operate. Let's try to find some small safe utilities which would use less energy. But I think you are right, we need to be very careful to be sure what we are getting into when recommendations are made for action.

Thank you.

Mr. PROVENZANO. The next thing is the toaster oven. That operates on a rod and to heat that takes more. If you need a toaster, toast it light.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

Yes, ma'am.

#### **STATEMENT OF IRENE DICKINSON, LAKE HELEN, FLA.**

Mrs. DICKINSON. Good morning, Senator. I am Irene Dickinson from Lake Helen, which is in Volusia County. I am happy to be here, Senator Chiles. I know that you are doing this hearing; however, it is purely coincidental that I know about it. I am substituting at the miniconference for the National Council of Churches because I was on the energy study panel. I am quite sure now that many of our senior citizens in the county would have been interested in this hearing, but I am sure I didn't see it in the paper. I could have missed it. How do we know when these things are going on?

Senator CHILES. That is one of our problems. I wish everything I said went to the papers the way I said it but it does not always come out that way. We did send a release out to all of the newspapers and I am very sorry it didn't get printed.

Mrs. DICKINSON. I missed it.

Two or three other things. First of all, Mrs. Jacks, the microwave issue since it was brought up again, the county agricultural extension people distribute literature from the Department of Energy. As many people know, the agriculture extension centers are the distribution information centers for literature from Washington, but I find that the microwave oven material has no cautionary material in it.

If you have studied this issue, as many of us have, the microwave oven is certainly not something that I would recommend for any home let alone those homes of senior citizens, or younger people, because of the danger of radiation, the kind of which causes cancer if you get close to it and with just a tiny pinhole in the door it seeps out, or if it is cracked. These are never issues that are aired very well but we see great advertising for microwave ovens. I understand every other home in the United States may have a microwave oven. This is something I would be very cautious about proposing.

Mr. Brickfield, the fact that you mentioned people doing home remedies instead of going, I suppose, to the doctor. I have just come away from a hospital, where I had eye surgery, with the services of medicare. I also have been in touch with doctors when we lived up north. I have only been in Florida a year and I am dealing with medical people who are into the holistic approach and preventive medicine. Are we doing something with this in the White House Conference? This is a great field in view of the cost for medical care.

Mr. BRICKFIELD. I don't know about the holistic medicine approach, but I do know about preventive medicine. There is a bill before the Congress called Health Care for Older Americans Act and it has been in the Congress for 10 years. It is going to take some time, but one of the provisions in it is the use of HMO's, these health maintenance organizations. The very essence of a health maintenance organization is a prepayment plan, you pay so much a year and the whole idea is for the doctor to keep you healthy, and that is the genesis of preventive medicine.

Mr. IMPERATO. I will answer that, young lady.

Mrs. DICKINSON. Thank you.

Mr. IMPERATO. This is sponsored under the HEW. I served about 4 years and what comes out as preventive medicine is slowly emerging into some truisms that never served it before. I think you make a very valid point. We have been living in the Middle Ages. We have conceived the idea, as ludicrous as it is today, that the medical doctor is the man to turn to for relief. As far as I have been able to divulge out of the materials that have been provided me, they know absolutely nothing about preventive medicine, and therefore what is now beginning to surface, and which you are being made aware of, is a whole group of people who are getting heavy into nutrition.

So far as the holistic approach is concerned, there is definitely a move in the State legislature to recognize the need for these people



who are practitioners, who are scientists in their own field, and who have a tremendous amount of material to give the public in that field, which is the preventive field, and it is turning out to be nutrition which we do not have today.

Mrs. DICKINSON. You have said that correctly and I would like to see mentioned somewhere the development of food co-ops especially for the elderly. This is happening. The first thing we did when we came to Florida was find the food co-op. Unfortunately, we had to go 25 miles to Daytona Beach to find one. These are the kinds of things I think we should be working on. There are hands-on policies and programs which I think we should be doing with solar energy. The young people in New York, the solar study group, has been doing projects that senior citizens could be doing. This is mostly young people who could be doing this.

I don't want to go on but there was one other thing I did want to mention to the Senator and that is the synfuel program. I think that is the biggest waste of money our Government could ever have devised, it is money and water down the drain, and in the end it is going to be a failure. It is expensive and will create water shortages. It should be discussed, but this is not the time to do it. I do disapprove of the synfuel program.

Mrs. JACKS. The recent Governors' Conference on Aging, that we had here in Florida, emphasized wellness and the promotion of wellness, not just from a medical viewpoint. The value of good mental health was emphasized, and the contribution which activities which give older people an opportunity to participate in many aspects of our society contribute to this. There is also a committee of the White House conference planning group moving toward the emphasis on prevention and maintenance of wellness, hoping this will spill over then into the whole medical profession and related professions.

Mrs. DICKINSON. This also bears on medicare. Since I came under medicare I was shocked when I got my hospital bill to find that for the materials that were prescribed to me—which were used up after a few days and I had to purchase more at the drugstore—the drugstore price was like \$2.70 for an item but the hospital price was \$7. This apparently happens all the time. Unfortunately, that is something that we all have to start working on. The newspapers, the day I got my bill, came out with the warning that Florida was one of the States that is being studied for padding medicare bills.

Mr. BRICKFIELD. I will speak to that. It is true hospitals do over-charge, and we have all sorts of complaints whereby they charge \$7 for a drug in the hospital and when you come out it is \$2 on the outside. The problem is that hospitals are not competitive. I don't know how much hospitals are competitive in the greater St. Petersburg area. They apparently don't compete with each other and therefore there is a disincentive to be cost conscious.

Mrs. DICKINSON. But they could be honest.

Mr. BRICKFIELD. Yes; they could be honest, but they get reimbursed costs and whatever the costs are is what they pay. This is where I come back again, ladies and gentlemen, to this Health Care for All Americans Act. Among the other things in it is hospital cost containment. Hospitals will have to have approval of hospital budgets, doctors' fees will have to be negotiated. I, as the executive director of the National Retired

Teachers Association and American Association of Retired Persons, have to have approval of my budget. You take any businessman in Tampa, he has to have approval. There has to be this responsibility.

One other thing. We have to work very hard on changing the attitude of the medical profession. I mean they have to stop treating the elderly as people that can't be helped. These people can be helped and they are curable. When you talk of an elderly patient, you know they talk of them in terms that the elderly patient is the consumer, You know, the elderly patient has to pay for medicare and all. Do you know who the true consumer is? It is the doctor. The only thing that the patient does is select the doctor. The doctor decides when you go to the hospital, which hospital, which diagnostic tests you take, how long you are there, when you get out, what the post operative is. He is not only the gatekeeper but he controls the message. We have to get this message over to the medical profession, and start changing their attitudes.

Mrs. DICKINSON. The use of certain drugs that should have been outlawed. We really wake up to a shock when we are taken advantage of, and prescribed medications that should never have gone into the human system.

Mr. IMPERATO. Just a minute. That last remark is very important because I have before me as of yesterday, the National Council of Senior Citizens instituted a suit in 1972 to remove, through the Food and Drug Administration, which is the monitoring agency—they represent us hopefully—10,000 drugs. I repeat 10,000 drugs. To date they have caused those to be removed. Through scientific research 2,500 drugs that have been on the market have been peddled through the pharmaceutical giants and right down to people that have absolutely no worth at all. You have been throwing your money away. Next month the Federal court will rule on an additional 2,700 more of the drugs that we have found that are absolutely worthless.

Thank you for that opportunity.

Senator CHILES. Yes, sir.

#### **STATEMENT OF ARTHUR J. SMITH, DENVER, COLO.**

Mr. SMITH. Senator Chiles, I don't live in Henderson, N.C. I do live in Denver. I am Arthur Smith. I am the host on a senior citizen television and radio program, now in our fourth year. In that time, of course, we have covered virtually every topic that is of concern to seniors and certainly one of them is energy.

We also have had the opportunity of traveling coast to coast, including the Silver-Haired Legislature of the State of Florida. Incidentally the Silver-Haired Legislature in Missouri recently passed this memorial to Congress, which was mentioned by Tomi Crofut. I would like to make this statement because we are extremely conscious of the energy center of the Nation. That is where the synfuel that you mentioned is going to be activated, out in the northwest section of the State of Colorado.

I would like to point out, too, that the steady increase in the cost of energy is well documented from 1972 to today. That increase has been around 200 percent, and the Consumer Price Index is only one-third of that figure. The hardship upon some 35 million Americans

has really been tragic. Those on fixed incomes have no opportunity to combat this increase and unfortunately relief is not in sight. With no really firmly established overall energy policy at our national level I believe that the message of this hearing must be that our Government should act now to encourage maximum production of all forms of potential energy, including coal, natural gas, uranium, geothermal, wind, and all the others.

For weeks the war in the Middle East has forced some 80 oil tankers to lie idle and empty in the Persian Gulf. Our lifeline between this Nation and the OPEC oil nations has been broken so it is increasingly apparent that we must have a national energy policy. We must also drastically save a major portion of that \$70 billion that we annually send to them which is a tremendous factor in our spiraling inflation. Under today's circumstances we must not permit the dangerous omission of developing all forms of potential domestic energy.

Thank you very much.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

Mrs. VALE. Carrie Vale. My problem is I have had a heart condition since 1974. I stay chilly all the time and can't do anything. I am fully unable to do anything but I do stay cold.

In the case of oil, I would like to have my oil increased to keep me warm day and night. I am continuously cold. I would like help. I would have to get something in addition to what I get on my social security to help with the oil and I just wondered if I could get a little more help to keep me warm day and night.

Senator CHILES. You might well be eligible for the home energy assistance program that we have been talking about. You certainly should go by the district HRS office and get an application and apply for that between December 15 and January 30.

Mrs. VALE. Thank you.

Mr. BROWN. I have sat here for quite a while and I have heard no one talk about this. Hot water heater control, a timer that shuts off your hot water heater at certain times of the day, and turns it back on when you need the hot water, and this cuts off 5 to 10 percent of your bill.

Senator CHILES. Hopefully we will get into that in our third panel this afternoon.

I want to mention that the third panel will now be after lunch, so I hope some of you come back because we are going to have a demonstration of how can you do something about insulating your own house and we will talk about a lot of these devices.

#### **STATEMENT OF ZACK RICHARDSON, ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.**

Mr. RICHARDSON. My name is Zack Richardson. I am from St. Petersburg. I was raised in Arkansas back during the thirties so I know the problems of the poor. I am a senior citizen although I cannot qualify for the silver-haired group. There has been some misunderstandings or there are some misunderstandings about several things and I would kind of like to maybe set the record straight a little bit. I am also a combat veteran of World War II. I had hoped to retire next year at the age of 62 but because of problems outlined in the discussion here today I am going to have to go to 65 at least, another 4 years.

The first record I would request Mr. Brickfield straighten out for me. I have a problem with my membership and insurance record and for the last 6 months I have been trying to straighten it out.

Senator CHILES. You have your man here now.

Mr. RICHARDSON. That is why I asked. Put the membership in my name and the insurance in my wife's name, that is all. They won't do it that way.

Anyway, first let me identify my occupation, and I realize I am treading on dangerous ground. I am the manager of a retail business for Florida Power Corp. Back to Mr. Brickfield, we are involved, we are not all in Tampa. Jim Drake is not here right now but he can testify as to our involvement. You made mention of the fact that we should become involved in the outreach program in Tallahassee. I saw Martha Washington over here, I think she left, but there was one other person here who deals with POC. Presently with these programs we have been very deeply involved.

Getting back to our responsibilities as a utility, we feel that we are deeply involved, and this I would like to bring to the Senator's attention particularly to indicate our concern. Of course I am personally involved, I am just as compassionate as any other human being, but to indicate the feeling and the progressiveness of my company, back in 1975, Senator, proposed an energy stamp program. We put together a package with this program and presented it to the Governor of the State of Florida, to all of the State legislators.

Senator, you may have gotten a copy of it, I don't know, but we did propose this particular type of program because we recognize, as a utility, the need for action in the area that we are addressing today. There is a need for it, there is a right way to do it and there is a wrong way to do it. This is not the place to discuss or debate social responsibility or economic philosophy or ratemaking or anything, the public utility commission has the proper forum.

Senator CHILES. Zack, I have a particular problem. I have got a live television interview and they are ready to go. Would you please wait for just 1 minute and finish when I return? Please excuse me. We are going to take about a 5-minute recess now. We will get the conclusion of Zack's statement and then we will have our second panel up here. We will call out their names.

Ms. KILMER. Minnie Rambelt, Hodges Sneed, Lilly Cotton, and Hazel Scott. Will you please come up here now.

[Whereupon, a short recess was taken.]

Senator CHILES. Mr. Richardson.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I think I said the main things I wanted to say so it will not be necessary for me to say anything more.

Senator CHILES. I am sorry I had to interrupt you there.

Mr. RICHARDSON. That is all right.

Senator CHILES. We are going to start now with our second panel, which includes Minnie Rambelt of Zephyrhills, Fla.; Alta Dixon of Zephyrhills, Fla.; Lilly Cotton of Clearwater, Fla.; and Hazel Scott of St. Petersburg, Fla.

We will just start off first with Mrs. Rambelt from Zephyrhills. If you will just tell us, in your own words, or each of you how the rising energy utility costs have affected your lifestyle.

**STATEMENT OF MINNIA RAMBELT, ZEPHRYHILLS, FLA.**

Mrs. RAMBELT. Well, the Community Action program has done work and the lady is here from the agency for this program. We had to wait a long time to get through to have something done, but this agency was very nice, kind of pushed me ahead a little bit. Have waited for 3 years and have not got anything done yet, and then when it came late last fall, and it was very nice people, and they have put in six new windows and fixed the doors so they will close tight and the locks on the door, tore up the floor and put a new floor in there in the dining area, and they painted all the windows and doors and everything. I can't think what all they did but they did a whole lot.

Senator CHILES. Were you satisfied with the work that they did?

Mrs. RAMBELT. I certainly was, very much so. They put in insulation.

Senator CHILES. Did that reduce the amount of energy you had to use?

Mrs. RAMBELT. Yes, used about half of it this last winter.

Senator CHILES. So you used about half as much gas?

Mrs. RAMBELT. About half as much. In the summertime it is much cooler so we appreciate what they did. They were very kind.

A few things I would like to have done but just can't afford it, they don't have the money to work with. There are a lot of people on the waiting list trying to get more money so that they can help them. We just could not afford to have it done or do it because we just don't get that much social security. Between my husband and I, we don't get \$500 a month, and everything being so high we cannot even afford to go to the doctors, so I sure appreciate and know about this Community Action program.

Senator CHILES. But you know a lot of people who have not been able to get their homes fixed. Are you saying they need this?

Mrs. RAMBELT. Yes; it costs a lot of money.

Senator CHILES. Florida's problem is they only received, I think, \$800,000 in total funds for the weatherization program, so I am sure that we only touched a very fraction of the need.

Mrs. RAMBELT. Yes; that is right. Something that really had to be done, you know. As I say, there are some things that could have been done but they just run out of money, they don't have the money to go ahead and do it.

Senator CHILES. We are delighted to have with us, Jerry Waldie. Mr. Waldie is the Executive Director of the White House Conference on Aging and has been a distinguished Member of the House of Representatives in the Congress. We are delighted to have you here today, Jerry. If you have any comments that you would like to make at any time, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Mr. WALDIE. I appreciate that.

**STATEMENT OF ALTA DIXON, DADE CITY, FLA.**

Mrs. DIXON. I am Alta Dixon. I got in touch with these people to get a roof on my house. I am very much in need of a roof. My house leaks very bad. She said they didn't have money to do that but the boys that work through this program come out and they insulated

my house, they put in a new window, they hung two doors for me, one was brand new, and I appreciate it very much. They will never know how much it really did for me and my husband. He is disabled and can't get out and do anything, he is recently out of the hospital about 12 days and what I will ever do with the bill I don't know.

Senator CHILES. The work they did was satisfactory?

Mrs. DIXON. It sure was and we do appreciate it. They were really good hands.

Senator CHILES. How did you hear about the program?

Mrs. DIXON. Well, I was talking to an elderly lady one day after a big rain. She came to the house and I was sweeping water out of my house, it had run under the linoleum and mildewed and messed it up. I cannot have a carpet because my floor is on the ground and it is a cement floor. Water runs in and those boys came and fixed our doors and built them up a little higher than what they was, maybe now the water won't run in, I hope. But the house leaked so bad if it happens to rain at night and don't wake me up, I have to wade water when I do get up.

Senator CHILES. You still have the leaky roof?

Mrs. DIXON. Yes; especially on one side. Now the front side, the north side, does not leak but the south side leaks more inside than it does out. I badly need some repair and maybe through this community program they can find this leak and stop it. I would be glad to have it patched or anything to have a roof on it to keep it from leaking. It has already ruined my rugs.

Senator CHILES. The insulation, did that cause you to use less electricity?

Mrs. DIXON. Between 2 and 3 weeks—I cannot tell.

Senator CHILES. So you are just getting ready to start into the winter season?

Mrs. DIXON. Yes; I am sure it will be a lot better than it has been. We only have one gas heater on the north side of the house, and the rest of my house is on the north side, and it is cold and by getting the doors when the wind is blowing, I am sure it will be warmer this winter. I am really proud of it and they were very, very nice in every way and very good hands to work and they did a good job.

Senator CHILES. I am glad to hear that. There have been some complaints about certain programs in some States. Some aspects were not handled properly, money was wasted, and the work was not done in an effective manner. That is why I am asking you about your experience.

Mrs. DIXON. It was real good and we appreciate it very much. Very good. We are proud of it. The lady that takes care of this program is here today.

Senator CHILES. Would you introduce her?

Mrs. DIXON. She is right there.

Senator CHILES. All right.

What is your name?

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. I am Jaya Radhakrishnan and I am the housing director. Some of Mrs. Dixon's problems, we do see it. When we did the work on their house we didn't have the title III money and we got a new grant starting October 1; in their case, they needed a brand new roof. There is no way it can be patched up; it has been patched up I don't know how many times.

Senator CHILES. You cannot do that with weatherization funds?

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. The money is available for us, some for insulation, doors and windows, cracks on the walls, and things like that. We do have instructions; yes, we can do the roof if we have enough money, but the way the cost of material is sky high, we cannot, so what we are trying to do is, if the roof is leaking, we will try to patch it up first or put on roof paper or whatever it is. We know it is not going to last long like putting whole new shingles.

We have the title III money from 1976 and we could spend up to \$500 on a client's house at that time. A lot of it was needed for a brand new roof, and we had enough money and we have the weatherization money now. At that time we didn't have the Department of Energy money but now we are getting that also. When you put all that together, we can put \$800 in one house.

Senator CHILES. Are you then working at all in helping the client get the HUD low-cost loans?

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. Yes, the Farmers Home Administration. When we say it is a loan, a lot of elderly people don't want to mortgage their house.

Senator CHILES. But some can.

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. Yes.

Senator CHILES. You work together with Farmers Home where you can?

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. Yes; we have done some already. We can do a lot of work but the title III money has gone way down which is not helping us to fix porches and do the electrical work, plumbing work—things like that.

Senator CHILES. You are getting less of the title III money now?

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. Yes; if you can do something about it, we will appreciate it very much. I am talking about the 200 elderly people. I have more than 200 applicants on the waiting list.

Senator CHILES. That is what I was going to ask you. You have more than 200 that you don't have the funds for now?

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. Yes.

Senator CHILES. How many more do you think are out there that we have not identified in an outreach program—in other words, that really have a pressing need?

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. Much more, I would say. I spend most of my time outside to see exactly what is happening in the field and when we do a job, mostly the neighbors see it, and they want it, and they want to know how this program runs. Mrs. Dixon came to us, she asked for a roof and I explained to her that we can patch up the roof if we get the money but at the same time we can do the doors and windows and insulate. That was the first time she heard about this program. We have done that. From October 1 I did get a little money from title III; not much, but even with that money, we cannot spend more than \$100, \$125 in one house the way building material prices are.

Senator CHILES. That won't buy too much. Are you dovetailing with CETA in trying to use CETA help?

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. We are trying to solve that problem with manpower. We don't have any CETA workers at all. That is the biggest problem we are faced with and I want to point that out to you.

Senator CHILES. Why don't you use CETA workers?

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. What we do, they don't have enough money to hire CETA workers. The manpower does not have the money to hire and the Department of Energy does approve us to hire some workers with 50 percent of that money. We can use it as support of program cost. I have hired two workers full time. Also the county administration money we get through that. We hired an on-the-site supervisor and two foremen.

Senator CHILES. Are you working with Green Thumb or RSVP?

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. We have not had much luck on that. As far as volunteers, if they work a couple of hours of their own. They make much more money. They don't want to do volunteer work and I cannot force them to do volunteer work for us, a lot of our clients help the carpenters and I appreciate that. Doing some small work we need a lot of helping hands and the clients themselves helped on the roof, things like that. Financially, the clients are helping themselves and I am so proud of that. The clients realize our problem and they come up with some money for which they don't have to pay for the labor. We provide the labor, which helps them a lot. I tell everybody, we will help you as far as we can but you help yourself, and I am getting very good response.

Senator CHILES. Thank you very much.

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. Thank you.

Senator CHILES. Mrs. Cotton, you tell us your experience now.

#### STATEMENT OF LILLY COTTON, CLEARWATER, FLA.

Mrs. COTTON. Senator, nice to meet you again. I have seen you on television but I never had the pleasure of meeting you in person.

I am a spokesperson for the Mt. Carmel Baptist Dining Site of Neighborly Center, Inc., a Pinellas County senior citizen congregational dining program. My name is Lilly B. Cotton. I am a senior citizen. I was in May, but Social Security couldn't verify my eligibility until September. I don't have a birth certificate. I was not born in a hospital as blacks were not permitted in Florida hospitals at the time and so that is why I didn't get one.

I want to tell you some of my experiences. I am an employee for Association of Retired Persons/Senior Community Service Employment Program, and that is in Clearwater. I get paid every 2 weeks, and I get \$111.67. So in this work that I have been doing—well, some of my monthly expenses, my electricity, I pay it in two installments because I am not able to pay all of that at one time and then my telephone bill.

Senator CHILES. How much is your bill running?

Mrs. COTTON. Right now it is \$60 a month for electricity. I just got it.

Senator CHILES. So you are trying to live on \$220 and your bill for electricity is \$60?

Mrs. COTTON. Yes.

Senator CHILES. Do you have gas on top of that or not?

Mrs. COTTON. No, no gas. I have oil.

Senator CHILES. How much is your oil bill?

Mrs. COTTON. Well, it varies, too, sometimes. My water and garbage runs \$14 a month.



Senator CHILES. Your water is \$14 a month?

Mrs. COTTON. Yes; I have a tight budget. I had to borrow \$20 from my daughter to buy needed shoes. I only have a broken down washing machine for washing my clothes. Right now I owe \$202 in income tax to the Internal Revenue Service. In June, I was in the hospital and the bill was \$80. Then in September, I was in the hospital again and that bill was another \$84, so I owe a total of \$164, with no supplementary medical insurance to pay it. My budget allows no frills.

I was eligible for social security, but it was delayed for lack of a birth certificate, as I said. I thank the good Lord for everything because he takes care of his children. There are a lot more people in Clearwater that are in the same condition as I am and so a lot of them need their houses fixed and different things, too. Because of energy costs, some of my friends are cold in the wintertime. I thank the good Lord if it would get a little warmer. I hope it does because I don't like cold weather.

Anyway, like I said, we have quite a few people that really have problems that need to be looked into while you are in our district and can put a plug in for us at the White House.

Senator CHILES. We certainly will do that. I hope you listened today and heard about the home energy assistance program. People need to make an application for that to see whether they are eligible or not between December 15 and January 30.

Mrs. COTTON. Yes.

FROM THE FLOOR. Wouldn't she qualify for supplemental security income—SSI?

Senator CHILES. Yes; she could be eligible for SSI also.

Mrs. COTTON. I thank you very much.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF HAZEL SCOTT, ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

Mrs. SCOTT. I am very happy to be here to meet the Senator. I am very proud that we have been able to listen to all of this that has gone on.

I am from St. Petersburg. My name is Hazel Scott. I moved to Florida in 1957 after my husband passed away in 1954. I had two young boys to bring up. I had been in my own business for 12 years before I had to have my leg amputated which meant I had to give up my business. I started to go to Neighborly Center and through the center I was told about this program, the energy crisis program, and I am very grateful for that. It was the first year within the last 5 years or so that I was able to keep my air-conditioning on.

I have a small mobile home and it is a one room air-conditioner but this was the first year that I was able to keep it on all summer, and it was a big help to me, because with the heat and of course being a diabetic it really made some big difference in my life and I am very grateful for that.

I also wanted to say I never had to phone the Florida Power or the home gas in all the years I dealt with them, but when I was on this program we were notified especially through the Florida Power with a pink slip, and that worried me very badly, because I thought they were going to cut off the electricity. I told them it could be a very bad hardship with my one leg and I didn't want to walk around in the dark.

Well, they assured me that they would not turn off my electricity, but at the Neighborly Center there were some people who became frightened about this notice and in fact one or two of them were ill, one has a heart condition and she became very upset about it. I think that this notification from the Florida Power could have been prevented for the people that were on this energy crisis.

Another thing about the gas company, it seemed that they were taking so long to pay the bills and I kept calling them to ask if they received the bill for me because I am always very prompt in paying bills and that was a worry to me because they were holding it up. My own thought would be, is it possible that we would not have to go through Tallahassee, that the money could have been sent right through our own POC and taken care of there rather than wait 2 and 3 months for the bills to be paid.

That is all I have to say.

Senator CHILES. Thank you very much.

Mrs. SCOTT. Thank you very much.

Senator CHILES. You are welcome.

Mrs. COTTON. They paid my electric bill so I appreciate that.

Senator CHILES. So you got some help last year, too.

Mrs. COTTON. Yes.

Senator CHILES. Well, I want to thank you all very much.

I don't know whether we have anybody now from the audience that would like to address any question to this panel.

Yes, ma'am.

Mrs. RADHAKRISHNAN. Hodges Sneed was supposed to be here today. He called me last night, he has an emphysema problem and yesterday he could hardly talk on the phone but he wanted to tell you personally. Usually when he has this attack he will end up in the hospital. We made the house airtight, now the doctor lets him stay in the home itself. He has to go back and forth but that is much better than what he had been. Since he could not be here to tell you that in his own words, he wanted me to tell you that.

Senator CHILES. Thank you very much.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The problem has been in the past, maybe it could be addressed to the future, the turnaround time of the administrative procedure from the time the customer brings their bill in until it goes through this mass of paperwork procedure until finally when he comes to pay the bill. We have had experiences where bills have been delayed in payment through this procedure for as much as 6 months and this is a long period of time to expect, but we have done it and it is something that I think should be addressed.

Senator CHILES. Well, maybe if we are correct that the applications will go in by January 30 and the payments will be forthcoming in February. Maybe if everybody knows that, maybe that will help. I can see elderly people that have been very proud of being able to keep up with their bills and just that pink notice probably does frighten them tremendously. While they are going to get assistance, it will be a while before that assistance comes and if the utilities companies somehow could recognize that I am sure that would be tremendously helpful.

Mr. RICHARDSON. We have.

Senator CHILES. Great. We are going to recess now until 1:30. At that time, we are going to have our third panel and part of that will be a demonstration of some home insulation that the people were able to do themselves. We are delighted that these people are here today and are going to put on the demonstration. So any of you that can, try to come back at 1:30, when we reconvene.

I want to thank all of the panel members who have participated.

[Whereupon, at 12:45 p.m., the committee recessed, to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.]

#### AFTER RECESS

[The hearing reconvened at 1:50 p.m., Senator Lawton Chiles, chairman, presiding.]

Senator CHILES. I think we are ready to start again now.

We are going to start with our third panel. As I said, we are going to have a demonstration a little later on how you can insulate, but before that, I am going to ask Mary O'Rourke of DeValls Bluff, Ark., to share with us a little bit about some of the problems in connection with the terrible heat wave that you had there this summer.

Mary, can you tell us something about that.

#### STATEMENT OF MARY O'ROURKE, DeVALLS BLUFF, ARK.

Mrs. O'ROURKE. Senator, I prepared this talk before I heard all of these previous speakers, because you either stole my thunder or I stole yours, I don't know which.

I am very pleased to be with you all here today and give this testimony before this committee because I know of your interest in the elderly affairs.

I am Mary O'Rourke. I am from DeValls Bluff, a small rural Arkansas community on the western edge of the Mississippi Delta and on the Grand Prairie. By the most current statistics 20 percent of our population is 60 years old or over. Now that is approximately 2,000 older Americans. Prairie County, my county, is one of the six counties that is served by the Arkansas Central Agency on Aging. Our county by far is the smallest in total population as well as in the number of older Americans. In comparison, nearby Pulaski County, where Little Rock is located, has over 42,000 older residents and includes the greater Little Rock community which is the most urban area in the entire State.

Our State is second only to Florida in the center of the total population of 60 years or over. My knowledge and my understanding of these problems of our older population in Arkansas grows out of my own clear view of what is happening in my life, and in the lives of my older family and my friends. I am 74 years old, I have a sister 92 and one 86. Incidentally, when I talk about what I am——

Senator CHILES. Are you the baby?

Mrs. O'ROURKE. I am the baby, that is what I was fixing to tell you. I was talking about what I was going to do when I grew old and I might have to go to a nursing home, and my 92-year-old sister says: "You will not; I will take care of you."

My understanding of the problems of the State's older population is also borne out of my experience as a county social service director.

We administered public benefit programs including aid to the aged and food stamps.

After 30 years of teaching I retired, and then I became the county social service director and retired after 15 years of service in that position. After retiring from the State I became a board member and a volunteer in the Prairie County Council on Aging. The county provides transportation, hot meals, and senior citizens services for the county of the older population. Last year I resigned that position to become a member of the board of directors on the Central Area Agency on Aging. The only reason I told you these things about myself and my personal involvement in the field of aging is just simply to show you the perspective that I bring to you on the things that I have heard, I have seen, and I have felt during the devastating heat wave of 1980.

That heat wave crested with the death of 148 Arkansas people, most of them elderly. You might be interested in the statistics that I received only yesterday, that 37 of this group were 54 years old or older, 28 were between 55 and 64, 40 were between 65 and 74, 34 were between 75 and 84, and 19 were 85 or above.

People in my community were dying and becoming ill all around us before we fully realized the cause was the unrelenting temperatures of 100 degrees or more for many, many days. We opened 24-hour cooling shelters, but in most of our six counties the older people simply would not leave their homes for the sanctuary in the cooling shelters, unless they were forced to do so by the heat exhaustion or illness.

No one took advantage of the 24-hour shelter in Prairie County while only 12 persons used the shelter in Pulaski County. In a medium-sized community of about 19,000, also in our area, over 100 persons stayed at the cooling shelter for days. Why this reluctance if the shelters were there and the transportation was available and all at no cost for the older people? Well, everything that many of these older people owned is in that home, all of their precious personal belongings. They needed to stay at home and take care of and protect what they have. In some areas, especially in urban Little Rock, the elderly are afraid even in their own homes, because of the large number of crimes perpetuated against them for their medicine, their money, and their valuables.

Many older people have difficulty in getting fans or air-cooling devices and even after they were finally made available they lacked the transportation to get to the right office to apply or to pick up the fans. Aging service providers were able to assist to a great extent in this problem.

Having a fan, though, was not enough. Many older people refused to use the electricity for fear of being unable to pay their high utility bills. Inadequate, substandard housing, in poor repair with little or no ventilation were also a contributing factor. In some cases the windows had been nailed or plated shut as protection against the cold winters because they have those, too, in Arkansas or the older person was just simply too weak or too frail to open those windows. Older people are susceptible to crime and health conditions such as heart trouble and emphysema, and these conditions are aggravated by the heat.

Now, there is no question in my mind, temperatures in the 100's that hang on for days are life-threatening, especially to the vulnerable elderly. What can be done to prevent a repeat of this effect of the 1980 heat wave?

Gentlemen, I believe in prevention. I feel like this hearing is evidence of your intention to prepare this country to cope with the devastating heat wave should another one ever occur. Would you please consider the following:

First, many of the elderly, especially the older women, live alone in inadequate housing.

Second, their fixed incomes are eroded by inflation, in particular by the high cost of utilities.

Third, loneliness and isolation due to the loss of the security of family and friends has made them fearful of losing their possessions or becoming totally dependent without virtually anyone to depend upon.

Fourth, they have one or more chronic ailments.

Energy-related Federal help has been piecemeal, uneven, coming in first from various places. To the local citizenry it appears that some families get a double portion while there are others who are equally as needy get nothing. Do you know that there are 6 Federal agencies, 250 units of State government, and 6,000 social local grantees administering the energy assistance program?

First, I recommend to you a uniform assistance policy and program administered by a single agency. That single agency should be the agency with the greatest demonstrated capabilities to effectively and efficiently carry out the energy system's program.

Now I do not know which agency that could be, but I feel that your committee is in a position to make that determination. I do know that the fragmented approach to energy assistance has been ineffective and is unevenly implemented. A well-planned energy assistance program that is effective will take into account those economic and social factors, such as inflation, fixed income of the elderly and the disabled, dwelling patterns, housing, mental and physical health, and social well-being.

I want to thank you for the direction that the aging network has taken in becoming the advocate and the focal point for the elderly. The network stands ready and stands willing to do whatever possible to favorably impact these uniform energy assistance programs on behalf of Arkansas' older Americans.

I thank you for the opportunity to address this distinguished gathering regarding our country's need for a uniform energy assistance program.

Senator CHILES. Thank you very much, Mary.

You pointed out the number of senior citizens that you have in the State of Arkansas and that it is only second to Florida. I would say that Senator Pryor and his activity on behalf of the elderly is second to only one other person in the Senate. [Laughter.] He does an outstanding job for us on the Aging Committee and we are delighted to have him.

You are familiar with the existing energy assistance and weatherization program. In your opinion, can the programs that we now have,

adequately serve the elderly's need during the heat wave, such as the one that you experienced?

Mrs. O'ROURKE. I am afraid not, Senator. I don't believe we reached the people that needed to be reached. Now many of them had the fear, and I think this point was brought out this morning, they have the fear and too much pride. Many of them will not ask for help. That is that old southern aristocracy that we have in Arkansas.

Senator CHILES. You have to push them.

Mrs. O'ROURKE. Some of them have to be led by the hand, literally.

Senator CHILES. The law now requires a medical necessity to be eligible for assistance for cooling purposes. Senator Bentsen, from Texas, and I have been trying to remove that provision. I am concerned that the time involved in the certification process could be critical to the health of the person affected by the heatstroke, for example. Can you comment on that based on your experiences this past summer?

Mrs. O'ROURKE. I think we are quite fortunate in one area, that we are in a rural area, because we can reach the people on a personal basis there, where in the urban areas we cannot and it does take so long to process some of these things.

Does that answer your question?

Senator CHILES. Well, I think it does.

You have heard about the use of the elderly volunteers in Louisiana. Did you use volunteers to help this summer in Arkansas and how was that?

Mrs. O'ROURKE. Yes; we have that volunteer service but it is of course on a volunteer basis and many people are interested in working in that program but that is another thing that we have to recruit. If we don't get to them and show them the needs of these things, then they don't know how to approach those needing help.

Senator CHILES. What was your No. 1 need for the elderly people during that heat wave? What was your No. 1 request?

Mrs. O'ROURKE. I would say some sort of cooling system and just like I told you in my speech they were afraid of it because our utility bills are something else.

Senator CHILES. That is what we heard in Washington at some of our hearings, that you had people who went into the homes and found people dead, who had fans, but they did not turn them on because they were afraid to use them.

Mrs. O'ROURKE. One of our workers from our center found an elderly man sitting on his porch. He had gotten so hot he could not stay in the house, he came out and sat on the porch and collapsed. He was taken to the hospital but died and the doctor said it was heat related. Those were the things that were happening all over Arkansas.

Senator CHILES. I know it was a terrible, terrible time. In Florida we have heat but not the number of days and nowhere near the kind of situation you had out there.

Mrs. O'ROURKE. Of course our money was limited, too. This is not a political plug, but our Governor was very, very considerate and very concerned about our older citizens and he gave us some help.

Senator CHILES. I know that you had a big organization who really came together. Volunteers, and I think even the military establishment joined in.

Mrs. O'ROURKE. They did.

Senator CHILES. The highway patrol and everyone else tried to join in.

Mrs. O'ROURKE. Everyone helped because they could see the need and see the problem. As I said, so many of our people who are elderly live alone and they had no one to look after them as some of these organizations with volunteers did.

Senator CHILES. Thank you very much, Mary.

Now we are going to hear from the members of our panel from Louisiana. We have Mabel Andrews, who is an RSVP volunteer, and Wallace Living, both from Lafayette, La., and they are accompanied by Frank Neelis.

Nice to have you here, Frank. Do you want to just lead off. Thank you for coming over here.

**STATEMENT OF FRANK NEELIS, ENERGY COORDINATOR, SMILE  
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, LAFAYETTE, LA.**

Mr. NEELIS. We would like to thank you for being able to participate in this. We are very honored by this, and I am especially pleased with it, because I was able to bring along some people who have been very instrumental in my community in trying to get out and do some of this actual work.

I was especially pleased when I came in and read the news release by Cy, where he said many able-bodied and skilled older Americans would welcome the opportunity to serve our Nation as energy conservation volunteers. He told the Senate panel that this virtually untapped source of manpower and womanpower could conduct home energy audits, help in home weatherization programs, advise others on ways to save energy, make referrals to agencies providing financial assistance, and sensitize the public to the urgent need for energy conservation.

Why I was especially pleased with that comment is because that is exactly what we did. We hope to demonstrate to you how the program would work. We run a weatherization program, a crisis intervention program, at my agency but what we have realized several years ago, that was just the tip of the iceberg and we had a tremendous untapped resource out there, and that was primarily the elderly citizens in our community.

So what we have done, we have gone out and we have helped them along with a small grant from the National Science Foundation. We were able to develop a program and go out into the community and generate a volunteer program. Because of the overwhelming success of our program we are now trying to develop a permanent self-help program, the energy program of the agency.

We have a slide presentation that we are going to present to you. We have a little symposium at the hotel. We have literature. We have some materials out here that we can actually let you get a handle on, famous caulking gun. If we could give everyone a caulking gun today, I wouldn't have to worry about sending my son to the Persian Gulf with a M-15 rifle to defend the oil interests.

Now I want to get right down to the people who have made the program successful. Mabel Andrews.

**STATEMENT OF MABEL ANDREWS, RSVP VOLUNTEER,  
LAFAYETTE, LA.**

Mrs. ANDREWS. Ladies and gentlemen, we are concerned with preventive methods. We are trying to teach elderly people to help themselves so there won't be crisis situations. Some of the ways to prevent crises, get the elderly to help the elderly. The elderly people can help each other. Let the elderly go and do that, those that can, help the others. Elderly people can help each other set up fans where they can do the most good in the summer.

Elderly people can call senior citizens to reassure them and to advise them how the energy bills can be paid. Many people would not run their fans this last summer because they thought they could not pay their energy bill. As you heard this morning, some of them died. Elderly people have made simple conservation products like insulated curtains that can be open during the winter where the Sun is coming in, and then closed at night to keep the night air out, and in the summer you can open these.

Now I said insulated curtains. They don't have to be insulated curtains, you can do that with window shades, you can do that with the shutters. Just keep the Sun coming in in the wintertime and keep it out in the summertime. That helps a lot.

Now I want to tell you about what we have actually done in Louisiana through the retired senior program directed by Linda Boudreaux. We organized a group called the RSVP Energy Savers made up of elderly people. For instance, I am 72, and there were some ladies in the group that were in their eighties. We got to work and got our work done. In our project, first we went to a house of an elderly person and made an energy survey, just found out what was missing, what was needed. We had pictures to show you of the typical houses we have in Louisiana but we didn't get the projector from the hotel.

We checked for cracks around the doors and windows, loose windows and broken panes, loose weatherboard and other holes. We checked for all that. Then we set about to weatherproof the house, let people know about the workshop by passing out leaflets. I have one here that you can look at. I don't know if you can read it from here.

Senator CHILES. Let's just start one of those around if we can.

Mrs. ANDREWS. We returned to the house to let the people know about the workshop by passing out the leaflets, the one I just showed you. Then we went back to the house to weatherproof it, and as a group project we made the work fun by working together and eating lunch together. We thought we were having fun putting the weatherstripping on. It took three ladies to drive in one nail but we finally got it. We got it all through. We thought we were going to call the men for help, but Ann Bachman said no, that is all right. We really got to work.

Some of our other energy projects we did with our "RSVP Tips on Energy." Margaret Young wrote tips on saving energy and had them printed each week in about 10 church bulletins. Pierre Young did a half-hour television show on "Energy Conservation in the Home." I have two pictures here, we would have had them on slides, but as I said before, the hotel failed to provide a projector. We will pass them around. This one here, this is a lady using the caulking gun



The lady back here is 85 years old, she did what she could, if it was just handing the instruments to us, or the tools for us to work with, she was there.

This lady here is Ann Bachman, the lady who helped us in organizing the Energy Savers group. I want to say this so you can see we are able to do things for ourselves if we can just let the old folks find that out—I should not say old folks, we don't like to be called old folks, the elderly or the senior citizens. If we let them see they can help themselves, we want to do it. We really want to do it and we want to work.

Right over here there are some of the materials that we use for our weatherproof and if anybody would want to find out how to use them we will be able to show you how to use the caulking gun, and how to use weatherstripping, and whatnot, whatever we have there on the table.

So much has been said this morning, I think I have said enough.

Senator CHILES. I wonder if you could give us a part on the demonstration that you give at your workshops. Could you do that, Frank?

Mr. NEELIS. OK, I will try. I am sorry we don't have the slides. The most important element in the whole thing is the caulking gun.

Senator CHILES. How much does a caulking gun cost?

Mr. NEELIS. I am getting these guns wholesale, and I am paying about \$1.75 for a caulking gun like this.

Senator CHILES. Jaya says they are about \$2.29 retail.

Mr. NEELIS. Very, very simple tool. Again, like I said earlier, I keep repeating it, I would like to arm a whole bunch of people with a gun of this caliber instead of sending my son over to the Middle East with a \$5,000 machinegun.

Our basic caulking gun simply has a little ratchet—we turn them up straight. Now the caulker that we have been using, there are several different kinds of caulk. This is basically latex-type caulk. We use this to go around the windows, the doors, and all the small cracks you generally have around the house. You load it into the gun, cock it, cut off the tip of this, punch it with a nail, and away you go.

If some of you saw the pictures floating around here, you saw the ladies going around with this thing. In a lot of the houses we have in the south of Louisiana, and I know in Arkansas, I used to live up there, we had the same problem. The Department of Energy says you have to go around and find all the small leaks. We don't have small leaks, we have holes. So basically what we had to do is we had to find some material to plug up those holes right away, that is waterproof and will last, just to get those holes plugged up. It was an old trick of the plumbers for years and years to use oakum to fill the holes and then you can pass over the oakum with caulk.

Senator CHILES. Oakum.

Mr. NEELIS. Anyway, what you do with this material, you rip off any size and you just simply take it and you stuff it in the hole as much as you need. After you have done that, you simply come back again with you caulking gun, and you have got yourself a watertight seal keeping the rain and everything out. This is made of hemp. Now I

won't tell you what hemp is, the young people in here think we are trying to smoke the stuff.

Another thing is around the windows. What we use is a tube of this. When we came here there were two different kinds of glazing compounds. The glazing tubes we use are very simple, very practical, very easy to work with. This is the typical kind. You take this and you apply it, you work around the entire window with it. It is very time-consuming and very, very hard.

Another project that is a little bit more extensive is the same material but it is in a tube, it is called Handy Glaze. I will give the manufacturer a little plug. Basically it has the angle on this already cut for you. Again just simply insert it in your caulking gun, and away you go with it. It cost about \$2.65 at retail. A normal-sized house in Louisiana, it normally takes about six of these to do every window in the entire house.

Now another area that I would look into are all the small leaks. The reason we look at the small leaks or the cracks is because we are not necessarily concerned about insulation, insulation is the very last thing that we are concerned about. You put it in an attic and it is not going to do much good because the cold air comes in the window and doors no matter how much insulation you have in the house. The other area is around the doors. There is some very simple material that can be used.

This is a simple door sweep and basically all it is is a piece of neoprene rubber or felt and aluminum. It costs about \$1.79. It is a very simple, easy thing to put on. You just use screws, you measure the size of the doors, and sometimes you can cut it with a heavy pair of scissors. You have seen them, you know, cut a penny or something like that. You can use those types of scissors on this. We use a handsaw. Again it takes care of it very, very well.

Mrs. ANDREWS. I have a picture.

Mr. NEELIS. It can also go on the inside of the door on the back side. In Louisiana, we are concerned about the rain coming in sometimes, and we have actually put two of these, one on the outside and one on the inside for the rain. You just put it next to the door, you cut it. This one, a threshold, you have to cut with a hacksaw. Put it down with three or four screws. We are paying about \$3 for them over in Lafayette, \$3.70. Everything is inflated here in Florida.

Now again I have to apologize because we don't have the slides here but some of the other things we use is around the doors themselves. We started off using this. This is some little foam weatherstripping that has some backing on it. We started to use this stuff on the doors and we have not put many around the windows. We stopped using this around the doors because the humidity was so high that this didn't hold up and the stuff was falling, and the people say the weatherstripping is falling off. So what we have done, we are actually buying aluminum and vinyl weatherstripping just like you see around the door of the refrigerator. You cut the weatherstripping and it lasts for 5 years. We have not had any callbacks on the weatherstripping for quite a while.

Let me mention one thing about windows as a matter of fact, it is interesting. One of the things that we have found, and I am sure that a lot of people in the South can verify, is that even though we don't have many heating degree days, the elderly live in housing that is built like

a bunch of empty sieves, loosely built houses to say the least. One of the main areas we have a problem with is around the window units. The window units have always been built very loosely because there are people who want to open these windows a lot in the summer time. During the rain they close the windows.

We have always had very loosely built windows. Storm windows, \$15 for a window. We were finding out that people would put these things on and people were not using them, they keep the whole thing closed. What happens during the summertime is you get a tremendous heat built up. Then the price on the storm windows doubled on us. What is the storm window?

Basically what a storm window is, what it does is create a double airspace. How can you create a very low cost, but effective double airspace? We started looking at films. This is simply a little piece of clear vinyl, and you can take, like some agencies have done throughout the country, and build on some very simple wooden frames. What some people have actually done is that they have just taken the films and they just tape them on the inside of their windows.

To do a window like this, it was running us less than \$1. It is just amazing the results with these things. As a matter of fact, I would go so far to say it almost compensates for not putting insulation in a house. You are doing two things—one, preventing a tremendous amount of heat loss, but more important is that you stop the infiltration. That is the biggest problem we have is infiltration. So this is a very, very simple way to do it. That is just fine.

Now we will talk about the use of curtains. This is the area that we are just getting into. I went over to the RSVP office and they said: "Somebody gave us a bunch of material." Of course the energy issue is my concern, and I just happened to pick up this book about making insulated curtains. I said, here we have a tremendous potential, a bunch of ladies who like to party a lot, so why not get them together, get a bunch of material and start making insulated curtains. When we go on the weatherization jobs we can actually put these things up.

All they have to do is reach up and close the curtains. It gives them a 4 to 6 R-factor, which previously was 1 on the windows. So this is a very simple technique of a way to manufacture these things using the volunteers of the RSVP program where we set up the workshop and then turn around and buy the finished product so we take care of the window area at the same time. The manufacturing of the product is very practical and at the same time they can put them in their own homes to keep their utility bills down.

"Insulated Curtains," by William K. Langdon, published by Rodale Press. I can pass this around but don't walk away with this thing.

Now another thing that we are concerned about is the water pipes. We also look at the major problem of the houses that are built on what we call piers or what they call crawl spaces; in other words, you can crawl underneath the house. This is historically the way the houses have been built in our part of the country. You have a tremendous amount of cold air that comes in underneath the floor and the first thing you hit when you get up in the morning is the cold floor, so what we are looking at doing is we are actually going around and closing in the crawl spaces to prevent that cold air from contacting the floor in the first place.

There is always a house that has some exposed pipes and we put this simple pipe insulation on it. It comes in about a 10-foot package and costs about \$4. It is about 3 feet long, you can generally do about three or four houses with a packet of this stuff. It is crazy to have a hot water heater outside of your house, especially if it is not a solar heater, and by the time the water comes to your house it is cold water again so that is a very simple way. This can just simply snap right around the box.

Again I apologize for not having the slides but we would be more than happy to let you all come up and look at this material, feel what a caulking gun is, because I think that is the most important tool we are going to have in America in the next 10 years.

Thank you.

Senator CHILES. If you will just stay down there a minute and I will ask you a few questions. This is primarily for Wallace and Mabel. In the neighborhoods that you participate in, the community energy project, is there a noticeable conservation of energy? In other words, are people experiencing smaller utility bills?

Mr. LIVING. Yes.

Senator CHILES. So as a result of some of this stuff you are doing you are having smaller utility bills?

Mr. LIVING. It is a big help. It is a big help.

Senator CHILES. I am interested in how the two of you received your training for the program. I know there are potential volunteers in the audience, Who trained you? How long did it take?

Mr. LIVING. It took me about a half hour.

Senator CHILES. Mabel, how about you?

Mrs. ANDREWS. We had Ann Bachman. She organized Energy Savers from RSVP. We had to meet with her for 3½ hours.

Senator CHILES. Do you think it is possible that even somebody as unskilled as me might be able to learn some of this?

Mrs. ANDREWS. Unskilled as I was, I learned. I don't have the picture here where I am sawing some of this weatherstripping and where it took the three of us to drive one nail through that hole but we did it. That old wood is hard, it is not like the green wood, the new wood. We really work. We really work.

Senator CHILES. Frank, what is the typical job and what are the limits in the program and if the job did require skills that your volunteers didn't happen to have, was there any other support in the community that you could have?

Mr. NEELIS. I can go back to basically the weatherization program that we operate. We do about 150 houses a year through the program. What we have been spending on average per house as of 6 months ago, probably has not changed that much, to do a thorough weatherization job which means dealing with inexpensive storm windows and insulation. The attic insulated about R-19 factor, it is running us about \$325 a house. With my crew it generally takes about 3 days.

We don't turn down any of the houses. We have some houses that are so far gone you cannot do anything to them. We don't accept that philosophy. We don't turn down anything. We have gone out to some houses and we have actually asked the people, what part of the house do you occupy, what is the most critical part of the

house and we will concentrate on that part of the house. It might be a bedroom or an adjoining bath.

The utility reduction we have experienced with our optimal weatherization program, of course we have the figures to back it up, we look at the consumption on it. The cost of it does not help us, primarily consumption. We generally have been experiencing a lower consumption of about 60 percent.

Senator CHILES. Sixty percent less energy is being used?

Mr. NEELIS. Yes; again it is in our heating period and 100 percent of the houses when we have used open space heaters which are not the most efficient in the world. We experience about 60-percent reduction in gas consumption.

Senator CHILES. About now many houses in a community have you been able to perfect?

Mr. NEELIS. We cover a three-parish area or three-county area and we do average about 150 houses a year with just the weatherization.

Now with the self-help we are going to try to do a whole neighborhood. We are talking about doubling and tripling those figures in the very near future and we are well on the way to doing that right now.

Senator CHILES. Wallace, can you add anything?

#### STATEMENT OF WALLACE LIVING, LAFAYETTE, LA.

Mr. LIVING. Well, my name is Wallace Living and I am not going to try to say too much. As this gentleman said here this morning, I am not going to try to pronounce his last name, I will say Pat. He said he was uneducated but I think I am in a worse shape than he is because I hardly have any education at all and I don't need an education to do what I want to do.

I have another correction. They have Wallace Living, president, Our Lady Queen of Peace. That is the church that I belong to, and we have a little center on the side of it where we usually meet and we got together, a group or a few of us got together, and had a chance to get with this gentleman here, Frank, and started like a workshop, started talking, and he came up with the idea that we could have done things ourselves, and that is how we learned how to do it. I think we learned about this in a half-hour if I am not mistaken.

We have on the slide a map of Lafayette and also a map of the area that we try to get on now but unfortunately we could not have it. The first thing that we usually do when we go to a house is go with a list, sort of like this, with the information of the building, see how the building is made, what it is made out of, what kind of material that is used, which we call an audit. We also have some like that.

Second, we also did a survey on some of the houses. We didn't get a chance to do it all but on a few of them that we did we worked a little bit on it. We had quite a few men out there, ladies, too. We had a couple of our elected officials, such as city councilman Wilfred Pierre and our police juror, Mervin Harmon.

This house here was in very poor condition and we had a chance to go around the house and we did a little work on it. We could not complete it all in 1 day. We didn't get a chance to go back so we plan on going back to that house and do a little more work on it.

We also have our workbook cover, we call it, which if you look at page 12 you will see a house which was in very poor condition and that

they worked on it and I think solar energy and which was no later. I am sorry we don't have the slide to show you what happened.

Senator CHILES. Are you going to pass out some of those books?

Mr. NEELIS. Yes.

Mr. LIVING. This old lady here was so cold, poor thing, after they got through with the house that same evening she went back in and turned all her heaters off. She was walking with a walker. The next day she threw her walker away, she didn't need it no more. You see that house on page 12.

The next thing we are trying to do is to check our lists of material, check out what we need, what kind of material we need, and you will also find that in same form here.

Senator CHILES. In the audit form.

Mr. LIVING. In the audit form, yes.

You also need some vents and ventilators. Some people got it around the roof, some people have it on top of the roof, some people don't have it at all, and if you don't have none, it will create a problem, too.

We also talk about the foundation vent, which most houses in the area where we are looking at, is houses built on pillars, and some of them it is about 18 inches from the ground. What we tried to do is to get some siding. We get a type of siding which is a masonite siding, it comes in 12 inch by 16 foot. What is what we try to put around the bottom of the house. They also have a type of vent to let the air through under the house which helps a whole lot, especially in the summer. You had to open it in the summertime and that leaves a little air out.

We also have a workshop with some youth group, youngsters of high school age, that are helping us out, too. They are helping us by going to these homes and checking all audits which help us out. By them doing this we can do something else which is a big help and also give them a chance to learn a little something, too.

The bad part is where the money comes from. Thanks to this gentleman here, that was able to work a little deal to work with some of these people up to now.

This covers everything I had to say.

Senator CHILES. We thank you very much.

We want to thank you, Frank, for bringing the panel down here.

Mabel, you have been very helpful.

Mary, thank you for coming from Arkansas.

I wonder if our audience has any questions they would like to ask our panel.

Mr. SPINNETT. I have something on this weatherization program, please. I am looking ahead. When you stop going to the utilities, the minute the kilowatt hours are down then the rates start to increase. They are going to be running right back and ask the commission for another hike. Now if you want to cure the problem, let's get something done to keep them from doing that, because if you don't, all that money has been spent, all that good has been done and the utilities not making enough net profit will get a rate hike and the low-income people will be back in the same boat. I think that mandatory legislation, strictly enforced, is something that has to be done to prevent that from happening and having effective programs helpful to senior citizens.

Thank you.

Senator CHILES. Thank you.

Mr. NEELIS. I am glad you brought that point up. We are very aware of that so I have become familiar with one of the things that is coming down is the program called the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act. I will advise everyone in this room and in the utility company to become very familiar with that program because what it does is for the first time it provides the citizens an opportunity to participate in the ratemaking, policy decision making of your local utility company.

One of the things it is looking at, let's look at our rate structures and let's make sure that our rate structures are not set up in a way to discourage energy conservation. We heard about the lifeline rate and things like this. We are neophytes in this area but what we are beginning to find out is that once you have become aware of what has happened historically and what your options are it is up to us, as citizens, to get in there and participate to make sure that the utility operators and the public officials are aware, and that we are aware of the options that are available, so we don't get ourselves into a rut.

Second, another way that we attack this thing is by using low-cost solar, retrofit designs. As a matter of fact we have one fellow that has no utility bills, no utility bills whatsoever. I am not saying everybody should do that but when one of the houses that was mentioned, we went in and spent for materials a total of \$800, we did a massive retrofit design, closed in the front porch of the house panels and we reduce that consumption by 95 percent. Like Wallace says, it is the most effective picture we have and I am sorry we cannot show it to you.

When we went to that house this lady was bedridden, she had a walker and she was completely down and out. We have her picture standing in that doorway throwing the walker out the door. It took her about a half hour to find that walker when I asked her where it was.

There are some very important options but it is going to take some responsibility on our part to say we want to have that responsibility and we want to be treated with equity in the situation

Mr. SPINNETT. Energy that can be explored and developed. Each one of these is going to bite into the electric power rate because they are going to reduce it and that is where the public should get together nationwide to stop these because they are going to go for a rate increase to keep their net profit at the same level.

Mr. NEELIS. One of the ways of doing that with the Wallace group in the neighborhood, you get people not only going in, we are going to go in there and put all this money in there and do this but we want you to share in the participation. We want you to design an energy program for your neighborhood. Don't let Wallace fool you. He said to me "It seems to me that the way that the utility company is charging for my electricity is that I am paying for another guy's air-conditioner," and he does not understand the structures and all the rest of the stuff but he knows and I think we all know. We are becoming very, very aware of that and are starting to participate in

this. This is why I am very excited and pleased with this, and I want to thank Senator CHILES for that opportunity.

Senator CHILES. Are there any other comments or questions from the audience now?

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you in the audience for coming and staying here all day long. We started about 9 o'clock this morning. I know this has been a long hearing but I think it has certainly been very educational for me, and I am confident that it is going to be important for the record that we are building for the White House Conference on Aging. I am delighted that we have had the participation from people that will be involved in the White House Conference on Aging as we have already acknowledged today.

I am delighted that we have had all the panel participants and especially this afternoon's panel on how we can help ourselves and how a group of senior citizens with a few hours instruction can go out, and literally for a handful of dollars, fix some houses so that they are infiltration proof. That is a good word, I like that, infiltration. We talk about insulation all the time but if you cannot keep that warm in and the cold out that way, I agree with you it won't do us any good to insulate.

So again I want to thank all of our panel participants for helping and each of you for coming and participating.

We will recess our hearing now.

The conference will start tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock in this room.

Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, at 3:56 p.m., the hearing adjourned.]

