

EVALUATION OF ADMINISTRATION ON AGING AND CONDUCT OF WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

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

PART 8—BOISE, IDAHO

MAY 28, 1971



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EVALUATION OF ADMINISTRATION ON AGING AND CONDUCT OF WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1971

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

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 2 p.m., YWCA Conference Hall, 720 West Washington Street, Hon. Frank Church (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Senator Frank Church.

Committee staff members present: William E. Oriol, staff director; John Guy Miller, minority staff director; Patricia Oriol, chief clerk.

OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR FRANK CHURCH, CHAIRMAN

Senator CHURCH. I want to introduce members of the committee staff who are present today. First of all the director for the staff for the majority, Mr. Bill Oriol and his wife Pat, are here today. He is on my left, and John Guy Miller, who is our director for the minority, is also present with us today, he sits on my right.

Perhaps I should begin by explaining the nature of this afternoon's proceedings. This morning, participants in the Idaho State White House Conference on Aging, the Governor's Conference, approved policy recommendations which will be sent to Washington for consideration at the White House Conference on Aging late this year.

This afternoon I will conduct an official hearing of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. We will hear from scheduled witnesses. A transcript will be made, and it will be published as a Senate document.

Our purpose is to make good use of the opportunity presented by the fact that well-informed persons from all parts of Idaho are gathered in this city today for the State conference.

The committee can hear directly from delegates who had earlier area conferences throughout the State, and have given careful attention to issues of vital concern to the elderly.

Their testimony can help the committee in its study of preparations for the White House Conference on Aging, and its evaluation of the effectiveness of the Administration on Aging.

In Washington we have had 5 days of hearings thus far on these subjects. Hearings similar to the one in Boise, today, have also been conducted in Iowa and in Florida—and others will soon be scheduled.

I mentioned just now that the committee is taking a close look at the programs and the purpose of the Administration on Aging. This

Federal agency has done much to carry out the mission assigned to it by the Older Americans Act, as we will hear later from officials of this State. AoA programs have been helpful to Idaho in many ways.

CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF AoA

I must report to you here and now that the members of the Committee on Aging, including Senators from both political parties, are keenly concerned about the status and the future of AoA, the very Federal agency responsible for the conduct of the White House Conference on Aging, which will meet in Washington 6 months from today.

Our concern is based partially upon the fact that the budget request for the AoA earlier this year was substantially below last year's levels. We were told by many directors of State offices on aging, including Idaho's, that these budget reductions would cripple many promising and essential projects.

Witness after witness at our hearings confirmed that these cutbacks would cause serious harm to programs and to people.

Accordingly I asked for a full accounting from Elliot Richardson, the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. He appeared before the committee just a few weeks ago. He announced that the administration had decided to reverse itself and restore the cuts and add \$10 million to AoA programs.*

Welcome as the reversal of policy was, I felt it necessary to remind the Secretary that the new broadened budget request was still less than 38 percent of the \$105 million authorized by Congress; and I also pointed out, as did other members of the committee, that the new policy of funding dealt with only the most immediate of the threats to the Administration on Aging.

That agency was supposed to be the focal point of Federal concern and action about older Americans. It was supposed to have high visibility and prestige, and it was supposed to work with other Federal agencies to assure full attention to the needs of aged and aging Americans, as well as to their potential for satisfaction and continuing contribution to our society. Instead it has been submerged by one reorganization after another—down deeper and deeper into the bureaucratic morass. Its programs, including several that have served Idaho well, have either been stripped from AoA, or now face that threat.

AoA MAY NEED A SUCCESSOR

I am afraid that the debilitating forces of recent years have weakened AoA to the point that it is a very sick patient. It may need more than a transfusion; it may need a successor.

My appraisal of AoA, I might add, is shared by leaders of national organizations in the field of the aged, but they agree, too, that it will not be an easy matter to design a successor agency without careful analysis of several options. For that reason I have invited many distinguished persons—persons from throughout the country who have great reputations in the field of the aging—to serve on an advisory council which will make recommendations to the Senate Committee on Aging, as to the possibility of an alternative to the Administration

*Senator Church, joined by ranking minority Committee member Winston Prouty and others, was successful in winning a final appropriation of \$44.7 million, the highest funding level in the history of the Older Americans Act.

on Aging. I am happy to report that Mrs. Kay Pell, the director of the Idaho Department of Special Services, has agreed to serve on that advisory council.

We have a full afternoon ahead, and I will conclude now with the final observation that 1971 could be a momentous year for older Americans.

The White House Conference, if it lives up to its historic assignment, could culminate a year in which significant advances are made on the legislative front in Washington, and I will do all in my power to work toward those goals.

Our first panel this afternoon consists of a number of gentlemen whose names appear before you in your program. I understand that Dr. Gerald Reed is to be master of ceremonies of this panel.

Dr. REED. Yes.

Senator CHURCH. Why don't you introduce each speaker and present the speakers as you have arranged to do it, and we will hear from each speaker. Afterward we will have questions.

Let me call your attention to a yellow sheet of paper, all of you should have a yellow sheet of this kind. On it, it reads:

If there had been time for everyone to speak at the hearing on Evaluation of the Administration on Aging and Conduct of the White House Conference on Aging in Boise, Idaho, on May 28, 1971, I would have said—

and then there is a blank space for you to fill in and sign your name and your address at the bottom. We give these written statements, these written testimonials, the same place in the record that the other testimony receives. So since it is not possible for us to get around to everyone who would like to testify we want to make sure that everyone has a chance this way to get his or her comments to the committee. So please feel free to use this, if there is anything that isn't covered in this hearing that you think should be drawn to the committee's attention. You can leave them at the door, one of the committee staff will collect them at the end of the afternoon.

All right, Mr. Reed, if you will proceed please.

Dr. REED. The first gentleman to speak will be the Reverend James E. Doak, of Sandpoint, on need of housing.

STATEMENT OF REV. JAMES E. DOAK, SANDPOINT

Reverend DOAK. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentleman, I wish to confine my remarks on housing as it relates specifically to the program of rent supplement.

This morning the Idaho State White House Conference on Aging adopted the following proposals that may affect rental supplements:

First, that the administrative policy which restricts rent supplements as provided in section 236 of the National Housing Act of 1949, as amended, be removed in favor of the 40-percent rent supplement occupancy as provided in that section of the act. This would double the facilities under this section that are available for rent supplement occupancy in relationship to what now is allowed.

Second, the rent supplement program for senior citizens should be expanded to include any federally approved unit offered for rent upon joint application by both tenant and owner.

*See appendix 3, p. 538.

I can give you an example of this in the area where our community conference was held. We have a number of units that have been built in the community of Sandpoint that have been labeled "low cost." What low cost means is very difficult to identify for rental on these units, when they become available, was from \$90 to \$110 a month; which made it impossible for the vast majority of the senior citizens, who had hoped to get out of substandard housing into adequate facilities, to afford them.

Now under this proposal it would be possible by joint application of a tenant or proposed tenant and the owner to enter into a rent supplement agreement, and thus gain occupancy in this type of a facility.

Rent supplement is a policy offering hope to many thousands of persons now in substandard facilities, or plagued with inadequate income to manage even the necessities of life.

Third, in rural areas multiunit complexes need to be located in proximity to other services, such as nursing homes, to provide an infirmary if needed, hospitals, to provide professional medical care; churches for spiritual well being, et cetera. Volunteer transportation can be much more easily facilitated and organized to provide the community services that these persons need. This approach brings the people to the services that they require.

Mr. Chairman this concludes my statement at this time.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Reverend Doak.

I think we should hear from all the panel witnesses and then I may have a few questions to ask.

Dr. REED. Senator, we have Mr. Clarence Charitan representing Mr. George McCourt from Coeur d'Alene.

STATEMENT OF CLARENCE CHARITAN, REPRESENTING GEORGE McCOURT, COEUR d'ALENE

Mr. CHARITAN. Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, this isn't the first time I have had to represent somebody else. The first time was when I taught school down at Salmon, Idaho, and we had a little program and the speaker or the member that was introducing him couldn't think of my name so he said we will hear from the "the school marm" now on our program. So this is the second time I am representing a group.

I am representing a group in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and in our group we do not have a place to meet. Coeur d'Alene does not have a community hall. We are 11 different organizations in number. We have the A.A.R.P., we have the National Teachers, and then the National Seniors group, and we have other groups that are not affiliated with other groups. We have 11 of these, we have 11 different places to meet.

NEED FOR MEETING PLACE

We have two outstanding problems, and the one at the present time, the most outstanding, is that we do not have a central place to meet.

This most of you can realize. Each group has its own place to meet, it is like a family without a home. Each one carries on its individual plans and organizations by themselves.

So therefore you can understand it is a very hard problem for us to have a unit, and our problem at the present time is to have a

central unit, or central place or community center, whereby we can meet together.

This place should be such that everyone can meet. We have people that are in different groups, they are as high as 18 miles apart. We have Post Falls Rathdrum, Spirit Lake, and some at Worley and also at Rose Lake, besides the ones in Coeur d'Alene.

At the present time we would like to have, and are planning on and working for, a community center. This community center should be a place where they could come, the different groups and hold their meetings, put on their programs, their hot lunches, et cetera, so that we could develop a unit getting everybody involved. These groups some of them have as high as 15 or 20, and others have as high as 85, and therefore the small groups do not get to use the material they need.

Now I, at the present time, am the president of the Kootenai Senior Citizens Council. We have to meet with the community active center group. We can only have as high as 18 at a time. Therefore, we cannot get all the representation that we need from all these groups.

Now, then there are other problems, the transportation. I think this transportation can be changed, or could be worked out if we could get a community hall.

So the thing we are planning at the present time is trying to get the mayor and the council to function for or with us. That is all I have.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Charitan.

I hope that George McCourt is all right. His health is all right, isn't it?

Mr. CHARITAN. Oh yes; his health is all right.

Senator CHURCH. That is good.

Dr. REED. Senator Church, I would like to introduce Mrs. Laurine Morton, from Lewiston, who will speak on nutrition. Also, for just a second, Mrs. Morton has a secondary issue she would like to present to the group, just briefly.

STATEMENT OF MRS. LAURINE MORTON, LEWISTON

Mrs. MORTON. This is a display which has been in Kay's office, I understand, for some time. It is the work of the Lewis-Clark Creative Workshop in Lewiston.

Senator CHURCH. Those are glass flowers, aren't they; are they made there?

Mrs. MORTON. They are plastic.

Senator CHURCH. They are plastic?

Mrs. MORTON. They are plastic.

Senator CHURCH. They are lovely. Is that the syringa?

Mrs. MORTON. That is a syringa, the Idaho State flower. That is the prettiest thing that they make in my opinion. They are beautiful. They make boutonnières, and they made the nameplates that you people are wearing, that the delegates are wearing. Each one has a very small syringa.

This workshop has been newly dedicated. It has been in operation for a couple of years, but just recently they have moved into an old building on Main Street, and the senior citizens themselves did the work of renovating it and getting it ready to work. They work there, and also it is a retail outlet for their wares.

Two weeks ago they had an open house and it was dedicated, Governor Andrus was there to cut the ribbon. It was just wonderful to see what they had done there.

SENATOR CHURCH. That leather tooling is very expertly done, it is beautiful work.

Mrs. MORTON. They also do, besides the resin department where they make the flowers, they work with fossils, they make earrings. In fact they presented Governor Andrus with a pair of earrings.

SENATOR CHURCH. I bet he looked pretty in those.

Mrs. MORTON. No, what was it—a tie clasp, something special they had made anyway.

They make handbags and tote bags out of plastic cartons. Well he could have used earrings, he could have given them to somebody. Anyway it is really proving successful.

SENATOR CHURCH. I am so glad to hear about it. I will look forward to visiting the center when I come to Lewiston.

Mrs. MORTON. Thank you. Their workshop is going to be a part of the multipurpose building that is being built in Lewiston for the use of the young people and the seniors as well. The plans are pretty well underway, and they expect to start work on the building this fall.

SENATOR CHURCH. Splendid.

Mrs. MORTON. But I was going to talk about nutrition. I guess I chose that subject because it is the one I know most about, I love to cook and love to eat.

Nutrition is a contributing factor in the development of other health problems in older people. Even apparent senility is often found to be caused by poorly balanced eating habits.

SOLITARINESS A CAUSE OF POOR NUTRITION

A major cause of poor nutrition in the elderly is having to eat alone. It is difficult and uninteresting and just not worth the trouble to prepare a nourishing meal for just oneself. Therefore—tea and toast, or coffee and cookies.

Many people, because of physical impairment are unable to prepare good meals. Then there is the lack of knowledge of which foods are necessary to good health and not realizing the effect, both physical and mental of living for long periods of time on improper foods.

In Lewiston there are any number of people who should have home delivered meals, people who are unable to cook for themselves and would profit by home delivered meals.

For the past 2 years one inexpensive, nourishing meal a month has been served at the Y, the work being provided partly by our staff working on their own time and by the volunteers.

We are fortunate in having a VISTA worker, Ann Anderson, who is organizing the nutrition committee. At present she is experimenting with recipes for commodity foods, preparing some kind of a daily hot lunch at the senior center, for whoever happens to be working there or whoever drops in. Sometimes there will be four or five people, sometimes a dozen, some pay for the meal and some do not.

A hot meal program is planned starting June 15. The Trinity Lutheran Church has kindly offered the use of their lovely kitchen for the purpose, feeling that they should be contributing to this enterprise.

There will be two hot meals a week at a very nominal charge, and transportation will be furnished by the Senior Citizen bus. This will be a hot meal program rather than a nutrition program, because the nutrition program calls for at least three hot meals a week. Home delivered meals are not foreseen for the immediate future, although we are still hoping that it can be worked out.

The nutrition committee includes the county extension agent, two nutrition aids, and several senior citizens. I think that is all I have to say right now.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mrs. Morton.

Dr. REED. Senator Church, I would like to introduce Mrs. Fern Trull of Weiser, who will speak on the issue of employment.

STATEMENT OF MRS. FERN TRULL, WEISER

Mrs. TRULL. Senator Church and members of the panel and friends, when most of us retired from our jobs I hope that most of us did so gracefully. But I think that when we retired it was not with the thought that we were to be placed on a shelf, and that our time of service was ended.

Most of us brought to our retirement age a vast wealth of experience, of learning, and of skills, and were lauded for that. Then we reached the age of 65 and all of a sudden nothing seemed to count, no one wanted our skills, no one cared that we might have experience to help in some of our problems.

The mental change for many of us was certainly great. We wondered how we might fill our days, besides watching TV and walking the dogs.

In Washington County, Idaho, we had a project which worked very successfully for us and I think it worked throughout the western Idaho community action group very well.

This plan was to hire senior men and women who were employable and who desired to work for various reasons to repair the homes and take care of the yards of those older Americans who were unable to do it themselves and who had no money to buy the materials or to hire a painter or a carpenter or someone to do the work from the professional fields.

Some of our women worked in the homes, cleaning up the homes of some of the bachelors, helping some of the women do their washing and ironing, preparing some meals for them, staying with them when they returned from the hospital, and working with them so that those individuals were kept from the very expensive nursing homes and hospitals, thus lowering the cost to the taxpayer in Washington County.

The Federal grant which we received for 1 year paid the minimum wage to each of these workers of \$1.60 an hour, and paid for the paint and materials needed to repair that leaky roof, to have a more cheerful dining room for some elderly person, to put a railing on steps so that that person would not fall and injure him or herself, and that type of work.

We found it most successful, in fact we declared it was our most successful venture in the helping of the aging. It did not compete in the labor world, for these elderly people who had the repairs done could not have afforded a regular painter or a carpenter. Had this

work not been done by senior men and women it would not have been done at all.

SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM TERMINATED

The year ended and we spoke to deaf ears. Wherever we talked to the seniors they were interested in the program, when we talked to those in power they didn't hear us, yet they were perfectly willing to continue programs for us which were not as successful as this labor program. We have not had any success in getting it back. Like many of the Idaho cities, our city and our county do not have the money to carry on such a project, and we are still trying, and trying hard, to get it back, because it benefited the individual mentally. As one man said: "I no longer wake up in the morning and wonder what I am going to do this long endless day. I know I am going out to work, I am going to meet friends, I am going to meet new people, and I will come home tired and sleep." Another man said: "I am glad I bought my winter clothing when I was working on this project, otherwise I would have had to gone to charity, and that is one thing I will not do."

It helps them maintain their independence, their self-respect and their dignity, which they had had on their jobs when they were employed prior to 65.

I think we need to take some of these things into consideration. None of us want to punch a timeclock, I certainly don't, and I usually manage to evade substitute teaching if I can possibly help it, because I have grown a little bit lazy since I have retired.

But there are things we can give to the community in the way of our skill and our experience, and we do have people who need the money economically. All of us need something to do for our mental health.

Another way we might help the employment of our senior citizens is to follow along with the line of Lewiston, Idaho, with their syringa flowers, and with the Washington County seniors who showed you the vests and the skirts which they are making, and which they sell out in the community, and as far away as Alaska. Now, Senator Church will take one back to Washington, D.C.

This work is done by volunteers, by women who take the work home and do it on their own time. We would like to have a workshop like Lewiston has, whereby our seniors, many of whom are very skilled, can bring their handmade articles to sell at a shop in our new senior center which we purchased the middle of May. We are still paying for it, of course, for we mortgaged our souls to get it. In our new senior center we have a lovely large room for a workshop, which we are going to use to try to help our members who want extra money for their too small income. The skills are there. We can devise ways which will not compete with regular labor, for our unemployment in Washington County is very high. We seniors can devise ways whereby our people can become fully employed in various ways, or as much as they want without ever competing with the painters or the carpenters or the truckers, or those individuals who are the semiskilled. But we cannot do it without a little extra money, so we are looking to the Federal Government for a little bit of money to get us started, just as they helped us get started on our senior center. And when we have the great big bang-up opening of our center, we will invite you all

and say, with the help of our community we did it ourselves. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Isn't she a good saleswoman?

I want to say, Mrs. Trull, that I think you hit the nail right on the head. I think of this program that you had in Weiser; I know that we had part of this impact program in Emmett. I am told there are people who worked on that program and did good work and did it for elderly people who couldn't possibly pay the normal wage to a painter, or to get such help from the labor market. It was either a question of having no work done or getting it on this basis.

Now some of these people who are cut off, because no funds are available, are forced back on welfare again to supplement their income.

In the end it is just the question of how the public will pay. You would think that we would have sense enough to try and arrange it in such a way that we can pay to get constructive work done and help the elderly, and help the community, instead of paying it out through a demeaning welfare system.

I so hope that this is one of the things that we can accomplish at the White House Conference, to get programs of this kind started again, and not just on a little experimental basis here and there, but on an extensive basis that will really reach the elderly all over the country and give them this chance.

Dr. REED. Senator Church, it gives me great pleasure to introduce Mrs. Doris Kelly, from Boise, Idaho, who will speak on the issue of health.

STATEMENT OF MRS. DORIS KELLY, BOISE, IDAHO

Mrs. KELLY. Senator Church, and members of the panel, and all you people out there. I follow a very enthusiastic person, and since health is very important I think we want to keep our health so that we can get these jobs that she is getting ready for us.

As you are all well aware of the spiraling costs of medical care these days, both the acute and chronic, and most of us in our older age wind up with something chronic, or at least that is what they term it anyway, and it is almost beyond any of us to pay for this.

As one of the proposals and policies, and I think, Senator Church, that certainly as chairman of this Senate committee, we are really going to command you to really do something about our health care in this country.

One of these is that a comprehensive health program be established. I think that this does have to start on a Federal level.

The Medicare and Medicaid have had lots of problems, and aches and complaints, but it did do a great deal of good, and I don't think it is something that we should throw out the window and say that it wasn't any good. Maybe we need to take the good parts of this and do something with it.

I think some of the proposals now are for a national health insurance. I have heard some of these, not all of them, that are being proposed, and I am not sure that they are going to include everything that we think ought to be included, and especially for the care of senior citizens.

INCLUDE COST OF HEALTH DELIVERY

Of course health care gets involved with the health delivery. It is stated that there is no one in the United States who wants health care that can't have it, but I don't believe this statement at all, because it means that you have to get to where it is available, and many times this is very difficult. Maybe the change in the floor of our income may help some, but I still don't think it will help us to pay for all the medical care that we are going to need, and especially the costs of it.

Also we do need more cooperation and coordination of the health agencies themselves—that every one of them don't go out on a different tangent and pay any attention to what the others are doing—because we waste a lot of money this way.

So I think that if this could be done on a national level also for cooperation and coordination, and especially as it relates to the elderly, I shouldn't say elderly, I hear you don't like that. But I think that if we do have this national health insurance, and I am not sure how well it would help some of the senior citizens are already there, but it certainly would be one step in helping those that are getting there, and we may need something like Medicare or Medicaid to take care of the senior citizens that are already there and do need health care.

One of the other problems is the costs of drugs, it is tremendous and, also, this is spiraling something fierce, how can we manage this even for prescription drugs that most all of us have to take at a certain age, and how can we afford these at the prices that they are going now.

I feel that a comprehensive health program is needed very badly, and like I say, I command you as chairman of the aging that maybe you can get something started to really help us on with this. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Mrs. Kelly, let me say that one of the real concerns of this committee has to do with the problems of health care, and adequate health care. We have a special subcommittee conducting hearings into this very question. In fact Senator Ed Muskie is the chairman of that particular subcommittee, and he is conducting hearings in several parts of the country this year on this very question. He might be in a position to do something about that one day.

But we hope in the Congress to address ourselves to the question of health care, or adequate health care, in this session.

I do want to say something though about Medicare. You know there never was a harder issue in my public life in Idaho, there was never a harder issue that I had to handle than Medicare. For years it was the most strenuously fought of any proposal I know. I used to go around, as I still do, to courthouses and ask people to come who had problems to see whether I could help, and they would come to the courthouse. I remember for years every courthouse meeting in every county always involved a group of elderly people, they would come in either one by one or sometimes they would come in groups, and they would talk to me about how frightened they would be if they would ever get seriously sick because they knew everything they had would be taken from them, and they would be destitute. They were frightened people. They were the ones that converted me to be a supporter of Medicare. But it took us a long time to get it through because it was fiercely resisted, and mainly by the medical profession, the doctors

themselves, and the AMA. Let me tell you, it is a curious thing, now that we have Medicare I never heard a single complaint from a doctor, or the American Medical Association. Not a single complaint. And in the meantime when I go out to the courthouses of this State I don't have to face elderly people any more—coming to me and saying that they are frightened that they will be destitute if they get seriously ill, and that is what Medicare has done for the elderly people of this country.

So it has its deficiencies, but as you say it has been a mighty wonderful thing and we need now to see how we can improve on the program and make it more effective.

I am not supposed to do all the talking here; thank you, Mrs. Kelly.

Dr. REED. I just want to say that you weren't the only one that got abreast of that situation, they got me a long time ago.

I would like to present Mr. Tracy Coker, of Nampa, speaking on spiritual well-being.

STATEMENT OF TRACY COKER, NAMPA, IDAHO

Mr. COKER. Dr. Reed, Senator Church, fellow Americans. The field that I have been assigned is perhaps the most difficult one to approach with specific programs. It is a field that is not unique to older Americans. The problem of spiritual welfare is a need of every person of every age and every country on the globe.

When we speak of spiritual welfare we usually think of religion, although that is not all that is involved in spiritual welfare. When we think of religion we consider the two basic ideas of it.

One, is belief in God or our explanation of our relationship to the universe, and

Two, is our relationship to our fellow men.

These both are personal matters and are not easily approached by Government action. Perhaps Government can do best in this field by nonaction.

However, our spiritual well-being is tied in with other matters such as the problem of security. Many of the programs that you have heard talked about and have been discussing, some of which are in operation, and some of which are in prospect only, do have to do with the building of security, and the building of dignity and a feeling of independence on the part of older people. These have direct relationship to spiritual well-being.

For example, we have in Canyon County a senior citizens program which has several elements to it. The most interesting and I think the most important of which is the telephone assurance program, which is called ECHO, which stands for Elderly Contact and Health Organization. I believe this name was borrowed from a similar program in Idaho Falls. It is funded by the Idaho Office on Aging, under AoA.

The ECHO program works in this manner. There are over 400 people on the program in Nampa and I believe about 50 from Caldwell. Each morning each individual calls in and reports about his health. He states that he is well, or that he has a problem. If he does not call in by a certain time in the afternoon, the telephone operator begins to try to contact him to see why he has failed to call in; whether he just forgot, or whether he had become ill and needed help, and so forth. This

program operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with emergency calls being taken care of at night. So far this program has saved about six lives, and has given assurance daily to hundreds of people.

Programs of this kind and others that have been discussed here can have an influence on the feeling of security people have. I am quite confident that the leaders of our religious groups and those who are experts in this field will agree with us that it is much easier to have a sense of spiritual well-being if we also have a sense of security, independence, and faith, in the future.

Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Mr. Coker.

That ECHO program is new to me and I am very glad to hear about it. Also you were afraid that your—you are suffering a little from laryngitis, I want you to know that you came across loud and clear.

Mr. COKER. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Dr. Reed?

Dr. REED. Senator, I would like to introduce Mr. John Carlton, from Twin Falls, who will speak on the issue of income.

STATEMENT OF JOHN CARLTON, TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

Mr. CARLTON. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to address myself to two points:

First, I would like to repeat a recommendation that was made and approved this morning.

It is recommended that the older American be provided an income sufficient to permit him to pay his own way, in order to live his own life in dignity, honor and independence.

I like that recommendation, and what I want to speak to today is the wishes of the people as expressed to me in regard to this.

Fortunately Senator, it ties in very closely with your Senate bill 1645, and I suppose what I am really saying is, the wishes as expressed to me support that concept. The many proposals in other areas, in other needs areas, would really be unnecessary if the people simply had enough money to live on and to buy the things they wanted to without having to get 10 percent discounts here and various piecemeal legislation.

Also it has been expressed to me that the wishes of the senior citizens are to have this type of income provided through an expansion of the present Social Security systems by including general revenue funds. I can speak to this point directly because I happen to work in a Social Security office, and I can assure you that in the last 2 or 3 months I have had a number of people indicate to me that they would have no scruples about applying for benefits at a Social Security office where they will not presently go to a welfare office to ask for help.

Senator CHURCH. May I just say at that point, Mr. Carlton, I don't want to interrupt, but our figures show that of the 4 to 5 million Americans, 65 years-or-older, who are presently living below the poverty level, that only about 2.1 million, I think, are supplementing their income by going to welfare. The others, you see, are getting nothing to add to a very meager Social Security payment, because they feel so strongly against going to welfare. But they would know if this were handled through social security that it was a part of their entitlement. It would mean that a great many people who are suffering to-

day, living on the most minimum income, would get some relief. I think it would reach an awful lot of people not even being reached now under the present system.

MR. CARLTON. Yes. Daily I get inquiries as to how I can get some more Social Security money, how they can. Of course, the only answer I have is referral to the welfare office, and they simply don't go.

There is one other proposal I would like to speak on, and I hope you will excuse my enthusiasm because I kind of bubble over about this one.

This has been one of my pet projects for some time, and I am happy to note that it was recommended by the senior citizens of Idaho.

CREATE A CORPS OF OMBUDSMEN

I speak of the recommendation concerning the creation of a corps of ombudsmen. Now maybe that is an unfortunate term so I won't use it any more.

Senator CHURCH. Tell us what it means.

MR. CARLTON. It is not a word in common usage, but I believe it came down from the European concept. In a number of European countries—

Senator CHURCH. Norway and Sweden.

MR. CARLTON. People have a man in the town where they live who will act for them and on their behalf in their dealings with the government, whether it be the Federal, the State or the local government, they have this man who is hired to act on their behalf, and I think we need such a concept in this country, and I think we need it all over the country. It is my thought we should have a man in every incorporated city who is hired by the Federal Government, and who can help the senior citizens in their various problems. They have no one to go to today. Representatives, particularly of Federal agencies, simply are not available in rural areas and in small towns. The senior citizens go to the Social Security office because it is there, but we are neither trained nor do we have the material to help them.

I speak of such things as preparing income taxes, and most particularly the retirement income credit provisions, they don't know how to do this, how to probate a will, legal advice, guardianship, veterans' benefits, the whole gamut of Federal help.

It is my thought that this position should be filled by a man in a town, a man that has lived there, that the people knew, that they could trust, preferably a retired man, it would also give employment to a corps of retired people. He could be hired to simply act, and I will use the term once more, as an ombudsman on their behalf. It would solve a great deal of the problems of the senior citizens. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much.

Whom do we have next?

Dr. REED. Senator Church, we have Mr. Frank Lundburg of Pocatello representing Mrs. Hannah Sessions. Mr. Lundburg will speak on roles for the elderly.

STATEMENT OF FRANK LUNDBURG, POCATELLO

MR. LUNDBURG. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I want to bring you the greetings and the regrets that she couldn't be

here, of a very good and a very gracious woman, a very dedicated woman, who has worked long and hard for this conference. Unfortunately, Mrs. Sessions is in the hospital for some medical testing and was unable to come.

I will try in my presentation to live up to the faith that she has placed in me, and try to do as well as she would have done.

I want to address myself very briefly to three concepts—they are somewhat different from what we have been talking about earlier today, but I think they are equally important in that they give perspective to what we mean when we talk about going toward a national policy on the aging, or going toward, for that matter, a national policy on anything. Those three areas are role changing, values, and priorities for American society.

America is a strange country; this is one of the few countries in the world where the minute individuals reach 65, all of a sudden, we forget about them. Even some of our Federal programs are designed to perpetuate this forgetfulness in that all of a sudden we can shelve somebody aside. If he is a senior citizen, we can treat him in a certain way.

I support programs for the aging and programs of social welfare in general, but I think it is wrong when we attempt to classify any one individual into any one group; because the issues confronting the country today demand that instead of separating ourselves we bring ourselves together.

So I would urge that Federal legislation attempting to solve the problems that we have been talking about today be structured in a manner that through either local community action, through local individuals helping themselves, or local individuals working to help themselves with Federal aid, there be built into these programs, and it will be a difficult task, some type of terminology, some type of requirements, which will attempt to teach and attempt to change some of these values that we have in the society today, some of the values that say you are old, we don't want to do anything about you, or you are black, we don't want you to live next door to us. We have to get to the basic issue which is how we think about each other, and I believe some of the programs that the Administration on Aging has now are working toward this. We need more.

EVALUATE AREA OF PRIORITIES

Finally, one final comment, and that has to do with the area of priorities.

Mr. Chairman, I want you to forgive me for this because perhaps it shouldn't be brought up here today, but I am compelled by conscience to say it.

All the talk that we can have today about solving the problems of the aging; or solving anybody's problems, can really contribute very little. It can contribute very little because we are not attacking the right areas in this country. We can do nothing in this country to solve the problems of the aging, the poor, the black, or the minorities, until the end of the Vietnam war—and I served in the infantry in Vietnam. If we can do that, if we can end the Vietnam war and rededicate our-

selves at home, by first of all reassessing our problems and our priorities abroad, and then rededicating ourselves to the proposition of promoting the general welfare and insure domestic tranquillity, then Mr. Chairman we will have come a long ways toward a national program for the aging, a national program for the problems which confront us, these terrible tragic problems which are rending the soul from our land. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you. I think you did Mrs. Sessions proud, Frank. What you say is certainly true. We will never find the resources to build our own societies strong and straight as long as we go on wasting our resources so lavishly and so foolishly in so many distant lands.

Dr. Reed, we have Mr. Langdon Leedy, is that right?

Dr. REED. Yes, sir. Mr. Leedy from Idaho Falls will talk on transportation.

STATEMENT OF LANGDON LEEDY, IDAHO FALLS

Mr. LEEDY. Mr. Chairman, fellow panel members, and ladies and gentlemen, first, before I address my remarks to the subject of transportation I should like to thank Mr. Coker of Nampa for his credit to our agency for the installation or initiation of the ECHO program. We did this just 2 short years ago; we started out with nine members on the program, we now have over 130. We think it is a great program, and we would like to see agencies in the State adopt such a program.

I have been asked to address myself to the topic of transportation. In our series of conferences with the senior citizens of eastern Idaho, Bonneville, and other eastern counties, transportation was one of the critical needs of our senior citizens. Transportation that you, and I take for granted, necessarily trips to the doctor's office, trips to the drugstore to fill prescriptions, trips to the Social Security office, the banks to cash the Social Security checks, and grocery shopping. We all take these as a matter of fact, but to a lot of our people with infirmities, or with limited income, this poses a real problem. It is a universal problem that we are all faced with, but it cannot be solved uniformly because different areas require different solutions.

In Bonneville County and eastern Idaho we have been very fortunate in initiating a volunteer driver program which many housewives and mothers have agreed to volunteer their services on an as available basis to take some of our people to their doctors or do the other necessary chores for them.

In addition we have been favored by the benevolency of our taxicab owner. He has furnished us for the past two Christmases over 200 \$5 tickets, which are cashable for rides. He has asked us to pass these out to our senior citizens for their use in their necessary travels. This is all well and good, but it really is not a permanent solution to our problems. Our volunteer drivers, bless their souls, their families come first, when school is out in the summertime they must address their attention to their children and as a consequence they can't help our senior citizens. The taxicab owner is a one-shot deal. So I think we should look further to means of solving this critical problem.

TWO SUGGESTIONS PROPOSED

We propose, Mr. Chairman, two suggestions. First, in addition to rate reductions for senior citizens on a space as available basis for inter-city public transportation systems, we would certainly recommend the committee's consideration for that.

Second, it is possible that we have an undiscovered resource that we haven't given much consideration to, and I refer to particularly our area, and I am sure this will be multiplied a hundredfold across the Nation, we are favored with the Government installation of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. At that installation there are over 100, 40- to 48-passenger buses that are used daily in the transportation of site workers to their jobs. I know of my own knowledge that these buses are then on idle or standby time from a possible 9:30 or 10 a.m. until 2:30 or 3 p.m. I am sure similar situations exist possibly at Hanford in Washington, Jackass Flats in Nevada, Hill Air Force Base in Salt Lake, and countless other places, where if the agencies that have control of the Government resources, the Government transportation equipment, would get together it might be possible to work out a program whereby we could help our senior citizens in their transportation requirements on a daily basis, or maybe triweekly, et cetera. I am sure that we would urge the committee's consideration along this line.

SUBSIDIZE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Where areas that are not favored with the availability of Government equipment of this nature, we would recommend the committee's consideration for subsidizing local transportation systems, small bus companies, or taxi service, because there is no question but what the need is there.

And for the committee's further consideration, with the chairman's permission, I would like to submit for their consideration, that whatever society does to solve the problems of the elderly today, it is actually doing for society for the future. Because like it or not we will all be old some day. We are faced with the same problems which we now ignore.

The article entitled "The Agony of Aging", written by the former Director of the Eastern Idaho Special Services Agency, aptly describes the situation of growing old in today's society. We believe it worthy of inclusion in the record of the current hearings.*

It is my pleasure to represent the citizens of Bonneville County. I thank you for your time.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Mr. Leedy, thank you very much.

I want to extend my congratulations to all the members of this panel.

You know I have had a lot of experience conducting hearings. And every time, because we need to hear from many people and need to cover a broad range of subjects, we ask witnesses to be brief and come right to the point and make their recommendations and get them on the record; and I must say it is a rare occasion when witnesses do it. And

*See appendix 1, item 3, p. 531.

here is a panel of witnesses that really have covered a broad field of vital aspects, facets to this problem, and they have done it distinctly, and they have kept within the time limit and we have heard from nearly a dozen witnesses here within an hour's time, and I want to commend the panel for cooperating in that way. I think your testimony was outstanding. You have even kept me quiet for the most part, which has helped in the time table.

I do want to say that in touching on these different facets of the problem I think you have demonstrated how formidable a mission the White House Conference on Aging has if it is to live up to its slogan: "Toward a National Policy on Aging." It just shows how broad the field is, how much needs to be considered.

TAP COMMUNITY RESOURCES

I have two or three comments I want to make before we go on to the next panel. One was inspired by what you said, Mr. Leedy, about the buses, the idle buses out at NRTS. I don't think we have even begun to tap the resources we have available in our own communities that are not being effectively used. The buses are a good case in point, used for one purpose only, and sitting out there all day long between the times that the workers go to work and come back in the evening and doing nothing for other people.

But there are some other examples. Mr. Charitan spoke of the fact in Coeur d'Alene they have no meeting place, and other communities are working on finding meeting places for the elderly, or community centers where the elderly and others can meet and carry on their activities.

Did anybody ever think about school houses? How many public school buildings do we build, and we use them during the school day and shut them up at night, and they are owned by the people, they are paid for by the taxpayer, they are public facilities. They get much less use than they could get.

In Flint, Mich., some years ago the elderly people through a council that they established went to the school authorities and after long haggling back and forth finally convinced them that the school buildings might be put to far more efficient and complete public use without in any way interfering with the school function. And this experiment has worked out. Today in Flint, Mich., the schools are available for a host of community services, and they worked out an arrangement to maintain the additional maintenance costs which were not large, additional heating costs, and that kind of thing, to supplement the school budget, some additional personnel, and these schools are open and the facilities are available for the elderly and for many other citizen activities.

I understand that this possibility is now under active consideration in connection with the Boise model city program, and I hope that maybe we can make some progress on that front here.

Finally, I would like to say just one word. Mrs. Trull spoke of employment opportunities and what that means.

There is one program that some of you may know about, it is called the Green Thumb program, and it is sponsored by the Farmers Union in connection with the OEO. This program has been very successful

where outdoor recreation facilities, public parks and beautification programs within communities that otherwise could not be afforded, and would never get done, have been made the object of this particular program, and it has hired elderly people with skills who can work part time, not all day, in the hot sun, but a few hours a day, and wonderful things have been done.

In Utah, we have seen the results in some of the Utah communities, and we want to get that program here in Idaho. It could be a great thing for a lot of our communities in Idaho if we can get the program here, and we are working on it. Kay Pell and her people are working on it; the Governor has given it his endorsement, and we are trying now to get that program funded. I hope we can for Idaho, because it is another one of these employment opportunity programs that are available for the elderly that can help the community a great deal.

I want to thank all the members of the panel for your contributions, I appreciate it very much.

Dr. Reed, you have a statement you want to submit for the record.

Dr. REED. Yes, sir. For the sake of time I will submit it for the record.

(The statement follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DR. GERALD REED

Senator, it is estimated that there are 19 to 20 million people 65 years of age and older in these United States. In Idaho, a State of some 698,000 people, 9.1% or about 63,700 of that number are Senior Citizens, aged 65 or older.

Before any particular day is over, the older population of the United States will show a net increase of about 820. During that day, about 3,900 Americans will have a 65th birthday—but about 3,080 already 65 and over, will die. In the course of a year that comes to 1.4 million additions *minus* 1.1 million deaths for a net increase of 300,000. In the course of five years, this adds up to the fact that 35% of the older population is new to the elderly age group.

This amounts to a great many people. As a matter of fact, at any particular time, about every 10th American is 65 years of age or older.

Of every 100 older persons today, 63 or almost $\frac{2}{3}$ are under 75. Thirty-one or almost $\frac{1}{3}$ are between 75 and 85. Six of every 100 are 85 and over. (Incidentally, that 6% aged 85 and over represents more than 1 million people).

Another fact of common knowledge is that there are more older women than older men 65 years of age and beyond (8 million men and 11 million women)—and the difference is growing larger—in favor of women—and in the elderly age categories women have been found to be more conscientious voters than men.

Senator, there are approximately 3 million people 65 and over (17%) in the United States who are functionally illiterate. Also, only about 800,000 (4%) of the people 65 and over live in institutions of any kind.

If we subtract the functionally illiterate (3 million) and the institutionalized (800,000) from the total of, say, 20 million Senior Citizens, 65 years of age and older, that still leaves 16,200,000 Older Americans who are living and functioning at home in American communities. This is a *sizable* and an increasingly *voting* number of people.

Senator, it's too bad so many of Senior Citizens feel so tired, worn, intimidated and insignificant—with little worth and dignity. It's too bad so many lack enthusiasm, drive and self-organization. It's too bad they have to live in such degradation; social and economic indignity. (For the record, according to one source, there are more than 5 million Older Americans living below the poverty level, which amounts to 30% of those 65 and older living outside an institution).

But gradually, Senator, little by little, even the most lethargic of the elderly are beginning to see the light: they have *numbers!* They have *votes!* They have *potential power!* Two of the things they don't have but need desperately are:

- (1) organized, determined and dynamic leadership and
- (2) the will to do something besides sit back and die.

Senator, I am an advocate of rational, nonviolent militancy and I am dedicating myself to helping the elderly in Idaho and the United States achieve those

two urgent needs—and ultimately the “Senior Power” and the “Senior Dignity” they *can* and *will* command.

Thank you.

NOTE: Statistics taken from Herman Brotman, *A Profile on the Older American*, AoA.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much. And thank you panel members for your participation. I think they should all get a big hand. [Applause.]

Senator CHURCH. Our next panel, panel No. 2 on the witness list this afternoon, is a panel on minority problems in the field of the elderly, and Mrs. Dorothy George Baker of Blackfoot, Mr. Perry Swisher, director of special educational services at the University of Idaho, and the Reverend Santos T. Recalde, of Parma, are the participants. Will they please come forward.

We would like to proceed now with the second panel and for that purpose I would recognize first Mr. Perry Swisher who will make the introductory statement, and then we will hear from Mrs. Dorothy George Baker and then from Father Recalde. Mr. Swisher.

STATEMENT OF PERRY SWISHER,* DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, POCATELLO

Mr. SWISHER. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, something like the change in usage from colored to Negro to black in the discussion of race will also occur in geriatrics if this committee stays with task for a long enough time.

It is the word “aging,” I guess, that reaches me as a writer, Senator, because it is cheese and wine that age and they are better for it.

What happens to people is that they grow old. It is the machine and its efficiency influencing our time I think: As people grow old they are worse off for it.

In response to your invitation and in the hope that the beginning represented by the Administration on Aging can evolve into a much more effective advocacy of the old for the good of all, I am here to testify and help in this discourse with the representatives of the ethnic minority.

What they have to say could be instructive not only as to the impact of the AoA, or the lack of it, upon their families, but also as insight by their comparisons and by contrast into what we of the dominant culture are really doing about old people.

AGE NO MEASURE OF EFFICIENCY

My primary reason for appearing is that I work among the Shoshone-Bannock Indians of the Fort Hall Reservation, as a part of my work. They show me something of the purely human and spiritual pleasures of growing old, where age is not a measure of productive efficiency.

My observations are not those of an Indian expert. There is no such person, just as no one can testify to you in Indian, because there is no such language. But here are some conclusions by a non-Indian, first as to Government policies for the aged that are not responsive to the

*See appendix 1, item 4, p. 532.

realities of Shoshone-Bannock life, and then as to the survival of values in their nonindustrial culture that might help us to revitalize parallel values that we have all but lost through our own romance with technology.

As to the Government policies. First, the households of older Indians are frequently not distinguishable from the homes of their offspring, from the homes of their own parents, from the homes of their brothers and sisters. The laws and regulations that impose the existence of a separate household as a criterion for any kind of eligibility cuts against the grain of Indian life.

Second, laws using property as security for old age assistance are alien to the Shoshone-Bannock concept of the earth itself as something very different from property and not subject to personal individual sovereignty. The Indian asks me, can I own my mother, can I buy my mother, there is no understanding of that concept.

Third, the refined sugar and the starch in the form commonly found in the bleached flour bakery products that the dominant society uses are not merely alien to the Shoshone-Bannock diet, but they are often hostile, as good as poisons to the health of many full blooded Shoshone-Bannock, probably to a majority of the elderly.

At least at Fort Hall diabetes and obesity are social diseases. Genetic inability to cope with radical and technologically induced changes in diet content calls for a change in that technology, not a change in the genes of the human race.

Fourth, laws excluding persons beyond a given age from public service, and even private employment in some cases, contradict the Shoshone-Bannock respect for the accumulated experience that age represents.

Fifth, laws ignoring the customs of sharing and mutual obligation in the traditional Shoshone-Bannock family, lead to the ineffective injection of money or the punishing withholding of money when more pragmatic techniques are really called for in meeting the needs and protecting the rights of the old.

Finally, programs that fail to take into account the great distances, the limited and unreliable forms of transportation, the low priority of clock-measured time among traditional Indians, the isolating and claustrophobic trauma of so much hospital and nursing home confinement, the embarrassment of the office waiting room, the stereotyped and largely demeaning characterization of Indians by the majority of front desk and front window civil servants—such programs do little, they do nothing, or they do harm.

SHOSHONE-BANNOCK VALUES

As to the Shoshone-Bannock values that may mean something to the rest of us:

First, the Shoshone or Bannock word for mother and for aunt is the same, the word for father and the father's brothers, it is the same word, the obligation is the same. Shoshoni-Bannock families are not containerized in any sense of the word; cousins are as brothers and sisters, and there can be no orphans in the extended Shoshoni-Bannock family.

Second, the word for paternal grandfather is the same as the word

for paternal grandson, the word for maternal grandmother is the same as the word for the maternal grandchild, et cetera. There is for practical purposes no such collective word as grandparent. These specific reciprocal affectionate titles of mutual identification and kinship define a family complex that is actually a community, and its intimacy has no counterpart in our culture.

Finally, the oldest generation in the Shoshoni-Bannock family is the generation of ultimate authority. The price that the oldest generation pays for that authority includes accountability all the way down to the youngest member of the youngest generation. So the elder is free within this kind of a framework to appraise that child for what that child is, and he is under no compulsion to create a chip off the old block, as we call it, because the child is automatically the receptacle for whatever he knows how to do and what he believes.

Now nothing is gained by pretending that this family can be sheltered completely from our intrusions. But something is gained by acknowledging the evidence that the most damaging changes occur in the life of the traditional Indian when our straight line objectives puncture that round family world of his.

But we live in a round world too, but not yet really in it. We are still just living on it. Among other functions technology has bound us together on this planet technically, but not yet organically.

I am not suggesting that a return to preindustrial forms of communities is possible. Because the humanness inside the tribe is exclusive, such a return wouldn't even be desirable.

But, believing that today's major social crises argue for me, I do insist that no part of the human family can be severed without dehumanizing the society that built that compartment and stuck those people into it.

Given the decision that the pursuit of separate utopias with separate generations is expensive, and often destructive and always dehumanizing, then we can also decide to revitalize and embody in public society that union of insightful age and expectant childhood that was as old and durable as the family itself before, in our obsession with technology, we allowed the wheel to run right over the top of it.

Now we have not abandoned the wheel; wisely, we have not, just because it came out of the past.

We would be wise to build as integral a place in our society for the memory bank of age as we are providing for the computer that imitates that memory bank.

We would be wise to greet each child at birth as an enrolled member of our tribe for which we are accountable as his aunts and uncles instead of partitioning him out a piece at a time to disparate specialties, agencies and jurisdictions.

In conclusion I make no other accusations, but I must tell you what I see almost every day, and that is that in the veneration of the old, in the knowledge of the fragility of the soul of the child, and in their sensitivity to all living things, it is my traditional Indian friends who are the sophisticates—national commitments, technical competence notwithstanding, in this particular we are the savages.

Senator CHURCH. I think that was a very provocative and profound statement, Perry, and the committee appreciates having it from you.

Mr. SWISHER. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. One of our missions this year is to take a much more thorough look into the special problems that the elderly face who are part of minority groups.

COUNTRY OF MANY CULTURES

You know, this is a country of many cultures; and the Indian culture is one of them. But the dominant culture, the white culture, tends to ignore and to remain ignorant really of the quality of the minority cultures, and what those cultures have to offer. I don't suppose there is a more flagrant case than the case of the Indian people. Yet as you pointed out, Perry, the white community has much to learn from a better understanding of the Indian culture.

Believe me, though I don't pretend to be an expert, from what I do know about it, and from what you have said about it, if we, in the dominant culture, gave nearly as much, or half as much respect to the elderly, and status to the elderly, in our way of life, we wouldn't be having this meeting here today, we wouldn't have to have it. We wouldn't have to have a special committee on the problems of the aged.

Mr. SWISHER. That is true.

Senator CHURCH. We sure wouldn't. That would have been a problem taken care of by our own culture, and so I think it is not only a question of accommodating the Indian problem, it is a question of learning something, too, from what the Indian way of life may have to teach us.

So with that in mind I would like now to call on Mrs. Dorothy George Baker of Blackfoot to make her statement.

STATEMENT OF MRS. DOROTHY GEORGE BAKER, BLACKFOOT

Mrs. BAKER. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, members of the panel, first of all I am going to talk on housing on our reservation, housing among the elders. Our elders really need homes.

At the present time young adult couples are given first priorities, and non-Indians married into our tribe are given new homes. The elderly are not eligible and considered the last on any program.

The next thing is on wells. Many people need wells, mostly the oldsters. Most of them use hand pumps, and these pumps have gone dry in many homes. They have to haul their water. Most homes do not have bath facilities, especially the older people.

During winter months some are forced to move into town to keep warm because their homes are inadequately heated.

Next I would like to speak on commodities. I work there in the commodity department and I know this to be true. Most of our elderly do not receive surplus foods due to their income and land holdings. If they are living in a household with someone working they are not eligible for commodities. The reservation people are not eligible, where a nonmember Indian receives all these benefits due to the reason that he does not have anything to stop him from being eligible.

The next thing I would like to bring out is the public assistance for the Indians. The same goes with the elderly who receive public assistance from the State. They are taken off as soon as they have a little lease income. Their moneys are then programed just like they

would if they were still on DPA. Out of this they are expected to pay for their nursing home care. Most of the elderly do not have hospital insurance, but some are under Medicare, and a few receive Social Security, and out of all this they have to buy wood to burn. Most of the elderly do not use electric stoves because most of the homes are not—they don't have electricity in their homes.

Nursing home care is a big problem to our older people. A lot of people have died of loneliness in these nursing homes throughout the State.

It is a very hard thing to understand when you are not an Indian, because the Indians are unique.

A person that goes to these homes of the elderly they never respond or try to make themselves feel at home, he cries and makes himself sick, and the reason for all this is because he is segregated from the rest of the people there, but yet he has to pay the same amount of money as the rest of the white people. So there is a great need for a rest home on our reservation where they will feel more at home among their own culture. That is all I have to say.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mrs. Baker.

Would you mind, Mrs. Baker, if I told one story about your father.

Mrs. BAKER. I don't mind.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you. Mrs. Baker's father was Willie George, and Willie George was an honored chief among the Shoshone. Some of you who have a chance to visit the Idaho Historical Museum within the next few weeks can see his portrait there among other Indian portraits that were done by Mrs. Helen Aupperte, an artist who taught for many years at Idaho Falls, taught art, and she passed away a few months ago. But the largest and most impressive of all the portraits is the one of Willie George in his chief's traditional clothing.

One time I was visiting the reservation and Willie George was there and there was a meeting of the Indian people. He spoke up and addressed the council there in his own tongue, and I didn't know all through the talk whether—what he was saying, and the Indian people listened very quietly to what he had to say and listened very reflectively. They were not given to demonstrations and when he was finished there was silence and I still didn't know what he had said. I left wondering for sure. It was only later that I found that he had said that we were friends, and that he had spoken well of me. That meant a great deal to me. This year Willie George died, and Perry Swisher wrote a very moving column on his life, and I had the privilege of inserting that in the Congressional Record. But I want you to know that we will all miss Willie George, and we are very much honored that you have come here and testified for your people.

Mrs. BAKER. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Now I would like to call on Father Recalde who is going to speak to us about some of the special problems that face the Mexican-American, a minority in this State, and in the West generally. Father Recalde.

STATEMENT OF REV. SANTOS T. RECALDE, PARMA

Father RECALDE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The main problem of the elderly Mexican is that they don't live

long enough to be old. So that solves the problem I was supposed to bring here, almost entirely.

Due to their squalid living conditions in which we have put them in this country, the back-breaking labor work, the lack of health facilities and attention, has made out of the Mexican-Americans probably the youngest dying group. I read a few days ago that women live to an average of 49 years.

FEW SURVIVE ABOVE 65

For 11 years I have been taking care of their spiritual needs, I haven't buried one who is over 65, no Mexican-American over 65 I have buried.

I think those who have survived above 65 years of age, or 62, have all the common problems that the elderly people have in this country, and I would say more acutely than the Indians have, because our Mexican-Americans are half Indian too, most of them, so they have this psychological problem that are affecting these people that are so close to their relatives that they are dependent on them. They have the idea of the parents being the king and the queen of the family, and they depend on them so much.

I found cases where old women, 72 and 75 years old, not very common, but some cases I have in mind now, would refuse to take welfare help rather than abandoning their family and being separated from them. I can bring you these cases, they won't take welfare help if this was the condition they would have to go through, be separated from her daughter, from their son, from their relatives, live in a separate house.

But supposedly we would have more and more old Mexican-Americans in this country, and we are having them, and their most acute problems are in the field of health and education. If we want to solve some of their problems that are going to be here with us in the future we better start solving and looking at this problem.

I will tell you one case which is typical of a family I went to see last year and had dinner with them, at the labor camp. When the school opened and they found that their children were not in the school like many other children, Mexican-American children, I asked him why, you my good friend are not sending your kids to school, I can't understand this why my good friends are not sending their children to school. He said:

Father I have a debt in St. Anthony Hospital that I am paying yet from 2 years back. I have another debt in the Caldwell hospital that is over \$1,000. If I go to work by myself I would make about \$16 a day, if I take with me my four children from 15 down I will bring home close to \$70 a day, and this is the only way I can pay the hospital bills.

It is a shame that this country doesn't have a national health group insurance or socialized type of medicine because there are some interest groups that are fighting it, when we have millions of people that are suffering for lack of this help.

CHILDREN MUST HELP EARN

On the way here I stopped today at the labor camp in Hammett, and I was talking to Mr. Salinus there, maybe to end this educational

point, of these families. These guys have to keep their children out of the school because that is the only way they can face the present times, and those that have enough to face the present times they cannot look ahead. We always blame the Mexican-Americans because they are not looking ahead, because they have to look back most of the time, and they don't have time to look ahead, especially up to the time when they are going to be 62 or 65. It is the same thing when they fear that farmers are going to take \$10 from their pay check, they regret this because if this is going to help 50 years from now or maybe 20 years from now or 10 years from now, they don't care too much about that, because they have debts that they have to pay in the foodstore, and they have debts they have to pay, doctor bills, hospital bills, they have to look into the present, and they cannot look into the future too far.

I stopped to see Mr. Salinus at the Hammett labor camp on the way here, and I asked him what should I say today because I wasn't prepared because I have been on a trip since I got this invitation. He told me that he has been having problems in Texas to get naturalized. He wanted to become an American citizen, he has been living in the United States for 44 years and he applied for citizenship so that he could get help, because he was not one to qualify for Social Security for many reasons. It was very hard for him when he was asked if he could write or read English, and that he had to do this before he could become an American citizen.

Maybe we can ease the naturalization laws of the Spanish-speaking people, of many of the Spanish-speaking people here, the Mexican-Americans in the United States, born in the United States, born in Texas or New Mexico, who don't write or read English. I understand we have a law in Idaho that Spanish is an official language, and I was shocked to learn this because I was called last year to court to be a witness or an interpreter for a Mexican man, and he couldn't understand a word the judge said through the first session, with the interpreter, and the guy stood there, so he was scared to death to go the second time so he called me. If the Spanish language is official in the State of Idaho I think the judge should be the first one to enforce this law, the department, the ones that should represent the law. So I make this statement for them, some of them are good friends of mine.

So this would help these people to become better American citizens if we could have a few families, or a few at the elections wanted to vote in Idaho, and they weren't able to because they were afraid to face this test, that they can't write or read English, and if this could be eased a little bit it would help a lot of our Mexican-American people because once they start voting they will be heard in the future by the politicians.

So I would conclude my testimony here by asking more Federal help for these people in the field of health, education adapted to their mentality, to their needs, and I know that there is a lot done in this way, has been done, and is doing it, our Government is doing it, and I am very happy to see this, and I would like to see more programs, poverty programs under the dependency of the minorities themselves, not the Anglos having the upper hand, by the minority groups having the upper hand with a very close supervision. That is all I have to say.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you Father.

You commenced your testimony, Father, by saying that the problems of the aging for the Mexican-Americans are so acute as for most because so many never grow old, they die before their time. I was reminded that when we commenced these hearings in Washington, D.C. earlier this year we heard from the president of the National Caucus of the Black Aged, and he made the same remark, he said that so many members among the blacks failed to reach old age as compared to the more advantaged people.

We hope to come out with a special study on the problems that do affect minority groups and when we do your testimony here will have made a very important contribution to it.

I want to thank you very much, and I think we ought to give this panel a very good hand, can we do that. [Applause.]

Now the fourth and final panel will be a panel on the Older Americans Act, and we will hear Mrs. Kay Pell, the director of the Idaho State Department of Special Services, Mr. Herb Whitworth, the former director of that department, and Mr. Wil Overgaard, the division coordinator of the Idaho State Office on the Aging.

It has come to my attention that Mr. Herb Whitworth, former director of the Idaho State Department of Special Services, is not present. I do hope he gets the chance to come before the panel is over, and if he does if anybody sees him come through the door, summon him forward to the stage because we would like to have him, we would like to hear from him.

We turn then to Mrs. Kay Pell, who is doing a wonderful job now, I think, as the director of the Idaho State Department of Special Services, and Kay we would like to invite your testimony at this time.

STATEMENT OF MRS. KAY PELL, DIRECTOR, IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES, LEWISTON

Mrs. PELL. My first remark will be to request that Ed William's address as the representative of Governor Cecil D. Andrus, which was delivered at our State White House conference this morning be entered into the record.*

Senator CHURCH. Very well, it will be entered into the appendix of the printed record.

Mrs. PELL. And my second request would be that the policy proposals of the 1971 Idaho White House Conference on Aging be entered into the appendix of the record.**

Senator CHURCH. That will be done.

Mrs. PELL. And then I would like to address a few remarks in my position as director of the Idaho Office on Aging toward preparations for the White House Conference on Aging.

I would first like to enter into the record how we, as a State, are selecting our representatives to the White House conference. There have been many questions asked ever since the publicity started coming out about the conference, and the process is only well started as we come to the conclusion of this State White House conference:

It just so happens that the amount of money that was allocated to the State of Idaho for paid representatives to the White House Con-

*See appendix 1, item 1, p. 525.

**See appendix 1, item 2, p. 526.

ference also coincide with the number of funded programs that we have in the State of Idaho, and it was the decision of our State White House Conference Advisory Committee that we would ask each funded program to make three nominations from their area for persons who might be considered for selection, as paid delegates, to the National White House Conference on Aging.

These nominees from the funded programs will submit résumés to the State White House Conference Advisory Committee by July 10. Then this group will consider the nominees, will select one from each funded program, and these 14 names will be submitted to Governor Andrus who, unless he finds something terribly wrong with them, will appoint them to represent our State of Idaho at the National White House Conference on Aging.

DELEGATES NOT YET SELECTED

I just wanted to make this plain as we go into our preparations. This means that the delegates have not been selected as yet. And the major reason for not selecting them ahead of this time was that we wanted to see who participated in the community White House conferences, who participated in the State White House conference, and thus be able to find persons who have expertise in the different fields that our recommendations encompass or have basic ability to be trained to represent us in these areas at the national conference.

We also want to spend some time between now and November training our Idaho representatives in order that they may adequately represent our State and our points of view, and may truly make a significant contribution at the national level.

In addition, I want to make a few comments about the national guidelines under which we operated in preparing for the community and State White House conferences. It is commendable that we had guidelines set up by the national office on aging for the putting together of issues in order that our recommendations may get back to national in a way that they can be compared, one State with another, one community with another.

However, we do feel that these guidelines were too structured, that they were too inflexible, that they forgot to take into consideration the several segments of elderly persons, including the elderly poor, the rural elderly, and the minority elderly, as has been so adequately pointed out in this past panel.

In our State community action agency directors meetings it has often been pointed out that the reason why we, in Idaho, don't have these problems coming to the front is that we do not have any great concentration of either Indian elderly or Mexican-American elderly, primarily because many of these minorities do not reach the normal senior citizen age bracket.

WORK BOOKS NO HELP

So our workbooks gave us no chance for evolving recommendations that would have been more adequate to show the cultural needs and differences as presented and as needed. Neither was there any particular details that took into account black and oriental minorities. Nor was there adequate consideration to our largest elderly minority—the

elderly poor. And in no way were the needs of the rural poor adequately delineated.

In a different context, I feel that there is another area—another important age group—that has not been adequately represented in formulating these policies. This is the viewpoint of youth.

The young tell us that there is a generation gap and that their elders do not understand them. We are not sure that that is the way it is.

Abraham Kaplin a senior citizen who is a professor of philosophy at the University of Michigan has pointed out that the reason why grandparents and grandchildren get along so well is because they have a common enemy, the middle generation.

The youth of today are not only concerned about better housing and services for all, a better tomorrow for everyone, but they have adopted even the signs of age, granny glasses, granny dresses, beards, and many other things that show a close proximity and identification with the needs and the desires and the aspirations of senior citizens.

To remedy this omission, today, I have taken the liberty, Senator, of calling a young representative to share with me my time on your panel, and I would like to present at this time, Mr. Henry Durham, director of the Community Youth Council here in Boise, and formerly an outreach aide at the River Street Center with the El-Ada Community Action program. I would like to say that he is already one-third of his way toward becoming a senior citizen. And he is already two-fifths of his way to the year 2000. Henry.

Mr. DURHAM. Thank you, Mrs. Pell.

STATEMENT BY HENRY DURHAM, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY YOUTH COUNCIL, BOISE, IDAHO

Mr. DURHAM. I was called upon about 30 minutes ago to speak here, so I have no formal statement to make.

My only concern is that I hope all the recommendations and statements that come out of this conference are listened to by the appropriate people.

About a month ago in Estes Park in Colorado there was a White House Conference on youth, it was a national conference, there was about 1,000 young people from all across the United States participating in that. They made recommendations, proposals, statements, that went to the national level of this country.

The week after that conference ended Vice-President Agnew made a statement that all the feelings, proposals, and recommendations of that conference were not necessarily the feelings of the majority of youth in this country. That is frustration for us, for me, or for someone participating in that conference, because you wonder then who is really going to listen and how much good a conference like this can really do, when the people who are in the decisionmaking policy of this country will not really accept what people are saying to them today.

I think it is fantastic that people can come together like this because this is basic I think, a basic element in human nature, communication, and understanding, which is something we have all lost, whether it be racial minorities, young people or elderly, we all have something in common and that we are human beings. Thank you.

Mrs. PELL. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Henry, thank you very much. Kay and Henry thank you for your statements. Were you at the youth conference?

Mr. DURHAM. No; I didn't attend.

Senator CHURCH. Well a funny thing happened there. The director and those that were in charge of bringing that large group of young people together in Colorado for what was the counterpart of this White House Conference on the Aging that is going to come up in November-December of this year, the White House Youth Conference.

At the very beginning of the conference there was a big general meeting and the director said that he was especially pleased at the effort that had been made to get a true cross section representation of American youth, and he thought that that group was undoubtedly the most representative group of American youth that could have been brought together.

**STATEMENT OF WIL OVERGAARD, DIVISION COORDINATOR, IDAHO
STATE OFFICE ON THE AGING, BOISE**

Mr. OVERGAARD. Mr. Chairman, as you are well aware Idaho is a neophyte as a participant under the title III of the Older Americans Act of 1965, having only been a participant under this act since 1968.

I think it is apparent today that there is an increased visibility of the elderly needs and desires in this State and these have resulted from our White House Conference on Aging activities held throughout the State. The needs that I refer to are in terms of the life essentials such as nutrition, such as health, such as housing, et cetera, and the desires I refer to as those essential things which make life more meaningful and more bearable.

In addition to the increased visibility throughout the State, there is an awareness resulting from these White House conference activities, and there is an atmosphere of cooperation that has begun to merge at the State level. This is a condition which did not exist before.

We have secured the advocacy of our region in developing and implementing programs and projects to meet minimum requirements, and we are now geared in the State office to accept the challenges put to us by the senior citizens in this State.

What we must do next is no longer a moot question. The essential ingredient then is for a highly organized program to expedite the identified needs and the expressed desires through an increased funding level program for the formula grants which provide the direct services and the opportunities for our elderly to live their lives in dignity and in honor. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much. Wilca, for your statement.

I think we have a special reason to thank our court reporter, our committee reporter, who has been working all afternoon taking down a record of these proceedings. He seems to be nearing senior age, and I wonder if he would be good enough to stand and take a good round of applause because he has worked harder than anybody else here all day long, and his wife, they work as a team, will you both stand please. [Applause.]

Senator CHURCH. You just met Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Hamilton of Boise, and I want to say to both of you that we are very grateful to you for the good work you have done all afternoon.

Now we have come to the end of the program, but I am told that in another agenda that was distributed to you there is an item, a closing item, called Town Meeting Questions and Answer Period, and any of you who have been looking at this and waiting for a town meeting and question and answer period should not be denied. So if there are any of you here who have questions you would like to put now to me I will be very happy to entertain them at this time. I know some of you have written questions that have occurred to you, or have made comments and submitted them in written form, but if there is anybody here now before we close that would like to make a point or ask a question before this hearing adjourns I invite them to do so.

Thank you very much, members of the panel.

Anyone at all? Yes, here is a lady at the back. I wonder if you could step up here and identify yourself for the reporter.

STATEMENT OF IRMA HILL, DEETER, BOISE

Mrs. DEETER. The question that we want to know is—I belong to the senior citizens here of Ada County, club No. 1, and we are very anxious to get a building where we can meet, and meet more often than just once a week. Is there way that money can be obtained to buy a location? We could get a location here in town, a church that they are anxious to sell that would make us a wonderful place to dance and to have our parties, where we can carry on the same things that these people have talked about.

As I understand it representatives of ours have gone to the council and to the mayor and we don't get any answer.

Senator CHURCH. The reason that you get no answer is that the AoA has money to fund the programs but not the building facility, and some other way has to be found under the present program for getting help of that kind.

I know that Kay Pell will help in every way she can through the State program, but basically I think we have to find the answer at the community level.

We have here in this community, as you know, we have the Bishop Ray House, there is one such center.

Mrs. DEETER. We go there.

Senator CHURCH. And you go there, and this YWCA is used for functions. But obviously we have further need in this community, and that is one of the things I think we ought to try and find an answer to.

We have a model cities programs under way here, we certainly—

Mrs. DEETER. We have listened to that, there is no help there. They want to put that in with a senior citizens and a junior group. That really doesn't work out too well, and then they put in other incidents. We listened to that and that does not work out.

We would be willing to work hard and remodel the building if we could get ahold of one, if there is any way that we can get ahold of the money to do it.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Irma, very much. We look into this and work also with the State people and hopefully we may help find some answer to your dilemma.

Mrs. DEETER. OK, we are working hard on it.

Senator CHURCH. Yes.

STATEMENT OF MRS. IDA RASCH, JEROME

Mrs. RASCH. I am Ida Rasch of Jerome, Idaho, and maybe I can help this woman find an answer to her problem.

I am the secretary of the Hope organization in Jerome, and it is a nonprofit charitable organization.

What we have done is we had to obtain a building in town for our facility. First we got an old garage building, and we lived there for a couple of years, then this year we had to find another building which was on the main street of Jerome. Both buildings took a lot of elbow grease, a lot of love, and a lot of hope. We cleaned them up and made a place for our operations. Perhaps they can find someone who is willing to donate an old abandoned building which will serve their needs.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much. I think perhaps if the need is communicated to the chamber of commerce, to the various churches here, possibly someone will think of a facility, or is willing to make a facility available that would fill this need. I know it is difficult.

STATEMENT OF MRS. MARY TRAIL, BOISE

Miss TRAIL. Senator Church, Mary Trail, social services planner, model cities. I would like to respond to the comment about the project that model cities is sponsoring for senior citizens.

Recently, within the past month, a project was funded and now has a director, Mr. W. B. Cox, who perhaps is here in the audience—I am not certain. He has just taken the job, and they have an office on Main Street. Their charge is to assess all the community needs which are pretty well known in terms of services for recreation, for more than just a social program, and an overall schedule of activities in the Boise community.

They are funded to the extent that they can consult with an architect. If they can find a facility that is already existent that can be remodeled, there are funds available to start to secure this.

As you have mentioned earlier, the concept of the community school is being developed through model cities, and it has been suggested that this, too, would present senior citizens an opportunity for meeting places in their own community, rather in a satellite way, to help them with their transportation problems and all these sorts of things.

Senator CHURCH. I wish you would counsel with Irma and her group further to see if there isn't some way you could work this out together. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF BEN BEHREND, ST. MARIES

Mr. BEHREND. I have been to several of these council meetings, and I think they are very highly organized and very well thought out.

There is one thing I feel that is missing, a remark was made this morning, as senior citizens we do have 20-20 hindsight, and we have stated our case well, what we think we need and what we would like, but I don't think we have given enough thought to what can we give the community. I think we should work this case up real well because in our particular area we are intending to offer the merchants help before they offer it to us, and I think we will get a lot better reaction.

Senator CHURCH. You bet.

Mr. BEHREND. I think this should be given definite consideration.

Senator CHURCH. It is a very good suggestion, very good.

STATEMENT OF CASSE TOYCEN, JEROME

Mr. TOYCEN. I am Mr. Casse Toycen from Wisconsin. Our Senator mentoined the Green Thumb program. And I must say this Green Thumb project is a wonderful program, because I was on it for 3 years in Wisconsin, and originally there were eight counties, and prior to my leaving Wisconsin it was increased to several more counties. It was a very interesting program to work on, it was very educational for one who takes part in it.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much. You were in the Green Thumb, where, in Wisconsin?

Mr. TOYCEN. Yes.

Senator CHURCH. Well, here is a man who has been in the Green Thumb program and testifies to what a good experience it was. I am sure it was not only good for those that participated in it, it was good for the community too. I hope we can get it here in Idaho.

STATEMENT OF MRS. FAYE REBENSTORF, COEUR D'ALENE

Mrs. REBENSTORF. I represent the Kootenai Chapter of the Association of Retired Persons in Coeur d'Alene.

I would like to touch upon one or two specific items that we haven't mentioned outright in the panel discussions today or in the policies. There are many of our members who are affected by the lien law, which is a most discriminating law, and which we would most surely like to see abandoned or abolished. I feel this is the time and place to mention this. Also on the national level many of our members are backed by widows veterans pensions which are lowered when Social Security benefits are increased, which I think should be remedied, as well as welfare decreases.

From a personal standpoint I am in favor of most of the policies put forth today, and I favor them on this basis—I want to see a better living status for older people; but, I would like to see it by not increasing taxes which would be a burden to the young people, to our children and our grandchildren, but I would like to see it be by limiting Government spending.

The war in Vietnam, the space exploration—we don't need men on the moon—and too much foreign aid. We can do all of this by eliminating unnecessary spending and by closing Government loopholes. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much.

I think that was one of the reasons Congress is finally becoming aware there is going to be a change in priorities, that is one of the reasons that the SST was voted down.

STATEMENT OF ROY WATSON, BOISE

Mr. WATSON. I am Roy Watson, of Boise. As I have listened today, I realize that most of the things that face our Nation are being considered. A thing that I would like to stress especially at this time is

that our population might be divided up into perhaps three groups, the youth, the Keenagers as we senior citizens seem to like to call ourselves, and those in the midstream of life who are faced with the problem of caring for their families, while having to pay at least in part for that which we older citizens and some of the younger groups are asking. We have to realize if we want to accomplish things we must all be thinking in terms of what is best for all citizens and not just of our own special interest.

I think here in Boise we have the machinery set up that could accomplish wonderful things in this area if we will get together and use it. I have been very disappointed through the years in the way we, as humans, have communicated with each other. In the past 2 months I have become acquainted with the Model Cities program and I am convinced that Model Cities is the town meeting in which we can get together and discuss our problems and work them out if we will. As a Nation we should be spending less for war and more for programs which will relieve human misery within our country.

I do believe if we will all begin to think in terms of the needs of all the people of our community that we can solve our problems and have Boise, in a period of a few years, the city beautiful that some of the planners are dreaming of. Community planning can and should be extended to include the whole Nation and eventually to a world of nations. This Nation needs more citizen participation. Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Watson. That is a very fine statement.

STATEMENT OF MRS. RAYLENE ESTEP, BOISE

Mrs. ESTEP. I am Mrs. Estep and I am from the Sunset Nursing Home. I was a little concerned about the lack of mention of nursing homes today. I am activities director. This is a fairly new field I found here in Boise.

Senator CHURCH. Yes.

Mrs. ESTEP. I was wondering do they plan to expand these programs for nursing homes? It is just real necessary.

Senator CHURCH. Yes; we are looking, in fact we have a series of hearings under way now in one of the subcommittees of my committee, and holding hearings around the country on the question of nursing homes, looking into the present problems concerning nursing homes, the need for additional nursing home facilities. Some abuses that have developed in connection with nursing homes in Chicago, and some of the other larger communities, we are really looking into it. You are quite right, it is a very important element in this picture.

Mrs. ESTEP. Yes.

Senator CHURCH. And I can only say that the committee as a whole is giving it attention.

Mrs. ESTEP. I hoped that it hadn't been forgotten. It wasn't mentioned, really, today.

Senator CHURCH. That is right, it didn't figure into our discussions today, but it is certainly not forgotten on the agenda of the committee.

Mrs. ESTEP. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF PAUL OWENS, EAGLE

Mr. OWENS. Senator Frank, and people, I haven't very much to say, I submitted my testimony for the record. I was in South Dakota a short time back, and I stopped in Custer and talked to a group that were in those store buildings, and the man mentioned that the State of South Dakota had, through their legislature, passed a mill levy, I don't know whether it was two-tenths of 1 mill or a 2 mill authorization, just how it runs.

One of our problems always is funding. Now if we could bring this down to a local basis, if somehow through your committee the States and the counties and the cities; if we would recognize the senior citizens the same as your baseball clubs and things like this, I think that it is a legitimate thing for the recreation departments to get into.

That is all I have to say.

Senator CHURCH. That is a very good suggestion. Thank you very much, your statement will be entered in the record.

(The statement follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF PAUL L. OWENS, EAGLE, IDAHO

SENIOR CITIZENS' PROGRAMS

Programs are essential. Every community as nearly as possible should have an active Senior Citizen Program. The programs should first have an available day room or gathering place where persons can gather and find companionship. These centers should be available as nearly as possible at the community centers—near the drug store, post office, grocery stores and other community facilities that a Senior Citizen can get to with a minimum of transportation problems. These replace the church, the bar and the pool hall, all of which are technically off limits to the person with limited income.

Churches are a possible source of space, when they are properly situated. An old store building if it is adequate to heat and cooling facilities, good floors, good plumbing, and where the most people can get to them from other community facilities they must visit.

Programs are important. First there needs to be a regular discipline as to hours the center is available. Persons who have gone to work on a regular schedule for many years are liable to want to continue their idle time in the same way. Centers should open at 8 A.M. and close not later than 9 P.M.

Recreation can in some cases be with minimal supervision. Card games can be a feature that needs limited supervision. Having a hostess or hosts to encourage and introduce new people can be both very helpful to the program but also give importance to individuals on a roster basis to be supervisors of recreation.

Snacks, such as coffee and cookies, or milk can be provided by the members without bearing too hard on their own budgets. This too can be on a roster or volunteer basis. There should always be a snack available to anyone wishing to partake.

Other recreation such as shuffle board, dancing, money making activities such as quilting and crafts all need supervision and someone to force a continuity and elicit participation.

Food in the form of regular dinners is a very effective way to hold a continuity to a program. Nutrition programs are very desirable and in addition to the persons who are able to attend the dinners at the centers there are those shut-in and unable to participate. A carried meal can brighten one hour of one day as well as give something to look forward to. These meals should be provided with a person to sit and share a conversation if possible.

Leadership is probably as important in a Senior Citizen program as in any activity. As nearly as possible the work should be done by the older people themselves. Where there is paid janitorial, cooking, or other work it should if at all

possible be done by people who need the small income. Most of the Center work can be volunteer, and should be, but for the sake or continuity there should be some workers paid.

Rentals and other expenses can be paid through memberships. One center has memberships at a dollar a month. 200 members are able to meet the building rental and heat or utilities. Much donation in food, used clothing and services can come from the community. As nearly as possible, it should be the responsibility of the community. However there are some costs that need funding.

FUNDING—NATIONAL, STATE, AND COMMUNITY

The Time of adequately funded programs with paid leadership and other expenses paid by government are becoming a lost cause. The problem of Senior Citizens is becoming a recognized item in the budgets of States, Counties and Cities. Where city recreation programs have been geared to youth, now they are beginning to see that Senior Citizens as well need help. Recreation in the past was and still is very much provided in order that idle hands do not get into mischief. Training for adulthood then follows with Little League and swimming being accepted and paid for by the community. General well being, of course follows and here the Senior should come in for his attention.

Some States have included a limited mill levy in their annual budgets. Counties have followed and the cities already use to recreation programs can more easily move into providing personnel to supervise programs for seniors. To popularize and make such funding a general practice is probably one of the big challenges of Senior Citizen work. Senior Citizen Lobbies should be organized in order to bring the needs to the attention of the taxing units.

National legislation and funding have moved along quite well, however a major thrust of the Federal Office on Aging should be to help Seniors on a local basis organize to be heard and served from more local sources.

There should be a center in every community of subdivision of such.

These should be manned as nearly as possible by the target personnel—as nearly as possible paid personnel should be Seniors.

Nutrition programs should be a part of any Senior Citizen Center with meals on wheels a part.

Visibility within the community is very important both to the citizen served and to make helping, easier and more adequate from the community.

Supervisory personnel are needed and they should be paid by the taxing subdivision most nearly available. These should however not be dominant in programming but trained to draw the maximum from the group being served—in all cases utilizing their personnel.

Organizers. These persons employed by whatever political subdivision should be true organizers. This activity should include building lobbying activity for the purpose of informing the communities of the needs of Senior Citizens.

Senior Citizens activated through their local lobby should then be the persons attending conferences and taking their special problems before legislators and other government agencies. The Senior Citizen Owes it to Himself to make his wants known. He is within his rights to ask help in coordinating these activities.

STATEMENT OF MRS. LORA JEAN ALBRIGHT, JULIAETTA

Mrs. ALBRIGHT. The only thing that I am concerned about is the great debt that we now have on the national level of our country.

I have listened here to all of these wonderful things that can go on and that we are expecting our Government to help us do, and yet we are not thinking about this terrible—and I say, terrible, debt that is hanging over our heads.

As a housewife and as a citizen we have always prided ourselves on paying our debts, and how is this debt being handled? Are we, as oldsters, going to hold out our hands still further and load our children with this terrible increased debt?

I have talked about this before and never could get across to some of the executives in our Government until just lately, the dollar has had

a great fall and a great crisis in the foreign markets, money markets.

Now I have friends in the Treasury and, Frank, you may remember the Weises, and he was so proud of the fact that he was there to work with a common purpose, and yet he tells me there is no way out except to keep on increasing the debt, and this of course builds up interest that we must pay.

Frank, I was going to write you a letter, but I just couldn't let this opportunity pass. I will probably write you a letter anyway.

Senator CHURCH. Write me a letter anyway. But let me just say to you that—

Mrs. ALBRIGHT. I know that the people are breaking up, but I just had to bring this in here because I have listened to all these wonderful things today and—

Senator CHURCH. Thank you. Let me say that I have some answers to the questions raised. But the dollar which is under great pressure abroad—

Mrs. ALBRIGHT. Great pressure, Frank, great pressure.

Senator CHURCH. The dollar will never recover its soundness unless there are drastic cutbacks in our spending overseas. This lavish spending overseas has resulted in so large an increase in the obligations owed by the United States, and so drastic a decline in our gold bullion in the Treasury that we have reached a point where confidence in the dollar is evaporating. The only way we can deal with this problem really is to take strong measures to cut back our overseas spending. This is why I supported in the Senate just this last week the Mansfield resolution to cut back on our military spending in Europe.

Mrs. ALBRIGHT. I watched this closely because, you know, we like to follow the ones who will lead.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much.

Well folks, the last of us that are left deserve a special word of thanks from the chairman for having spent the long afternoon to the end of the testimony, and all those who participated I want to extend my appreciation. I think it has been one of the most valuable and informative hearings that we have conducted in our committee. That is what I would expect from an Idaho crowd. So thanks for coming and let's hope that this may contribute in its way to a solution to some of our problems.

The committee is in recess, subject to the call of the Chair.

(Whereupon, at 5:20 p.m., the committee was recessed, to reconvene at the call of the Chair.)

APPENDIXES

Appendix 1

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FROM WITNESSES

ITEM 1. ADDRESS BY MR. ED. WILLIAMS, REPRESENTATIVE OF GOV. CECIL D. ANDRUS, TO THE IDAHO STATE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING, SUBMITTED BY MRS. KAY PELL, DIRECTOR OF THE IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES

In this year of the 1971 White House Conference on Aging I am especially proud to represent Governor Andrus and the citizens of Idaho this morning as we open our Idaho White House Conference on Aging. The Governor has asked me to extend his regrets in being unable to attend and offers his best wishes for a successful and fulfilling session. We in Idaho are honored by the presence of our guests and our conference delegates.

Idaho has no greater heritage than its people; and its people have no greater heritage than its senior citizens. It is most gratifying that the U.S. Congress, in the passage of the Older Americans Act of 1965, and Idaho in subsequently creating the Idaho Office on Aging, has recognized this vast resource of Older Americans and is addressing itself to your needs and to the mobilization of the great citizen resources which you represent.

As Kay has said, you are here today to formulate the policy recommendations that have come from the local level and which will go from here to the National level. Fourteen of you will be official State of Idaho representatives in Washington, D.C. in November representing fourteen funded Administration on Aging programs in the State. Others of you will also be going to Washington to officially represent local, state, and national organizations which deal with related opportunities and problems of aging.

We; in our state and nation turn to experts for every phase of the art of living. Yet, too often we fail to give validity to the natural expertise that lies with the aged because they have lived. Only once before, in 1961, have we had a National White House Conference on Aging. And although many of their findings and recommendations were not implemented, the great accomplishment of that conference, the subsequent enactment of the Social Security Amendments popularly called Medicare, stands as a momental step forward in the establishment of a national policy on aging.

In Idaho there are currently 14 community service projects and one training program funded through the Idaho Office on Aging. The community service projects include such programs as transportation, information and referral, nutrition, meals, income supplement, telephone reassurance, and a variety of free-time and community involvement activities for senior citizens. Nine of these service project grants have been funded through Community Action agencies, and our total State program is indebted to the State CAP Directors' Association who in 1968 initiated the action which resulted in the creation of the Idaho Office on Aging. In April, 1968 the first director of the State Economic Opportunity Office was appointed to head the State unit for implementing the Older Americans Act in Idaho. The first state plan was approved by the U.S. Administration on Aging in June of 1968.

Governor Andrus pointed out his dedication to people programs, including programs for the aged, in his Inaugural Address and in his State of the State Message in January of this year.

There are no greater people than the senior citizens of Idaho. You have 20-20 hind-sight. You have been the pioneers, the architects, the engineers, the educa-

tors, the homemakers, and the builders in making this great state what it has become since 1890. Your role has changed and will continue to change, it may even now lie in the role of a protector of the natural and human resources of Idaho.

However, only *you* will find the answer to this not our office, nor the Office on Aging. In your search the Governor pledges the support of his administration in order to enhance the grace, dignity, identity, and service of senior citizens.

It has been a warm pleasure in being here today and again, in behalf of Governor Andrus and myself, and the great citizenry of the State of Idaho I wish you much success in your deliberations.

I now invite all of you for coffee in the Governor's office. The Governor's staff is there looking forward to meeting each of you.

ITEM 2. IDAHO STATE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING, ADVISORY COMMITTEE, COLLATION OF POLICY PROPOSALS

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT

Issue 1.—Should placement, training, and job assistance programs—which are currently required to give priority to youth and minority groups—be modified to include higher proportions of older workers? Or, should total manpower funds for programs and services be increased in order to serve more older workers?

Policy proposal.—Placement, training, and job assistance programs should be modified to include higher proportions of older workers.

Issue 3.—Even if the policies and programs deemed favorable to older workers' employment were adopted, would they prove sufficient to solve the employment problems of the aging? If not, as many authorities argue, can the problem be solved by having our government assume the role of "employer of last resort."

Policy proposal.—Employment should be available to older workers even when private industry employment is low, with the government being "employer of last resort."

A Public Works Program needs to be triggered into effect when unemployment reaches a certain level.

Policy statement 1.—The Federal Government should fund a program which will provide employment to elderly in the areas of home maintenance and life support services.

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO EDUCATION

Issue 4.—Should education for older persons be: (a) conducted apart from or (b) integrated with education for persons at other ages?

Policy proposal.—It is recommended that any education which is created for elderly persons be placed on a co-existing basis with programs already set up for the younger age groups. However, such programs should have inherent within them a non-competitive atmosphere in most cases.

Issue 7.—In the light of scarce financial and manpower resources, which should be given the higher priority: (a) educational services to those most ready and most in the habit of participating, or (b) education for those "hidden," relatively unknown and difficult to reach?

Policy proposal.—The location and education of those elderly who are hidden, relatively unknown, and difficult to reach should be given a higher priority, while still keeping education of the active, outgoing elderly at a high standard.

Policy statement 1.—It is proposed that the Federal Government provide incentives to State and local governments so that the public educational facilities of this country can be opened to persons of all ages and not be limited to only school age children.

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Policy statement 1.—The Federal Government should take the lead in the development of a national program wherein the states are provided the means to establish an affirmative program of forceful advocacy on behalf of senior citizens and an organizational structure for its accomplishment.

Policy statement 2.—It is recommended that the Idaho State Legislation pass a law permitting the counties—if they so desire—to levy up to one mill to be used for senior citizen activities and facilities.

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO HEALTH

Issue 1-5.—Should health services for the aged be singled out for special consideration and action or should they remain inseparable from services for all adults as at present?

Policy proposal.—A Comprehensive Health Program should be developed on a national level which encompasses all ages, with special consideration being provided to meet the needs of the elderly.

Issue 6.—Should effort be placed on including curricula or course content on physical and mental health problems of the elderly in undergraduate or graduate professional education and in-service training health workers? Or, should emphasis be placed on the development of geriatric and geropsychiatric specialists?

Policy proposal.—Emphasis needs to be placed on undergraduate and graduate professional education, research and in-service training for health workers—including such programs as clergyman, social workers, volunteer workers in geriatrics, etc., as well as geriatric and geropsychiatric specialists.

Issue 7.—In view of the critical need to provide much more direct services to the physically and mentally ill elderly, should all available funds be put into these services? Or, will the aged be better served in the long run if the available funds are apportioned among services, research and training of health manpower.

Policy proposal.—Not all available funds should be expended for direct services to the physically and mentally ill elderly. Funds should also be allocated for preventive services, research and education of health manpower.

Policy statement 1.—It is recommended that a standard for nursing homes be set which requires disoriented and seriously disturbed patients to be segregated.

Policy statement 2.—It is proposed that chiropractic practitioners' services be recognized in all present and future health and health care programs administered, sponsored or financed (in whole or in part) by the Federal Government.

Policy statement 3.—Federal regulations should be placed on insurance companies to insure that the aged are not deprived of their rightful benefits or have insurance policies cancelled due to minor illnesses or age.

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO HOUSING

Issue 2.—Should eligibility for the benefits of publicly assisted low and moderate cost housing and related services and programs for the elderly be based solely on income? Or, should eligibility be based on social and health needs with recipients having incomes above an established minimum level paying for benefits at a sliding scale rate related to their income?

Policy proposal.—Eligibility should be based on social and health needs with recipients having incomes above an established minimum level paying for benefits on a sliding scale rate applied to their income.

Issue 3.—Should the Federal Government insure that State and local governments produce suitable housing for the elderly on a uniform per capita basis of the population aged 62 years and over throughout the nation? Or, should the decision to produce such housing be left to the discretion of local governments and private groups as in the past?

Policy proposal.—The decision to produce suitable housing for the elderly should be left to the discretion of local governments and private groups as in the past.

Issue 4.—Should nursing homes continue to be the expected type of living arrangement for the elderly who need some assistance in daily living but do not need skilled nursing care? Or, should residentially-oriented settings be provided for these persons?

Policy proposal.—The government should provide planning and funding for residentially-oriented settings for the elderly who do not need skilled nursing care.

Issue 6.—Should low-income, retired homeowners be responsible for full payment of their property taxes? Or, should the State or Federal Government provide financial incentives to make local property tax relief for the elderly homeowner possible? Should consideration also be given to renters?

Policy proposal.—Consideration should be given to all older persons in need, including the renters.

Policy statement 1.—State legislation should be enacted to create a State Housing Authority which would operate public housing programs in areas of the state not presently covered by a local housing authority.

Policy statement 2.—We recommend that a fixed proportion of all government funds which are or may be allocated to new construction or rehabilitation housing and related services be earmarked on a priority basis for the elderly, the handicapped, and the low-income recipients in that order. Further, that the administrative policy which restricts rent supplement as provided in Section 236 of the National Housing Act of 1949 as amended be removed in favor of the 40% rent supplement occupancy as provided in that section of the Act.

Policy statement 3.—We recommend that retired homeowners who have income eligibility for participation in public housing services be completely exempt from ad valorem taxation upon the owned houses in which they reside.

Policy statement 4.—It is our position that every American is entitled to share in the abundance of America. This is especially true with regard to those, who having reached retirement age after making a substantial contribution to the creation of that abundance, are now victims of it. The cost of maintaining safe decent housing for those with modest retirement incomes has become prohibitive. We therefore propose:

That public and/or private non-profit Federally subsidized housing for senior citizens be provided in every community in quantity sufficient to meet the needs of the senior citizens of that area.

Alternate policy statement.—Alternate No. 2.—The Rent Supplement Program for Senior Citizens should be expanded to include any Federally approved unit offered for rent upon joint application by both tenant and owner.

Policy statement 5.—The Federal Government should insure that any public structure which is funded or insured by State or Federal monies in part or in full, be completely accessible to the aging and handicapped; i.e., ramping, elevators, rest room facilities, handrails, special parking areas, etc.

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO INCOME

Issue 1.—The long-range goal for older people is that they should have income in accordance with the American standard of living. What should be regarded as an adequate income for older couples and non-related individuals?

Policy proposal.—It is recommended that the Federal Government subsidize Social Security to provide a minimum income to all senior citizens. This amount should be in direct ratio with the current cost of living and not below a minimum of \$150 per month per single or non-related person or \$250 per month per couple, with automatic cost of living increases. Persons receiving Social Security plus another pension or welfare should not be penalized on such when Social Security is raised. In addition, it is recommended that the Social Security retirement test which restricts earnings be eliminated.

Issue 2.—In our system in which society has accepted responsibility for assuring older people a basic floor of income at not less than the level of poverty, how should it be provided: through the contributory social security system? Some form of payment from general revenue? Or a mix of the two?

Policy proposal.—It is recommended that a policy be established on a Federal level assuring older people of a basic income floor through the utilization of general revenue funds, in addition to the contributory social security system.

Issue 3.—In view of the growing dependence on private pensions and individual saving for retirement income above the basic floor, should Government intervene to foster increased coverage and to insure receipt of benefits by workers and their survivors? Or, should such matters be left entirely to the private sector and the individual?

Policy proposal.—It is recommended that a policy be established providing for governmental regulation of pension plans to insure equality of return on investments plus provisions for compulsory survivor's benefits. It is further recommended that a policy be established to protect the elderly from being discharged just prior to qualifying for retirement benefits.

Issue 5.—Does the relatively low income status of the older population together with the increased need for financial security warrant action by the Federal and/or State Government to help them to continue to live in their own homes through partial remission of property taxes or through some other means? Or, should older home owners share equally with younger people in matters of property taxes and other financial responsibilities of home ownership?

Policy proposal 1.—It is recommended that the older Americans be provided an income sufficient to permit them to pay their own way in order to live their own lives in dignity, honor, and independence.

Policy proposal 2.—It is recommended that the income tax on all retirement pensions be eliminated.

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO NUTRITION

Issue 1.—Should the Federal Government allocate substantial funds for research on the influence of nutrition on the aging process and on the diseases of old age? Or, should such monies be concentrated on action programs to rehabilitate the malnourished aged and to prevent malnutrition among those approaching old age?

Policy proposal.—Funds should be divided between programs for reaching the immediate needs of malnourished elderly people and programs for research on the influence of nutrition on the aged.

Issue 2.—Inasmuch as food and nutrition services are vital components of total health services, should the Federal Government move more forcefully to establish higher standards for the food services provided by institutions and home care agencies? Or, can the interest of the consumer be better served by demanding a higher level of performance of State Government enforcement agencies where the primary responsibility for such regulation now lies?

Policy proposal.—The nutritional interests of the consumer can be served by the Federal Government establishing higher standards and requiring higher performance of State Government enforcement agencies where the primary responsibility for such regulation now lies.

Issue 3.—Should governmental resources allocated to nutrition be concentrated solely in the provision of foodstuffs to those in need? Or, should a substantial proportion of such resources be devoted to education of all consumers, especially the aged, about nutrition and to the education of those who serve the consumer in professional and related capacities?

Policy proposal.—Funds should be allocated for continuing education of consumers relative to nutrition, while also providing foodstuffs to those in need.

Issue 4.—Should Federal Government policy for all Federally assisted housing developments for older people require meal services for group feeding of residents and for persons living nearby? Or, should the policy be to encourage provision of services and facilities for feeding within each household in the project (individual feeding) and for encouraging community agencies to provide for persons living in their own homes outside the development?

Policy proposal.—Funds should be made available by County, State, and Federal Governments to promote better nutritional programs for all the elderly in Federal Housing, home care agencies, and individual homes.

Issue 5.—Should the Federal Government assume the responsibility of making adequate nutrition available to every American? Or, should this responsibility be left to the individual, his family, and/or to the private sector voluntary groups and State and municipal agencies? If left to other than the individual or his family, should the fulfillment of the obligation be based on the provision of money income or the provision of food, facilities, and services?

Policy proposal.—It is recommended that the primary responsibility for elderly nutrition rest with the State and local agencies and that Federal funds be made available for this purpose.

Issue 6.—Should there be considerably more governmental control of the safety and wholesomeness of our national food supply? Or, should this be chiefly a matter of private and voluntary responsibility, with government controls left about at its present level or reduced?

Policy proposal.—It is recommended that there should be considerably more effective governmental control of the safety and wholesomeness of our national food supply.

Whereas :

(1) The *income level* to be eligible for commodities is too low and should be raised to an adequate amount per year for individual senior citizens over 65 years of age. Many seniors are living on very limited incomes, yet are not eligible for the food.

(2) The senior volunteer meal program should be eligible for *all* commodities offered by the USDA and not the very limited number now offered.

(3) Proportionment of the food offered to the seniors should be better balanced to fit their nutritional needs. They receive large amounts of commodities that are not easily consumed and small amounts of commodities that are easily and readily consumed.

Policy statement 1.—We recommend that the commodity food program through the USDA be changed to better fit the needs of all senior citizens.

Policy statement 2.—It is recommended that additional Federal funds be allocated for use in a program of public education relating to nutritional and medical fraud and quackery.

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO RETIREMENT

Issue 1.—Given that the normal age of retirement in the United States is currently around age 65, should current pressures to lower retirement age below 65 be discouraged or encouraged?

Policy proposal.—A worker should not be compelled to retire at age 65 if he wishes to continue working and is physically and mentally able to do so.

Issue 2.—Is there a need for new national policies as well as for publicly and privately supported programs to help workers who are forced to retire before the normal retirement period because of health and/or employment problems?

Policy proposal.—There should be programs directed more specifically to those who have to retire before the retirement age.

Issue 3.—Should society assume greater responsibility for helping people prepare for retirement years through some form of preretirement education?

Policy proposal.—The Federal Government should provide leadership and coordination to assure that local organizations provide preretirement education and counseling services.

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO RETIREMENT ROLES AND ACTIVITIES

Issue 1.—Does society, through governmental and private voluntary organizations, have a responsibility for developing new roles for older people and providing opportunities and resources to engage in these roles? Or, should society leave older people to their own initiatives and resources to develop and pursue appropriate retirement roles?

Policy proposal.—All levels of government and local community organizations should continue the expansion of present activities, particularly of neighborhood centers and multipurpose centers, and the search for new retirement roles for senior citizens.

Issue 2.—Given limited resources, which groups within the older population should receive first priority in terms of program efforts for meeting role problems or for creating new role opportunities? Should priority be given to those in greatest need—such as the very poor and the most isolated—or should such programs be designed to serve all of the groups or elements of the older population?

Policy proposal.—Federal, State, or local governments should provide the mechanism by which a separate ombudsman agency, expert in the rules, regulations and policies of all large administrative bodies such as Social Security, Department of Public Assistance, Veterans Administration, Immigration and Naturalization, and educational institutions, ensures services to senior citizens.

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION

Issue 2.—Should the Federal Government provide for the development of transportation systems (i.e., bus, rail, auto, air systems, etc.) and services exclusively for the elderly? Or, should they be developed for all users regardless of age?

Policy proposal.—Persons over 65 should receive rate reductions on a "space available basis" with all public transportation systems.

Issue 3.—Should the Federal and State Government require that transportation be an integral part of any housing or social services program for the elderly supported by Federal and State funds. Or, can greater accessibility to these services be better promoted by community coordination of available transportation systems?

Policy proposal.—Federal and State Governments should require that transportation be an integral part of any housing or social services program supported by Federal and State funds.

Issue 5.—Should the Federal Government support the development of programs designed to provide for the safety, comfort and convenience of the elderly as pedestrians, drivers and users of transportation systems? Or, should this responsibility remain at the State and local level?

Policy proposal.—Responsibility for the development of programs designed to provide for the safety, comfort, and convenience of the elderly as pedestrians, and drivers and users of transportation systems should remain at the State and local level in conformance with Federal Government regulations.

POLICY PROPOSAL OR POSITION STATEMENT RELATED TO SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING

Issued 1.—Should government cooperate with religious bodies and other private agencies to help meet the need of the elderly for spiritual well-being? Or, should this function be kept entirely as the responsibility of religious institutions?

Position statement.—We concur with the traditional American principle of the separation of church and state. Recognizing the freedom of religious institutions granted them by our government, we uphold the responsibility of each citizen to genuinely care for others and express this care in direct service.

Issued 2.—Should efforts to meet the spiritual needs of the aging aim to serve them in separate groups and programs designed specifically for the aging? Or, should they attempt to serve the elderly together with people of other ages?

Position statement.—To the greatest extent possible, the elderly should be served on an integrated basis.

ITEM 3. THE AGONY OF AGING, BY JEROME EDEN, PROJECT DIRECTOR, EASTERN IDAHO SPECIAL SERVICES AGENCY, SUBMITTED BY LANGDON LEEDY, IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

It has been said that the greatest tragedy of Life is that we all die. Whether we like it or not, death must inevitably come to all of us who are now living on this earth. There is little that men can do to prevent the inevitability of death, but there is a great deal that we can do to alleviate the suffering of Life.

A civilization can be judged according to the care it bestows upon two of its most helpless citizens—the infant and the aged. Both have special problems and needs—physical, nutritional, emotional. However, whereas our care and treatment of the infant have grown throughout our history, the senior citizen is often the forgotten victim of a society that is geared to "youth."

THE AGING PROCESS

As death is inevitable to all of us, so too is the inevitability of old age. The aging process is a slow return to almost complete dependency upon society. Small, formerly insignificant problems slowly assume gigantic proportions. As strength and faculties fail, it becomes increasingly difficult to get dressed in the morning, to cook a meal, to wash dishes, to do routine household chores. Former friends have left the community or departed the earth. Children have grown, and now they have their own problems and family burdens. Eyesight dims; hearing gets fainter. The graying chill of loneliness and isolation sit heavily, and time seems to have neither beginning nor ending. Memories run into one another and become blurred—the past and present merge into one long river of events.

But worst of all is the lack of human contact, of laughter and friendship, of participation in the doing of the day. The world appears to be getting farther away, and few notice the isolated, elderly individual who sits patiently waiting . . . waiting . . . waiting.

With each passing week it becomes more difficult to mow the lawn, to sweep the floor, to water the flowers. There is little extra money to pay the neighbor's boy to do these jobs, and you are too proud to ask for help. Money is running low and taxes continue to rise, along with medical bills, drug costs, and you haven't bought a new winter coat or a pair of gloves since . . . you can't remember.

AGONY OF AGING

You open a can of beans and a can of corn. No sense cooking when you have to eat alone, and food costs are getting so high that it is too difficult to try to plan a meal these days. You'd take down the storm windows if you had the strength, and the rug could use a cleaning; but what difference does it make—

nobody visits you anyway, so why bother. You'd like to go out for a drive, but your reflexes are too slow to compete with today's traffic, so you've given up driving altogether. And public transportation is just too costly for your limited budget. So you stay home.

Sometimes you sit in the twilight silence and tears flow from your eyes for no apparent reason. You've learned a great deal in your long and fruitful life, but now nobody seems to care for your opinions or your knowledge; and jobs are non-existent for people your age. Events of the day are confusing to you, and the new words being used are difficult to understand. When the telephone rings it is a wrong number. Your daily mail is either a bill or a circular. And when your neighbor does knock on your door she usually wants something.

Night is the worst time, when all of your cares seem magnified by the darkness and silence of the streets. You lie in bed and pray that your pains will not require a doctor—how could you get to his office, or even pay his fee? You'd like to talk to someone, just to settle your fears, but you can't think of anyone to call.

And thus we from helpless infancy to isolated old age. It is not a bright future to look forward to, regardless of how hard we have worked or how much we have contributed to our community and country. This gray and depressing future waits for all of us—rich or poor, regardless of education, background, or beliefs. Money alone cannot purchase friendship and human happiness; and besides, money has a habit of disappearing just when it is needed most. Past achievements, too, are doubtful passports into an uncertain future, because society has a habit of saying, "What have you done for us lately?"

However, whatever society does—or fails to do—for its senior citizens, it is really doing for itself! Because eventually, like it or not, want it or not, welcome it or not, we will all be old some day, faced with the very problems of the aged which we now ignore.

ITEM 4. THE INDIAN RENAISSANCE, BY PERRY SWISHER*

Among persons who are active in the Indian movement, the general opinion is that today's popular and governmental interest in the Indian won't last much longer. With the general public, not much beyond this year. In Congress and the Cabinet, about three more years.

The production of movies like the grotesque "Flap" and the noteworthy "Little Big Man" is part of a fad. If "Flap" is a measure of the industry's empathy, Indians hope the fashion is already dying.

Less than two years ago, Vine Deloria Jr.'s "Custer Died For Your Sins" was a best seller. Today Deloria's best and, for the general public, more readable book, "We Talk, You Listen," is selling only moderately.

Indian-power headlines probably peaked with the occupation of Alcatraz. Now the press and the air media offer in-depth Indian studies, but these are think pieces, not bulletins.

In 1967 and early 1968, Senator Robert Kennedy led an effort to shame federal, state and local government into recognizing and doing something about the neglect of Indians. The government effort is only now well underway, getting part of its push from the assumption that it should be fiscally easier to do something for 600,000 Indians than it has been to bring 20 million blacks into the economic mainstream.

But in a Nation of more than 200 million, the long-term prospects for an ethnic bloc of 600,000 do not include enduring national power politically. Only in 10 or 11 states and in a few city wards when urban Indians congregate can Indian power stake a permanent claim with its votes.

That is probably a fair estimate of the surface condition of Indian affairs in 1971.

It is misleading.

Out of the interaction between the dominant society and a truly different culture, lasting change comes to both. There were reasons for the re-emergence of the Indian.

The Indian renaissance coincided with the rise of concern over environment. Today it is the sophisticated Indian perception of the relation between man and nature that is taking hold; it is the naively rapacious white man's view that is being discredited. In this exchange, we non-Indians are reminded that there were people who venerated the earth and that we can and must learn from

*See testimony on p. 507.

them; the Indian is reminded that the white man's schools and technology can be enlisted in saving and restoring the land base, the streams, the wild-life and the cover.

The traditional Indian's total acceptance of the child as a fellow human being, and the extension of responsibility for the child beyond its own parents, and the inclusion and honoring of the elders, in the Indian community—this too caught our attention at a time when the containerized family of the industrial revolution had proved too narrow, too separate and too inorganize to remedy the stresses of modern life. What our youngsters are groping toward, what our schools are looking for, is closer to the Indian concept of community and family than it is to what we grew up with.

Romantics would have it otherwise, but those Indian bonds were largely confined to family and tribe. A new generation of Americans regards the world as its community. Infused into that generation, the Indian view transcends to all men, and our young see that Wounded Knee and My Lai are in the same tradition. This has become the first American generation to recognize the nature of genocide.

Finally, when there seemed to be no end to specialization, recognition of the Indian arrived along with the assertion that each may do his own thing—within the limits of social accountability, it is to be hoped—and along with an insistence on a guiltless approach to the use of leisure. The Indian mystique, within which every man is an artist and a witness to every mystery life offers, is way ahead of ours—standing there waiting, as it were.

The fad will die. But the therapeutic invasion of Indian values into the general culture has just begun. If *that* movement dies, we all die.

Appendix 2

LETTERS AND STATEMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

ITEM 1. LETTER FROM GEORGE McCOURT, SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB OF COEUR D'ALENE, TO SENATOR CHURCH, MAY 25, 1971

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB OF COEUR D'ALENE,
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, May 25, 1971.

HON. FRANK CHURCH: It would have been a pleasure to participate in the Idaho, White House Conference on Aging, but the simple fact is that I have been very busy working in other ways to achieve benefits for the elderly. One, the past few months was the \$75.00 property tax deduction for many of the elderly in Idaho. Have been busy in the VWW1 and the Scots and felt that I could not in good conscience attend when some one else had carried the many details thought necessary by the Idaho Office on Aging. It was a pleasure to serve as chairman of the first "SPEAKOUT" for the five northern Counties, and to help on the forums etc.

I do feel strongly that we elderly have a grave responsibility to the children, our youth and our society, for the health of our NATION. Would it be possible to have a few remarks recorded.

Leading modern nations have proven that a national health plan based on preventive medicine, is the only answer for adequate health services for a total society. Millions of our children can not lead a normal life due to the neglect of their mental and physical health. The lack of reasonable preventive care, can become a drain on our society, financially, and morally, a disruptive influence, when we need to unite. Crime, disease, drugs, a youth in revolt may all be a part of the failure to provide, the hope that youth needs.

Kaiser, Puget Sound Health Coop and many others have proven that better health at lower cost is possible, when doctors team up to prevent disease. It means financial security for doctors, plus more regular hours and as a doctor with the Puget Health said, "under this plan my efforts to aid the ill can be more successful, and a large number of doctors feel the same way but are afraid to publicly express themselves."

The people of this Nation will take pride in their government when they know it is concerned with their health. The other Nations of the World will have greater respect for a nation that is more concerned with the health of its people than in the power of its guns to destroy life.

The White House Conference on Aging can help make this plan possible, and all who help are making possible better health for all the children for today and tomorrow. It is time to remember that our Nation has been the greatest friend to free enterprise and deserves the loyalty of free enterprise. Not cries of bureaucracy for a National health plan.

Sincerely,

GEORGE McCOURT.

ITEM 2. PREPARED STATEMENT OF JOSEPH G. BEESON, BOISE IDAHO

My name is Joseph G. Beeson, Boise, Idaho. I am a retired Federal employee. I was born in the State of Mississippi on June 14, 1899. I will be 72 years of age on June 14, 1971.

Since I retired from Federal service on December 31, 1966, my main interest has been in working with the aging. In addition to many hours of voluntary work, I have at various times had temporary intermittent employment with The

Idaho Office on Aging. The most recent temporary employment has been working with The Idaho Office on Aging in organizing and training leaders for the Community White House Conferences on Aging, as well as the State White House Conference on Aging that was held at Boise, Idaho.

In 1970 I had temporary employment with The Idaho Office on Aging in organizing eight area Speak-Outs for Senior Citizens in eight different areas of Idaho. These Speak-Outs were held at Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Twin Falls, Boise, Nampa, Lewiston and Coeur d'Alene. In all of these speak-outs almost one thousand senior citizens had an opportunity to express their concerns and let their needs be known. The one thousand is not a highly representative group out of a total senior citizen population of about 90,000, but, believe me, they certainly did speak out.

The needs areas most commonly indicated in order of priority were about as follows: Income, Transportation, Health Care, Dental Care and Glasses, Estate Probating, Employment, Education and Re-training, Nursing Homes, The State Lien Law, The Lack of Federal Housing Authority-type Loans in Rural Areas, and Legal Counseling.

In all the discussions regarding income, the Social Security Program got the lion's share of criticism. There were such contentions as: (1) Social Security Benefits should be raised to a blanket \$120 per person instead of the fluctuating scale which is currently in effect. (2) The wife should not be called upon to forfeit half of her income benefits if her husband dies. If the wife dies, the husband's Social Security Benefits should not be reduced by a third. The unanimous contention was that once a payment is established for a husband and wife, it should be continued instead of being subject to reduction in case of demise. (3) The recipients of Social Security should be permitted to earn \$2500 annually before benefits are reduced. (4) The senior citizens felt that it is unfair that with an increase in Social Security there is a reduction in State Welfare Assistance. (5) The Medicare Program should be amended to cover prescription drugs, eye examinations and glasses. (6) Since health and affiliated problems seem to increase with aging, all monies expended for doctor bills, hospital bills, and drugs should be excluded from Federal Income Tax instead of the amount over 1% and 3%, respectively, as is now done.

TRANSPORTATION

The problem of transportation for the aging was mentioned as a serious problem, but the only solution proposed was some kind of subsidy.

HEALTH AND AFFILIATED PROBLEMS

The senior citizens spoke out loudly for increased homemaker service, home health aides, and visiting nurses.

Nursing homes should come in for some sort of assistance subsidy over and above that provided by Public Assistance to residents for their survival. The nursing home facilities should be improved. High on the list of "requirements" the senior citizens expressed was the need for boarding homes specifically for aged persons.

ESTATE PROBATING

Estate probating came in for a lot of criticism, especially the time element involved. (Idaho now appears to be trying to do something on this subject.)

EMPLOYMENT

Employment rated as a fairly high concern among the senior citizens taking part in the speak-outs. A large number of them are still capable of working and want to work, but because of age they cannot find employment. Most indicated they are capable of re-training. Some suggested volunteer work by them and for them. At one speak-out it was suggested a "Work Pool" be established. (At this time Senior Employment Service has been provided by Model Cities money and from the Office on Aging.)

HOUSING

The speak-outs indicated there was a great need for funds for home repairs, especially in rural areas.

LEGAL COUNSELING

As it is now, OEO provides some legal counseling for the indigent, but most senior citizens are referred to private counselors whose fees for service are generally prohibitive to the aging on Social Security.

The following are my own recommendations, even though they are somewhat generated by participation in the Speak-Outs:

All Federal funds coming into a state for the aging should be funneled through the State Office on Aging and not divided by some coming through the OEO in Community Action Agencies and some through the Office on Aging. The CAAs are so OEO-oriented that the funds for Aging are lost in the shuffle. There should be a separation of OEO and Aging because the OEO funds for Aging cause a segregation between the disadvantaged, the not so disadvantaged and the affluent. The Office on Aging is considered by all aging as their agency. If this office had all the funding for aging programs, it would act as a magnet to draw the aging together and they would be drawn together and the distinctions would rapidly disappear.

I belong to the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Boise Council on Aging, Inc. and the Friendly Circle. The greatest desire of these organizations is for a central Senior Citizens Center where all groups could have a designated place for meetings, crafts, art, counseling and recreation.

I am now working on an Action Committee of the Boise Council on Aging, Inc. as a volunteer. With some funds provided by Model Cities a survey is being made to determine the feasibility of a Senior Citizens Center for the Boise Model Cities and surrounding areas. We hope this will prove feasible and, if so, the center can be funded until it can become self-sustaining.

It is hoped that the foregoing will be useful to your Senate Special Committee on Aging.

ITEM 3. LETTER FROM MRS. AGATHA E. PALLISTER, PROJECT DIRECTOR, RETIREMENT JOBS OF IDAHO, INC., BOISE, IDAHO

Unemployment among people over 45 is increasing rapidly, due largely to layoffs to hire younger people who are flooding the labor market. It will increase much more if or when the armed forces are home. This will affect the urban areas as much or more than the rural. If the serviceman has been trained in skills that are not called for in the rural areas it seems apparent that his desires are to use them or seek further training that he can use in industry or business. The opportunity for greater income is in the urban areas until such time the farmer can realize greater profits from his land.

Retirement Jobs of Idaho was conceived for the purpose of seeking employment for persons drawing Social Security or having a fixed income from other sources such as Disability Insurance, etc. To refer men 65 years or older and women 62 years or older to part-time, temporary or permanent full time or part-time employment to subsidize Social Security benefits. When the determination was made in 1970 that people over 55 years of age were considered Older Americans, we changed our service to include 55 year old people.

At the present time 51% of the people applying for work are 55 to 62 for women and 55 to 65 for men. They are too young to draw Social Security and too old to be employed in their regular occupation. This is due to lack of training and experience in new methods adopted by employers who prefer to train young people who are potential life long employees, or for health reasons. Many persons over 55 are not able to take full time employment due to poor health. Many suffer from arthritis, high blood pressure, back and leg trouble, poor eye sight or hearing, and are not able to live on a disability income. Those in good health need full time employment but cannot find employment for the same reason they were displaced in the beginning.

On-the-job training for individuals 55 years plus may be one solution. But the employers must co-operate to the extent that a person will work and be trained for a specific job, and an opportunity for advancement will be available. Persons 45 years of age are in their prime of life, and policies of employers should not be allowed to be changed over night, so that one morning a man at 45 years of age is told he is too old. At 45, some persons will take advantage of formal training in order to earn a living until they are old enough to draw Social Security.

The Retirement Test is of great importance to people who are drawing Social Security. The financial need and psychological need for employment is strikingly apparent after a person reaches 65 years of age. It is surprising to note the drive

and energy in people to 85 or older. These are the fortunate ones who have maintained good health. The day a man reaches 65 he begins to feel unneeded or a burden to his family because of inadequate income. There have been instances of age discrimination in both Federal and State jobs. In some cases it has been contested and the people have been hired in Federal but not in State jobs.

A person can take part-time or temporary work but cannot make more than \$1680. in a year without sacrificing a part of his Social Security. Many can easily make \$1680 in skilled occupations, working on part-time or temporary basis the first five months of the year. If he draws \$125. Social Security or \$1500. for a year his total income is only \$3180. If he earns more than \$1680. in a year it is quite possible that in the following year he will not be able to find employment, and may sacrifice several months of Social Security.

Many feel they should be able to earn as much as they can without being penalized. It has been recommended by some groups of older workers that a minimum earnings of \$3600. a year be considered. Whereas, if a person is able to work on a temporary or part-time basis and they are drawing as much as \$125. a month Social Security, their income can be \$5100. a year. They will not be living in poverty, and can feel they are a part of society again.

Many employers have taken advantage of the Social Security Act, stating they would be in favor of hiring older people because they come cheap as they can make only \$1680. a year.

There are some applicants who need work for psychological reasons, and there are still many who need work for financial assistance. Regardless of financial status most applicants have expressed a willingness to help and have helped older people who are ill or who need home repairs, etc. and are unable to pay for it. They have offered their services free or for the cost of materials. This is their way of helping themselves and helping others in the community.

Summary: To increase the minimum earnings of people drawing Social Security to be \$3600. a year before a cut in their Social Security earnings is made.

ITEM 4. LETTER FROM LAWRENCE W. HEINRICHS, VICE-PRESIDENT, SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB OF DISTRICTS HEIGHTS, MD., TO SENATOR CHURCH, CHAIRMAN, DATED APRIL 16, 1971

APRIL 16, 1971.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In reply to your letter of March 30, 1971, the following matters are of major importance to the Senior Citizens:

1. Tax relief for senior citizens. Lower tax rates on real estate and income. Exempt the first \$6,000.00 in Civil Service annuities for federal tax. Raise personal exemption of federal income tax return from \$625.00 to \$1,200.00.
2. Low cost housing projects for senior citizens including rent control.
3. Reduce medical costs for senior citizens and retain full medicare provisions.
4. Reduce all transportation costs for senior citizens.
5. Provide a minimum Social Security payment of \$100.00 per month for all senior citizens who qualify.

It is possible that these matters can be answered by Senator Church by letter, thus making a trip by our committee to the Senator's office unnecessary. However, if you will advise me when the next open meeting of the Special Committee on Aging is to be held, I will arrange to have a representative from the District Heights Senior Club attend.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE W. HEINRICHS,
*Vice-President, Senior Citizens
 Club of District Heights, Md.*

Appendix 3

STATEMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE HEARING AUDIENCE

During the course of the hearing a form was made available by the chairman to those attending who wished to make suggestions and recommendations but were unable to testify because of time limitations. The form read:

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: If there had been time for everyone to speak at the hearing on "Evaluation of the Administration on Aging and Conduct of the White House Conference on Aging", in Boise, Idaho, on May 28, 1971, I would have said:

The following replies were received:

MRS. EMILY McDERMOTT, POCATELLO, IDAHO

I would have testified on matters contained in the policy recommendations, affirmatively that we of the "White House Conference on Aging in Boise" approved this morning.

ALTA MARTIN, COEUR D'ALENE

First I would have said thank you for just being you. My husband had some Indian money go astray and when we wrote to you we got action.

I'm so glad you are on our team. The value of administration cannot be measured. We of Coeur d'Alene have a need of a center and we will be calling on you for suggestions.

LUELLA A. HOUSER, BOISE, IDAHO

Thanks for what you've done for us senior citizens. When there are so many who are not even interested we lovingly refer to you as "Our Boy Frank."

MRS. HENRIETTA JONES, TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

What I heard was very good, but we were in the hall and with all the noise we lost quite a bit of the program. During the voting I would suggest each one talking to be given a mike. We could not hear any of that which we were very disappointed. Would it be possible next year to have our meetings in a building large enough to hold everyone who was at the meeting. I'm sure we lost a great deal and were disappointed. Being a veteran's widow WWI can there be any way for the veteran's administration let us keep our pensions? We are entitled to them. Is anything being to correct this?

BESSIE M. KROHN, WEISER, IDAHO

The income of retired persons would be somewhat increased if we could eliminate federal tax on retirement income!

ALFRED HOLMAN, EMMETT, IDAHO

Changes should be made in the social security rules that takes away the income of a widow that is drawing social security on her dead husband and if she remarrys she loses these benefits. So many of the people are forced to shack-up or live alone during their remaining years. This also affects them mentally as they are basically against shacking-up. Our laws makes criminals of our people. I recommend that they draw benefits on their deceased husband's social security even though they re-marry.

LAURA HOLMES, BOISE, IDAHO

More power to you on helping us low income to better living in the future. Thanks to you for your help and thoughtfulness.

MAY HOOPES, EMMETT, IDAHO

The Conference on the Aging was a "good job" well done. Just not quite enough time for everyone to express themselves.

In the morning program there was not enough room. The elderly should have been all in the same room instead of where they could not hear what was being said.

The elderly travelled a long distance not to be able to see and hear what was going on.

The conference was a wonderful thing for the elderly to participate in.

RICHARD J. HOLM, CASCADE, IDAHO

Ease off on foreign aid, military expenditures, quit shooting money in the air in the space programs. Utilize monies expended on above to enrich life of the citizens, both seniors and all age groups. I suggest this could be done as easily as wasting money as the 1st mentioned programs.

Perhaps an overhaul of social security to make possible better health service, better education at all age levels.

The senior service program has benefitted many people, if broadened it could continue to benefit all Americans. Stop Vietnam waste, let Chiang-Kai-shek support himself.

MRS. KATHRYN GREINER, BOISE, IDAHO

Mental Health needs: I would have spoken of the isolation, rejection of the "more mature" not only by society but also by their own families. The concept of uselessness is not necessary and can be avoided by pre-retirement planning, family counseling in understanding the needs and reasons for personality changes in the elderly members of their family, housing units for the "more mature" would employ a social worker in a "house manager concept" to be available to direct persons to the agency most suited to their problems. I would also have talked about using social workers in "more mature" community centers to encourage motivation and involvement not only in programs but also in organization of these particular citizens into pressure groups to demonstrate against their landlords, electors and whoever else is validly discriminatory against them!

KEN HAY, BOISE, IDAHO

Somewhere, sometime we will have to set up a method of low cost or free transportation for elderly citizens who are now unable to get drivers permits, etc., and are thereby sentenced to an armchair and solitude for life.

MRS. DAN GRAFF, BOISE, IDAHO

Some consideration should be given immediately to the elderly who require nursing home care, whose only income is from social security, no matter what the amount, when their savings are depleted due to the nursing home costs. Perhaps this is being taken care of in the amendment to your social security bill. If not, I feel this should be taken care of through social security and not left up to the whims of each state welfare department.

I have already discussed with your office the problem I'm having along this line regarding my parents. Hopefully in bringing their problem to your attention it will help the many other people around the country who must be similarly affected each time there is a raise in social security.

I would like to thank your office for the interest and help you are giving me with this problem and particularly to Clarene Wherry, who has been so helpful and so very nice.

RAYLENE ESTEP, BOISE, IDAHO

I would like to see more concern shown for nursing home patients. I would like to see a state wide recreation program for confined senior citizens.

I am activities director at one of the Boise nursing homes and I know first hand how much recreation, arts and crafts, entertainment, etc. can mean to confined oldsters. I think there should be a law requiring an activities co-ordinator in every nursing home in Idaho.

ESTHER M. GERBERDING, EMMETT, IDAHO

Able bodied ladies so desiring to help with our own living should be allowed to care for less abled people in our private homes without so much red tape. Rest homes are too confining, too expensive and not satisfactorily cooked for and cared for.

MARGUERITE GIBBINS, BOISE, IDAHO

I'm afraid we're asking far too much. We must not penalize our young people for our "years." Our benefits should only be for the people who are really in need and not given to people in high income brackets.

GLADYS AND RAY DOHERTY, BOISE, IDAHO

Boise is in great need of a senior citizens center where all groups can still have their special meetings, a place for dinners, dances, etc.

WESLEY E. ERNST, MCCALL, IDAHO

I was real pleased that you all helped to pass the resolutions which we had at the Capitol here in Boise this morning.

MRS. WESLEY ERNST, MCCALL, IDAHO

First of all, you came so far to speak to the senior citizens and we couldn't all get in the room to hear you. But, I know you are on our side and will do everything you can to help.

Please send me a copy of the Hearings held in Boise, Idaho on May 28, 1971.

HARLEY F. DAVIS, BOISE, IDAHO

I am department hospital chairman of WWI and have come in contact with senior citizens both men and women.

We have visited older people in the rest homes and sheltered homes and the old soldiers home and see the lonely souls there and I know of a certainty that it take the most of their money to go to these homes. A woman I know personally who put her husband in a rest home they took all his social security and pension and aid allowance. She had \$60. left for her. He was in the home for six years. She lost her home and now she has only \$138. per month for herself now. I am concerned for nursing home care both for men and women. Paid by local and state government as well as help from the government of the U.S. I have a program I would like to see put in force is a 100 bed nursing care ward on or near the V.A. hospital. Now the national care per veteran is \$13. per day.

ETHEL M. DETWEILER, EMMETT, IDAHO

I have thought there was a lot of advice on aging at the conference at Boise today.

MRS. CLARENCE CHARETON, COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

Working on the policy making group on nutrition I became very interested in better nutrition for the aged. I sincerely believe through our formed policies that we adopted the day May 28, 1971 and through the wonderful help and concern of Senator Frank Church, we will be able to meet our problems head on and solve them, for better nutrition for our aged, and I will continue to give my help to make this program work.

GERRY CODDINGTON, LEWISTON, IDAHO

I think that C.A.A.-A.O.A. and O.E.O. should definitely be kept going throughout our U.S. for the benefit of our senior citizens. I'm not a senior citizen as yet but I've done a lot of volunteer work with and for them and I've seen what it has done in our city and others for the elderly. There could never be enough done on behalf of our senior citizens. They have worked hard all of their lives to make for the younger people and what are they getting in return. More power to them. I'm a "Wrinkled Warbler" age 52. My husband is 63.

CLOYD CARRINGER, BOISE, IDAHO

A community building where we can all meet together and be able to have it so we can meet in more than once a week where several groups at once. We have around 18 different senior citizens groups but we don't have any place large enough to accommodate only a small group there is around 1000 or more in these groups but no place suitable to start a program that we can keep going.

RUTH CARTER, TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

My main concern for the present and future legislation, while I agree must be done is the funding. With the continued increase in social security tax E/R contribution, a great and greater burden is being placed on the employer. Perhaps there should be considered a ceiling on the E/R share of contribution?

B. CLARK, BOISE, IDAHO

Transportation, the day wouldn't be long enough, if I could get to the many things to do in Boise. Music week, concerts, plays and theater, volunteer work, senior citizen meetings, etc.

KATHRINE D. BUTCHER, BURLEY, IDAHO

That I agree in full, the report on (Senator Frank Church's) proposal to end poverty among America's senior citizens.

That there must be regulations on the rising prices of medicine and prescriptions for senior citizens.

That there is a need for housing units for senior citizens in Cassia County.

The Garden Gleam group of Cassia and Minadoka have wanted to sponsor a meeting place for senior citizens. Will give a barn donee to raise money for this project.

That rules and regulations in the Department of Public Assistance, as set up, do not give the help or assistance to senior citizens needed.

That all programs toward assistance for senior citizens should be handled by social security program.

LENORA BUTTS, EMMETT, IDAHO

Look into the needs of the people and judge where in each they can be talked into make the most of what they have at hand, with a few dollars to help from the government. This doesn't mean riches but need consideration of trying to do our best with what we have.

MRS. M. BOOK, EMMETT, IDAHO

More time and effort should have been spent on arrangements for the elderly that attended the conference. Poor seating arrangements, no thought was given to the food for the elderly may have no teeth and they were served celery, carrots and very little else. No thought was given at all for the people.

BRYAN B. BUNDY, CITY COUNCIL, LEWISTON, IDAHO

This conference was generally comprehensive and satisfactory. Your "supplementary income" proposal has real merit and should enjoy our (senior citizen) support.

It is gratifying to note efforts of senior citizens to (a) keep physically active, (b) keep involved in local, state, and national affairs, (c) add the benefit of their wisdom to the advancement of our nation.

Some cautions:

1. Keep our requests within the realm of strong economics (don't overdo or over demand).
2. Eliminate areas of duplication and conflict among policy statements.

LORA ALTIG, CALDWELL, IDAHO

I realize that many of the recommendations will meet the needs of millions more needy than I. But, we speak of dignity, honor, and independence but I do not appreciate being singled out so forcefully as "Senior Citizens" as if we are the only ones in need. Why not be called "Mature Americans"? I know that there are more than twenty million Americans over 65 years of age, that such a group does have power in voting and in consideration of worthwhile governmental policies. Why not be "Keen-Agers" as Mamie Capellan calls us? I wonder if we aren't demanding *too much*. "Not what my country can do for me, but what can I do for my country."

BEN BEHREND, ST. MARIES, IDAHO

I think the area of needs of the elderly was quite well covered. Much thought and effort was shown. I think a little more thought should have gone into defining specific areas to be covered to prevent it from bogging down, financial boondoggling. Solid reasons and controlled spending would help much in putting our requests over.

BETTY LOU MAW, BOISE, IDAHO

As a medical social worker who keeps certain older Americans, plan for and arrange for nursing home care, I am greatly concerned about the patient who can

secure nursing home payments from the D.P.H. but has no insurance for purchase of drugs or ancillary charges. Certain nursing homes will not accept a patient unless this is underwritten by a county or a relative. Many patients do not have relatives. Guaranteeing drug charges is at the whim of the various counties. Nursing homes are requesting a \$100.00 payment before accepting a patient.

I am also concerned about the older American who, for various reasons, is unable to live in his own home or a relative's home but is not a nursing home patient. Effort should be given to establishing and maintaining good standards for shelter care homes.

I am also concerned about the older American who can meet his financial needs but is isolated and lonely. He is sometimes undernourished because he eats alone. Many of these people have become withdrawn. We need outreach workers for these people as well as those in low income groups. These people should be sought out for community action programs. They could have much to offer if we could find a way to encourage their participation.

The Boise Council on Aging Inc. has recently signed a contract with the Boise City Council and Model Cities and hired a manager Webb Cox to assess the needs of a center and determine whether or not such a program is feasible.

LORETTA ROSENFELT, MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO

Please help get more money for prescription medicine also for false teeth and eyeglasses.

More for the aging less for the young ones who are able to work for their living. Hard work is good for these young men and women. I know it helped me years ago.

Thank you.

P.S. This is from 49 members of the Emore Senior Citizens.

MRS. H. L. MICKELSEN, WEISER, IDAHO

We want to be able to care for ourselves. We need help at times, and have had help. We hope now to be able to help ourselves more. We can give love and appreciation to many of the older generation and this they all need. There are so many lonely people in the older generation.

When Mr. Swisher spoke of being old—I much prefer being called "older" *not old*, for we grow older from the day we are born. Was happy to hear him talk of our Indian bros. & sisters and his concern for them and their diets. We owe so very much to the Indians.

Mrs. Dorothy George Baker—Tells us of the needs of the Indians. Please give them the help they need. We have taken their country from them. We should be considerate of them. We are the intruders.

Reverend Recalde—We need the Mexican people. If only Chavez were to stay out of the country and the trouble he stirs up.

WILLIAM R. MORRE, BOISE, IDAHO

I am Commander of V.W.W. 1, Sawtooth Barrack #217 Boise, Idaho. Part of my work takes me in to rest homes for Vet. of W W 1 and as we all know they are 65 years & over. One of the big problems for these aging Vet. is Transporation. Please give us some help to make life easier for these people to get to and from the places they would like to attend.

We are all behind you for the good work and efforts you have personally put in this.

I thank you Senator Church.

MRS. CLARA NELSON, JEROME, IDAHO

I wrote to you before and my problem is still the same. I am 58 yrs. of age & so not eligible for Social Security. My husband is 65 and our only income is his Social Security. My problem is that I have asthma & am unable to work and because I had not worked enough quarters in the past five years I am not eligible for disability even though I had worked many years prior to this & paid in to

Social Security for a long time. We have had to pay out so much for medicine & doctor bills that our small savings is almost gone. Is there anything that could be done about this?

MRS. W. H. POWERS, BOISE, IDAHO

Please get us some transportation. A lot of us can't go unless it is close enough for walking. Housing is also a big problem. I only have one room, and share the bath with two other apts.

T. ARNOLD PRESTGARD, IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

We can not expect the government to do all things for all people. The proposals were voted on by many who had not studied them. I did not agree with everything, but I think a lot of work and consideration has been done to prepare them. I agreed with most but a lot of study is needed to implement them, and eliminate duplication of responsibility.

JULIA M. PULLEN, BOISE, IDAHO

Medicare should be expanded to cover payments for Homemaker Services to allow elderly persons to remain in their own homes longer. This is economical from both the human and economic point of view. The opportunity to remain in familiar surroundings is much treasured by most older persons. They can function more adequately in accustomed surroundings as recent memory becomes less reliable. From the economic point of view this is much less expensive than nursing home care or even boarding home care if the latter *were* to be made available.

Meals on Wheels & opening schools for lunches for elderly would also be an important adjunct service for health & nutrition as well as helping keep elderly persons mobilized socially.

Provisions for the 2 above should be mandatory in all public-sponsored housing projects for elderly and should be available also to the handicapped.

JESSIE RIDDLEBARGER, NAMPA, IDAHO

Requests from Nampa, Idaho Senior Citizens:

1st—Sufficient income to be able to live in Senior Citizens Housing. Incidentally this fine lady eats only two meals a day because of low income and cannot participate in any *Senior Citizen projects* because of lack of money,

2nd—Help on taking care of one's health.

3rd—Nutrition—One lady bakes a cake and lives on this until it is consumed—followed by hot rolls, then cookies. Needed—*Instruction on Nutrition.*

4th—One person begged me twice to present her case of lack of transportation, because of low income and poor health.

5th—Longer Medicare help for Nursing Home stays.

6th—No restrictions on earnings after age 65 for persons receiving Social Security payments.

7th—That Vietnam War be ended.

FRANCES RILEY, BOISE, IDAHO

We really need more, low income families' housing in Idaho and Boise. The need for a central meeting center.

ALYCE ROZAY, POCATELLO, IDAHO

First, that is *one* of the greatest gatherings or movements in our day toward peace by helping to *still* fear and unrest. *Sound judgment* comes from good health; and financial security, freedom of expression through the arts (and such)

proper nutrition is the only way we can realize these attributes! We must feel well to appreciate anything!

Second, the wonderful policy proposals our committee has prepared and that we all have considered and voted upon today are positive steps toward legislation and final realization of them. What we have done or tried to accomplish will be in turn reflected in our younger generation in that they can at least partially adapt, use, or change to accommodate for them a happier old age or future.

I appreciated the dignitaries, the fine speakers, presentations of art, music and *all I have experienced today!*

EMILY RUSSELL, BOISE, IDAHO

That more adequate space should have been arranged for the elderly.

Many of the people traveled miles to attend the conference and ended up sitting in the hall.

More time should have been spent on preparing the luncheon for the elderly. Many of the people came from a great distance early, many with no breakfast and spent their money for so little. Many of the people didn't have the money to waste on a meal of this type and on the 28th of the month it was even worse as their money was almost spent. The elderly came from all over Idaho, this would have been an ideal time for a elderly group to cater the food for these seniors.

MRS. LEONE SCOTT, KELLOGG, IDAHO

I believe when more income is available, and the transportation problem is solved, the problems on aging will be partly solved.

There is a problem also, for the *wife* of a man retired on medical who is too *young* for Social Security *herself*. Job opportunities are nil. Education should be available to her, to help her get employment.

MRS. GLADYS W. SMITH, CALDWELL, IDAHO

I feel that in asking for so many services from our government that we might manage for ourselves, we overreach our goal of "independence, dignity, and honor," trade our right of individual choices, and endanger the whole concept of individual and independent provision for our life style; and if all our requests were implemented we would find the value of the American dollar sinking drastically in the world market.

We should keep in mind that we may be asking for so much that we create opposition that may defeat our whole program.

EDITH SMYTHE, ACEQUILA, IDAHO

Is there any way that we can get the gov. to match a Senior Citizen Fund for a building for their activities, such as dancing, games and other activities. We are having a Barn Dance this summer with the hope of getting a small fund to start this building.

MABLE E. STEVENSON, MARSING, IDAHO

I have always been interested in the betterment of the Human race. Have attended the all day session and do hope that some good may come from it.

DR. BOB TURNER, CALDWELL, IDAHO

I would like again to reiterate that, of all possible *health* services needed by the aging population, only *vision care* is needed by virtually 100% of *all!* Vision cure services should therefore be included in Medicare (or like program) as soon as possible.

MRS. VAUN STOCKTON, BOISE, IDAHO

The most recent personal problem, no doubt applies to many, as follows: My husband died last July ('70). He applied for S.S. at age 64 in June. Finally about Sept. the account was finally computed, and I started receiving S.S. on my husband's acct., then came notice there was an overpayment, and my checks were reduced accordingly. Then, this year either Apr. or May ('71), I received a check quite a bit larger than usual. In a few days a notice came that I had been overpaid, and would receive no check until Aug. Upon inquiring at the S.S. office I found they had paid on my husband's account to the 1st of Jan. 1970, when he did not even apply until June. Now, the account is so mixed up, I don't know if it is finally straightened out. Would it not be well for the social security recipient to receive an annual report, especially the first year.

I should like to see provisions made for senior citizens to be able to further their hobbies, as an example: oil painting, thru financial aid in tuition.

MRS. HERMAN, E. RIPLEY, HANSEN, IDAHO

Taxes, especially real estate and income taxes, are a burden to the retired citizen.

We have worked many years, purchased very few luxuries during the years in which we worked, in order to purchase a small tract of land and make a few other small investments in order to supplement our social security check, but income tax and real estate tax are taking a large share from this income. I think the senior citizen is entitled to consideration concerning taxes, in accordance with his financial standing. A piece of property purchased for \$30,000.00 with an annual income of \$1,960.00 should not be taxed at over \$300.00 per year real estate tax, plus income tax and maintenance expenses. At present day prices this does not leave a great deal of living expenses for a senior citizen.

MRS. DOROTHY J. ROBINSON, ST. MARIES, IDAHO

The prompt action on your proposed bill would be a solution, to the many and sundry problems of the aging.

ELLA ROSS, BOISE, IDAHO

I just want to thank you for the information that I have already rec'd. I enjoyed the hearing and am thankful I was able to attend. I also enjoy all your speeches and information gathered from your TV appearances.

Thanking you again.

ESTHER O. JARRETT, BOISE, IDAHO

We have discussed physical and mental requirements of the elderly, and offered solutions to providing proper housing, transportation, health care, nutrition, recreation and employment for the retired aged.

Even if all of these things were provided, we have still created a sterile atmosphere for many of these aged individuals for the lack of one other element. This is the provision for close companionship such as can be realized by the possession of a small household pet.

Pets are forbidden in the new housing units. Getting rid of a cherished pet is like losing a child. Many of the aged have raised large families and being alone is a traumatic experience for them. The presence of neighbors and other individuals does not fill this void. The need is for someone (or something) who is theirs (especially for women) to cuddle—scold—talk to—coax or pet—feed and otherwise be needed by. A cat or small dog will listen endlessly (and curl up on cold feet). They are responsive to all moods of the owner—anger, frustration, grief, job, sickness or health. Elderly people who want pets can occupy nearly the entire day with them. Couldn't we bend a little further and give them this too? Have you listened to an old person who had to dispose of a pet to get a home? I have. I've kept a small dog in a luxury apartment with no damage or

problem. Next year when I retire I would go to a hovel in the hills before parting with him.

I. Q. WOOD, BOISE, IDAHO

I would like to disagree with one of the inferred recommendations: "That we rely on Federal Help" money in place of local voluntary help." There will be places where we need some financial aid from the Federal government, but to depend on this would promote poor government. Therefore the various ways that different places have presented should be publicised and used to increase voluntary local help.

MRS. LOUISE WISE, EMMETT, IDAHO

Please help us Seniors; give us Jobs so we can be indepedent, I am a Registered Nurse Aide with Cap and pin; they say I am good but I can't get a nurse Job. I am too old I want be put to pasture so please help us Seniors. I am 66 years old can still cut the Mustard. Thanks.

W. D. WAGNER, BLACK FOOT, IDAHO

The income taxing situation is growing more serious with the passing of days. I believe, for our taxing salvation, we will eventually have to discard all exemptions, schools, churches, Foundations Etc., etc., and remove the graduated tax based on amount of the particular income. I am convinced this will remove Many losses due to cheating and other avenues. Why not begin now to work toward such a revision?

GUY R. SHAMBAUGH, DISTRICT MANAGER, BOISE SOCIAL SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION, BOISE, IDAHO

I have been hoping the Administration on Aging would be a really effective agency in stimulating, planning with, and supportive of efforts by and on behalf of the senior citizens of this country, so they might feel they are still having the opportunity to participate fully in a meaningful way with the every day life of the community.

I feel the AOA has not been given the financial support nor the recognition due it as a federal agency committed to the betterment of the senior citizens of this country.

In the area of providing better medical service to not only the Medicare and Medicaid enrollee, I feel those planning and legislating toward better medical services would be well advised to seek the advice of such as Elsie A. Georgi, M.D. Having learned something of her accomplishemnts to date including her large role in establishing family Neighborhood Health Centers in Watts, California, and also listened to a presentation by her, I am convinced she has much to contribute toward improving the delivery of medical services.

MRS. RENICE CARPER, OROFINO, IDAHO

I felt highly privileged to attend the Idaho White House Conference on Aging on May 28, and to participate as a voting delegate from Clearwater County.

A meeting of Senior Citizens was held in Orofino, Idaho on April 30, 1971 at which I was elected temporary chairman, and Mrs. Kathryn Schlader, Orofino, temporary secretary.

Mrs. Eunice Erickson, Supervisor, Community Action Agency, Inc., Lewiston, talked to us about ways and means of organizing a Senior Citizens Program in Clearwater County.

Our first step here is to provide a centralized meeting place where people of the city and surrounding communities may gather for social fellowship, to provide a new involvement in the community life of people within the senior citizens age group; to provide social, recreational and educational facilities on

a non-sectarian, non-political basis, to help each other toward useful re-involvement in the total life of the community.

In our far-flung community of small cities and towns in rural areas of Clearwater County, there is a need for transportation for elderly persons, who must rely on relatives, friends and neighbors to get them to doctors, hospitals, churches, shopping centers, recreation activities, etc.

These are the immediate needs of a Senior Citizens Program in Clearwater County.

I hope to see a Senior Citizens Center established in Clearwater County this year.

We are happy to have your vigorous leadership as Chairman of 1971 White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C.

MRS. ETHEL WILSON, TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

When our Social Security goes up a few dollars—then Medicare insurance raises the payments to them—also in the past year, water-power and natural gas have all raised their rates. Groceries, clothing and doctor office calls have all gone up—my question is how can we make ends meet? People have to either pay rent or home payments also.

Thank you, Mr. Church, for what you are trying to do for we older citizens and hope you can get the things done you talked of in Boise.

