

# AVAILABILITY AND USEFULNESS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ELDERLY MEXICAN-AMERICANS

---

---

## HEARINGS BEFORE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING UNITED STATES SENATE NINETIETH CONGRESS SECOND SESSION

PART 1—LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

DECEMBER 17, 1968



Printed for the use of the Special Committee on Aging

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1969

28-745

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, Jr., New Jersey, *Chairman*

ALAN BIBLE, Nevada

FRANK CHURCH, Idaho

JENNINGS RANDOLPH, West Virginia

EDMUND S. MUSKIE, Maine

FRANK E. MOSS, Utah

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, Massachusetts

RALPH YARBOROUGH, Texas

STEPHEN M. YOUNG, Ohio

WALTER F. MONDALE, Minnesota

VANCE HARTKE, Indiana <sup>1</sup>

EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN, Illinois

WINSTON L. PROUTY, Vermont

HIRAM L. FONG, Hawaii

JACK MILLER, Iowa

CLIFFORD P. HANSEN, Wyoming

GEORGE MURPHY, California <sup>1</sup>

PAUL J. FANNIN, Arizona <sup>1</sup>

EDWARD J. GURNEY, Florida <sup>1</sup>

WILLIAM B. SAXBE, Ohio <sup>1</sup>

WILLIAM E. ORIOL, *Staff Director*

JOHN GUY MILLER, *Minority Staff Director*

Part 1—Los Angeles, Calif., December 17, 1968.

Part 2—El Paso, Tex., December 18, 1968.

Part 3—San Antonio, Tex., December 19, 1968.

Part 4—Washington, D.C., January 14, 1969.

---

<sup>1</sup> Five vacancies in committee membership were caused by the departure from the Senate of Senators George A. Smathers (Democrat, Florida), Wayne Morse (Democrat, Oregon), Edward V. Long (Democrat, Missouri), Frank Carlson (Republican, Kansas), and Thurston B. Morton (Republican, Kentucky). With the adjustment early in 1969 of committee party ratio from 13-7 to 11-9, one Democratic vacancy existed and was filled by Senator Hartke. Senators Murphy, Fannin, Gurney and Saxbe were appointed to fill the remaining vacancies.

# CONTENTS

---

	Page
Opening statement by Senator Ralph Yarborough, presiding.....	1
Cohen, Wilbur H., Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; letter, dated November 15, 1968, to Senator Yarborough.....	4

## CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF WITNESSES

Roybal, Hon. Edward R., a Representative in Congress from the 30th District of California.....	6
Montenegro, Sal.....	12
Flores, Augustine.....	13
Brown, Hon. George E., Jr., a Representative in Congress from the 29th District of California.....	15
Languille, Monsignor presented by Jose A. Vargas, Jr.....	18
Galindo, Ignacio, director, Southwest Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.....	19
Offenberg, Max, M.D.....	21
Vargas, Jose A., Jr., assistant director, Catholic Youth Organization.....	23
Salazar, Russell, director, East Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce.....	24
Walker, John, director, Los Angeles County Department of Senior Citizens Affairs.....	31
Colima, Mrs. Helen.....	32
Flores, Mrs. Pauline.....	33
Soria, Mrs. Juanita.....	34
Zabala, Carlos.....	35
Debs, Hon. Ernest E., supervisor, Third District, County of Los Angeles.....	38
Rios, Anthony, program and personnel administrator, Los Angeles Community Service Organization.....	42
Hahn, Hon. Kenneth, supervisor, Second District, County of Los Angeles.....	46
Tapia, Abe, president, Mexican-American Political Association.....	50
O'Loane, Glen, chairman, East Los Angeles Labor Community Action Committee.....	50
Dieppa, Ismael, former director, Economic Opportunity Commission, Santa Cruz.....	54
Moore, Joan, Ph. D., University of California, Riverside, and Gerontology Center, University of Southern California.....	60
Russell, Mrs. A. M. G., chairman, State of California Commission on Aging.....	65
Uridel, Thomas V., project director, Alviso CSO Family Health Center, Alviso, Calif.....	72
Fregosi, Anthony, Mexican-American Foundation.....	76
Guzman, Prof. Ralph, political science, California State College at Los Angeles.....	78
Ramirez, Mrs. Herminia Lewall, Benito Juarez Senior Citizens Group.....	82

## APPENDIXES

Appendix 1. Additional material from witnesses:	
Item 1: Material submitted by Glen O'Loane, East Los Angeles Labor Community Action Committee.....	87
Item 2: Material submitted by Ismael Dieppa, ACSW, executive director, Economic Opportunity Commission, Santa Cruz County, Inc., Calif.....	88

IV

APPENDIXES—Continued

	Page
Item 3: Material submitted by Mrs. A. M. G. Russell, chairman, State of California Commission on Aging-----	93
Exhibit A. Article from the Azusa Herald, October 9, 1968, entitled "Ex-Deputy Sheriff Works With Senior Citizens Groups"-----	93
Exhibit B. Article from the La Puente Valley Journal, entitled "Pairs To Serve as Aging Coordinator"-----	94
Exhibit C. "Elderly Mexican-American," a report from protective services for older people, San Diego, Calif-----	94
Appendix 2. Letters and statements from individuals and organizations:	
Item 1: Statement of Arlyn B. Carr, district manager, Social Security Administration, San Diego, Calif-----	97
Item 2: Letter from Jean Maxwell, School of Social Work, San Diego State College, California-----	97
Exhibit A. Statement by Mark Schiffrin, ACSW, San Diego State College, Field Center on Aging, San Diego, Calif-----	99
Item 3: Statement by Dionicio Morales, executive director, Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation, Los Angeles, Calif-----	100
Item 4: Report submitted by Adolpho Reyes, special projects committee, Eastland Community Action Council, and Greater Los Angeles Committee on Aging, California-----	102
Item 5: Material submitted by Armando A. Zavala, attorney, California Rural Legal Assistance, Modesto, Calif-----	105

# AVAILABILITY AND USEFULNESS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ELDERLY MEXICAN-AMERICANS

---

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1968

U.S. SENATE,  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING,  
*Los Angeles, Calif.*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in room 740, New Hall of Records, 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, Calif., Senator Ralph Yarborough presiding.

Present: Senator Ralph Yarborough, Texas; Representative Edward R. Roybal, 30th District of California; and Representative George E. Brown, Jr., 29th District of California.

Also present: William E. Oriol, staff director; John Guy Miller, minority staff director; and Margaret L. Brady, assistant clerk.

## OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR RALPH YARBOROUGH, PRESIDING

Senator YARBOROUGH. The Senate Special Committee on Aging will come to order.

We will begin hearings today on the availability and usefulness of Federal programs and services to elderly Mexican-Americans.

We are holding this first of our hearings here in Los Angeles for several reasons. After this hearing here today, we have a hearing tomorrow in El Paso, Tex., the next day in San Antonio, Tex., and in January in Washington, D.C.

I am honored today to be joined here by two able and distinguished Members of the House: Congressman Roybal and Congressman Brown, and we know that at the hearing that was held on June 24, 1967—Saturday, June 24, 1967—both Congressman Edward Roybal and Congressman George Brown testified here for the bilingual education bill, the first bilingual education bill ever introduced into the Congress of the United States.

It was introduced in January of 1967. With their help, we got action. It became law in December of 1967.

I want to welcome them both to this Senate committee. They are gaining the forefront of efforts to aid the Mexican-American segment of our population in our community.

You, in California, have 40 percent of all people of Mexican-American descent in the United States.

We, in Texas, have 37.9 percent of that population. While you have a small percentage more than us of the total Mexican-American popu-

lation, it is not a bigger segment of your population, as our Mexican-American population is of our Texas population. You have 20 million people, and we have only 11 million in Texas.

Now, among other reasons for holding hearings—with this great leadership that has been furnished by the county board of supervisors, which helped us and which made this room available, along with the aid of Congressman Roybal and Congressman Brown—another thing, the concentration of Mexican-Americans in Los Angeles County is the largest in any one county in the Nation. Approximately 250,000 Mexican-Americans are living in east Los Angeles, and approximately 700,000 in the entire county.

I have been advised that an estimated 70,000 people of Spanish surnames in this county are past age 65, and perhaps twice that many are aged between 55 and 65.

We have had great assistance and leadership here. For example, we want to learn today from these witnesses about your bilingual family-aid program in the East Los Angeles Senior Citizens Center, your community services organizations and the questions raised about public housing by the east Los Angeles labor community organization.

We have much more that we want to discuss. You have witnesses; you can furnish information to people on these issues.

Another reason our Senate committee comes here is the successes and hopes that you have for the Los Angeles elderly in this community. We hope these might be transmitted to other areas where they haven't moved quite as far forward as you have.

I think I have some areas in Texas that have not been quite as progressive in this area as you in Los Angeles County.

And the final reason for coming to Los Angeles County, as I have mentioned, is the high leadership that you have here in this area of the bilingual education bill.

We have no bill today, or legislation in front of our committee because this is the Special Committee on Aging. Now, the special committee has no legislative power. It investigates, finds the needs, and reports to the legislative committee.

But I am also on the Subcommittee on Aging of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, which does have legislative power, and this special committee will report over to that, and I will know what we are reporting over to our other subcommittees.

We hope to move in the needed fields.

Now, with the bilingual bill, we are concerned mainly with youth. Our goal was to open the road to equality for the Mexican-American youngsters who were denied the educational opportunities because of language barriers and problems related to language barriers.

#### OBLIGATION TO THE ELDERLY

Our obligation to the children is deep, because their future is the Nation's future, but our obligation to the elderly is deep, too. In the Older Americans Act of 1965, the Congress has declared that the United States is pledged to help aged and aging Americans lead secure and satisfying lives. That pledge applies to all older Americans, including members of minority groups, yet within the past year the Special Subcommittee on Aging has received disquieting reports

about unique problems faced by elderly citizens of Mexican heritage in this Nation.

The chairman of our committee, Senator Harrison A. Williams of New Jersey and I have been in touch with the Administration on Aging and the executive departments of other Federal agencies to inquire about the problems caused by communication failure; that is, the failure of people administering the laws to communicate with the aging Mexican-Americans concerning their rights under the laws, or inadequate resources to provide much needed programs for the elderly Mexican American.

Sometimes the local community is not as strong or rich a county as Los Angeles, and can't provide that need, to bring about the implementation of the Federal law.

Senator Williams and I have discussed these problems, and he asked me to conduct this special study which begins here today. We will have our wrap-up hearings in Washington, where we will have more members of the committee participating.

I am glad to have this responsibility, because it is a twofold interest of mine, first, because I have been a member of this Special Committee on Aging since December 1963, and I am also a member of the Legislative Committee, and this committee helped to make the case for medicare and the Older Americans Act of 1965 and for the social security increases.

This Special Committee on Aging doesn't have the power to enact laws and pass them out to the full Senate, but we make recommendations, and we put our shoulder to the wheel for medicare and for the Older Americans Act, and for that increase in social security voted this year.

So this committee, though it has no power to bring a bill out, does have power to put the full effort of the committee back of legislation, and prod other committees into doing something—and we have.

My work on the committee has helped me to understand, bad and good, what has happened in the lives of 20 million Americans now of age 65 or beyond, and the tens of millions who are approaching that age, to have better health care.

We are going to have more older people in this country than we have ever had before, and the problem merits the attention of Congress.

Service on the committee, together with my near lifelong concern about Mexican-Americans, when as a young lawyer in El Paso, Tex.—I lived there for 3½ years—and formed some familiarity with this problem, and that led me to ask, even before Senator Williams and I had our talk, whether the Federal programs and services are really helping—or even reaching—older Mexican-Americans in the Southwestern States.

#### RESPONSE FROM AOA

I directed a question to the Federal Administration on Aging. The answer I received was disquieting as to what was being done. The Federal Administration on Aging told me the following things:

- (1) Difficulties encountered by some communities in meeting matching requirements for Federal programs under the Older Americans Act. The local communities couldn't put up the matching funds, therefore it was inoperative.

(2) Shortages of bilingual staff members needed to make programs effective. It was very critical in some areas. Sometimes the regulations were only in one language.

(3) Grave research deficiencies must be overcome if Federal and local agencies are to have a factual basis for appropriate programs or services. We have got to have the facts to know what to do.

Fortunately, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is maintaining a deep interest in the elderly Mexican-American. I have a letter from Secretary Wilbur Cohen of Health, Education, and Welfare, who, on November 15, answered several questions I posed to him on October 14, because of research findings I had received from an informative study in Lubbock, Tex. The Secretary made it clear that his agencies are attempting to deal with many problems of special concern to elderly Mexican-Americans.

I think it is safe to say, however, that his letter also points up the need for even greater efforts. I hold a copy of this survey finished August 28 of this year, at Texas Technological College at Lubbock, Tex., showing the great problems of the Mexican-Americans in Lubbock, Tex.

We extended our inquiries to other cities and found the problems were even more acute in some other areas.

When we get to the final hearing in Washington in January, we will give the Federal officials who have jurisdiction over these programs an opportunity to be heard. We are now in the field to get the facts from people who best know them—these facts from first-hand experience.

(The letter referred to above follows:)

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,  
Washington, D.C., November 15, 1968.

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: It was good to hear from you once again and heartening to realize that you continue to share my *own* constant concern over how well this Department is doing in becoming aware of the special needs of different segments of our society and then showing both initiative and flexibility in responding to them.

The questions you posed in your letter of October 14th were these:

1. What conscious efforts is DHEW making to overcome the language barrier in order to insure that aged Mexican Americans (and Puerto Ricans) are aware of, and receive the benefits of government health programs? In particular, what outreach techniques have been used in these efforts?

2. Is any additional legislation needed in order to insure the delivery of health services to Spanish-speaking aged?

In order to provide you with as comprehensive an answer as possible, I requested the three agencies in the Department with program interest in this area—the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Public Health Service (PHS), and the Social and Rehabilitation Service (SRS)—to review their efforts and report back. As I examined their responses to your first question, it appeared to me that our efforts could be categorized as follows:

- (a) Our own efforts at outreach;
- (b) Efforts to stimulate outreach activities by state agencies which administer some of our programs in the field;
- (c) Efforts to insure or improve bi-lingual capabilities—in staff and informational materials—at facilities where either medical services to the aged or information on how to obtain them are provided;
- (d) Efforts to determine how to improve the delivery of our health service—including additional bi-lingual outreach activity.

Both SSA and PHS reported direct outreach efforts of their own to insure that the Spanish-speaking aged are aware of the programs they administer. You may recall that during Medicare's original enrollment period extensive efforts were made to inform all eligible persons about the program. To start, SSA sent direct mail notification to all social security beneficiaries who would be eligible



for Medicare. While this part of the initial effort carried information in English only (with the exception of the mailing in Puerto Rico, which carried Spanish language enrollment forms), it was rapidly followed up by the "Medicare Alert" outreach operation. Conducted together with OEO, "Medicare Alert" provided for a door-to-door canvass to seek out eligible persons. The canvassers were local community aides recruited through OEO's Community Action Agencies and, in those areas with substantial Spanish-speaking populations, every effort was made to assure that a good number of them were bi-lingual. In addition, SSA conducted a national Medicare information campaign using all mass media, and special materials in Spanish were prepared for and used in the Southwest states and the New York City area.

During Medicare's recent open enrollment period SSA again engaged in a major public information program through the various communications media. Direct contact was made with those individuals who had initially declined to participate in the program to ensure that they were informed of the new opportunity to do so. Again special activities were directed toward Mexican-American communities in the Southwest. In the San Francisco and Dallas regions, SSA worked with the OEO and with various public and Mexican American community agencies in an intensive effort to reach this population with Medicare information. Since you mentioned Station KFLD in your letter, you will be pleased to know that the Social Security District Office in Lubbock has a program in Spanish at 1 p.m., 6 days a week, on KFLD. This program began on November 20, 1967, shortly after the station began operation.

Just this last summer, SSA engaged in a project in 44 cities which once more used a door-to-door canvass in various communities designed to provide social security information and to locate individuals who may be entitled to social security benefits but who in fact were not receiving them.

This canvass was conducted by Youth Opportunity Campaign Trainees and counselors indigenous to the communities being surveyed. A number of these surveys were made in Mexican-American communities, specifically those of El Paso and San Antonio in your state.

The success of all of these efforts to reach the public might be measured by the fact that virtually all eligible persons have been enrolled for Part A (Hospital Benefits). Almost 95 percent of the eligible population have enrolled for Part B, (Supplemental Medical Insurance Benefits). As a matter of interest, the Part B Medicare enrollment in the State of Texas is approximately 95 percent.

Turning now to PHS's direct outreach efforts, I have learned that the agency funded the production of three Spanish language health films which are available to community groups. It has also developed and distributed a number of 3-minute radio spot announcements in Spanish on health subjects—some specifically directed toward the aged. These radio spots are currently in use along the border and in most of your state's large cities.

While SRS is not conducting direct outreach efforts, about two months ago Miss Mary E. Switzer, the agency's Administrator, issued a letter to her counterparts in the various states urging immediate planning—at both state and local levels—of steps to take to meet the problem of making SRS programs known and more accessible. Among the suggestions she offered to implement the goal of making program information known to those who need it were the employment of bilingual staff from the "barrios" to interpret the programs and to reach out to applicants and potential applicants as well as the "preparation and dissemination of explanatory materials on program requirements, written in simple, comprehensible terms, and translated into Spanish and other languages as may be indicated by the population served."

Also in line with our efforts to stimulate outreach activity by the state agencies which administer so many of our programs in the fields is a PHS grant which supports the Texas State Health Department's Health Education Division in its own efforts to produce easy-to-understand health education materials in Spanish.

Our agencies are making varied and substantial efforts of their own to insure or improve the availability of bilingual staff and informational materials at facilities where the Spanish speaking aged either receive medical services or arrange to receive them. For example, SSA by now has bilingual employees in practically every office serving either the Puerto Rican and Mexican American communities, and is constantly making an effort to increase the Spanish language capability in these offices by seeking out and hiring persons from these communities. Further, some of SSA's Medicare program pamphlets are available in a Spanish language version.

Similarly, the PHS reports that almost all of the local health services in the border area have some bilingual staff members. In agencies farther from the border where bilingual personnel is less available, emphasis is placed not only on in-service training for professional workers in how to use interpreters but also on increasing the number of Mexican Americans receiving training as clinic, hospital, and home visiting aides, sanitation workers and licensed practical nurses.

PH's Migrant Health Division has published an English-Spanish dictionary of commonly used health and medical terms as well as a manual for nurses on how to improve communication with Spanish speaking patients and has widely distributed both of these items to local health agencies in the Southwestern states. In addition, of the 50 health workers serving all age groups in the migrant population in Texas as a result of project funds, at least 45 are completely bilingual.

Moving now to the last category of our response to your first question, SRS now has a recently completed research project which focused on the development of a methodology to study the delivery of health services to low-income families which includes an appraisal of service to the aged. Equally to the point, PHS has just launched a project whose objective is the development of effective methods of communication between health service agencies and the people they must serve. Five teams of health workers will work in five minority group communities, one of which will be predominantly Mexican American, experimenting with ways to reach out and involve people in the health services they need and want.

Our response to your second question is much simpler and quite brief: our ability to insure the delivery of health services to the Spanish-speaking aged, will in our view, depend more upon our *joint* determination to accept the existence of, and respond to, special needs within the framework of existing legislation than upon additional legislative authority. Our real needs in the area of delivery health services are better organization and more trained health personnel. We look forward to your continued support and encouragement as we struggle to obtain a more effective use of our resources.

Sincerely,

WILBUR J. COHEN,  
*Secretary.*

Senator YARBOROUGH. I welcome this opportunity to hear once more from our friends in Los Angeles, and I wondered if my colleague in the Congress, Hon. Edward Roybal, House of Representatives, 30th District of California—we would like to hear from him.

He has studied the problem here a long time, and he is familiar with the problem.

**STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD R. ROYBAL, A REPRESENTATIVE  
IN CONGRESS FROM THE 30TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Congressman ROYBAL. Thank you, Senator Yarborough.

First of all, I would like to welcome you to the 30th Congressional District, and welcome you to the city of Los Angeles, and thank you for the interest that you have personally taken in spotlighting the serious efforts to help our older citizens that require professional attention and action.

I would like to thank you for the great interest that you have taken on behalf of the Mexican-Americans in the United States and for your leadership in the presentation of the bilingual bill and the tremendous effort that you have exerted in seeing to it that that bill was passed, and the funding that was subsequently available by the Congress of the United States.

I think that without your leadership, that this would not have become a reality and I thank you publicly for your assistance and help.

I also ask unanimous consent, Senator, that my statement be included in the record in its entirety. I wish to summarize it, and I

also ask your consent that I yield the balance of my time to Mr. Augustine Flores and Mr. Sal Montenegro, who will discuss the basic problems of housing as it affects the Mexican-American community.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The whole statement of Congressman Roybal will be inserted in the record as requested, in addition to the summary that he will give, and the testimony of the persons to whom he yields to give that testimony when he is finished with his statement.

(The statement referred to follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD R. ROYBAL, REPRESENTATIVE,  
30TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Chairman and Members of the subcommittee: It is a pleasure to welcome you and the other distinguished members of the Committee to Los Angeles. We, who serve in the House, have long appreciated the excellent work that the Senate Special Committee on Aging has done over the years in spotlighting the serious problems of our older citizens that require Congressional attention and action.

I want you to know that this hearing is of special significance to the people in my District, to the Mexican-American community in our entire Los Angeles area, and to every older person who is of Mexican descent in our nation.

I hope that you receive informative testimony in today's hearing, and in the others which you have scheduled in the Southwestern States, that will result in immediate constructive and practical efforts to assist senior citizens in the Spanish-speaking community.

Mr. Chairman, during the six years that I have been a member of the Congress, I have had the opportunity to introduce and vote for a number of constructive pieces of legislation to benefit older people. Medicare, Social Security improvements, the Older Americans Act, the Model Cities program, the Act to Prohibit Age Discrimination, and many other federal laws passed by the Congress in recent years have all had my strong personal support and commitment.

But, I am also aware that the passage of legislation does not automatically solve the problems that specific legislation is designed to combat. Much depends on the manner in which such programs are administered and on whether or not particular groups have uniform access to the new or expanded facilities or services which result.

I understand this is one of the basic reasons for the scheduling of this series of hearings on the elderly Mexican-American—the availability and usefulness of Federal programs and services to this group in our older population.

I believe that much more positive steps are needed by those administering various Federal programs serving the elderly to insure that the present benefits and entitlements are made more generally available to those communities and States where there is a high concentration of people of Mexican-American descent.

I also believe that we have not done enough, in certain federal programs, to assist all older people in their needs for more adequate incomes, improved health and medical care, better housing, meaningful community services, and greater opportunities for increased social and economic participation in employment and volunteer programs.

Let me discuss both of these points in some detail.

First, the matter of existing Federal Programs. The problems of the Spanish-speaking senior citizen are common to those experienced by aged persons of any minority group who have suffered economic and social discrimination throughout their lifetimes. Their needs run the entire gamut of basic human needs—lack of income, poor health, inadequate housing, and problems in obtaining access to necessary health, social, educational, and recreational facilities and programs.

A few recent studies, however, have particularly identified unique and special problems faced by older Mexican-Americans. The foremost of these is the problem of communication. As a rule, the major language spoken by the older Mexican-American is Spanish. Yet, few agencies and programs make a major effort to employ staff who are bilingual. Thus, there is an immediate problem in how to bridge this communication gap which often is so serious that the elderly Spanish-speaking person may be denied a service or a benefit to which he or she is entitled under the law.

## STATE OF SOCIAL DEFICIENCIES

Second, there appears to be little evidence that much State and local programming is done with any particular emphasis or priority on the needs of the Mexican-American aged. As the Committee knows, the majority of these persons live in the 5 Southwestern States of our nation—California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

While there are some individual projects and programs underway in these States that do directly serve Communities where there are large numbers of Spanish-speaking elderly, they only represent, in my opinion, a beginning effort and are not as comprehensive as I would like to see.

Therefore, I am suggesting the following recommendations for the consideration of the Committee as possible means of strengthening existing Federal programs to better serve the older members of the Mexican-American community:

1. Those administering Federal programs for older Americans, including state and local governments, should make a particular effort to see that programs are adapted to take the unique cultural background and language problems faced by the Mexican-American into account. Information on programs should be translated into Spanish, and, in those States where there is a large concentration of Spanish-speaking aged, employment of bilingual staff should be required.

2. Particular efforts should also be made to see that Mexican-Americans are included on policy making and advisory boards in States where there are larger numbers of Mexican-American aged.

3. Special educational approaches should also be made through appropriate use of press, radio, TV, and other media to acquaint the Spanish-speaking community with the various programs and services available to older people. I believe that such an effort could be launched by the Federal Administration of Aging (AoA) in cooperation with State commissions and agencies on aging.

4. In order to give the needs of all minority group aged the attention that is merited, I would suggest that a special study group of the forthcoming White House Conference on Aging of 1971 focus on the special problems faced by Negroes, Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Indians and other minority group aged.

5. Finally, I recommend that the Administration on Aging of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare sponsor a regional conference to bring together a number of civic, business, and professional leaders who are vitally interested in services to the Mexican-American, including community leadership, with representatives of the AoA, other federal agencies, and State agencies on aging in California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas—for the purpose of discussing ways in which programs and services could be developed or expanded for the Spanish-speaking elderly. The Inter-Agency Committee on Mexican-American Affairs could help arrange and cosponsor such a Conference.

But, it is clear to me that the circumstances of older Spanish-speaking persons can only be dramatically improved by action in the Congress to achieve new legislative gains for older Americans generally.

## PROPOSALS FOR CONGRESS

In this regard, here are some of the proposals which I believe should be actively considered in both the House and Senate:

1. A substantial increase in Social Security cash benefits to levels of greater decency for all older people. In particular, I favor a major "across the board" increase, raising the minimum payment to beneficiaries, plus a provision to automatically adjust benefits to changes in the cost-of-living and the nation's economic growth.

2. The provision of comprehensive health coverage under Medicare, with the first steps to include payment for the cost of prescription drugs furnished outside of the hospital, and elimination of the present deductibles charged under the medical insurance part of Medicare.

3. Increased funds for the Model Cities program, the rent supplement program, and for special housing programs for low income senior citizens. The Mexican-American in our nation, regardless of age, must have a wider range and choice of housing than is now available to him. Urban-oriented programs

such as the Model Cities program could be extremely helpful to the Mexican-American elderly, 78 percent of whom live in urban or larger metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles.

4. Expansion of the Older Americans Act and programs like the Foster Grandparent Program. The Older Americans Act has become a major source of developing community services and opportunities for older Americans. I believe the provisions of the Act should be expanded with particular reference to developing a broader range of community services for older people, funds for construction of senior centers, the carrying out of food and nutritional programs particularly for the low income elderly, and expansion of the Foster Grandparent Program and other service programs which could use the talents and abilities of older persons in meeting the needs of children and other older people.

5. Finally, action to eliminate the citizenship and other punitive eligibility requirements in the Old Age Assistance program seems long overdue. Though varying from state to state, these requirements are especially harmful to the Mexican-American elderly who are often denied aid even though they may have worked in this country most of their adult lives. I think that the federal law should not permit such requirements to be imposed by the States. It is one of the worst kinds of discrimination and results in great human hardship.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the steps and measures I have outlined would benefit all older people in our nation, not merely those of Mexican-American descent.

For, even though the Spanish-speaking senior citizen has special problems arising from his unique situation, he is an American and has contributed much to our national heritage and strength as a people.

There is nothing special about making special efforts to see that his rights to programs enacted under the law are made available in just proportion to his needs and circumstances. In fact, I would submit that this is the obligation and responsibility of government to all of its citizens, regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin.

Thank you.

Congressman ROYBAL. I thank the Senator for including my testimony in the record, and for permitting both Mr. Flores and Mr. Montenegro to testify.

First I would like to discuss in summary the Federal programs. The problems of the senior citizens are common to those occurring to aged persons of any minority group who have suffered economic and social discrimination throughout America. Their needs run the entire gamut of basic human needs: the lack of income, poor health, inadequate housing, and problems of obtaining access to the necessary health, social, education, and recreation facilities programs.

A few recent studies, however, have particularly identified the need and special problems faced by older Mexican-Americans. The foremost of these is the problem of communication.

As a rule, the major language spoken by the older Mexican-American is Spanish, yet few agencies and programs have made provisions in their programs to employ staff that is bilingual. This is an immediate problem, and how to bridge this communication gap, which often is so serious that the elderly Spanish-speaking person may be denied the service or benefit to which he is entitled under the law.

There appears to be little evidence that much in the way of local and State programs is done with any particular emphasis or priority on the needs of the Mexican-American aged.

As the committee knows, the majority of these persons live in the five Western States, which are: California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

While there are some individual programs underway in these States that do directly serve communities where there are large numbers of Spanish-speaking elderly, they only represent, in my opinion, a beginning effort, and they are not as comprehensive as they should be.

Therefore I am suggesting the following recommendations for the consideration of the committee as a possible means of strengthening existing Federal programs to better serve the older members of the Mexican-American community.

Those administering Federal programs for older Americans, including State and local government, should make a particular effort to see that they get the programs that are adapted to take the unique cultural background and language of the Mexican-Americans into account.

Information on programs should be translated into Spanish, and in those States where there is a large concentration of Spanish-speaking aged, employment of bilinguals should be required.

#### POLICYMAKING AND ADVISORY BOARDS

Particular effort should also be made to see that Mexican-Americans are included on policymaking and advisory boards in States where there are large numbers of Mexican-American aged. Special educational approaches should also be made through appropriate use of press, radio, and TV, and other media, to acquaint the Spanish-speaking community with the various programs and services available to older people.

I believe that such an effort could be launched by the Federal Government through the Administration on Aging in cooperation with State commissions and agencies on aging.

In order to give the needs of all minority groups the attention that is merited, I would suggest that a special study by the group on the forthcoming White House Conference on Aging of 1971 focus on the special problems faced by Negroes, Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Indians, and other minority groups.

And finally, I recommend that the Administration on Aging of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare sponsor a regional conference to bring together a number of civic, business and professional leaders who are vitally interested in the services to the Mexican-American population, including community leaders with representation of the AOA, other Federal agencies and State agencies on aging in California and Arizona and Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, for the purpose of discussing ways in which programs and services could be developed and expanded for the Spanish-speaking elderly.

The Interagency Committee on Mexican-American Affairs could help arrange and cosponsor such a conference.

It is clear to me, Senator, that the circumstances surrounding the situation of the older Spanish-speaking persons can be dramatically improved by action in the Congress to achieve new legislative programs for older Americans in general.

I therefore would like to read some recommendations that I would like to make to the committee.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) A substantial increase in social security cash benefits to levels of greater decency for all older Americans. In particular I favor a major across-the-board increase and raising the minimum payment to beneficiaries, plus a provision to automatically adjust the benefits to changes in the cost of living and the Nation's economic growth.

(2) I would like to recommend, also, that the provisions of comprehensive health care should be covered under medicare with the first steps to include payment for the cost of prescription drugs furnished outside the hospital and to elimination of the present deductibles which are charged under the medical insurance part of medicare.

(3) The increased funds for the model cities programs and the rent supplement programs and the special housing program for low income senior citizens, regardless of age, must have a wider range and choice of housing than is now available.

Urban oriented programs, such as the model cities program, could be extremely helpful to the Mexican-American elderly, 78 percent of whom live in large metropolitan areas, such as Los Angeles County.

(4) I would recommend the expansion of the Older Americans Act and programs like the foster grandparents program. The Older Americans Act has become a major source of developing community services and opportunities for older Americans.

I believe the provisions of the act should be extended with particular reference to the developing of a broader range of community services for older people, from the construction of senior citizens centers to the carrying out of food and nutritional programs, housing for the low-income elderly and the extension of the foster grandparents program and other service programs which could use the talents and abilities of older persons in meeting the needs of other older people.

And finally, action to eliminate the citizenship and other eligibility requirements in the old-age assistance programs. This seems to me to be long overdue.

Though varying from State to State, these requirements are especially harmful to the Mexican-American elderly who are often denied a—even though they have worked in this country most of their adult lives—I think that the Federal law should not permit such requirements to be imposed by the States. It is one of the worst kinds of discrimination, and it results in great human hardship.

Mr. Chairman, it is indeed a pleasure to present my views to this committee, and may I also pledge that I will do anything I possibly can from the standpoint of the House of Representatives to be of help to you in the formulation of legislation that will result in any improvement in this field.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Congressman Roybal, thank you for this very informative statement. You have already made a fine contribution to this.

## 1971 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

I have been advised that at the last White House Conference on this in 1961 there was absolutely no provision made for the problems of Mexican-Americans. I intend to call the attention of the White House to your recommendations here in the 1971 Conference.

It will be provided for in legislation by Congress. Of course the 1971 Conference will be bipartisan. During the last period, of course, no one knew who would be elected this year. We wanted to be certain that the problems of any one particular party wouldn't—we weren't trying to elect anybody. We were trying to help the elderly people, so we set it off until 1971 so we would get it out of the presidential campaign.

And your other recommendations on the Administration of the Aging, we will recommend that this agency sponsor a regional conference to bring together these forces.

And your statement about the increase in social security, I feel that that is coming to pass. Both President-elect Nixon and Vice President Humphrey made this a major campaign point. We have had that protest on medicare from many sources.

You have so many beneficial suggestions, and I think you are going to see a number of them enacted into law in this coming Congress.

I want to thank you for the contributions you have made already.

Congressman Roybal has requested that two informed people, Mr. Sal Montenegro and Mr. Augustine Flores, testify at this time.

We will vary the order slightly so their testimony will fit in with the statement that has already been given by Congressman Roybal.

We will call Mr. Flores and Mr. Montenegro around now to testify.

## STATEMENT OF SAL MONTENEGRO

Mr. MONTENEGRO. Honorable Senator, Congressmen, and guests, as a realtor in the Los Angeles area I have a basic concern in the field of the housing of the aging. I feel there are no housing programs available for the indigent. As to section 23, which is the city housing program, has been available to the aged in the Mexican-American community. But that program has failed.

Last year's figures show that out of the 333 people served by that program, only 33 were of Mexican ancestry, and not one of those was of the aged group.

This particular program has been devised to help those in the aged group.

Now, where were they placed? They were placed in the hills of El Sereno. Not one was placed in the Boyle Heights or in other areas where the aged live. So we can say that not one Mexican-American elderly has been served by the local, State or Federal programs.

This, gentlemen, is an indictment against the local and the State under the Federal, FHA, office for their infelicity in considering the needs Mexican-American aged have.



## STATEMENT OF AUGUSTINE FLORES

Mr. FLORES. Honorable Senator, Congressman Roybal, Congressman Brown, for the record, my name is Augustine Flores.

Senator, as you know, I have been working in the field of cultural needs all over the Southwest States. We have met each other and talked several times. I will point out that the problems that are actually existing are known to me through my actual experience in helping with housing.

My business is to develop the housing all over the Southwest for the Mexican-Americans. In our service we find that not only do the Mexican-Americans have the worst housing, but the Mexican-Americans have the worst situations of all of them.

Our practical experience is in the good town of Corpus Christi. Our mutual friend, Jimmie End, and I are working on projects in that area. We find that the big fault is in FHA itself.

FHA does not have any conception of the housing needs of the Mexican-Americans, and especially the elderly. A good example is Mrs. Lockwell.

Mrs. Lockwell, as you know, Senator, has that beautiful \$5 million palace, but there is not one single Mexican-American in that palace. It is overlooking some of the worst housing in Texas. By this, too, an example of the regional office in San Antonio, these people in FHA in San Antonio, they themselves are without the background of bilingual Mexican-American personnel. They should have—they have no conception that there is a housing need.

Another example: Robstown. Robstown, as you know, is 85 percent substandard. I have spent a couple of meetings with FHA. They feel that Robstown, what it needs is 50 units.

If you knew Robstown lately, you would have the answer. Now, this is proven all over the Southwest, not only in Texas, but here in California, too.

### PROBLEMS OF NONPROFIT SPONSORS

We feel, and I feel strongly that the first steps that should be taken are—as you know, most of the projects under FHA require a nonprofit organization to own the property—that FHA should be more flexible in approving Mexican-American nonprofit organizations to be the owners of these projects.

We find that at this time there is no flexibility in the new housing act.

Under the new housing act, there are provisions that more community organizations should be admitted and be recognized by FHA as nonprofit organizations. But up till this time we haven't been able to actually have organizations of Mexican-American members to be qualified as proper organizations.

We are at this time trying to qualify the two chapters of the Corpus Christi area and the American GI Forum.

I recommend that you urge FHA that they have a more flexible recommendation on admitting Mexican-American nonprofit organizations, because they recognize the problems and what are the housing needs, and this is very specific, and I want to point it out: FHA at this time has no conception that the Mexican-American does not like to live in high density areas.

They are recommending 30 to 50 units per acre on land that is \$3,000 or \$4,000 per acre, where they should be recommending 10 to 15 density as a maximum.

#### NURSING HOME DEFICIENCIES

I also feel, for instance, that FHA at this time has no conception that all over the Southwest there are no nursing homes specifically for the Mexican-Americans. The elderly Mexican-American has a problem in that there are no facilities for nursing that would give them the necessities that they need.

Diet: They have an entirely different diet than the English society, and they have no bilingual personnel that are needed to reach the elderly.

So, Senator, these are some of the recommendations I have. I would like to take more time, but these are the problems that I have met in the field. And I am meeting them every day in developing housing.

I would say that in the whole complex there are only seven projects that are definitely for the Mexican-Americans, and it is a shame, with the high budget that we have at this time.

So I make the recommendation, and I urge you at this time that your committee recommend to HUD that more Mexican-American personnel be hired, especially the FHA section of HUD, so that they will have an understanding of the housing needs not only of the Mexican-Americans but of the elderly.

Thank you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Flores, I think you have made a fine contribution here in a very few minutes because of your knowledge of this.

I have seen you, as you say, working on this in Corpus Christi and other places.

I wish our committee could devote more days to hearings. We had 2 days that we could delegate to this: one in El Paso and one in San Antonio.

You have also the problem in Corpus Christi and Robstown, both in Nueces County. And Duvall County, which is the ninth county in Texas in population. Due to the limitations of time you have shortened your statement. We have witnesses, many witnesses, for 1 day, and I would like you to elaborate on it by a written statement.

The record will be open for 30 days from today. We will hold the record open and receive any statement.

And Mr. Montenegro, if you have additional matter you wish to add to your statement, you are invited to forward any written statements that you care to. You don't have to prepare them in any particular form. A brief of a letter will do. You just put it up in any form that you want to. We will print those in the record.

Mr. MONTENEGRO. May I add one thing? Of 46,000 employees of HUD, only 40 were of Mexican ancestry. This is less than one-quarter of 1 percent. I think this would indict the Federal agency for not reaching those people, due to lack of communication. One-quarter of 1 percent.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That one-quarter of 1 percent was bilingual?

Mr. MONTENEGRO. Mexican-American.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, this is the type of information that we want to gather, so that we can transmit this to the Federal agencies and say, "Why? Why hasn't this been done under existing law?"

That's one purpose of our committee of inquiry here.

Let me ask you, Mr. Flores: That project that you mentioned involving that \$5 million program of homes; was that a church-related project?

Mr. FLORES. Yes. They call it the Palace. There are those Mexican-Americans there looking at it, and they know there is nothing there for them.

Thank you, Senator Yarborough, Congressman Roybal, and Congressman Brown, for giving us your time.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Congressman Roybal, for calling our attention to these informed witnesses.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Now, we have the Representative from the 29th District of California, the Honorable George Brown of the House of Representatives of Congress. He was here and testified on the Conference for Bilingual Education, and he has offered to help here for whatever we need in this field.

Thank you for coming, Congressman Brown, and for your interest and your participation.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, 29TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Congressman BROWN. Thank you very much, Senator Yarborough.

I want to add my own tribute to that of Congressman Roybal for the leadership which you have displayed in meeting the problems of our very large minority of Spanish-speaking population in this country.

It was a great pleasure for me to participate with you in hearings on the bilingual education bill, and to assist in securing the passage of that legislation through the Congress.

I think we are very fortunate to have a man of your leadership and your concern who has been willing and eager to do as much as you have done for this very substantial and neglected portion of our population.

I have a short statement here which I will ask your permission to include in the record, and even though it is short, I won't bother to read all of the statement, partly because it will duplicate some of the things which Congressman Roybal has already said.

And finally, because I recognize my own limitations as a nonexpert in this field. I am here, primarily to broaden my own background

with regard to these problems and to learn from this hearing, which I think will make a very large contribution in this area.

I will just comment that I have been particularly concerned, among other things, with the problems of the application of our housing legislation to the needs of the Mexican-American community. Not only the aging, but all sections of the community. I think we have a particular need here to focus a very broad spectrum of legislation which we have now in the field of housing and community development onto some of these particular areas of our minority community where there are cultural and language differences.

I think we have always tended to overlook the fact that it takes more than just concrete and lumber to make a community, and that you cannot build a community merely by the development of housing—adequate as it may be.

### CULTURAL ASPECTS OF A COMMUNITY

The community rests upon certain cultural aspects which need to be considered, and this is peculiarly true where there are language problems that go along with the cultural problems. The two are intertwined.

So I am hoping very much that out of this hearing there will come a better understanding of these problems involving the community—the cultural community—the needs of the community in terms of housing and how it can be integrated into these several problems.

I want to commend you again for making it possible for these things to be brought out into the open. I want to add my support to the very fine recommendations which Congressman Roybal made. Surely, as a result of this hearing, we will see a continuation of the progress we have made—including some of these problems of our Mexican-Americans.

Thank you.

(The prepared statement of Congressman George E. Brown, Jr., follows:)

#### PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR., REPRESENTATIVE, 29TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. BROWN. Mr. Chairman, I first want to commend you for undertaking this investigation into the needs of the elderly Mexican-American. Time and again you have demonstrated your concern and your skill in obtaining legislative action on behalf of our citizens of Latin descent in the southwestern portion of the United States.

The most recent indication of this concern was, of course, the passage of the bilingual education bill, which provides funds to enable the school systems to try to cope with some of the learning problems created by the language barrier.

Now you are moving to the other end of the age spectrum and I fully concur in your belief that there is a serious need for special attention to the problems of the aged Mexican-American. I appreciate the opportunity to join in this effort.

I am sure that the excellent group of experts who are scheduled to testify today will be much more able than I to give the details of these special problems, so I will take very little of your time. I am here to learn, as is the Committee.

It appears to me, however, that a large part of the aged Mexican-American community is cut off, because of language and cultural differences basically, from the Anglo community as if they were still a part of their native Mexico but transplanted en mass as a colony.

Their children and their grandchildren have become a part of a broader world in this new land, and even they are alienated more and more from the elderly members of their family.

Because of the language and cultural differences, special problems exist that do not exist for either the Anglo or the Negro elderly.

Nearly every salesman presents a problem in communication. At times, this can lead to the victimizing of many of our Mexican-American senior citizens with products they do not need for which they pay too much.

Immigration, Social Security, and Veterans Administration matters, complicated enough for most of us to understand even though we deal with them regularly and do not have a language barrier, present an awesome problem. I was pleased to have been instrumental in getting both a Social Security unit and a Veterans Administration representative, with Spanish-speaking capabilities, located in East Los Angeles since I have been in Congress. My office is constantly handling immigration problems from this area, of course, since my District is composed of about 30% Mexican-American population—the heaviest concentration of any Congressional District in California. These things only scratch the surface.

Of course, because many of these people are immigrants, they are not eligible for veterans or social security benefits—except, perhaps, to minimal extent in the case of the latter.

Mr. Chairman, I know you have a special interest in the field of housing for the elderly Mexican-American. From personal experience, I know that it is next to impossible to meet the requirements of FHA for low-income family housing projects and, at the same time, to meet the cultural needs of this group in the housing field.

The help offered by the Administration on Aging, could, in part, provide the individual attention that is needed by the aging in the Mexican-American community. We find, however, that the amount of funding available under this program is inadequate to bring the services to East Los Angeles that can fully cope with the problem.

We are most grateful for the interest that is being displayed by the Special Committee on Aging, and by you, Mr. Chairman, and I again want to thank you for this opportunity to participate and to learn more from the testimony that will be given as to how the community feels the Federal government can best be of assistance.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much, Congressman Brown, for your fine statement. I share your admiration for the statement made by Congressman Roybal. I associate myself with your support of Congressman Roybal. I am very grateful that these two fine Congressmen are interested in coming here.

The next witnesses are a panel.

The Very Reverend Monsignor John P. Languille, pastor of Our Lady of Loretto.

Is Monsignor Languille here?

A VOICE. He had to leave, Senator Yarborough, but I will read his statement.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You have his statement?

A VOICE. I am Mr. Jose A. Vargas.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Come around up here.

You are standing in for the Reverend Monsignor Languille. All right.

You will be accompanied by Mr. Ignacio Galindo, director of the Southwest Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Is Mr. Galindo here?

A VOICE. Right here, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Come around here, Mr. Galindo.

Dr. Max Offenber, of Belvedere Hospital. Is Dr. Offenber here? And Mr. Jose A. Vargas, Jr., assistant director, Catholic Youth Organization. You are representing both the Catholic Youth Organization and the Monsignor Languille.

And Mr. Russell Salazar, director, East Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce. Would you come around, Mr. Salazar.

**STATEMENT OF THE VERY REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN P. LANGUILLE, PASTOR, OUR LADY OF LORETTO; ACCOMPANIED BY IGNACIO GALINDO, DIRECTOR, SOUTHWEST OFFICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; MAX OFFENBERG, M.D., BELVEDERE HOSPITAL; JOSE A. VARGAS, JR., ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION; AND RUSSELL SALAZAR, DIRECTOR, EAST LOS ANGELES JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Vargas, do you have a separate statement as the assistant director of the Catholic Youth Organization?

Mr. VARGAS. Yes, I do, Senator.

Senator YARBOROUGH. First then, give us the Reverend Monsignor's statement. Then we will receive your statement.

Mr. VARGAS. Fine. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF MONSIGNOR LANGUILLE, PRESENTED BY  
JOSE A. VARGAS, JR.**

Mr. VARGAS. Monsignor Languille is the associate director for Catholic Charities. He has asked me to read his statement. He had to leave on some other matters.

If you will bear with me, I will read it to you.

Generally speaking, current levels of financial assistance are realistic for both elderly Mexican-Americans and Anglo-Americans who apply and qualify for such assistance.

In our experience, AFDC grants are far less realistic than those grants given to the elderly, the blind and disabled. Not only is the food allowance for children less, but also the limitations of AFDC on the size of the family are disadvantageous to many Mexican-Americans.

Whether all Mexican-Americans who are entitled to receive benefits for the elderly are receiving them depends of course upon whether these elderly apply for these benefits. In our experience many elderly Mexican-Americans do not apply either because of ignorance or difficulty in communication.

We would recommend that particular attention be given in the Mexican-American areas for bilingual professional or subprofessional staff to assist the elderly Mexican-Americans in receiving financial assistance.

In the County of Los Angeles we endorse particularly the East Los Angeles Service Center that provides the whole gamut of public and many private resources in one location for the Mexican-Americans living in the East Los Angeles area. Such a concept of the Service Center we hope will be expanded into other areas where there are large numbers of elderly Mexican-Americans.

And the Monsignor asked me particularly to recommend Mr. Dan Lopez, who is the director.

The bilingual schools that were established in California last January permitted, in company with the public education sector, to establish two bilingual adult schools that served a total of 1,800 adult Mexi-

can-Americans. A significant portion, and a gradually increasing number are senior citizens. Senior Mexican-American citizens who are taking advantage of these facilities. These are Monsignor Languille's comments that I have offered.

Thank you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I thank you, gentlemen.

If you will approve of this suggestion, we will go through the five panelists, and then we will have questions.

The next is Mr. Ignacio Galindo, director of the Southwest office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Galindo?

#### STATEMENT OF IGNACIO GALINDO

Mr. GALINDO. Thank you, Senator Yarborough, Congressman Roybal, and Congressman Brown.

I would originally pose two questions.

One of the questions that was originally posed to me was "the public housing for the elderly Mexican-Americans with special reference to highrise."

May I say that as we see it, both in the department and as we work with the Mexican-American community, we see the problem is two-fold. Not only in the traditional public housing programs but in the traditional elderly housing programs. I think that we have to recognize that we are talking about housing for the elderly Mexican-Americans rather than the elderly housing program. I think there is a difference in this.

I think that because the problems of the Mexican-American elderly are unique, that they are different from the traditional approaches.

The committee is aware, and certainly the people here today are aware of the difference in the approaches to these problems.

#### DIFFERENCES IN FAMILY STRUCTURE

Firstly, the elderly Mexican-American comes from a close-knit kind of family.

Traditionally, these people have been living in a single-family residence. They have been living with their sons; they have been living with their daughters.

I think there are very strong ties that we have to respect. I think that there is a certain amount of responsibility on the part of the housing authorities for the welfare of the elderly father and mother.

Now, we recognize that there are some elderly citizens living in public housing, but only a few seem to enjoy these facilities.

I think that one of the aspects of this is certainly the highrise.

Having come from a single family, having come from traditionally a house with their own little garden where they can go outside; these are some of the different aspects that we have to take into consideration before we make recommendations on any kind of programs that will benefit the elderly Mexican-Americans.

I think today, as we move on in our society, we have to recognize the fact that there are some elderly Mexican-Americans that do not want to live with their children and other large families; nevertheless, there is a close tie with the family.

We recognize that the Mexican-Americans, especially the elderly in our Southwest areas, are living in deplorable conditions.

I think at times they do not recognize or know of the housing programs that are available to them. Office buildings to them are strange. They do not want to go into the public housing office to apply.

#### INNOVATIONS TO INCREASE RESPONSE

Now, I think that—pressing on to the second point—some of the suggestions or innovations to increase the response among the elderly Mexican-Americans, not only to the public housing program, but I think, the programs for the elderly. I would like to make several suggestions.

First is a reemphasis on the recognition that the housing for the elderly Mexican-Americans—we have to take something different from the traditional approach that we have taken. Where today, the elderly housing programs public-sponsored or nonprofit-corporation-sponsored program because of “feasibility of a particular program,” we must think in terms of highrise. We must think in terms of 100 to 200 units with some planned social environment within the framework of this.

Now, to approach the program of coming in with a good and helpful elderly housing program, this may be a difficult and long-term process. Now, we have to infuse into this some kind of an educational and counseling program.

For this, we need more bilingual, again, a reemphasis—bilingual staff members, on the part not only of the Federal family but of the lay community. We must not only convince the elderly that he should move, if he wants to move into the elderly housing, and that we also have to work with families. Getting back to the original responsibility of the family for the elderly.

Now, again, we have to avoid in these programs the highrise—the large structure. My suggestion is that we begin now to set up some demonstration or pilot programs. I know that there are some that are going in the country, but I think that not enough emphasis has been made as far as Mexican-Americans are concerned. Pilot programs on the layout—even the layout of housing. How are you going to approach this particular problem?

Well, the elderly that want to live near their sons and daughters, can we take a townhouse approach and build housing for the low-income or public housing in this respect. Can we have clusters where the elderly can be close to their sons and daughters, because even though they may want to be separated from them; nevertheless, they want to see their grandchildren. They want to walk over. They do not have the economic or financial support, really, to own an automobile most of the time.

#### SELECTION OF SITES

Now, selection of the sites, as was indicated here today, we must take a very close look at the sites where these people are going to live. I think they, again, they want to stay close to the neighborhood. They want to walk to church. They want to see some of their friends. They want to buy the Mexican food.



I think some mention was made in regard to the program sponsors. I think that we in our department are going to have to work a lot harder to stimulate more interest on the part of sponsoring organizations in the Mexican-American community. But, to do this, we must give them the information on the programs. We must come into the community. We must work cooperatively with them, because, in the end, what we have to do is really to give the elderly Mexican-Americans a choice of where he wants to live and also the opportunity to live really a peaceful life after they have entered their later years.

Thank you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Dr. Offenberg. We would like to hear from you.

#### STATEMENT OF MAX OFFENBERG, M.D.

Dr. OFFENBERG. Thank you, Senator Yarborough.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Special Committee On Aging, I am Dr. Max Offenberg, a resident of the East Los Angeles area for 48 years and a practicing physician in the community for 32 years.

In addition to being a physician, my civic activities include: membership in the Rotary International, member of the board of directors of the Pan-Am Bank of East Los Angeles, commissioner of the Citizens Advisory Commission on Community Improvements of Los Angeles County under supervisor Ernest E. Debs.

I appreciate your invitation to testify regarding the medical needs of the Mexican-American community of East Los Angeles.

As you know, this is the largest Mexican-American community in the United States. For the most part, it is considered a poverty area, and in my practice, the elderly Mexicans and Americans of Mexican descent may be classified as either indigents medically indigent or near-needy persons.

For patients of this status, the Federal medicare program has provided what may be called basic health care needs. However, certain problems have become evident regarding its effectiveness, and these problems are the points I would like to discuss.

The medicare program has not been effective in solving all the health needs of the elderly Mexicans and Americans of Mexican descent because it is handicapped in a number of ways.

First, many of these people have suffered from a low standard of living most of their lives. Their health needs in their senior years are probably greater than those of the average person.

#### LANGUAGE A BARRIER TO HEALTH CARE

Next, the elderly Mexican-American suffers from a traditional language barrier. He has a handicap in seeking medical advice. He often lacks knowledge about how to enroll in a medicare program and how to obtain its benefits. Most of those who have enrolled in the program believe they are subscribing to a program of total health care and do not understand or comprehend the limitations of the medicare benefits.

For example, they often do not understand that benefits do not include routine physical examinations, examinations for eyeglasses

or hearing aids. Also, the deductible portions of the benefits are confusing to them.

We often find that the relatives of the elderly Mexicans and Americans of Mexican descent in the poverty area are unable to devote proper attention to the elderly relative because the younger members of the family are occupied with the struggle to maintain themselves.

Before presenting my suggestions for improvement in the medicare program as it affects the elderly Mexican and American of Mexican descent, I would like to say that I, like most physicians whom I know, subscribe to the belief that the Government medical care programs should be designed to help those who need help. I also believe that those persons who need help should be provided with a program that would bring them into what is called the "mainstream of medical care." I do not believe we should have two classes of medical care for our patients.

### TWO CLASSES OF MEDICAL CARE

For these near-needy elderly persons who do not qualify for title 19 benefits and who are unable to pay for their own medical needs, I would suggest the elimination of these particular patients being required to pay the first \$50 for the doctor bill and related services. This would encourage the eligible Mexicans and Americans of Mexican descent to seek medical aid early rather than to attempt to treat themselves. In this way, many serious medical problems would be avoided, and a financial savings would be realized.

Second, consider the inclusion of drugs in the benefits of the program for those near-needy elderly. Many of our elderly are unable to purchase outpatient drugs, thereby prolonging their ailments and resulting in needless suffering. Third, allow physical examinations and prophylactic inoculations.

Also, for these needy individuals, provide for dental care, eye care, and hearing aids. The elderly Mexican-Americans with poor oral hygiene and with few teeth are unable to maintain good health. Poor vision and blindness as well as deafness may be helped by the inclusion of eye care and hearing aids.

Next, I believe it would be of great assistance to the elderly patients in our community if the proper department of the county or State or Federal Government would institute an intensive program in an attempt to locate these elderly citizens who may be eligible for one or more of the various health programs but who do not know of the programs or understand them. After they are located, every effort should be made to completely inform them of the benefits of the program.

Finally, I do not believe that transportation to medical services outside of our community constitutes a problem. These people, because of their age, their physical condition, their language problem and their cultural differences do not wish to seek medical care outside of their own communities. I would rather suggest that the necessary medical care be brought to the community. Recently our local county medical society suggested that a study be made to determine the possibility of establishing a series of free standing, privately operated clinics for

poverty areas. I would suggest that this method of providing health care would be preferable to a system of transporting patients to distantly located health centers.

Gentlemen, thank you again for the opportunity of presenting these opinions.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Dr. Offenber.

Mr. VARGAS, do you have a statement as the assistant director of the Catholic Youth Organization?

Mr. VARGAS. Yes.

#### STATEMENT OF JOSE A. VARGAS, JR.

Mr. VARGAS. I speak from the vantage point of administering an agency that has nine community centers and settlement houses in the Los Angeles County area.

Now, each one of these have a pretty long history of serving the elderly Mexican-Americans. In relation to this, I would like to make a couple of observations.

One is: at a time when the Mexican-American is trying mightily to find an identity and therefore the way in which he can contribute to our social community, the Mexican-American elderly is ignored, shunted aside and isolated. And yet, he is the one over 60 who cares about carrying the traditions of Mexico into this country and transfer its values and customs and mores that is unique to the Mexican-American. He is in no position now to do this, both in terms of employment or housing or his place in the family. Particularly the Mexican-American father. I talked to my father early today. He tells me:

We have no place as we did before. Our opinions don't mean too much. I live away from my family, and my place is not like it was in Mexico.

So, when I am asked the question, "Do the recreational facilities resources in East Los Angeles meet and are they adequate for the needs of the Mexican-American elderly," I answer, "No, they are not."

Except in one case in Laguna Park where there is a real effort to reach out to the senior citizen, they, in the main, do not program for the elderly. The staff are not sensitive to the needs of the elderly—speaking of elderly Mexican-Americans—the facilities are not planned for the elderly nor is the program slanted for the elderly. I would think that at this time a person could make a major contribution to the Mexican citizen and his elderly.

There is a big gap between the elderly and the young Mexican-American, and the elderly Mexican-American feels left out.

#### LIFE EXPECTANCY: 56.7

I was stunned by a statistic I read in a publication called the Mexican-American, put out by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. If I may take a moment, in a statistical study done in Colorado, the following came out: That the life-expectancy of the Mexican-American is 56.7 as compared to 67.5 for others. A stunning statistic, particularly if you refer to Dr. Offenber's remarks in terms of nursing, in

terms of health practices, and in terms of housing. And, in losing this man, we are losing much, again, of our history and a part of our heritage.

I suggest, one: That we bring in a Mexican-American senior citizen into a position of leadership and professional status. Don't just hire bilingual Mexican-Americans. Hire Mexican-American senior citizens for these programs and train them. They will do a good job in our recreational centers. They could do a good job in our multipurpose social service centers. They could do a good job of interpreting to their own peers what their needs are.

Many of these programs for Mexican Americans and other minorities are planned without the advise and consent of those to be served. Here again, I would be afraid of a tendency to ignore the Mexican-American senior citizen in planning. We should use his leadership, his knowledge, his contribution, and involve him in the planning for recreational facilities. For interpretation of social services involved.

And I repeat, I suggest that he be trained on a semiprofessional basis, indeed, to render services to his own kind.

I think that some of the communication breakdown spoken of by other gentlemen would be eliminated.

Thank you for giving me the time to state my premises.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you.

(The chairman, in a letter written shortly after the hearing, addressed two questions to the witness. The questions follows:)

Can you give us additional observations:

(a) How much training could be given? In your opinion, could an adaptation of the family aide training techniques be used?

(b) How to promote "involvement". As you know, government often is totally unable to arouse citizen interest in public programs, and great tact is needed.

(The following reply was received:)

(a) Training should be decentralized to insure maximum participation. Instruction and discussion should be conducted both in English and Spanish. The content should include job description techniques related to execution of the specific tasks and motivation for increased development. Yes, I would agree in general that family aide training techniques could be utilized.

(b) In regard to your question about how to promote "involvement" it would be appropriate to establish an advisory committee of senior citizens representative of the area geographically and include those who are bi-lingual or uni-lingual. A Spanish speaking consultant representing the appropriate governmental institution should sit with this advisory group and with them evolve and plan training programs and other relevant ways of involving senior citizens in semi-professional positions. There is sufficient leadership in the Mexican-American senior citizen community in the areas of community services, leadership and skilled craftsmen to provide you a reservoir of potential participants and leaders.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Next, we will hear from Mr. Russell Salazar, director of the East Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Salazar.

#### STATEMENT OF RUSSELL SALAZAR

MR. SALAZAR. Senator Yarborough, Congressman Roybal, Congressman Brown, can you imagine the frustration the senior citizen has at age 55, 65, or 75 in trying to elucidate the wisdom of all these years with only possibly 6, 8, or 10 years of language skills in the English language?

This is a very basic problem that the Mexican-American has in our community. It is the inability to communicate one's thought and need to anyone else who speaks another language. This comes back to the fact that few people are really aware of. We are all aware of the educational gap in the Mexican-American youth and his Anglo peers.

We know that as one progresses his brother also progresses but not quite as fast. We have taken a lot of steps, we have spent a lot of money to fight this. We are making improvements, but if we consider the gap between the ages in the Mexican-American community as our young people are progressing in their learning, we find the older people are not progressing as fast. We find that this tends to encourage them to withdraw even further into themselves, and it is much more difficult to pull them out of the past.

So it comes right back to language. It comes back to the fact that these people must be put, or programs must be made available to them that offer intensive language training. Training such as the Berlitz Method. Special methods for language training. It is more practical. It is extremely intensive in its application that doesn't ask the senior citizen to attend classes at the local elementary or high school for 1 or 2 nights a week, but one that offers more intensive special training in the language skills of the language spoken in this country.

We need, though the HUD program, neighborhood facilities or facilities that are located within walking distance of our senior citizen where he can go, where he can learn social training and consumer programs.

We must make him a more sophisticated consumer. All this has to be done through language training. It is something that we desperately need. We have to have more informal surroundings during these teaching sessions. We must have instructors from his or her peer group.

#### NEED FOR COMMUNITY AIDS

We must have more community aides. We must make it a more relaxed atmosphere where the senior citizen will become more receptive to the abilities that we will try to train.

And, all of these things are extremely necessary. They are short-term programs. They are programs that can be put into full use almost immediately. They have the tools now. We must have more literature, more information. That is now printed in the English language. We must have it printed in the Spanish language.

Bilingual: That is a term we must practice more than we are today. We need to follow the examples that are being set by many of the local utility companies—the gas company, the electric company, the telephone company—who are now beginning to offer much more literature in Spanish. Most all of the literature in the east Los Angeles community today, provided by these companies, is printed in both languages.

So, recapping, we need an intensive language training. We need more literature published in both languages. We need community aides who will be able to help the senior citizens in language training. We need neighborhood facilities which would be within walking distance.

They don't have to be elaborate buildings, but simple facilities where these type of classes can be taught.

Thank you for your time.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Mr. Salazar.

That completes the initial statements of the panel.

Congressman Roybal, do you have any questions to direct to the panel—any specific comment?

Congressman ROYBAL. I have one question I would like to ask Mr. Galindo.

This is in regard to a statement that you made, Mr. Galindo, emphasizing the cultural and family ties in the Mexican-American community.

You suggested that a demonstration project be established in the East Los Angeles area and that that project have, within the confines of the project, the various community facilities including a market center where the Mexican-Americans can buy the foods that they are accustomed to.

Did you have in mind that such a pilot program be done directly under the auspices of the Government or should this be a nonprofit organization who would own the project and help administer the project?

Mr. GALINDO. Congressman Roybal, I was envisioning—of course, we always envision the private sector. Certainly, the private community with, also, some support on the part of the Federal Government. Certainly not strictly under the auspices of the Federal Government.

I think we need to stimulate the community to help itself, and I think this is our role.

Congressman ROYBAL. Well, I asked the question because many of the experts discuss the fact that the only way this can be done is directly through the auspices of the Government. I do not agree, and I am glad that you also agree with a program that is actually in control of the people that it serves.

Thank you very much.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Congressman Brown?

Congressman BROWN. I have none.

#### ELIMINATE MEDICARE DEDUCTIBLE?

Senator YARBOROUGH. Dr. Offenberg, I am impressed by your recommendation here about a change in medicare to eliminate the requirement that patients pay the first \$50 for the doctor bills and related services and that we also include outpatient drugs and outpatient treatment.

You suggest that the present system prolongs ailments and results in needless suffering.

Do you think it would be an overall savings in human resources if we can get this less-expensive care to them instead of waiting until their ailments are so far progressed that they have to have more expensive treatment?

Dr. OFFENBERG. There is no doubt in my mind that it would be a tremendous saving to the taxpayer should these programs start early before these disease processes have taken hold in these people. Especially diabetes, cancer, tuberculosis.

These are areas of high incidence of illness among Mexican-Americans and Americans of Mexican descent.

I think this is a serious problem. Also, the need for eye care or dental care and hearing aids. I think such programs would directly aid these people, and they would be a much bigger asset to the community.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you.

I think that is a very fine suggestion and, too, it is illuminating. You say that if we had this early care, it would save the taxpayers money in the long run. One objection that has been debated in Congress is that this would be too expensive if it was to provide this other kind of care that you suggest, but you have counteracted that by saying here that there would be a savings in the long run.

Dr. OFFENBERG. I think that we have to take into consideration, Senator, the particular segment of the community which is a low income group. These people are not used to going to doctors because they can't afford this type care, and the result is that I think this also contributes to their early demise—death rate. These people, even in their earning years, do not seek this type of aid and this results when they become senior citizens in a high incidence of serious disease.

If we could involve the younger age groups, we could lessen the problems of the older age groups.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, there was some indication in the Lubbock study, which I mentioned earlier, that we have incorporated only by reference in our report, that many of the Mexican-Americans consider themselves old before age 60.

Have you found that—is that true in this area?

Dr. OFFENBERG. That's true.

Senator YARBOROUGH. They consider themselves old before they reach the age of 60?

I think that is one reason they consider themselves an aging group.

I believe Mr. Vargas' statement that their life expectancy was lower—you recommend also that we institute an incentive program and an attempt to locate elderly citizens who may be eligible for one or more of the various health programs who do not know of the programs or understand them.

#### REPLY FROM SECRETARY COHEN

Now, in my inquiry to Secretary Cohen of HEW on the 14th of October, I asked about that. And he wrote me this report on November 15, 1968, that I have ordered to be incorporated in the record at the end of my statement\*

In this statement, among other things, he stated to me that the original effort to enroll the elderly in medicare was sent out by direct mail. This was a notification to all social security beneficiaries who would be eligible for medicare. Now, this notification was in the English language with the exception of the mailing to the people in Puerto Rico which carried the Spanish language enrollment cards.

It was rapidly followed up by the medicare alert outreach operations.

Then he describes the medicare outreach operations—medicare alert, providing for a door-to-door canvass to seek out eligible persons.

\*See letter, pp. 4-6.

In your opinion, was this outreach operation sufficiently adequate to reach the elderly people of Mexican-American extraction who might have been eligible for medicare had they understood the instructions sent out?

Dr. OFFENBERG. I might state, Senator, that most Mexicans who speak the language can't read the writing very well. As a result, if they are given a piece of paper, even in the Spanish language, they are not capable of comprehending the written word. It must be explained to them in detail and brought out on a person-to-person level.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The Secretary indicates that they had an extensive campaign which they apparently considered adequate, but it doesn't exactly say this. It describes the campaign in length. I will put it in the record and not read it all.

In your opinion, has that been adequate enough? Have they gone and explained it to the elderly Mexican-Americans, that they have eligibility for social security, medicare, that it is there waiting for them if they can only find it?

Dr. OFFENBERG. I say that there is utter confusion at this time.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I took that from your recommendations.

We need an intensive program to reach them so that it would be explained in such a way that they understood it.

I think, Dr. Offenber, that your testimony here as a practicing medical doctor in the east Los Angeles area for 48 years, you have made a notable contribution to this hearing, and I want to thank you for bringing your informed medical expertise here and giving us the benefit of it.

Congressman ROYBAL. Mr. Chairman, may I also thank and compliment the panel for the information that you placed before this committee.

Would you please relate to Father Languille our appreciation for the expertise that you gentlemen have brought before the committee and for your recommendations to the committee.

Thank you very much.

#### EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Salazar, from your experience there with the East Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, do you think educational TV—we talk about the language barrier—would these people participate in educational TV? Most of them have TV available; do they not?

Mr. SALAZAR. Yes, we have Spanish language television in our community.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Is that good educational TV?

Do you have any programs that are carried on at a level simple enough for beginners to help overcome some of that language barrier?

Mr. SALAZAR. We have none at the present time; however, I understand that we do have some that are going to be used in the near future. We are talking about basic level education programs.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Yes.

Mr. SALAZAR. OK.



Well, this is one form, but it has still got to be a very localized, intensive-type program, where—a door-to-door type of program. We have our senior citizens group now that are indexing and cataloging different names in different areas, trying to determine the concentration of senior citizens in our community. And, so; when our records are compiled, at that time we can start implementing some of the tools that we have already available to us. But it is this communication problem that we are trying to overcome at this particular point in time.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, I was in a meeting in Stockton, Calif., last night where a superior court judge who speaks Chinese, Japanese, Armenian, and Polish and several other languages—he is a native of California—we were discussing the matter that foreign languages were one of the easiest subjects to learn, if properly taught; that is, if you don't break down into grammar and start learning all the rules of grammar. That takes years through a professional program, and a few people, taking it that way, learned the language.

But, if it starts as a spoken language, you can learn to speak this—and it is easily learned.

He taught himself Polish in a few weeks without assistance.

Then he went to Poland and got married while he was there. [Laughter.]

That is rapid communications.

Mr. SALAZAR. Senator, I had the opportunity to produce a school in Mexico City where one of these intensive-type language programs was being used. And it was amazing how just in a few short hours I could see the trend that the students were taking in their application of the language. It stressed application, not grammar. The course taught things and phrases that you could readily apply.

#### LOCALIZED COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

And then if this is combined with television and reading material, with a localized type of communication program, then I think it is a type of program that can be readily applied. One that we can start using immediately. It's not a long-range thing. It's something that is very short range in its scope.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much.

There were enough people there who understood something of linguistics, and they stated—that was the opinion of the people I was talking with last night in Stockton—that in a hundred hours you can teach a person of average—just say an average person—a working knowledge of another language. Spread that hundred hours over how many days you want—don't stretch it out over a year or two—but in a hundred hours you would have a speaking knowledge. You could carry on a conversation. You could stop the school method of learning grammar or learning a language.

I want to thank this panel, and I want to thank Congressman Roybal and Supervisor Debs. They had a meeting on the 26th of November to work on this problem. They have set up this meeting,

and this panel, I understand, is a result of their sifting through prospective witnesses in order to get informed people here.

I want to thank you, Congressman Roybal, and Supervisor Debs, and all who worked in getting this panel for us.

Are there any other questions?

Congressman Brown?

If there are no further questions, we will thank the panel, and we will excuse them.

Gentlemen, each of the witnesses has been given some kind of a timetable and limitation, and most witnesses have stated what their time will be. Now, we have set up hearings all day based on the witnesses speaking for the period of time they requested.

So, we will be very appreciative if the witnesses could limit and condense their statements to the time limitations they have agreed upon.

If you have a longer statement, file it. We will print it in the record. All this record will go to HEW, and it will go to every other agency that touches upon the Mexican-American community—and some that don't. So, we will have the full benefits.

But, we are working under difficulties of time, and we would appreciate your utmost cooperation in your limitation of your statements.

We are advised that the minority staff member, Mr. John Guy Miller, is here.

By minority staff director, we mean the staff director for the Republican Party in the Senate Committee on Aging. In the congressional committees, each party has very informed staff members, so, if we bring a bill out, it has the benefit of the best thinking of both parties in it and hope that immediate measures come to pass.

We don't try to stir up a fight on every bill in the Congress; we try to reach a concensus so that we can get legislation through.

And I have worked very, very closely in the past with two great Senators from California. My colleague in the Democratic Party, Clair Engel, who passed away, and the minority whip in the Senate, the very able Senator Thomas Kuchel, who is retiring from the Senate this year.

So I had a very close collaboration with both of those Senators, and we worked with Senator Murphy. He is a member of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, and I have known Alan Cranston for more than 10 years. So, we hope to have the cooperation of both of the California Senators. Senator Murphy is on the Labor and Public Welfare Committee of which the legislative subcommittee on aging is a part. And we are glad that you are here, Mr. Miller.

The next panel is Mr. John Walker, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Senior Citizens Affairs.

Is Mr. Walker here?

He is accompanied by Mrs. Juanita Soria, Mrs. Pauline Flores, Mrs. Helen Colima, and Mr. Carlos Zabala.

My Spanish pronunciation, fellow Americans, may not be very good. Colloquially, it is called Tex-Mex down in Texas.

Mr. Walker, would you lead off, please.

**STATEMENT OF JOHN WALKER, DIRECTOR, LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS; ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. JUANITA SORIA; MRS. PAULINE FLORES; MRS. HELEN COLIMA; AND CARLOS ZABALA**

Mr. WALKER, Senator Yarborough, Congressman Roybal, and Congressman Brown:

First, I would like to express appreciation of the entire Mexican-American community for the interest you have shown by holding these hearings here today.

In the county of Los Angeles, we have been concerned with the older people. The board of supervisors has established this department of county government, solely to try to meet some of the problems and the needs of the elderly citizens.

This was done back in 1955. One of the means that we have used to do that, is the information day programs and local committees on aging. The first information day program we had in the county of Los Angeles was held in east Los Angeles area back in 1961. It was small. It was exploratory.

Based on the success of that particular program, we held another one at the Roosevelt High School in east Los Angeles. We were told by many people in that area and in the so-called Anglo community that we wouldn't have a turnout—these people wouldn't turn out.

We packed the school. We had over 1,200 that attended this program. This is a program in which community organizations and agencies assembled at one place at one time, to present the resources and the services that they have to help the elderly persons. At the same time, that person has an opportunity to go around and ask whatever questions they may have to ask.

Based upon the results of that program, we intensified some of our interest and concern with this population in the Mexican-American community scattered all over the county of Los Angeles.

East Los Angeles has the largest concentration of them. We have a good sized number of them out in San Fernando, Pacoima, in the San Fernando Valley. We have some down at Venice and the Ocean Park area. We have some of them in the San Pedro Harbor area. We have some right in the manual arts area in the center of Los Angeles. They are scattered.

We felt that to start with, we would have to concentrate in the east Los Angeles area. We went down and we were successful in gathering a group of agencies and people together and formed a Greater Los Angeles Committee on Aging. This has been an outstanding committee comprised of representatives of many of the agencies and organizations. Seventy percent of them are Mexican-Americans, themselves. Many of them just joined as ordinary citizens.

We felt that in order to meet the problems of the elderly people, the best one who knew that problem was the older person himself. They knew what the problem was; they knew how they would like to have it met.

**BILINGUAL INFORMATION CENTER**

All right, you go ahead and meet that problem. We will help you and so will other governmental agencies through their consultation and advisory services. One of the programs that this committee came up with was the desire of the bilingual information center. They were successful in their request submitted to the California Commission on Aging in getting funds under title 3 of the Older Americans Act to initiate these programs in 1966-67, rather. Some of these people have been doing this work on a strictly voluntary basis. They took their expenses out of their own pocket. Some of the ladies I have here today are an example of the dedicated volunteers who are willing to give what little they had—their talent, their time, for example, to meet the needs of many of the older people of the community.

I would like to present Mrs. Helen Colima who has been a really dedicated individual in this program. The first year of operation it came out of her pocket—every nickel of it. The second year she was given some funds—up to \$90 a month—but that deducted from her old age security and so she is not much better off. That's one of the problems that exists in this community and others, that there is not the funds available to help these people who are willing to help themselves. They can't—they don't have the money to take care of these out-of-pocket expenses. They have to make sacrifices in order to help the older men and women.

Mrs. Helen Colima is the project director, and I would like to have her explain this information.

**STATEMENT OF MRS. HELEN COLIMA**

Mrs. COLIMA. Mr. Walker has already stated how the center came into existence.

I will add a few words about the operations of the center.

The center staff is bilingual senior citizens, Spanish and English. The purpose of the center is to assist the elderly Mexican-American members and members of their family in social security, and as a referral service to other agencies—public agencies—that can benefit them with their problems.

We have the field assistants to make studies in the surrounding areas and family aides to visit them and assist them in any way that they can.

The histories of these cases are in the center. There are approximately 3,000 people that have been serviced since the opening of the center, by contact in the office, phone and mail.

Our target area is approximately 10 square miles in the east Los Angeles area. The analysis of area conditions, according to our surveys, is that there is definitely a language barrier. Thirty-five percent do not speak English. Over 70 percent are Spanish surnames. Ten percent are 65 or older, and there are approximately 350,000 Mexican-Americans in the east Los Angeles area.

## INADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION

There is also inadequate transportation for shut-ins who want to go to the doctor or to go marketing; lower income housing, limited jobs available for senior citizens, and we are finding out now, through experience, that the age limit has been lowered from age 65 to 50 that come into the office for help; that is, among the Mexican-American people.

The area of the center that was located—we are located in Laguna Park, 3864 Whittier Boulevard, and we had selected that area because it is within the reach of transportation. Our contacts are made by bilingual weekly newspapers, radio and television broadcasts, and we distribute and keep in our center information, both in Spanish and English.

Among the services of the center are: public assistance, including medical, social security, including medicare, immigration problems, legal aid services, senior citizens property tax reduction. We have the home improvement program which we will be involved with when they set up their offices. We have the food stamp program, health service, employment and job information, adult education services, and that is about all.

There are a lot of other services that we have, but these are mostly the main services that we have.

And I would also like to make a recommendation that sometimes we cannot get directors and qualified people to work in the area. Mostly those that are on old-age pension, because you are deducted more than half—or nearly half is deducted from anything you make, so everybody, practically, is working on a volunteer basis.

That is about all. Thank you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Mrs. Colima.

Mr. WALKER. Another program, Senator, that this program initiated was the home visitation program. They were able to obtain funds from the Office of Economic Opportunity to carry on this program, and recently graduated 46 trainees who are going out into the community and ringing doorbells and locating problems, to find out what the problems in this area are.

We have with us Mrs. Pauline Flores, who is the project director for that program.

## STATEMENT OF MRS. PAULINE FLORES

Mrs. FLORES. Gentlemen, my name is Pauline Flores, and I am the director of the home visitation program of east Los Angeles.

We have trained 46 men and women who are willing to go and work among shut-ins and handicapped senior citizens of the community.

Now, these aides go out into the field and bring information about our senior citizens' needs. Then we send our day workers to help these shut-ins and these handicapped senior citizens in the best way that

they can do. There are many ways they can help, and they are happy to do it.

We have two training classes of 36 hours each. Up to now we have placed 12 trainees in homes of different elderly people, and we have four field workers that work going out in the field and ringing doorbells to find out the needs of all the citizens. These field aides come over to us and give us the information and then we pick up the women that we think would be better for that job, and we send them out there.

So we have the cooperation of the public assistance office. They are helping us out putting these ladies and men in homes.

Thank you.

Mr. WALKER. The field supervisor for the home visitation aides, Mrs. Jaunita Soria. Mrs. Soria will explain some of the problems the fieldworkers run into.

#### STATEMENT OF MRS. JUANITA SORIA

Mrs. SORIA. Senator Yarborough, Congressman Roybal, and Congressman Brown.

Transportation is the main problem in our community. Everybody is very much in need of transportation to and from home, and for the different needs of everyday life, marketing, paying the utility bills and doctor's visits, and even when they want to take a short walk, they can't do it alone. They are very old, and they need someone to accompany them.

They can't go outside alone for fear of falling.

My next point is the language barrier. Our elderly are unable to contact us with their problems so that they can get the assistance that they so much need and are entitled to. As a result of this neglect and the lack of contact, one lady 88 years old died because she was unattended. She was found—should I say—I don't know whether she was dead. She had an attack or something at 8 o'clock in the morning, and they tried to get help.

She called the police, she called the fire department, and they weren't able to give her any help. No one would touch her.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon a neighbor picked her up and took her to a hospital. She died the next day.

It is my feeling that if she had had the proper care, immediately in the morning when it was needed, her life would have been saved. But it was again neglect and lack of contact.

#### FIELD WORKERS IN SHORT SUPPLY

My point is that our area is so large that a small group of field workers is unable to cover all the needs reported to our office.

We need more trainees so they can take care of more cases that have need of them, and take care of them in a more effective manner.

Transportation is so poor and expensive, that the majority of our field aides don't have the time, and they only get paid for 3 hours a day. Therefore, that isn't enough time to go from one place to the other. Some places are quite distant from one to the other.

Thank you, gentlemen.

Mr. WALKER. Another agency which has been doing outstanding work in this area is the Plaza Community Center Organization. We have Mr. Carlos Zabala here, who will give you an example of the problems that they have run across in working with people in this community.

Mr. Zabala.

#### STATEMENT OF CARLOS ZABALA

Mr. ZABALA. As a community worker under Plaza Community Center Organization, I am convinced that the senior citizens need to know their rights about medicare, Med-Cal\* welfare, immigration and naturalization, transportation, housing, credit buying, and also consumers' organizations where they can be members of some clubs and attend classes to learn English and other useful things.

I have an example of the unknown ledgement [sic], the laws and rights. One day a man came into my office and told me that he had three different social security numbers, that he had worked in the United States a long time ago.

#### IMMIGRATION DIFFICULTIES

Then he went to Mexico and continually he had been crossing the border without any kind of permission. He was then caught and the police gave him 90 days to fix up his immigration papers, so then he asked for help.

We asked him for all kinds of documents about his job or jobs in the United States, his social security cards, and so forth. Then we went with him to the social security office to present his claim.

After some months he received a letter from social security including a check for \$1,300 and a notice that he was qualified to receive a monthly check of more or less \$90.

Mr. WALKER. That, gentlemen, is a summary of some of the needs out in the community. Needless to say, these Mexican-Americans are no different than other people. They don't want charity.

We have found that many of the problems existing in this community come from the cultural background of these people. If they can possibly go without, many of them will go without the needed help. But many of them could be induced to accept some of these resources that are available to them, if we had the contact with them. We lack the professional help that is needed. We just don't have them.

I know, I have been trying to get a bilingual staff in my department. I have spent several months trying to find somebody for that particular job.

The wages and salaries that are available to compensate a person who has that ability are not equal to what he can get in other fields. Consequently this is limiting to this service.

But these people who are willing to get out and give of their time and effort need help. And of course the county has budgetary problems, too. I think we have to look to the Federal Government for as-

\*California Medical program.

sistance, to enable these people to go out and communicate and meet the needs of these elderly men and women that are truly acute.

We have tried to meet some of these problems through the establishment of these bilingual centers. We have another one out in the San Fernando area, and every bit of our fliers and information as to any information or programs, including brochures, are bilingual.

I have an example of a service done in the San Fernando-Pacoima Valley area—this is the flier in English, and this is the flier in Spanish. We try to do that with every type of program we put out.

The information centers here—fliers and brochures—are bilingual, both Spanish and English. We are trying to bring these people to these services that are available. We have 19 information stations scattered around the county on a part-time basis.

They are manned by volunteers. We don't have the professional staff, so these people are manning them out of their own pocket. We have no money to help them.

We are at the present time engaged in a planning program for the senior community service aides. This program, under the Department of Labor, the National Council on Aging, and the local Office of Economic Opportunity. We have put them through a very extensive 2-week training program. In that we have four Mexican-Americans, as well as Negroes, whom we will send out into the community and ring doorbells.

#### ONE MILLION OLDER PEOPLE

Here in Los Angeles, we have over a million older people—well over a million. Under this program of community service aides, I am getting eight—eight people—that are supposed to cover the entire county of Los Angeles, with over a million older people. It's not enough. They can't meet their travel expenses. There is no money available for any traveling out of \$138 per month—\$20 per week. They have to take their traveling expense out of their pocket, the bus fare or, if they are driving, their automobile expense.

I think we need to give help to these people to do the job that they are willing to do. I would urge the Congress to consider helping these people by reimbursing them for their out-of-pocket expenses, and not penalize their other benefits that they may be receiving, such as for instance, a deduction of the old-age pension, because they are willing to put in their time down here to render service. And that is what has been happening to date.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Mr. Walker, for this very informed and informative statement.

I want to also again thank Congressman Roybal and the County Supervisor Ernest Debs, because they worked to set up this panel.

And much of this fine hearing has been the result of the advance work done by people in Los Angeles in working with the witnesses and taking up the critical problems and enabling us to boil it down to a 1-day hearing.

Are there any questions of this panel?



## DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Congressman ROYBAL. Mr. Chairman, I don't have any questions, but a great deal has been said about a demonstration program to be set up in the county of Los Angeles and throughout the Nation.

I think this is a good example of a demonstration program. They are demonstrating to the official agencies that work has to be done on a grassroots level. I think that this has to be implemented by Federal funds, and if this is done, it will not be necessary for you ladies to dig out of your own funds the moneys that are necessary to undertake the type of work that you are doing.

I think that this is most excellent and I want to compliment you for your leadership in this field. You are actually doing something that the official agencies should have done a long time ago and we will look very carefully into these possibilities of including this in legislation.

Mrs. COLIMA. Mr. Roybal, during 1966 we practically ran the center out of our own pockets, and in 1967 we were fortunate to get some funds. And that is the way we started. We are now in our second year.

I believe we are doing a wonderful service. The only thing is that when we receive some funds, more than half of our old-age pension is deducted. I don't mind it myself, you know, but this is—if this could be set up so that later—in later years somebody would have an incentive to work on this kind of project where they can benefit a little bit.

A lot of people don't want to work. They say, "Well, there's no incentive. I don't want to work as a volunteer. I'm not going to get nothing out of it. I get more on old-age security."

Mrs. SORIA. We also need equipment to work with. Mrs. Flores and I had to walk around with our little filing box under our arms, and we had no place to put our things. We had no place that we could put this on a table, because we don't have an office. We don't have a desk. We don't have anything to work on.

We just have to go place to place, and move things around. I think we need a nice place, and room to work. We could do a better job by having something to work with.

We talk to and fro, it's awfully hard, it's awfully tiresome.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I want to congratulate you ladies on what you are doing with the very little help that you have. You are more than helping the people that you help. You are helping to arouse a whole social conscience as to the problem and for the need for aid and more strong financial resources.

Congressman Brown, you have been here all morning. Do you have any questions?

Mrs. FLORES. May I say something?

I hope that very soon we will have a senior citizens center in Buena Park, so we can have a little office. Even if it's 9 by 10. We don't care, as long as we have something to work with.

This is directed to Supervisor Debs.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I want to say that Supervisor Debs has worked with this for a long period of time, and he has helped to work these problems out.

Any other questions of the panel here?

If not, the panel will be excused and thank you very much for this contribution.

Supervisor Debs was to have testified earlier this morning, but due to the fact that the county board of supervisors was holding a meeting, he was detained.

He is here now, and we are going to call on him and one more witness before we recess for lunch.

At this time we recognize Ernest E. Debs, supervisor of the Third District of the County of Los Angeles, who has helped us so much in setting up this hearing.

I believe that what we have already heard this morning, this is going to be a very beneficial hearing for the Congress and for the Government and the people in the United States.

Supervisor Debs.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ERNEST E. DEBS, SUPERVISOR, THIRD  
DISTRICT, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

Mr. DEBS. Thank you, Senator.

Before those lovely ladies get away, let me tell them that I am disturbed about the slow movement of that Senior Citizen Center at Laguna Park. I keep telling my able deputy that I could build it faster myself, and I can't even hit a nail with a hammer.

But the contractor there has been very slow, but eventually it will be—hope springs eternal in the human breast.

I would welcome this opportunity to appear on behalf of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to outline some of our county's activities concerning our older Americans of Mexican origin.

Latest estimates indicate that this county has more than 700,000 residents of this ethnic group. I believe it is the largest such concentration in the Nation.

Included are about 70,000 Spanish surnamed people aged 65 and over. Since I represent the Board of Supervisors as departmental chairman for senior citizens affairs, I am deeply interested in problems of all our older residents.

Since I also happen to represent the Sonora District, which includes East Los Angeles, with its large Mexican-American population, I am obviously concerned with the needs of this group.

As we know Spanish-speaking families have unique handicaps in today's fast-moving society, due to the language and cultural barriers. This has been recognized by attempts to help the very young through such programs as Operation Headstart.

It is equally vital that we establish a program to help the older Mexican-Americans, also.

When advancing age reduce the self-sufficiency of such persons, they face extra hardships because they often lack adequate communications with our predominantly Anglo institutions.

We are attempting to meet them by establishment of bilingual information and referral centers presently located in Montebello, East Los Angeles, and in Pacoima in the northeast area of the San Fernando Valley.

We are in the process of opening a similar facility in Huntington Park to service five neighboring communities. The County Department of Senior Citizens Affairs, which was established in 1965 at the order of the Board of Supervisors, sponsors many other services for older Americans.

#### INFORMATION DAY PROGRAM

One of the most successful is the information day program which brings experts of various agencies and organizations into the community at a specified and publicized time and place.

The various services provided by the participating groups are explained, and questions are answered.

We recently conducted a successful bilingual workshop for the older Latin-Americans in the Mexican-American community in cooperation with the Greater East Los Angeles Committee on Aging.

This resulted in obtaining funds under title 3 of the Older Americans Act and the Office of Economic Opportunity for training seniors as community aides. You heard them this morning.

These aides can be very helpful in locating shut-ins in their own communities and in providing for their needs.

I am pleased, too, to report that the county will soon dedicate its first senior citizens' center. To be located in the heart of the East Los Angeles area.

Hopefully this would be the forerunner of other essential facilities. These will be located throughout this county.

In the course of today's hearing I am sure that other speakers will describe in greater detail many of the services available to our old people in Los Angeles County.

However, the needs are great, and will increase along with our growing population.

We deeply appreciate Senator Yarborough's interest in this vital area, and commend the efforts of all members of this distinguished committee.

Be sure that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will cooperate in every way with your humanitarian goals, making life more rewarding for the aging Mexican-American.

I think that was my statement, Senator Yarborough.

I have said to you verbally my deep gratitude to this board of supervisors. We expressed it to you, sir, at a board hearing this morning where we not only presented you with a plaque for your distinguished services in the U.S. Senate—especially for the bilingual educational bill that you were successful in getting through, and we would never have gotten through without your dedicated efforts in this field.

With the help of other Congressmen—Congressman Brown and Congressman Roybal—this is now a reality, and in our area and your State of Texas, and the State of New York will be the great benefactors of the Bilingual Educational Act which you caused to be put on the books.

Now we also, in addition, I think, ought to tell the audiences here this morning, because Texas and California have so much in common, as the Senator so ably said this morning.

Both have oil, and both have cotton, and so we are big in both States. We have a few more population than Texas, but Texas is growing, and we all are growing.

But he has indicated not only his interest in the State of Texas, but in all of America. So that the county board of supervisors, for the second time in the history of the board, we are told, made him an honorary citizen of Los Angeles County, as well as Congressman Roybal and Brown, so he is now an honorary citizen of Los Angeles County.

But I am not so sure, as I told him, that that is going to be helpful in Texas or not, but at least we have great affection for you, Senator.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, Supervisor Debs, with the great hospitality shown me while I was serving with the 97th Infantry Division in California in World War II, where we were training before we went overseas—and California was just virtually overrun with soldiers, sailors, and marines and Coast Guard, Air Force—everything at that time because of the movement to the west across the Pacific—I will never forget those kindnesses.

And after those months in training here up and down California, I can't come here and talk too well about Texas, except when we jumped off these boats at midnight into that cold water, I would long for that warm Gulf of Mexico. [Laughter.]

I am tremendously grateful to you, Supervisor Debs.

Mr. DEBS. I think, Senator, so the audience might see what the presentation was, I would like to do it all over again for the benefit of—I think it is KNXT there, one of our fine television stations—but this is what we presented to the Senator this morning. We rarely give these out. This is the seal of the county of Los Angeles.

We have a very tight budget, as I told the Senator this morning, but because of his great help and good legislation for his native State and for California, and for the United States, it reads this: "Presented to Ralph W. Yarborough for distinguished service in the U.S. Senate by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors" and signed by—all of the names of the board are here, sir.

And I wanted to say that after we presented it to you, on a motion of the board of supervisors, you are now an honorary citizen of the county of Los Angeles, which means that you can come in and out and not have to pay any taxes. [Applause.]

Senator YARBOROUGH. Supervisor Debs, I am tremendously grateful for this. We worked together, and the good Congressmen Roybal and Brown, as you stated, in the Bilingual Education Act, worked closely with two great friends from the State of California, Tom Kuchel and George Murphy.

And as you said, cotton, oil, and the cattle industry. We have a great cattle industry here in our two States.

So many things that are similar, and the greater part of our State, as is the greater part of the State of California, is a water-shortage area.

And we are greatly concerned with water problems. We have so many identical problems there that it was natural that there would be a lot of cooperation between the Senators of our States.

And when I think of those days training on the Los Angeles shore, and jumping in that cold water at midnight to learn how to storm the beach under naval gunfire, this is a far cry from wading through that cold water.

This is the most beautiful plaque I have ever seen. We sometimes get a little surplus of these in Washington, but no surplus of anything like this. This is the most beautiful plaque I ever received in my life.

It will grace, not the back office, but the front office, so that anyone who comes in there is going to see that plaque the first thing. I want them to see that before they see me. [Applause.]

Due to the fact that it is past 12 o'clock, we will ask the next witness to wait until this afternoon.

We will recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

(Whereupon, at 12:05 p.m., the committee recessed, to reconvene at 1:45 p.m., the same day.)

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

Senator YARBOROUGH. The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging will come to order.

I want to say to the witnesses and the participants on the panel and this able staff here that we are pressed for time as you know. We had recessed until 1:30, and we had unexpected events to impinge on our time and delay our return, so we are fighting under deadline here.

We hope to finish by 3:30, because we must catch a plane to El Paso, Tex. and go over the situation with witnesses tonight to see what the Hong Kong flu has done to us on our hearing, or get substitutes.

So in order to finish, we will ask the witnesses to condense their statements as much as possible, and Congressman Roybal and I are not surrendering the right to question witnesses, if we think they would be pertinent, but we have both foregone very vital questions this morning in order to finish the hearing.

I notice that Congressman Roybal didn't ask but a couple, and I asked but few, and we will cooperate with the witnesses, if you can condense your statements. You need not leave out anything, you can abstract them. We will print the full statement. It will be used.

But we are going to try to hear all the rest of the witnesses scheduled here, except two who have been shot down by the Hong Kong flu and are unable to come.

We had a sizable list of witnesses, even with the two absences.

The first witness this afternoon will be Mr. Anthony Rios, president of the Los Angeles Community Service Organization.

Mr. Rios, we hoped to hear you before noon, but Supervisor Debs was able to come, so we had to ask you to come back this afternoon.

Mr. Rios, we are glad that you could come back this afternoon, after having been here this morning.

**STATEMENT OF ANTHONY RIOS, PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR, LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION**

Mr. Rios. Senator Yarborough, Congressman Roybal, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to first of all correct a small piece of misinformation, I guess.

I am not the president of the Los Angeles Community Service Organization. I am the program and personnel administrator. I work for the group, rather than in the policymaking position of president.

Senator YARBOROUGH. We will have that corrected in the record. The list we have here did show you as president.

Mr. RIOS. Sometimes the presidents don't like to be shoved aside.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, that happens in other quarters, too.

Mr. RIOS. My statement, Senator and members of the committee, is in relationship to programs that may be designed to serve those Mexican nationals living in the United States—or those of Mexican descent who are living in the United States—especially because we find that many of them have not been served, or they do not make themselves available for those services that are provided for them.

Through our experience in the last 21 years since this organization has existed in East Los Angeles, and after that period of time in our immediate area, we expanded to other places in California.

And in that period of time we dealt with a lot of senior citizens, both because of the campaign for pensions for noncitizens, which we were responsible for enacted in other States, but also the citizenship programs that we provided for those elderly people that could take advantage of this provision in the amendment in the national immigration laws of the United States.

Those that could take their examinations for citizenship in their own language, if they were 50 years of age, and had resided in the United States at least 1 year. Consequently, we had thousands of people working with us, and we were working with them, and helping them with their problems.

To give you an example, at the peak of our citizenship program we had 108 classes in the State of California, averaging more than 25 per class. And of course, now, it has dwindled down, because many people have already been naturalized and there are not that many left.

However, there is a sprinkling of them always coming in, so that we are constantly in touch with the elder citizens and we work very closely in this matter.

As a matter of fact, I contend that the backbone of our organization, really, in our experience, as I indicated before, we found that some people do not make themselves available for the services that are provided for everybody in general, and simply because we feel there is a close family tie among Spanish-speaking people, especially those of Mexican descent, and that because of this tie that they are quite stub-

born about giving up this kind of position in culture which we feel very close to us.

We feel that every member of the family has a part to play in the family role, and that we take care of each other.

I wanted to outline in the report that I present in writing—outline some of the services that have been provided.

1. The present facilities for senior citizens received specialized, segmented services, such as:
  - A. Financial assistance administered by the State.
  - B. Senior citizens' housing.**
  - C. Health services.**
  - D. Immigration and naturalization services.
  - E. Recreational services by city/county governments.
2. Senior citizens receive services from many different kinds of agency organizations such as:
  - A. Bureau of Public Social Services.
  - B. Los Angeles County Department of Senior Citizens.
  - C. Social Security administration.
  - D. Settlement houses and playgrounds.
3. Many services lack sufficient Spanish-speaking staff.
4. Many services lack sufficient involvement from senior citizens in policymaking levels.

#### NEW CONCEPTS NEEDED OR OLD VALUES PRESERVED

Senior citizens can best be served through family structure—a structure which gave senior citizens a vital role in the family and in the neighborhood for many generations.

Federal programs, indeed many programs, do not accept the value of family unity and neighborhood family cooperation.

Senior citizens need to become vital to themselves and to others. This vitality cannot be given by bits and pieces from people outside of their own families and neighborhoods.

#### CSO BACKYARD ALLEY PROJECT

This project funded over 1 year ago under the Department of Labor proposed to bring families together in a cooperative venture to improve family and neighborhood life. It proposed to build family service and recreational areas in alleys in east Los Angeles.

Included in these areas would be trees, lawns, gardens, wading pools, neighborhood food lockers, laundry facilities, croquet, and so forth.

In addition to the alleys, backyards facing alleys would be used for additional space and serve to tie the homes to the neighborhood service and recreational areas.

Such a project would allow a children's play area within the protective shelter of the homes, the building of recreational facilities which many families together can build and maintain, mutual buying of groceries and other goods for lesser prices, the involvement of neighborhood families to promote and sustain this venture, et cetera.

Using the alleys was not the ultimate goal of the project, but was first used because of its convenience and quick adaptability to clearing

and preparing the land for such use. Streets can be converted into family service and recreational areas, too, and perhaps is a more desirable and far-reaching objective.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS—A VITAL ROLE IN THE PROJECT

Families would need help to build and to maintain such a project. Senior citizens must share in the leadership and manpower. Parents must work and maintain a household. Senior citizens can watch children at play, can operate buying clubs, maintain mutual facilities like food lockers, wading pools, the garden area, and so forth, and can provide some of the leadership "know-how" and sustaining interest to keep the project both useful and self-perpetuating.

In turn, the family can provide shelter, food, human relationships, family ties, and the vitality of being needed and wanted.

Foster home care for senior citizens could be developed in families involved in such a project much more readily.

This cannot be given by costly overlapping institutions, special services to the senior citizens and other bits and pieces of services from many different agencies and organizations of strangers.

#### THE BACKYARD ALLEY PROJECT SO FAR

Local laws and regulations are beginning to bend and to break to allow an alley or two to become family service and recreational areas. In talks with HUD staff, they do not provide support for this kind of program, other than direct help to the owners of rehabilitated structures.

HUD does not offer help to projects designed to assist the families living in those structures. What is needed is a reevaluation of a HUD program and policy.

#### SUMMARY

Human beings have not changed. Their minds have developed more, urban living has become more complex, and ideas on living have changed. The family, and a neighborhood of families, still remain the basic structure of living together with the same potential for self-preservation and creative development.

It is no longer economically practical to serve senior citizens outside of family and neighborhood. And in the case of the family of Mexican extraction, there is a stubborn resistance to break family tradition for an inferior life.

I would like to give further comment, but this was done in a hurry and very briefly. We have developed a project, Backyard Alley project. We are developing another program—or at least writing up another program that will be a followup to the concept initiated by the Backyard Alley project.

As I indicated, one was under the Labor Department, but this was not the proper funding. A better development could come out of a HUD program that really enhanced the concept that we have proposed.

Thank you very much.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much, Mr. Rios.



This is very challenging. A very informative statement.

Congressman Roybal?

Congressman ROYBAL. Several statements were made this morning with regard to family ties that you have already noted in your presentation.

It was also said that one of the problems was the lack of communication, that a great deal must be done to provide bilingual information to the people of the community.

Do you agree with that statement?

Mr. Rios. Well, I agree with you, but again, you see we are moving outside the family ties and the neighborhood environment.

We find that the language has been maintained for several generations in the United States, and that hasn't broken. So whenever there is a family or neighborhood tie, the language is not a barrier.

Now, of course, when you go shopping, or when you go to do something else, obviously the language is very essential. I'm not against learning the English language, or practicing it, or talking it on an everyday basis, but I think that some of the services that senior citizens need when they are in need or when they are sick or when they are in need of other things, comfort and the feeling of being wanted, shouldn't depend on the language.

It should depend on the environment in which they live. I think we can provide the kind of environment, so that they don't have to suffer on a day-to-day basis the embarrassment of not knowing the English language.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Rios, I am very much interested in what you say about preserving the family unit, and this effected through a grant from the Labor Department, to let the family build its unit by utilizing those programs.

#### CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURE

I grew up in a small town. The families were very close-knit out on the farms. In other words, the agrarian society, which was with us until about 40 years ago. Every member of the family was needed. Grandmothers and grandfathers looked after children when mothers were gone working.

They looked after the chickens—there was a place for them in that society.

The mechanization of society has wiped out a lot of that place, and this plan that is outlined here, by utilization of plots of ground close at home where they can watch the children at play and in safe places from cars passing, and so on, it is worthy of study. I am glad these experiments are being carried on, and it doesn't have the disastrous psychological effects on old people that you point out, where generation after generation of families remained close-knit.

Putting the old people away, and putting them in a high-rise building where they will be alone, alienated, and so forth, is almost, you might say, keeping them in captivity.

We will give this to the people who work on this all the time, and give this very close study—this preservation of family ties.

Thank you very much for being here.

Our next witness is County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Supervisor Hahn, we are very glad to have your testimony. Thank you, Mr. Hahn, for coming. I know you had a long session this morning with the supervisors, and you have made a special effort to come and be with us.

We appreciate the benefits of your testimony.

**STATEMENT OF HON. KENNETH HAHN, SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

Mr. HAHN. Thank you, Senator Yarborough.

We are very pleased that my able colleague, Supervisor Debs, extended to you, both in the board room and here at your hearing, the official welcome of the county of Los Angeles.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That he has.

Mr. HAHN. I am delighted that you are here.

I know Congressman Ed Roybal is delighted that you are here, too.

I might inform the distinguished Senator from Texas that the able Congressman from Los Angeles was a seat mate of mine in the city council about 21 years ago.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You both look awfully young for that.

Mr. HAHN. We are, both of us, "oldtimers" now in the local government and in the National Government.

Mr. Chairman, Senator, and Congressman Roybal, I want to bring for a very few minutes a problem that is of current concern to the aging and to the young.

Now, I mentioned before that Mr. Debs has in his district the great majority of the Mexican-Americans in this county, but in my district, which is district No. 2 of the county, I have a great many families, oldtimers, who have lived in the Florence, Firestone, and the Willowbrook area for 30 or 40 years. They and their children are part of the community and they are proud of their heritage.

I would like to bring to this special committee a problem that perhaps you can have your staff study, and have a proper investigation made later on by the Congress. I have written about this matter to Mr. Roybal. I didn't know about this meeting, or I would have not sent you a letter, Ed.

I think there is a direct relationship between the problems of our Mexican-American senior citizens and the numbers of Mexican-American young people who are dropping out of schools, and who are denied entrance into the universities and the colleges, for one reason or another, to get advanced education.

I think the grandparents are interested in their grandchildren, and while they may not have received a formal education, they would be so pleased to see their grandchildren go to college and become doctors and lawyers.

The county of Los Angeles, Senator, operates all of the public hospitals in this county. A State agency directs the county government to maintain the hospital program for the welfare of these senior citizens and for the poor.

Mr. Roybal, you are an expert on public health, because this was your major, I believe, at UCLA. Outside of the Federal Government it-

self, which operates the Veterans' Administration hospital from one end of the country to the other, I don't think there is any organization or any other unit of government that provides more hospital beds than the county of Los Angeles.

Now, because of this primary interest, the Board of Supervisors enters into contracts with the University of California at Los Angeles Medical School and the University of Southern California Medical School, to train and educate our young people in the medical arts and to use the county facilities.

The professor of medicine, then, many times holds a dual occupation—as a professor of medicine at UCLA, and as the chief of a section in a county hospital.

#### NO MEXICAN-AMERICANS IN MEDICAL SCHOOL

At the present time, today in 1968, at the great University of California at Los Angeles, there are 392 medical students. This is a tax-supported institution and there is not one Mexican-American student enrolled in the medical school in any of the four classes, not one.

Now, this is a shocking statistic.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I agree with you. That is a very shocking statistic.

Mr. HAHN. How do we motivate our young people?

I am having my troubles as a county supervisor in the Watts area—that's part of my district—last Thursday, I regret to say, the school I graduated from—Fremont High School—young people tore down the American flag and burned it right on the campus.

They burned another flag at another high school in my district—Crenshaw High School, a brand new, five million dollar school.

Now, how can the young people feel part of America, and how can their fathers and mothers and grandparents feel part of America if some of the young people are just dropping out of school? Some of them would like to be doctors. What a great role we would serve, Senator, if we could motivate our young people to stay in school and become doctors and lawyers and professional people.

I am sure you have heard the figures: There are approximately 600,000, maybe 700,000 Mexican-American citizens in Los Angeles County. I would feel that the power of the U.S. Senate, of which you are a Member, and the power of the House of Representatives would do something with the Federal grants which are given not only to States but public and private institutions of higher learning. Possibly your committee could look into it and get statistics from the deans of the accredited medical schools to determine how many Mexican-American young people are enrolled and how many are able to participate in our higher educational institutions so they will be examples to the community of why they should finish Garfield, or Belmont, or Fremont, or Manual Arts High School.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Excuse me. I am going to interpose a moment—

Mr. HAHN. This is virtually all I would like to submit to the committee. These remarks are not particularly about senior citizens. I

know you have actual information from your staff on that, but I would like to file with this committee my statement and the copy of a letter on this subject that I wrote to Chancellor Charles Young of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Perhaps your committee can—maybe not today, maybe not next month, but maybe during the new session of Congress—make an appropriate investigation on this subject not only for California but for the Nation.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Hahn, I think that is a very crucial point. Your statement will be received and filed.

I am directing my staff now that when they get back to Washington Thursday of this week to start an inquiry to be sent to each of the medical schools of the United States, whether public or private—that is all medical schools in the United States, in the States that are receiving Federal moneys—and find out how many of Spanish surnames are in all of their classes.

Now this is a great shortage. We in the Congress and the Health Subcommittee of the Senate, a few years ago, provided for 20 new medical schools. There was such a shortage. They have not all yet been built. I think perhaps five or six.

There was some foot-dragging in some parts of the country to prevent their building.

#### SIXTY PERCENT OF INTERNES FROM ABROAD

And today the hospitals in the United States, over 60 percent of all the interns are graduates of foreign medical schools. There are very few American students getting medical training.

Over 20 percent of all medical schools—and not just medical schools like Mexico or Europe. The United Arab Republic, Iran, India, all over the world, they are coming here because we cannot supply the interns in our own hospitals to treat American people.

And over 30 percent of all the rest of us—you know, the residents are a step higher—over 30 percent of the residents are graduates of foreign medical schools.

We are not giving the boys and girls of America a chance to get a medical education because a few people don't want more doctors. They have been opening it up to doctors all over Asia, Africa, South America, and everywhere in the world to make up the shortages.

The shortage is so critical that hospitals have to have them.

Of course it is outrageous that you have about 400 medical students in one medical school in Los Angeles, and not a single Mexican-American among them—not one.

Mr. HAHN. I want you to know the statistics were made available to me by our superintendent of hospitals, Mr. William Barr. They were not just a guess. These are actual statistics.

And I would further add just this one point: I talked to the president of the University of Southern California personally. By the way, USC has two Mexican-American students in their school, so that's what—200 percent better than UCLA? But perhaps your staff can get the figures on this. I didn't think it was true, Senator, but if as you say, every medical school in the Nation received Federal funds, you certainly have a right to find this information out.

I said to Dr. Norman Topping, president of USC—I got my master's degree there after attending Pepperdine College—if USC's athletic department can start at the high school level to find a possible O. J. Simpson or Mike Garrett in their 11th or 12th years, get them in a scholarship program and see they finish their academic assignments and become great football players, why can't potential doctors or lawyers be sought out? What a great example Garrett and Simpson are for what can be done.

Why can't we apply some of those same techniques and find young men of the Mexican-American community at the junior high school or high school level and say: "This man has the intelligence and the aptitude: let's develop him to be a physician, or a surgeon."

Thank you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. We passed a law in Congress to authorize special loans to medical students that go twice as high as a loan to an ordinary student at an ordinary college—he can't get out and do as much work on the side—and we have passed a program which stimulated that.

But the roadblock is before they get to college, and then they face "Admissions." And we have a program in the Higher Education Act now—"Talent Search" and "Upward Bound."

#### SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT NEEDED

But, it is rather a limited program. We need school involvement. We need those school officials, not merely a Federal program superimposed on them, but the high school officials themselves—and college officials in the area to encourage these students to go on through and get this education.

And, we need the medical community help, too.

Mr. HAHN. I hope that the distinguished Senator from Texas and the distinguished Representative from California did not mind my bringing the Mexican-American youth into this particular hearing for the aging, because I thought there was a direct relationship.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I think it is very important, and it means the shortage in the medical profession area is one reason for the lack of medical care for the aged in this country. There just isn't enough medical service to go around. We must train more. There are not enough registered nurses—there are not enough practical nurses. We don't have enough service in hospitals, because there are not even enough people for practical nurses. This is an area of great shortage in trained personnel in America. An opportunity for many jobs—many needed jobs—for people in this area of medical services.

Thank you for bringing that point up.

Mr. HAHN. Thank you, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you for coming, and I thank you for the warm hospitality.

The next witness is Mr. Abe Tapia.

Mr. Tapia, you are here from the Mexican-American Political Association accompanied by Mr. Glen O'Loane, the chairman.

Come around here, gentlemen. Please take your seats and present this to the committee.

**STATEMENT OF ABE TAPIA, PRESIDENT, MEXICAN-AMERICAN  
POLITICAL ASSOCIATION**

Mr. TAPIA. Senator Yarborough, Congressman Roybal, when we first received our invitation from the Senator's office to present testimony before this committee, I signaled to Mr. Oriol that we felt that the best person to present this would be Mr. O'Loane, who is the chairman of our board and is certainly well qualified in senior citizens affairs to present testimony.

So, therefore, I would like to submit to the chairman that the committee consider Mr. O'Loane's presentation at this time.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Certainly.

Proceed, Mr. O'Loane.

**STATEMENT OF GLEN O'LOANE, CHAIRMAN, EAST LOS ANGELES  
LABOR COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE**

Mr. O'LOANE. Most Honorable Chairman and distinguished Senators, Congressman Roybal, I am extremely pleased to be given the opportunity to present the views of myself and of the community-based organization which I represent regarding the pressing problems of the elderly Mexican-Americans here in Los Angeles.

Our organization, the East Los Angeles Labor Community Action Committee (ELALCAC), chartered under the laws of the State of California as a nonprofit, community organization, has been in existence since May 1968.

The ELALCAC is directly supported, on a board of advisers, by 14 international unions and the industrial relations school of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Mr. Chairman, you have a copy in front of you of a list of these organizations.

Senator YARBOROUGH. This list is ordered to be printed in to the record.\*

Mr. O'LOANE. We have come into existence basically in answer to the question of the—of whether or not labor's vast experience in resolving social, economic, and political conflict within the industrial arena can be of relevance toward the solution of the serious social, economic, and political ills which beset our urban centers.

Our overall objectives can be stated simply. We seek to join in union with concerned community residents, to bring our organizing know-how, our technical skills and political voice together with the drives, leadership and direction of community leaders to mount an attack upon the forces of poverty, ignorance, fear, and discrimination which paralyze our barrio.

Our board of directors, of which I am the chairman, is composed jointly of trade unionists living in the east Los Angeles area, and local community representatives. We are all Mexican-Americans. East Los Angeles is our home, its problems are our problems.

Our committee has initiated programs which will provide decent, low-cost housing for east Los Angeles residents. We are structuring a program to begin to develop an economic base within this community.

\*See app. 1, p. 87.

We are currently involved with a project designed by the United Automobile Workers to train local unemployed for decent jobs within the automotive industry. We are extremely concerned with the sub-standard education currently being provided our people in east Los Angeles. We have been, and intend to continue to become involved in correcting this disgraceful situation.

Beginning with the first of the coming year, we will sponsor a community development project designed to instruct and assist community residents in learning to govern and direct their own lives.

All of the problem areas, within which we are currently involved, effect the lives of the senior citizens in our barrio.

#### SENIOR CITIZEN COMPONENT

We have personally become involved in organizing a senior citizen component for our committee in east Los Angeles. In cooperation with the Los Angeles County Senior Citizens Counsel, representatives of the Federal Social Security Administration, and local union retiree councils, we have begun to organize a drop-in center for area senior citizens.

As a result of these contracts with Federal and county agencies, we have had firsthand knowledge of local drop-in centers, specifically, the Laguna Park program on Whittier Boulevard in east Los Angeles.

As a result of this experience, we would like to make several comments. First of all, the drop-in centers which do exist in east Los Angeles are too few, and consequently too hard to reach for the majority of the elderly. The current centers are expected to cover an area much too large.

East Los Angeles, like most urban ghettos, has a poor public transportation system. The elderly, as much as and perhaps more so than any other group, make use of public transportation. Poor transportation facilities do not allow for maximum participation of elderly at the drop-in centers.

Since east Los Angeles is predominantly Mexican-American, communication, or the use of the English language, became a large problem.

This is especially true of the elderly Mexican-Americans. Predominantly, they are first generation Americans who have not been exposed to extensive schooling, either in Mexico or here in the United States. Many of these elderly Mexican-Americans speak Spanish at home. The drop-in centers do not have enough programs which are conducted in Spanish. Often the mistake is made of assuming that pamphlets need only be printed in Spanish in order to reach the Spanish-speaking senior citizens. What is not considered is that most elderly Mexican-Americans who speak only Spanish have great difficulty in reading that language, or any language because of their lack of education.

The drop-in centers in order to reach the majority of the elderly Mexican-Americans in east Los Angeles must bring the programs to the individual.

This means more house visits, more direct contact by Spanish-speaking workers with the senior citizens. Less attention should be paid to using printed instruction, more to verbal communications in Spanish.

## THE MOBILITY PROBLEM

Of all of the poor living in east Los Angeles, the elderly have the greatest mobility problem. Programs which stress the ability of the individual to travel distances, at all hours, cannot hope to reach a large number of eligible persons.

I would like to make another observation specifically regarding the drop-in centers I have visited. It appears to me that the monthly dues which the participating senior citizen pays are too high.

Especially in light of the fact that some services which are available, like coffee and doughnuts are not free, but must be paid for, and at prices equal to retail. For persons on small pensions or welfare, these expenses become just major expenditures.

I have found also that the public park facilities are not always welcome areas for our elderly. The police in our area often harass senior citizens using these facilities, forcing them to move on. The elderly need special recreation and park facilities which are specifically designed to meet their special needs. Local law enforcement agents should also be informed of the special problems of the elderly.

Our experience with the medical problems of the elderly in our area reflect much of the same situation common to ghetto poor; lack of adequate facilities, poor access to these facilities, crowded hospitals. All of these are made worse by the language barrier which further separates the elderly from possible benefits and services.

This communication barrier makes this individual more open to confidence men who prey upon the elderly.

My feelings about public housing and its relationship to the elderly in east Los Angeles can be stated simply:

The elderly have special needs and special problems. These may be for elevators instead of stairs to climb. They may have problems reaching, or stepping over fixtures. They may be widowed or widowers, who have to live on a very limited income which prohibits renting decent, individual units. The elderly, because they have so much free time on their hands, may have the psychological need to be closely associated with other people in similar conditions, or on the contrary may need to feel close to children and youth.

In short, the elderly citizen has a special set of problems. Public housing has always been designed, in the east Los Angeles community to meet only one problem: to provide housing for people with not enough money.

The poor are least able to afford special consideration, especially when public housing is more determined by the economy of construction and land usage than utility to the resident.

## NEW PROVISIONS FOR LOW-COST HOUSING

The housing program which we are involved with takes advantage for the first time in east Los Angeles of the special housing provisions for low-cost dwellings under the Federal Housing Act. Consequently, we are able to offer low-interest mortgages. Furthermore, we are a non-profit organization, and we therefore pass on the profit to the owner in the form of lower cost. We also incorporate community needs into our housing plans. Community residents are our most important considera-



tion. They are involved from the design of the building to its final construction. These are all advantages which public housing has never offered to the elderly here in east Los Angeles. Specifically, I'd like at this time to enumerate the retiree program of the United Auto Workers:

Under our current contractual agreements with the automotive industry, retired workers receive a monthly retirement payment of \$5.25 per year of service; this is supplemented of course by social security benefits. That means that an autoworker can retire with 30 years' service and expect a monthly income of approximately \$400.

This retired senior citizen also would be covered under a full medical program fully paid by the company that employed him. He is treated the same as another worker on the job with fully paid hospitalization, drug and psychiatric care.

Prescription drug plan: Retiree covered under this plan would pay a maximum of \$2 per prescription.

Life insurance benefits: The local unions, of course, take into account the special needs of their members through a series of drop-in centers developed to treat senior citizen problems. The international union has a full-time staff and a national department charged with implementing programs, legislation, and other matters.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I cite the illustration of a union program—how it applies to a retired member of an organization within the automobile and aerospace industry. Certainly, the benefits of, and the protections offered to these retired workers, many of whom are Mexican-Americans, is commendable.

But the central question here is: What about the hundreds of thousands of Mexican-Americans—elderly citizens—who have not had the luxury and the good fortune to have belonged to the ranks of organized labor. It is to this that our program addresses itself.

We have to somehow narrow the tremendous step between the two types of elderly citizens. One who is living in reasonable comfort because of contractual agreements and the other living in a state of social and economic despair.

I would like to close my testimony, Mr. Chairman, by thanking your committee for this opportunity for me to express my feelings regarding this important issue of the problem of the elderly Mexican-American.

I would like to say, that the elderly Mexican-American, the senior citizen in east Los Angeles, is the victim of poverty, ill health, ignorance, fear, hostility, and discrimination; all of the conditions of the urban poor are his except that physically and mentally he is less able to defend and protect himself. It is doubly important that both the Federal Government and the local government stand by to protect him by providing for his special needs.

I thank you very much.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Mr. O'Loane, for this very comprehensive statement.

Congressman Royball, have you any questions?

Congressman ROYBAL. None.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. O'Loane, you say that an autoworker can retire with 30 years' service with a monthly income of approximately \$400.

Suppose he worked for 10 years for American Motors, 10 years for Chrysler, and then 10 years for General Motors.

Could he expect that income?

Mr. O'LOANE. Yes; he could expect that.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That, then, is portable from company to company—he has portability on that retirement clause?

Mr. O'LOANE. Yes.

Senator YARBOROUGH. It is unfortunate that in many industries there is no portability credited. If he works 10 years for one company and moves, then he loses that program.

That is very illuminating. Thank you very much.

The next witness is Mr. Ismael Dieppa, former director, Economic Opportunity Commission, Santa Cruz, on Project Find.

Please take a seat up here, Mr. Dieppa.

#### STATEMENT OF ISMAEL DIEPPA, FORMER DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, SANTA CRUZ

Mr. DIEPPA. Senator YARBOROUGH, and Congressman Roybal, it is a pleasure to be here today to offer a few statements concerning my experiences as executive and director for the Economic Opportunity Commission in Santa Cruz County.

At the present time, I am attending the University of Southern California obtaining a Ph. D. in social work, hence, my very deep concern for the field of aging.

If you will allow me to reminisce for 1 second, Senator YARBOROUGH; I remember with my wife, about 10 years ago, and I believe you were a Congressman at that time from Texas, and you spoke at the college that I was attending at that time.

I have to say that I am here probably today, because you challenged some of us Mexican-Americans—people in the Mexican-American group—to keep on with their education.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You are very generous. If I have inspired one man to go ahead and get his Ph. D., I feel that is the most rewarding talk I ever made in my life.

I will remember giving that speech.

Mr. DIEPPA. Now, in the interest of saving time, because I know you have to depart, I will have to condense this testimony.

I would like to attempt to capsule my testimony, first of all by saying—

Senator YARBOROUGH. If you will. It would be helpful, because a good many other witnesses are here to appear. We will print the whole statement in the transcript.

Mr. DIEPPA. I will give you a four-page written statement plus a copy of a paper that I presented at the National Conference on Social Welfare in San Francisco in 1968, which was dealing primarily with the Project Find, a project which was funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity through the National Council on Aging.

I was very fortunate in the developing, writing and implementing this particular project in Santa Cruz County, which was initially one out of 12 projects funded in the whole country. And I take pride in

saying that our particular project was the only one west of Oklahoma up until last year.

Now, we have to keep in mind that the elderly Mexican-American is a member of what I consider three minority groups—or better, a minority within a minority sharing the problems of a third minority. They not only suffer the liabilities characteristic of their background, but they are often characterized among the elderly minorities of the country.

As if this were not enough, they also share the suffering and the problems of other elderly people of the general public.

Now, in Project Find in Santa Cruz County, we were asked to confirm what observations and experiences and commonsense that had previously been revealed to us. In the first place, when the elderly who in Santa Cruz County experience very acute problems due to substandard housing, or the lack of decent housing, the need of the elderly Mexican-American was far greater, as indicated by the larger percentage of substandard housing.

Secondly, the older citizens in the county also faced the problem of inadequate income. Again, the income of the elderly Mexican-American was much lower than of other elderly American citizens in the county.

#### ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

In the third place, the older Mexican-American and Americans of Mexican descent suffer a feeling of isolation and loneliness; and lack of leisure retirement activities was greater due to a lack of transportation and of financial resources and a lack of awareness of the solutions to their problems.

Fourth, their health was poor, and the need for medical attention was evident.

The problems I have just mentioned are compounded by the fact that Mexican-Americans lack the, what I refer to, as "usual right" such as collective bargaining, unemployment insurance and minimum wages, eligibility for most public welfare programs and public housing, as they follow the crops from State to State.

As we consider the problems of the elderly Mexican-American, it might be helpful to us to think in terms of developing the availability and usefulness of Federal programs to the aged.

It is very unfortunate that public agencies and officials have confused "availability of services," with "accessibility and usefulness." A service or program may be available but rendered inaccessible and/or useless by the mere fact the elderly people do not know of its existence; do not know how to use it, or if they do, are prevented from using it due to lack of transportation, lack of ability for health reasons, language barrier or the attitude of those providing the services. Or, again, the laxity in enforcing the laws.

To illustrate this point, let me relate to you some of the experiences we had in Santa Cruz County. We found older Mexican-American men and women in their 60's and 70's working in the fields to make a living, not realizing they were eligible for social security. In fact, one of the significant contributions of Project Find was to enable

these elderly people to utilize the services and programs available in their community.

We also found elderly people eligible for medicare—or with a medicare card, not knowing how to use it, the service, or whether they were eligible for it.

#### 2,400 SOCIAL SECURITY DEFICIENCIES

Another troublesome experience was the finding that 2,400 Mexican-American farmworkers had social security deducted from their wages, but did not get credit for it because the name or number was missing or was lost.

I faced this experience personally when a person from the Social Security Administration came to my office to ask the assistance of Project Find in locating 2,400 workers.

The inability of the older person to communicate in English or the lack of a Spanish-speaking staff kept many Mexican-Americans away from offices such as the Social Security Administration and the welfare department.

Another aspect of the problems faced by the elderly people is inadequate financial resources. In the first place, it should be known that the social security is very inadequate to meet the needs of the elderly person. The problem is compounded when the underpaid farmworker still has to support young children, and I would like to bring the attention of the committee to a fact that I am sure is known by the committee, but one-third of the needy or people in poverty in this country today are headed by couples that are senior citizens.

Thirty-five percent of the Mexican-Americans interviewed had an income under \$1,500 per year, even though a significant number included the income of the spouse.

We also have to keep in mind that the amount received from social security is related to the wage or wages earned through their earning period. Since the farmworkers were covered by social security a few years ago, they are eligible only for the minimum amount.

For the sake of brevity, as I indicated before, I would like to close this statement with the following recommendations. I would like to say in a way, I am exhausting the recommendations that I would like to make, and which I gave in the other report that I gave to the National Conference on Social Welfare.

In the first place, programs such as Project Find and other projects that have been mentioned here today should be continued as a means of closing the gap between the elderly and the established services.

#### NEED FOR MEXICAN-AMERICAN STAFF

Certainly the administrative services such as the Social Security Administration should have Mexican-American staff and a policy of reaching out rather than waiting for the elderly to come to them.

I have to say, very strongly, that I do not buy the statement that we do not have qualified Mexican-Americans to fill these positions.

No. 2, the amount paid by social security should be increased to a more realistic level in keeping with the cost of living.

No. 3, resident requirements: I consider it an anachronism which should be eliminated for the social welfare programs in this country.

More health services should be made available in this country for farmworkers, including the elderly Mexican-Americans, without limiting them to nonfarmworkers.

No. 4, because of the particular housing problems faced by families, especially the elderly poor, the policies of the existing agencies pertaining to eligibility for loans of public housing and the allocation of funds to the rural areas must be modified.

Where local authorities are not interested, funds should be made available to local organizations and interested citizens' groups for the building of housing for the elderly poor.

I would like to give the committee a copy, as I said before, of the report, and if there are any questions, Senator Yarborough, I would be glad to attempt to answer them.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much, Mr. Dieppa.

I understand that you have your paper that you delivered?

Mr. DIEPPA. Yes; I would like to leave both my statement and—

Senator YARBOROUGH. We will have that printed in full.\* If you will deliver that to the administrative assistant here.

Mr. ORIOL. Mr. Dieppa, for the sake of our records, I want to indicate that we will ask you for more detail on that 2,400 people qualified for social security, but first, a question:

Do you believe that they were not enrolled through a misunderstanding or do you think that there was something other than that?

Mr. DIEPPA. I think there was some problem related to social security, but I don't feel that they were dealing with them very effectively.

One of them is to what extent the Social Security Administration people enforce the regulations that require that an employer exercise a great deal of responsibility in keeping records and in deducting social security tax.

That was No. 1.

No. 2. I believe it is extremely necessary that Mexican people, especially in this age bracket of 40, 50, and approaching the sixties, and hence qualifying for social security benefits, should be informed. I don't think that a simple brochure is going to do the job just because the brochure is translated into Spanish. I believe that the staff must pursue a more aggressive outreach, going out for the people—into indigenous organizations, using that media—but above all, on a face-to-face contact, using the type of program that was called Medicare Alert, and our Project Find. The type of intervention that we have used in the past year and a half.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Mr. Dieppa.

Your statement will be filed and printed in full.

(The statement referred to follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ISMAEL DIEPPA, FORMER DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, SANTA CRUZ, CALIF.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Sub-Committee, it is a privilege to appear before this Committee to share with you my experiences while I was Executive Director of the Economic Opportunity Commission of Santa Cruz County. My statement is in reference to the implementation and findings of Project Find which was one of the 12 initial projects funded by OEO through the NCOA. The project in Santa Cruz County was the only one west of Oklahoma out of the 12.

\*See app. 1, p. 88.

This particular project also had the unique distinction of dealing directly with the problems of the elderly Mexican American, particularly, farm workers who approached the sunset of a long, hard-working, and excruciating life still chained to stoop farm labor. I would like to indicate that Project Find was a research-demonstration project limited in time and funds, aimed to locating, identifying and reaching to the needy senior citizen. As a result, the project could only reach a limited number of the elderly poor. I am sure that the findings in Santa Cruz County reflect the situation of many of our elderly Mexican-Americans throughout the State of California.

We must keep in mind that the elderly Mexican-American is a member of three minority groups, or better, a minority within a minority sharing the problems of a third minority. They not only suffer the liabilities characteristics of their ethnic group i.e., Mexican-American, but they are also categorized among the elderly minority in our Country. As if this were not enough, they also share the suffering and problems of millions of other elderly people who live in poverty.

Project Find enables us to confirm what previous observations, experiences and common sense had revealed to us: In the first place, that while the elderly poor in Santa Cruz County experienced acute problems due to substandard housing or the lack of decent housing they could afford, the need of the elderly Mexican-American was by far greater as indicated by their larger percentage of substandard housing. Secondly, older citizens in the County also faced the problem of inadequate income. Again, the income of the elder Mexican-American was much lower than that of other elderly people in the County. In the third place, the older Mexican-American's feeling of isolation, loneliness and lack of leisure time activities, was greater due to lack of transportation, financial resources, lack of awareness about services and programs. Fourth, their health was poor and the need for medical attention, nutrition and health care was evident.

#### DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF USUAL RIGHTS

The problems I have just mentioned are compounded by the fact that Mexican-Americans have been disenfranchised of the usual rights held in common by industrial workers, such as, collective bargaining, unemployment insurance, enforcement of minimum wages, eligibility for most public welfare programs and public housing due to residence requirements.

As we consider the problems of the elderly Mexican-American, it might be helpful for us to think in terms of the availability and usefulness of Federal Programs to them. It is very unfortunate that public agencies and officials have confused availability of services with accessibility and usefulness. A service or program may be available but rendered inaccessible and/or useless by the mere fact the elderly poor do not know of its existence, do not know how to use it, or if they do, prevented to use it due to lack of transportation, lack of mobility due to health reasons, the language barrier or the attitude of those providing the service or laxity in enforcing the laws. To illustrate this point, let me relate to you some of the experiences we had in Santa Cruz County with Project Find.

(a) We found older Mexican-American men and women in their 60's and even 70's, working in the fields part time to make a living, not realizing they were eligible for Social Security. In fact, one of the significant contributions of Project Find was to enable these elderly people to utilize the services and programs available in the community. We also found elderly people eligible for medicare or with the medicare card, not knowing how to use the service or whether they were eligible for it.

(b) Another troublesome experience was the finding that 2400 Mexican-American farm workers had Social Security deducted from their wages but did not get credit for it because the name or number was missing or wrong.

(c) The inability of the older person to communicate in English and the lack of Spanish-speaking staff kept many Mexican-Americans away from the agencies such as the Social Security Administration and the Welfare Department.

Another aspect of the problems faced by the elderly poor is related to the absence of and/or gaps or inadequacy of services. In the first place, it should be a known fact, that Social Security is very inadequate to meet the needs of the elderly person. The problem is compounded when the elderly couple still has to support young children. Thirty-five percent of the Mexican-American elderly interviewed in Santa Cruz County had an income under \$1,500 per year even though a significant number included the income of the spouse.

We also have to keep in mind that the amount received from Social Security is related to the amount of wages earned through a period of time. Since farm workers were covered by Social Security a few years ago, they are eligible only for the minimum amount.

#### FOLLOWING THE CROPS

Another factor to be considered is the mobile nature of farm work and its relationship to the anachronism of residence requirement. Farm workers, forced to follow the crops cannot meet the residence requirements for Public Assistance in many instances.

While there are some services, for example, in the field of housing through the Federal Housing Administration and the FHA Department of Agriculture, providing assistance at the local level, their strict requirements, complicated and lengthy processing of applications, render their services useless for many of our elderly people.

For the sake of brevity I would like to close my statement with the following recommendations:

1. Programs such as Project Find should be continued as a means of closing the gap between the elderly and the established State and Federal programs and services. Federally funded and/or administered agencies such as the Social Security Administration and Public Assistance should have Mexican-American staff and a definite policy of reaching out rather than waiting for the elderly poor to come to them.

2. The amount paid by Social Security should be increased to a more realistic level in keeping with the cost of living.

3. Residence requirements should be eliminated for Social Welfare Programs.

4. More health services should be made available to farm workers, including the elderly Mexican-American, without limiting them to migrant farm workers.

5. Because of the particular housing problems faced by farm workers, especially the elderly poor, the policies of the existing agencies pertaining eligibility for loans and public housing and their allocation of funds to rural areas, must be modified. Where local authorities are not interested, funds should be made available to local organizations and interested citizens groups for the building of housing for the elderly poor.

I would like to give the Committee a copy of a paper I delivered at the National Conference on Social Welfare, on May 1968 and which elaborates on statement.\*

Gentlemen, thank you for this opportunity which I consider a great honor.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The next witness is Mr. Santos A. Sandoval, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Is Mr. Sandoval here?

He is to be accompanied by Mrs. Rose Vasques.

Is Mrs. Vasques here?

We will pass that witness for the present then—due to his illness, as in the case of others who are ill. They will be invited to file their statement, and they will be printed fully, and you have 30 days from today in which to file them—for those statements to reach us in Washington, D.C. If they are received within 30 days from today, they will be printed in the record.

The next witness is Prof. Ralph Guzman, political science, California State College at Los Angeles and Joan Moore, Ph. D., gerontology center, University of Southern California, on research findings and needs.

Is Professor Guzman here?

Dr. MOORE. He is going to be delayed. He said roughly around three.

Senator YARBOROUGH. If you will go ahead, then, Dr. Moore.

\*See app. 1, p. 88.

**STATEMENT OF JOAN MOORE, PH. D., UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,  
RIVERSIDE, AND GERONTOLOGY CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Dr. MOORE. I am very glad to be invited. I am very glad to participate in this. I would like to correct my affiliation. My appointment is with the University of California at Riverside.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Not the University of Southern California?

Dr. MOORE. I am a visiting fellow in the gerontology center at the University of Southern California, but my faculty appointment is at the University of California, Riverside.

I am very glad that some attention is finally being paid to the aged in special populations. There is a very enormous gap, both in programs and especially in research, which is my field.

I think the problem of Mexican-American aged has been a little bit swamped by the problems of the youth. I think some earlier comments reflected this.

One statistic: if you take the aged dependency ratio of people aged 65 and over to those still in their productive years, age 20 to 65; for the Mexican-Americans it is 8.9; for Anglos in the Southwest it's 16.6. If, however, you take the youth dependency ratio, the ratio of people under 20 to those between 20 and 65, for the Mexican-Americans it is 111.9; for Anglos it is 68.2. It is not only an enormous and overwhelming discrepancy in the age structure of the two populations, but the youth problems of the Mexican-Americans, I think, weigh very heavily on policy makers.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Would you state that statistic again, please, Dr. Moore?

**DEPENDENCY RATIO FOR AGED**

Dr. MOORE. The aged dependency ratio for Mexican-Americans in the Southwest as a whole is 8.9. There wasn't much rural-urban difference. The aged dependency ratio of the Anglos—white persons without Spanish surname—is 16.6—increasing as you go toward the rural.

The youth dependency ratio for Mexican-Americans was 111.9; for Anglos, 68.2.

The dependency ratio, the aged structure of this population, is much more extremely weighted toward youth than even the—

Senator YARBOROUGH. You mean the age dependency ratios are—

Dr. MOORE. This is a measure that takes the economically dependent at each end of the age spectrum, of the life cycle—the very old and the very young—as a proportion of the people of productive age in the population.

If you like, it is a measure of, for your purposes, of perhaps the capacity of the community to help its own and support its own. And it is a very strong indicator of the need for special services on the part of government, for youth and age.

Senator YARBOROUGH. How do you arrive at the figures—what was it—

Dr. MOORE. It's a ratio.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, the ratio was—

Dr. MOORE. 111.9.

Senator YARBOROUGH. How did you arrive at that?



Dr. MOORE. Persons under 19—19 and under.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Each adult earning livelihood supporting one other person—

Dr. MOORE. Each hundred adults in the earning years support 111.9 persons aged 19 and under. These are out of the census of 1960. We believe there has been a shift—that's 8 years ago.

Again, let me give you another statistic. I will keep these statistics very short.

The percentage of the population who are 65 and over in the Southwest States—the five Southwestern States—don't show as much of an ethnic difference as this dependency ratio.

For example, the Anglos—although it is still a big difference—the Anglos in the five Southwestern States: 9.1 percent were 65 and over in 1960, as compared to only 4 percent of the Spanish surnamed persons and 5.7 percent of the nonwhite persons. So, the proportion aged 65 and over of the population, again, is lower for Spanish surnamed—or was in 1960—than for other populations.

Senator YARBOROUGH. So, they die younger?

Dr. MOORE. It is partly due to that; I suspect—nobody really knows—I suspect partly due to that and partly due to the immigration history of the Mexican-Americans in these States. People who immigrate to the United States have always been young and productive people—the cream of Mexico.

In the two States where there are high proportions of native born of native-born persons with Spanish surnames—that is, in New Mexico and Colorado—the proportions aged 65 and over are higher than they are elsewhere in the Southwest.

They are lowest in Arizona and Texas—your own State—that is, these are the places with the high proportion of comparatively younger people.

Let me just give for the three cities you were going to—the median age.

First the median age of Anglos here in Los Angeles-Long Beach was 32.6 years; Spanish surname, 22.1; nonwhites, 26.6.

El Paso: 24.7 for Anglos, 19 for Spanish surname; 23 for nonwhite.

San Antonio: 28.2 for Anglos, 18.7 for Spanish surname, 25.8 for nonwhite.

I think the major thing I have to say today is on the data resources available to you—to the committee—that you can exploit. There are three that I am aware of, including data already collected. In some cases, where they are already analyzed, it will take a minimum amount of time and effort. In some cases the analysis would have to be done with some effort, but not much.

All of these refer to large and substantial data sources that are now collected and available.

First, the project with which I was associated at UCLA—the Mexican-American study project—collected and analyzed all 1950 and 1960 census data for white persons with Spanish surnames in the five Southwestern States.

These data were tabulated by age for everything that was published in the census by age for persons with Spanish surname, comparing them with nonwhites and Anglos; that is, white persons without Spanish surname. In addition, we collected other information through

special tabulations from the census, which are also available, on labor force, income, occupation, and so on. These are available for the five Southwestern States, urban and rural and for the metropolitan areas. It would take a comparatively short time to get the data out of storage and in the form of useful tables.

Second, the Mexican-American study project at UCLA conducted surveys among probability samples—which means you can generalize from them to the cities—of Mexican-American households—heads and spouses—in Los Angeles and San Antonio in 1965–66. These data can also be supplemented by a smaller probability survey of a sample of households in Albuquerque, N. Mex., conducted by Operation SER—this is the largest—as far as I understand—the largest federally funded job training and development program directed by Mexican-Americans for Mexican-Americans throughout the Southwestern States.

All three household surveys contain a very large gold mine of information, probably the best available for those interested in a descriptive profile of the aged. They include detailed information on household composition, housing conditions, ownership, the amount paid for the house, whether rented or owned; sources and amounts of income; possessions, including such health-related items as refrigerators, heat, flush toilet, running water, and such items as telephones; whether or not they subscribe to a newspaper; whether or not they have a radio, what radio—whether Spanish or English—et cetera. It includes questions on savings and indebtedness, patterns of borrowing money—that is, who they borrow money from—sources of advice as well as more general attitude patterns.

All three of these are on magnetic tape and very easily accessible. The attitudinal data—most of it—has been analyzed by age, but very few economic items have been analyzed by age, and even with the attitudinal data in addition to age, I would like to see other kinds of controls introduced, such as whether or not they were born in Mexico, whether or not they were born in Los Angeles and San Antonio or in a rural area.

#### SKILLS OF ELDERLY MEXICAN-AMERICANS

The third source of data exists in the skills bank of Operation SER. This project now has some 24,000 registrants throughout the Southwest—Mexican-Americans. A short time ago, when it only had 13,000 registrants, about 7 percent of the registrants were age 50 and over. These skills bank data are a valuable source for the characteristics of the elderly Mexican-American who is actively in the labor market. And this, I am sure, the research director there would analyze for you without very much of a problem. It is almost instantly accessible for you. It includes a variety of things in addition to occupations and salary and so on, as to whether the registrants are veterans, citizens, homeowners and are registered to vote, and so on.

You can get them not only on urban profile, but in something running across urban and rural as well.

I was asked also about the research needs. I think probably the kind of statement you have had here from people that have testified before me—I didn't hear the morning testimony, I am sorry to say—indicate the needs as far as research is concerned.

There has been a problem, as I am sure you are aware, of getting people—social scientists—interested in research on the problems of the aged in general, in my own field of sociology, I know personally only five or six people. You can almost name them on one hand—who are interested—out of a large number of people—in research directly. It is not a popular field for research, by any means.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You mean the status of Mexican-Americans—

Dr. MOORE. The aged. Gerontology is not a popular subject.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Most people are more interested in projects for the young rather than for the aged.

Dr. MOORE. Absolutely. One of the strategies is that old people were young and young people will be old and that when you study generations you study old age. But you have to study the old people.

One thing that struck me very sharply in some of this kind of research is some material I pulled together—and I have said this in so many conflicts before. It is very tempting to overgeneralize about the Mexican-American population and to ignore the very substantial diversity from one place to another in their living conditions, in the situations of life, from the economic on through the social, and et cetera, et cetera and especially regarding things like identities.

#### ATTITUDES TOWARD ETHNIC IDENTITY

I had some of our San Antonio-Los Angeles survey data analyzed by age on a series of items related to ethnic identity. I found absolutely diametrically opposed differences between the two cities. The old people in San Antonio are much more "Mexican." The young people are much more "Anglo." They wish to be called "Latin Americans," not "Mexican-American," for example. They want all kinds of a cultural, assimilative, activities. They want nothing to do with the Mexican way of life for the future, for their children.

It is the opposite in Los Angeles. The younger people are more likely to say than the older people that they want to retain something of the Mexican culture for their children. This suggests very strongly that your programs and perhaps research could be directed at this, should be directed on the local level. That is, rather than trying to get some sort of over-all blanket policy, when you get beyond the gross problems of income, language, and so forth, one should be very sensitive—especially sensitive—to the local variations. This has particular relevance to populations like those in Los Angeles.

I am sure you can get more information on this from those operations like Operation SER that have a number of programs that can tell you about the problems in designing for such a diversified population.

The other kinds of problems, as I said, apart from the gross profiles, is really to fill-in the questions you have here. And to see the extent to which and the conditions under which they are indeed problems, like the problems of transportation, like the problems of gaining access to the available programs—the sources of information, for example, on the available programs.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, this is very stimulating, and if you have other papers to file with your remarks, we would like to have them.

I would like to ask : Do you sell these reports?

Dr. MOORE. Some of them are entirely out of print. We put out a limited number. I will make sure that you get what there are available.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Oriol, we will have to ask the Library of Congress if they are available.

Mr. ORIOL. We will do that.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much, Dr. Moore.

Has Professor Guzman arrived yet?

If not, we will call the next witness—oh, any questions?

#### CHARACTERISTICS IN ALBUQUERQUE

Congressman ROYBAL. I just wanted to find out if there has been any analysis of the Albuquerque statistics to compare them with the statistics in Los Angeles County. How do they bear out?

Dr. MOORE. Albuquerque is a sort of—it is very difficult to characterize Albuquerque. It is not in any simple continuum. Los Angeles is very much open and better, of course, on almost all measures. It has a very wide range, you know, from the very, very poor to the much more accultured kind of thing than has San Antonio.

But as to the poor, as poor, and is inaccessible in terms of transportation compared to both other cities.

Congressman ROYBAL. I was interested because I was born in Albuquerque, and I wanted to know what the comparisons were.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Okay.

Are the people of Mexican-American descent or Spanish descent in Albuquerque—are they more likely to be the descendants of old settlers than those in San Antonio?

Dr. MOORE. Yes. These are much more likely to be in that category, older Americans than—

Senator YARBOROUGH. Many of the families that have been there for hundreds of years or more.

Dr. MOORE. Yes. That's right.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Any other questions of Dr. Moore?

Thank you very much.

(Subsequent to the hearing, the chairman addressed two questions to the witness. The questions follow :)

*ONE:* If you have any additional commentary for our hearing record, we will be glad to include it if it arrives here before January 20.

*TWO:* You made several suggestions for eliciting data that is available from other studies or projects. We would welcome any additional guidance you may wish to send on to us to help us make effective requests for such material.

(The following reply was received :)

With regard to your request for additional commentary, I would like to remark that the characteristics of Mexican Americans suggest that the problems of their aged will be with us for quite a long time. The old people of America generally are less well educated, less well equipped to cope with the increasing complexities of modern life than our young people. This is even more true for Mexican American aged as compared with the old American in general—and, given the generally poor success of American society in educating and providing adequate jobs for Mexican Americans, tomorrow's aged Mexican Americans will be still pretty inadequately prepared to cope with tomorrow's problems—even more so than Anglo or black aged of tomorrow—at least by statistical measures.

The fact that more minority aged will continue to have severe problems that Anglo aged is a particularly serious matter for our society, I think. Minority communities, with rare exceptions, have neither the resources nor the technical knowledge to cope with the problems of their aged persons. Their inability to "take care of their own" elderly poor can be taken by many as one more increment in their "failure" as individuals and as a people. It will be one more case of a social problem apparently being ameliorated in the larger society appearing to linger on mysteriously in the minority groups. The inability of a man or a group to care for aged dependents produces a sense of guilt which hits at a very personal level.

Second, with regard to your request for guidance on asking for data that might be useful to you, there are three sets of data involved.

a. The 1950 and 1960 U.S. Census data for Anglos, Spanish surname persons, and nonwhites for Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas are collected and available. If the committee can provide either a person or the money to pay a person for two or three weeks, the data can be put in the form of tables. Access can be acquired by writing Dr. Leo Grebler, Graduate School of Business Administration, UCLA, Los Angeles 90024.

b. The data from 1965-66 surveys of households in Los Angeles, San Antonio, and Albuquerque are coded and available on magnetic tape. Access to them can be provided by Dr. Grebler (for Los Angeles and San Antonio) and Nicandro Juarez, Operation SER 1506 Third Street, Santa Monica, California 90401 (for Albuquerque).

I am enclosing a copy of the questionnaire\* used in the surveys so that you might see some of the variety of data available. Some of these have been analyzed by age: for example, in San Antonio, we found that 49% of the respondents over 50 as compared with 30% of those under 30 had no car; 16% of those over 50 as compared with 7% of those under 30 had no bathroom. Some, however, have not been analyzed at all—for example, the questions on indebtedness. If you or your staff were to indicate the kinds of data you would find most useful, I could then tell you how much effort would be involved in putting them into tabular form.

c. The skills bank data from Operation SER can be acquired by writing Mr. Juarez. The registrants live all over the Southwest, and the form includes data on present and expected occupation and salary, education, training, current employment status, and for those not working, duration of unemployment, union membership, marital status, willingness to move, home ownership, language use, veteran status, and whether or not the individual is registered to vote. All of these can be analyzed by age, and Mr. Juarez is willing to make the resources of his organization available to the committee for producing whatever data they might find useful. His only requisite would be a small sum to pay for computer time.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The next witness is Mrs. A. M. G. Russell, chairman, and Mr. Charles Skoien, executive director of the State of California Commission on Aging.

Mrs. RUSSELL. I am sorry that Mr. Skoien is one of the members of our staff who has been overtaken by the Hong Kong flu, and, consequently cannot be here today.

#### STATEMENT OF MRS. A. M. G. RUSSELL, CHAIRMAN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON AGING

Mrs. RUSSELL. I am delighted to be here today; I am Mrs. A. M. G. Russell, "Bonnie" Russell—chairman of the California Commission On Aging.

I am going to speak very, very briefly from notes, but without reading it, and we ask that we may include a great deal more material about some of our projects in California serving the Mexican-Americans and also some statements, perhaps, from other departments and agencies at the State level about some of our programs.

\*Retained in committee files.

I think you will find some of these helpful and we will inform you of them.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Yes. Not only would we invite information about those programs, but we will print it in the record.\*

Mrs. RUSSELL. Very well, we will see that you get it.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much.

Mrs. RUSSELL. California is very proud of its heritage, and I think particularly of the elderly Mexican Americans because they contributed a great deal to the development of our State. And our California commission is concerned with all of our 1,816,000 senior citizens—or senior Californians, as we call them. Of these, about 70,000—a few more than that—are of the Latin American derivation. And they really present a real potential within our State.

Now, during the last couple of years, particularly under the Older Americans Act, we developed, I think, some really exciting programs. One of these, and it is growing in part from the East Los Angeles program about which you heard a little earlier, was the use of the older person in a para-professional role. We are, I think, the first State that employs older persons in this role.

We have at the present time 10 senior Californians who work for California Mission On Aging on a part-time basis throughout the State. We do have one of Mexican-American extraction who lived in the Los Angeles area and worked in this area—a very effective person.

You heard also about "Information Day." Throughout the State we have a great many information days. Days when services, agencies, are presented with their services to the older people. We make it a point to present these services in the proper language for the area. Not only do we see that the materials that are printed are printed in the language, and in most cases which is in Spanish, and we read, translate—retranslate some of the materials that come from the Federal Government into the colloquial Spanish, because we do find there is a problem in various areas to reading even the printed page in Spanish. We do conduct some of our programs in foreign languages, also—the information days.

We have them in southern California. We have had some in Spanish. We are presently planning one in the San Francisco region—also in Spanish, too, and in Italian. We have a senior California service for which older people are urged to come and take part in the service corps and keep track of the kinds of services—volunteer services—which they contribute to their communities. We encourage this voluntary activity and we honor the older person, annually, for the kind of services they give.

In California, we have approximately 200 senior citizens and over 2,000 probably 2,500—clubs in which older people participate.

Many of these serve Mexican-Americans in large numbers. One group that is presently being formed is being formed in San Mateo County. It is a local center that was built with local recreation funds and funds from community facilities. It is going to be a very, very effective group.

\*See app. 1, pp. 93-95.

## PROJECT OPENS UP COMMUNICATION

Two of our Older Americans Act programs have received special attention. One of these is the east Los Angeles program about which you heard earlier. We think that this is one of the most exciting programs that has taken place within the United States. And the fact that it began with a \$1,500 annual grant; that it trained some 28 persons the first year; that it served about 1,000 persons and that older people came from all over southern California—older Spanish-American people—that they could converse—could communicate—with people of their own kind.

We think this is really pointing the way for other programs of this kind.

Another program that is especially good for the Mexican-Americans is in the Mountain View area in northern California. About 750 unduplicated clients were served here. One hundred percent of these were Latin-American extraction. But almost 700—675—were of Mexican background, and the others were Puerto Rican and Cuban. This is also a reach-out program, and the staff persons and the volunteers are bilingual here, also.

Most of our programs—we have 41 older American programs in California—I know employ senior Californians in a paraprofessional role to help in reaching the older person. We, too, feel that communications is one of the most important problems in this field. We think that in our translations into colloquial Spanish, that we have come a long way with some of this. We do believe that there is a great deal more to be done.

We are very grateful that you have been in California today because we know that this will add to our programs here and add to the understanding of the need for such programs.

I would like to answer any questions that I might.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much, Mrs. Russell.

Any questions of Mrs. Russell?

We have no questions.

Thank you very much for your presentation, and if you have any other material that you mentioned, we would be happy to receive it.

Mrs. RUSSELL. We would be very glad to send you a good bit of information and material.\*

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much, Mrs. Russell. Your statement will be printed in full in the record.

(The statement referred to follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MRS. A. M. G. RUSSELL, CHAIRMAN,  
CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON AGING

California is proud of its Spanish heritage and it is grateful to the elderly Mexican-Americans who have contributed so much to the development of our state.

The California Commission on Aging is very much concerned with the problems they face in the areas of health, education, recreation, housing, community life, etc., and it is concerned with the opportunities which may be provided in these fields. The Mexican-American, with his rich cultural background, represents a significant potential for new plans, ideas and images within our communities.

\*See app. 1, pp. 93-95.

There are approximately 1,900,000 individuals with Spanish surnames in California. This constitutes 10% of our population. Of these individuals about 84,000 are Senior Mexican-Americans. The following statistics indicate the distribution of this segment of our population: 40% reside in the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area; 30% are concentrated in the rural Imperial and San Benito areas; and only 12% are in the San Francisco-Oakland urban metropolitan area.

With these facts and figures in mind, the California Commission on Aging in conjunction with local communities has developed many creative and innovative programs.

The California Commission has included Spanish-surname seniors in the groups of part-time Community Representatives which it employs as regular members of its staff. These individuals are assigned to areas where there is a large concentration of Mexican-Americans and they provide the necessary linkage between individuals and group and the services which exist in the area. Because of an effective translation of needs, new services or expanded services tend to be provided.

In its state-wide program of Information Days where agencies, public and private, participate in a program to disseminate a wide range of information, the Commission has been able to include many Mexican-Americans. Spanish-speaking representatives of the agencies present information about their services to the group, pamphlets and brochures are locally translated into the colloquial Spanish used in the area, workshops are conducted in Spanish, and information booths are manned by bi-lingual volunteers.

The Mexican-American is represented by a significant member in the ranks of the Senior Californian Volunteer Service Corps. This corps is sponsored by the Commission and encourages the membership of older persons who are serving their local community. The Commission records the kinds of services contributed and the number of hours and honors these Senior Californians annually during Senior Citizens' Month.

Many of the 200 senior centers and 2,500 clubs, served by the Commission, are providing special services and opportunities for older Mexican-Americans.

In addition to these services, the Commission, in its administration of 41 projects under Title III of the Older Americans Act, contributes to the well-being of many elderly Mexican-Americans. These projects enlisting both public and private support are providing information and referral services, counseling services, employment opportunities, volunteer opportunities, multi-purpose centers, recreation, and education and training for both professional and volunteers on a state-wide basis. Nearly all center programs in California carry on continual conversational Spanish classes, providing greater opportunities for communication among peer groups. One center, sponsored by the Commission (John XXIII Center, San Jose) finding that it was not attracting the older Mexican-American in sufficient numbers in its downtown center, offered to provide consultation to the community center in a district which was predominantly Mexican-American. Continuous cooperation has followed and presently the assistant director of the community center is of Mexican-American background. A house-to-house survey conducted by bi-lingual persons has sparked growth of the senior group at the center and program coordination between the two centers has enhanced the offerings of both. Special emphasis is being placed on alleviating the problems caused by the generation gap in this rather volatile Mexican-American community and the youth groups are helping in program and fund-raising activities. As the Senior Californian Educational Centers in Santa Clara County and Los Angeles, Title III projects, move forward in the local training program, there will be special training programs for individuals involved with activities and services at this center. Here these two Title III projects have made a tremendous contribution in reaching a segment of the population far away from its normal or expected circle of influence.

#### INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

In California, the Information and Referral Services, many including short-term counseling and follow-up procedures, are established, for the most part, on a decentralized basis in order to provide greater visibility and access to the older person. Staffing patterns include older volunteers and older persons in para-professional roles. Because of this minority, groups can be better served. Present statistics indicate that the older Mexican-American is gradually taking advan-



tage of these services. Requests vary with locations but a large number of recent questions have to do with California's new property tax laws and with opportunities for employment. In one area questions concerning recreation have resulted in Information and Referral Service personnel cooperating in the establishment of a club—catering in large part to Mexican Americans.

More importantly, two of the California Commission's Title III projects were planned to serve primarily the Mexican-American. These are the projects sponsored by the East Los Angeles Committee on Aging and the Mountain View Community Services Project.

The East Los Angeles project about which so much has been reported in this hearing is a bilingual senior center and service program. Its success can be measured to some extent by the fact that it has drawn its clients from a 50-mile radius. During its operation it has provided direct service through its trained volunteer group to over 3,000 persons of Mexican-American extraction and it has indirectly served hundreds of others by attracting newspaper, radio, and T.V. coverage. The outstanding accomplishments of the program have been primarily due to the time and talents of dedicated people and community support from churches, education, recreation and health institutions and organizations, police and fire department and business and community organizations. The successful utilization of the peer group with backgrounds similar to that of the clients has indicated the path for several other projects. The following is a project profile of our East Los Angeles Title III program in California.

The bilingual East Los Angeles Senior Citizens Information Center understands. This one factor, and the dedication of staff and volunteers to the Center's objectives, have made the project an impressive addition to other service organizations in the community.

Operating with Title III funds administered by the California Commission on Aging, the Center is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Greater East Los Angeles Committee on Aging and the Los Angeles Department of Senior Citizens Affairs.

Volunteers who serve at the Center have completed an eight week training course to prepare them for this community work. Their efforts are coordinated by a project director whose record of concerned service in the community has given the program's appeal rewarding impetus. But acceptance comes finally through hard work and understanding. The bilingual Center can assist Senior Citizens in many ways: it is equipped to secure information about problems related to housing, adult education, employment and job requirements, health, immigration, public assistance, mental health, recreation services, legal aid, the Food Stamp Program (Department of Agriculture), social security and many others. As a special service, the Center is assisting elderly local residents with applications for Reduced Car Fare Cards, a courtesy provided through the Southern California Rapid Transit District. To be eligible men must be 65 or over and women 62 or over. There is no citizenship requirement. Also, the Center hopes to be able to print in Spanish, and distribute locally, Senior Citizens Property Tax Assistance forms. Such work is of immediate and vital importance.

#### ENTIRE FAMILIES ASSISTED

The Project staff has found that in many instances their work, including informal case work, has been of assistance to entire families. The staff realizes that an older person's difficulties may result from problems within his own family. The Center is often approached by younger members of families in which an older relative is having troubles or causing concern. One interesting aspect of the program has been the discovery, through consultation, that older persons within family groups are often most able to bridge the generation gaps. The wisdom and compassion of a grandmother may provide the perceptive understanding desperately by a teenager or child in the family.

As one of the very few bilingual service organizations in the state, the East Los Angeles Senior Citizens Information Center is exploring new methods and realizing previously impossible community gains. Its influence is spreading quickly. The Center is known by reputation in areas far removed from the formal service neighborhood. The official district served is itself large. Of the nearly 250,000 people living within its boundaries, almost 20,000 are age 65 and over. Seventy percent of the total population is Spanish surname, and since the Center opened 95% of its clients have been Spanish surname.

The Center's operation has truly become a community project, and its functions a lively barometer of the needs and feelings of older area citizens. Volunteers were attracted through the distribution of over 2,000 pamphlets, printed in both English and Spanish, offering "An Opportunity To Serve." Newspaper coverage of Center activities continues to be complete.

Helping people who have very little, the great majority being recipients of public assistance, the volunteers disseminate information germane to a wide range of special needs, information which does make a real difference in the lives of older citizens.

To Helen Colima, who has served with many community organizations, among them the Laguna Park Women's Senior Citizens, the Mexican-American Women's League, the Stovall Foundation (trustee), the Mexican Mothers Club, the East Los Angeles Committee on Aging; whose unwritten list of accomplishments is long; whose perseverance helped to build a clinic in Mexico; who alone knows the names of those who receive cookies or socks once a year in distant places; who taught herself the Spanish language many years ago and has since used it with care and thoughtfulness; who cannot be categorized but must be admired. Currently, Helen Colima is Project Director for the bilingual East Los Angeles Senior Citizens Information Center.

Many of us do things for others now and then, without recognition, without special praise, and perhaps without fully understanding our motivations. We find the chance to do something thoughtful, and the circumstances are such that we alone are aware of the kindness or the service we have rendered. That small commitment of time, or resource or energy remains unannounced; in being so it assumes a special secret quality of satisfaction, and may engender a meaningful inner strength.

Vicariously, we might project this ethic to its logical final state; we might conceive of an individual who sustains daily the type of selfless intensity required of those who would give without seeking return. Such an individual would not demand repayment or personal resignation from those who received, nor would he undermine their resolve or confidence. He would in fact stimulate concern for others by his very presence.

Helen Colima is such a person; she is also the last person in the world who would have you know of her contributions.

If recognition had not been forthcoming from her community, Helen Colima would have continued in her work nevertheless. Long before she became director of a formal project she was quietly lending a hand wherever she could, without intruding, without making claims. "Work" is probably the wrong word for her activities. More perfectly, we may say that Helen Colima has her own mode of experience, her own life style.

In the literature of Andre Gide we find mention of the "acte gratuit." Through it he wished to interpret for us his concept of authentic action. Such action is not easily understood, and is seldom justified in the same manner as other activities. It appears completely gratuitous to us, but was intended by Gide to enhance the hidden personality of the performer. Intuitively, Helen Colima could define for us the significance of the authentic act. Her involvement provides an elaborate testimony to its existence.

We are fortunate to have people like Mrs. Colima in our communities. Some may strive to emulate her example; *our* help is needed, and the help of our public agencies.

#### MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Another project specifically planned for the elderly Mexican-American and funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act by the Commission on Aging is the Mountain View Community Council Project. This is an Information, Counseling, and Referral Service for Hard-to-Reach Elderly of Spanish language heritage. During the past year it has served more than 750 unduplicated clients, 90% of whom were of Latin-American extraction. Of these, 675 were Mexican-Americans and others were Puerto Rican and Cuban. This has also been a thoroughly successful project because its emphasis on communication methods geared to the requirements of the client has facilitated its reaching and serving individuals who have been isolated and almost stranded because of a rapidly growing and changing community. The following is a project profile story of Mt. View Community Council Older Americans Act program.

Almost four hundred years ago Monataigne wrote: "It seems that the soul, shaken and discomposed, gets lost in itself if not supplied with something it can

grasp, and therefore always requires an object at which to aim, and to keep it in action."

In isolation, existing on the residues of natural energies, the older person often cannot find help for himself. Motivations may relax through unfortunate social attrition; for some, however, a moment of praise, of encouragement, is enough to instill again the spirit of growth and change. In certain cases the older individual's habits become foreign and removed, his daily functions having been reduced to only a few common necessities. The regulations imposed by advanced years can be stringent, yet many people may be induced to continue their lives on a more productive and interesting plane than they would have thought possible. A sincere gesture of concern, or the solution to some problem which has grown in the mind of the disengaged elderly adult to far beyond its actual proportions—such actions as these result in beneficial change. Ideally each of us should have the chance to be creative, to converse with our peers, to be intrigued with another man's questions.

In Mountain View, a group of citizens understood that circumstances often deny the older citizen these opportunities. They saw also the deeper, more immediate needs which created those circumstances. Their comprehension of the problem developed into an inspired and necessary community project: the Information, Counseling and Referral Services for the Hard to Reach Elderly. Made possible through Title III funding, administered by the California Commission on Aging, the project is sponsored by the Mountain View Community Council, a non-profit organization supported by the United Fund of Santa Clara County. The function of the Council is to conduct research in and to promote solutions to problems of health, welfare, education, and recreation. Through planning, interpretation, and active programs, service is provided to Mountain View and surrounding unincorporated areas.

Through a Liaison Service conducted between Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans and social agencies, schools and public officials, the Council confronted a variety of problems related to cultural differences and language barriers. They learned to minimize misunderstanding and mis-information through the use of informed, foreign language-speaking volunteers.

#### "DOOR-TO-DOOR REACHOUT"

With this valuable experience as foundation, the Council has expanded its community contact through the "Door to Door" Reach-Out Project. It is designed specifically to locate and to actively intervene where necessary on the behalf of, the less extroverted older person. It was found that this person's needs had remained a mystery, especially since he was rarely able or willing to approach the agency with his problems.

It became the Project workers' intention to acquaint the elderly with available social, educational, and recreational services in the community and to help individuals obtain these services. Further, it is their purpose to document and recommend to the community the need for new, still unavailable services as they are discovered.

The hard-to-reach are, by definition, hard to locate. Inquiries were directed to churches, social agencies, and especially to leaders of minority groups and nationality clubs. Also, descriptive leaflets have been widely distributed in the community by hand and by mail. The mailing list alone brought the Project's goals to the attention of over 500 individuals, churches and agencies concerned with the welfare of the aged. Newspaper publicity has been of great assistance.

It was discovered that old people in the area existed on one of Mountain View's lowest median incomes. Many had been forgotten in the midst of the City's general prosperity. But their difficulties did not stem entirely from economic conditions. Loneliness, lack of transportation, and health problems were only a few of the other prevalent factors which prompted the Council's decision to act.

A person with a thorough knowledge of the culture and language of the Mexican American was chosen to head the project. His abilities have been proven invaluable. Able to converse fluently in Spanish, he has formed closed relationships with many other citizens of Mexican descent.

The director has engaged the assistance of a growing number of Spanish-speaking volunteers. Working in teams, the door to door visitors have found some of their fears concerning the isolated older citizens in the area to be justified. The director writes that "even though the family group of the Mexican American is

much closer and more respectful of age than the anglo group, one finds even here complete isolation and great lack of communication.'

Most receive Old Age Assistance and Social Security. Counseling has begun on consumer's education, and community involvement. Meetings are organized to acquaint the older citizen with opportunities such as those afforded by the Food Stamp Program. As the project becomes better known in the community, a greater diversity of requests is apparent. Decent housing and adequate public transportation have proven to be of primary concern.

It is more and more evident as the months go by that this project is extremely important to the community. In most areas resources exist with which to meet the challenge of growing and complex problems, and agencies exist to administer those resources. Yet it appears that the isolated, elderly citizen presents a very intricate and special challenge: in Mountain View a sensitive and insightful concomitant organization has been formed to deal with the challenge effectively. Its Reach-out Project insures the community that the established reservoir of services will realize the potentials they afford for change. Simultaneously, elderly citizens are assured that their interests are a part of the spirit of the community, and that they have not been forgotten as individuals.

It is apparent that this type of technique, representing a concerned response on a personal level, has immediate appeal, and will be well utilized in the years ahead. Its benefits can be easily translated in humane terms, and as such are readily understood."

Other state agencies in California have also expended efforts in behalf of the Mexican-American and their efforts are being coordinated with those of the Commission. Throughout the state, education programs are providing opportunities for the Spanish-speaking persons to learn English. Also, publications such as newsletters, food-stamp booklets, health program booklets, Social Security information, senior tax relief information and other information from various departments of the state are being reproduced in both Spanish and English.

These are a few examples of the efforts of Californians in trying to provide meaningful roles and status for all seniors and in trying to solve the communication problem for a specific group. Mexican-American seniors are being involved and have a significant role in the program of the California Commission on Aging.

Senator YARBOROUGH. We are favored with a witness here who had been scratched earlier, because we were advised that he couldn't make it, but he has made it.

He has come hundreds of miles.

Mr. Thomas V. Uridel, project director, Alviso CSO Family Health Center, Alviso, Calif.

Will you come around, please, Mr. Uriedel? Have a seat over there by the microphone and present your statement.

We heard that you had Hong Kong flu. If you had the Hong Kong flu, are you all right?

Mr. URIDEL. It's all right.

**STATEMENT OF THOMAS V. URIDEL, PROJECT DIRECTOR, ALVISO  
CSO FAMILY HEALTH CENTER, ALVISO, CALIF.**

Mr. URIDEL. I think in the interest of time, I imagine everyone is just about exhausted at this point. Because of fear of being repetitious, I will keep this short.

I want to advise you of the community of Alviso and our organization there. I have lived there about 3 years.

In the city of Alviso, about 70 percent are Mexican, and in many ways much closer to Mexico than they are to this country. In my work there, one of the things we have been able to generate and get going is a neighborhood health center. As you know, a federally funded program.

We are serving approximately 5,000 people—approximately 70 percent of them are Mexicans or Mexican-American extraction. The overwhelming point in terms of age is that it is an overwhelming, predominantly young population. About 5 percent of the people of Mexican extraction we are serving are classified as elderly people. I think that is basically new in my experience, and I believe for about 3 years at a labor camp, I have gained somewhat—as near as an Anglo can—the feeling of what is going on.

It is like this. It is simply that the older people don't exist because of the longevity which is due again, to woefully inadequate system of health care in this country. I think that more than any other single group, this probably comes closest to providing what I consider is a very valid point. That basically, health care is a privilege and not a right, in this country. Very few of them have ever been able to—in a number of circumstances—been able to get themselves to the point financially where they can afford this privilege.

One of the factors which should certainly be taken into account, but which is not immediately important, I think, is that many of the people in our particular area come from Mexico and leave a majority of their family behind. So, a lot of the elderly people are left in Mexico.

#### “ABOMINABLE HEALTH CARE”

But, again, I emphasize that if our early indications from a multi-phasic screening process that we are going through now, leads us to believe anything, it is simply that people have gotten the most abominable health care for the longest period of time, and this really has taken its toll in terms of longevity.

We are discovering diabetes, cancer, cardiac problems—you name it—and we find it in great abundance.

A great percentage of these things are simply things that had they been detected years ago, had there been some entry point in the health service for a majority of these people, these things would not exist as major problems today. You would have a much higher percentage than 5 percent of our population as elderly people.

Prior to our coming on the scene—I should say, prior to the project being developed in Alviso by the people—and I might add that it is run by the people—somewhat clumsily at times, but I think there has been a great learning experience for some of the people in the area—prior to this, the only source of health care in our area was the county hospital, which is about 35 miles away. We had no adequate transportation—

Senator YARBOROUGH. What county is that in?

Mr. URIDEL. Santa Clara County.

And, the county hospital experience, I am sure, was no different than the county hospital experience has come to be from State to State across this Nation. Indifferent at best, and most of the time, rude, discriminatory, unkind.

The fact that there was no transportation meant that you had to depend on someone else to get you there. It means—in the case of most of the families—that you have to take the whole family along, because you can't afford babysitting services. That means a waiting

room full of small children who are wetting their pants and fighting and generally raising hell—as all little kids will. It became pretty well fixed in the minds of most people that have experience that it was an unpleasant experience to be sought only in the most desperate circumstances.

It was something that was grudgingly given to you. It was something that required a lot of endurance on your part, and not only in terms of the family situation, but in terms of the treatment, many times. Consequently, this again added to the fact that illnesses in the primary stages were not diagnosed, illnesses in the primary stages were not treated.

We have made a small dent, I think, but believe me, I am a changed man after 3 years.

After 3 years of seeing day to day what the reality of being Mexican-American—of what the reality, particularly, of being an old Mexican-American—means in this country.

#### MISGIVINGS ABOUT MEDICAID, MEDICARE

I would be less than candid if I would say that I am very optimistic about the future in terms of the assistance programs—title 19 and title 18. There are several points on which I would fault, not the least of which—first of all, the acquisition or the entry into eligibility—the entry into the services of these programs, first of all tends to be very much administratively—at least in our area—on a very Calvinistic sort of basis.

People are made to feel that they are really getting something that they don't deserve. The fact that information is not readily available to many people means that a lot of people who are potentially eligible for the program never become eligible, because they simply don't know or are not aware of the institutions that supposedly serve them.

Very little is done, I find at least in our county, to see that these people, if they are eligible, become eligible and start receiving the benefits.

Medicare presents very special problems. People that have been here for a good period of time, and most of them have worked in agriculture, and because everything is based on social security and social security numbers, there is a tremendous problem.

Agricultural workers, it has been my experience, don't understand generally the full significance of the social security coverage. It is something they realize they have to have to work, most times, but they don't understand many times that this one number is their number for life.

We have cases of people when we have taken them to apply for benefits, that there is no coherent record to be found of them having paid in, because a lot of times they have 10, 15 different social security numbers for these different jobs—10 or 15 different agricultural jobs.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, if they had different numbers—

Mr. URIDEL. Different numbers, right.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You mean a single person?

Mr. URIDEL. A single person. Many people don't understand that this one number is supposed to be your number for life. This is simply

a necessary evil and a process that you have to go through in order to be able to get that job picking lettuce or tomatoes—whatever it may be.

And I must confess that it may be some of our own stupidity in play here, but I have found that the Social Security Administration is somewhat Byzantine in finding exactly where their centers of authority are in the administration.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Some Members of Congress have that problem, too. [Laughter.]

Mr. URIDEL. So we have had a certain amount of problems with the Social Security Administration.

Again, I don't know what has been said today. I don't want to take your time beating horses that have already been beaten, but I would say that the problems are acute, beginning first with the fact that people in this country that need help very desperately do not get it, and until this is remedied, along with other problems that are even more basic than that, I don't know what the solution is.

#### NEED TO EMPHASIZE ELIGIBILITY

One at least partial solution is to somehow make the agencies supposedly serving these groups of people more relevant to those situations more aggressive in their policies of establishing eligibility of aged groups.

Somehow, although I have given up hope that this is possible, some process that would at least somehow introduce them to the realities of being Mexican-American in this country, particularly being an elderly Mexican.

Thank you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Uridel, your statement is very informative, and due to the fact that we were supposed to close the hearing at 3:30 in order to catch that plane, I know you have digested and abstracted your statement.

Now, if you care to supplement that statement by a fuller narration and explanation and/or recommendation on this problem, we on the committee would like to have it.

We feel that you know this problem well, having lived there for 3 years in one community that can very well be a pattern for other communities. We will hold this record open for 30 days. If you will mail this to us in Washington so that we get it within the next 30 days, we will print it in the record. We'd like to have it.

Mr. URIDEL. I will be happy to do that, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. What was your specialty in college?

Mr. URIDEL. I was a philosophy major. I got tired of the unreal world and decided to engage the real world.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much for your illuminating statement.

We have one or two other witnesses. Ladies and gentlemen, we must limit you to the 5 minutes. We are due in El Paso. We have a new hearing there.

Mr. Anthony Fregosi, assistant director of the Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation, signified that he would like to testify. He

wasn't on the original witness list, but we would like to hear him. Is he here?

Are you here, Mr. Fregosi?

Come right ahead. We are going to limit you to 5 minutes, as you can see our problem.

### STATEMENT OF ANTHONY FREGOSI, MEXICAN-AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION\*

Mr. FREGOSI. First of all, I will submit this statement in its totality at a later date. Right now I will briefly summarize the statement.

The Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation has been involved in various training projects in the last 5 years, operating mainly in the east Los Angeles area but with outreach offices throughout southern California.

Quite often elderly members of the Mexican-American community have come to us for assistance in obtaining employment. More often they have approached us as a sort of investment with every kind of problem.

Some of these problems have been mentioned by previous witnesses, such as culturally related problems, consumer problems. Many of our people have been exploited by merchants in regard to credit charges and so on. Lack of information has limited the resources available to them, and they are in need for their financial problems and in other areas.

For instance, Mexican-Americans came to this country at the bottom of the employment ladder and worked for employers who could not, or at any rate did not, provide pension systems for the aged Mexicans who have been especially unable to prepare themselves for a secure old age.

In order to solve our frustrations in meeting these problems, a conference was held at Laguna Park in May of 1968 entitled "Workshop on the Older Latin-Americans."

#### SENIOR CENTER PROPOSED

At that time it was determined that the Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation should become involved in programs to meet the needs of the Mexican-American senior citizens. The matter was immediately researched. A proposal was put together with the technical assistance of Mr. Dennis Fargas of HEW. It pointed to the need for the establishment of a Mexican-American Senior Citizens Center in East Los Angeles so that we would be in a position to report back to the community.

We then went to Washington with a firm determination to return with results other than the usual promises and conference resolutions. The research and the basic contacts designed a need for a Mexican-American oriented senior center. We pointed out that here in East Los Angeles, which is predominantly Mexican-American in origin, the thousands of aging people lived in difficulty because of their linguistic and other cultural problems related to their background.

\*See app. 2, p. 100, for additional material from the Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation.



We have become cognizant of the disturbing needs and confront the problems of the elderly Mexican-American. We have therefore moved ahead and now we need immediate support for the purpose of bringing into actuality the project which has been in HEW for the past 6 months.

I hereby propose that as a result of these hearings personnel be assigned to give us the necessary professional help that is necessary in finalizing a program of this type.

The good will of this committee and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is above question. However, I wish to make publicly known that our Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation is indeed grateful for the services thus far rendered by Mr. Dennis Fargus.

We have begun to wonder, however, if some of the agency people who actually work on these programs are really interested in helping the Mexican-Americans. We are expected to become experts in proposal documentation, and as a result, many worthwhile programs that could have been of benefit to our Mexican-Americans never quite made it.

Thank you very much.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Mr. Fregosi.

Any questions?

Congressman ROYBAL. No questions.

Senator YARBOROUGH. No questions.

How is this Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation funded?

Mr. FREGOSI. Through the Department of Labor.

Senator YARBOROUGH. What was it that you said about the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare?

Mr. FREGOSI. We have a proposal that has been submitted to HEW.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You said that you had a feeling there that these people were just holding their jobs to earn the money and weren't really interested?

Mr. FREGOSI. I would say that they could expedite many of the proposals that are submitted to these agencies.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Do you have the same trouble with the Labor Department?

Mr. FREGOSI. No; we don't.

Senator YARBOROUGH. It is only HEW?

All right. Thank you very much.

(Subsequent to the hearing a supplemental statement was received from the witness. The supplemental statement follows:)

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF ARTHUR FREGOSI, MEXICAN-AMERICAN  
OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION

The Mexican American Opportunity Foundation is a private, nonprofit corporation, so registered with the State of California. Its chief aims are in the fields of education, counselling, and employment opportunities for the benefit of the hard-core, disadvantaged Mexican American. More generally, the Foundation is dedicated to the social, economic and educational betterment of Mexican Americans. The Foundation has its main offices in East Los Angeles, and outreach offices in Riverside and Ventura counties.

We have operated a Manpower Training Program in East Los Angeles for the past five years. During the last three years, we have had MDTA funding to develop On-the-Job Training with private industry.

The title of our organization has led a great many community people to our doors with a great variety of problems. Notable among these problems have been those of the elderly Mexican American.

The needs which have been identified are briefly as follows :

1. Employment.
2. Financial Counselling.
3. Miscellaneous problems which require services of agencies which are not readily available because of distance or general self-expression difficulties.

Due to the fact that our every staff member is employed on a full time basis in one or another Manpower Training Project, we have not been able to supply adequate services in this wide range of need.

In addition to the experiences mentioned above, a sense of urgency was added through information gathered at the Workshop on Older Latin Americans. This conference was held in May, 1968, at Laguna Park, California.

After appropriate study and research, it was determined that the foundation could feasibly plan and eventually operate a senior citizens center in East Los Angeles.

With the assistance of Mr. Dennis Fargas, of Health, Education, and Welfare, we drafted a proposal containing specific plans to further identify and supply the needs of elderly Mexican-Americans.

The next step was a trip to Washington, D.C., for the purpose of obtaining some kind of commitment from Health, Education, and Welfare. We also wished to report back to interested community people in the East Los Angeles area.

The present progress of this effort has been endless negotiations and delays. Our proposal has been criticized in certain areas, and yet no concrete suggestions have been put forth.

We are in no position to place a full-time team of experts on the task of proposal writing. Our financial resources are severely limited. Furthermore, we obviously cannot use staff members for this kind of purpose when they are paid with funds designated for other specific purposes.

We believe that there is every degree of good will in the higher echelons of HEW. As anyone knows, however, the actual work is dependent upon Federal employees, civil servants, to bring any project to fruition.

So far, we have not received this adequate technical assistance.

Our proposal to HEW is now nearly 6 months old, and it remains still just a proposal.

We, therefore, request immediate technical assistance from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in order that we might put this long delayed program into effect.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Dr. Guzman, political science department of the California State College at Los Angeles, was absent when his name was called. He has appeared. He wants to talk about research findings and needs, and we are anxious to hear him.

We were supposed to close the hearing at 3:30 and we are operating under great difficulties.

Come around; I will be talking while you are walking.

We are operating under difficulties because of the plane schedule, but we want to hear you, just briefly, and then file your statement.

#### STATEMENT OF PROF. RALPH GUZMAN, POLITICAL SCIENCE, CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE AT LOS ANGELES

Professor GUZMAN. Thank you, Senator.

I am sorry I was detained at the college.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I understand your purpose here, and we would like to hear you.

Professor GUZMAN. I would like to leave a brief statement before you. I understand that we might have something more in detail later.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Oh, yes, indeed. If we receive it in Washington within 30 days, we will print it.

Professor GUZMAN. Very good. Thank you.

There is a growing national concern with the socioeconomic needs and problems of the Mexican-Americans; however, much of this concern has avoided the problem of elderly citizens. Thus it is not generally known where older Mexican-Americans live, how effective the Government agencies serve them, how this gente de edad interacts with other members of the Mexican-Americans' social system.

In short, we face a crisis of silence in which the principal victims are Mexican-Americans, black people, and American Indians.

We know a great deal about the failure of our social institutions vis-a-vis young people, older heads of households, women and so forth, but next to nothing about the circumstances surrounding the lives of the elderly.

We know, for example, that elderly people in American society can be assisted by private and public agencies. But we also know that elderly Mexican-Americans are rarely reached by these agencies.

#### KEY RESEARCH NEEDS

Research is urgently needed. The following are selected key areas:

1. Demographic data: We do not know where the elderly live; how many there are; where they come from, and for that matter if any of them ever return to their original homes.

2. Census studies: Special studies by the U.S. Bureau of the Census are called for in this field. Census data quickly becomes obsolete.

In the case of people over 65, these data are even more rapidly dissipated.

Congressman ROYBAL. Let me ask: Can we get that information alone, where they live, and age, from the Bureau of the Census?

Professor GUZMAN. All right. I believe Dr. Moore may have touched on this. Simple studies are certainly called for by the Bureau of the Census in this particular area.

3. Sociopsychological needs: The impact of the aged upon the extended family is not known. What happens to a Mexican-American family who has recently moved into the city?

There are recreation needs. For example, the east Los Angeles area has only one recreation center: the Laguna Park center.

People living as far away as Wilmington visit it. The Laguna Park center is probably something you have heard about before today. It is bilingual. People do come from very, very far away to visit the facilities that are available there.

But this is a very rare example. We need to have more research programs and we need to train more professionals who are going to be dealing with the Mexican-American elderly. People that serve and treat the elderly need to be trained by local schools. There is no school of social welfare, I believe, Senator, in east Los Angeles.

We have a very, very large institution—one that I come from, California State College in Los Angeles. It does not have a school of social welfare.

Schools of social welfare are presently at UC, which are quite expensive, even prohibitive, and schools in UCLA. We need a school that is located in east Los Angeles to do something progressive in this field.

5. Public policy consideration: There are serious public policy implications. We do not know the effectiveness of existing old age programs. To what degree are elderly Mexican-American patients abused, mistreated, or ignored? Are there channels of appeal for redress of grievances? Where are the bilingual staff people? The bilingual pamphlets and documents?

These are only a few of the areas that await the careful attention of the social scientist and of the people who are making public policy in this field.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Dr. Guzman. We will remember you and your special efforts to come here in the closing time, and we invite your further statements in that in writing, to add to your expertise here in this field.

Professor GUZMAN. Thank you, Senator.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Any questions?

(The chairman, in a letter written shortly after the hearing, addressed several questions to the witness. The questions follow:)

1. What is the present status of your Mexican-American Study? Could Federal funds be helpful in accelerating final work on that study?

2. You called for "special studies by the U.S. Bureau of the Census". How would present practices be changed in order to accomplish this? What would be the practical results (a) in terms of programs for the elderly Mexican-American, and (b) the elderly in general.

3. What is the basis for your statement that elderly Mexican-Americans are rarely served or reached by private and public agencies.

(The following reply was received:)

CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE AT LOS ANGELES,  
*Los Angeles, Calif., February 20, 1969.*

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Thank you for your letter of January 6th. You are the first important person to inquire about the status of our Mexican American Study. It is good to be remembered. Our work ended last August and will appear in book-form in a month or two. The citation is: Leo Grebler, Joan Moore, and Ralph Guzman, *Mexican Americans: The Second Largest Minority* (New York: The Free Press, McMillan, 1969.

The book however, does not represent all of our findings. A large amount of data remains on computer tapes waiting for further analysis. I despair. The data represent social conditions in Los Angeles and San Antonio as of 1965 and are directly or indirectly related to the aged.

Federal funds, with which to finish our analysis, are hard to come by. I have applied, without success, to the Economic Development Agency (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce and to the U.S. Office of Education.

Federal funds would help us to accelerate our final product. I welcome your advice. My comments about the special U.S. Bureau of the Census studies are based on four years of research at UCLA. First, I suspect that census enumerator techniques need improvement. Second, I believe that a special program of public education, designed to more fully explain the purpose of the census, is needed; particularly among the ethnic poor. Third, I do not agree with the recommendation of the Mexican American Inter-Agency Committee on the use of the term Spanish-Surnamed Americans. Finally, I contend that special subsamples of the young, the middle aged and the old are needed.

Some enumeration techniques seem to be peripheral, particularly in poor areas. For example, in 1960 my family was enumerated in East Los Angeles. The poor soul who knocked on our door was terrified. We offered coffee and *pan dulce*—and she refused. Our friends reported similar experiences. The point here is, not that enumerators should drink all the coffee and *pan dulce* that is offered to them, but that they should be prepared to say "no" graciously in order to gather data accurately and with confidence. Nervousness on the part of the interviewer can trigger nervousness to the part of the respondent. This is particularly true among the poor, who almost seem to have an invisible antennae that warns them about "the enemy." The discomfort of a border

patrolman, a policeman, a social-worker, or even a truant officer, prior to the levying of an official sanction, is related to the uneasiness of the federal enumerator.

#### CENSUS DIFFICULTIES

More intensive recruitment of indigenous personnel and a more careful preparation of enumerators is called for. Peace Corps techniques could be used. I doubt that the purpose of the U.S. Census is understood by the majority of the American people—not withstanding the anecdotes that the media carries. A much different kind of publicity is necessary. The campaign against cigarette smoking, which depends heavily on television, is one possible mode. In the case of the Mexican American people, I suggest that special efforts be made to inform them (in English and Spanish) about the nature and the purpose of the census. Clear information given in advance of door-to-door work, would help to alleviate barrio fears. The U.S. Bureau should be seen as an agency that is separate from law enforcement bodies.

Public notice of such a separation would cast the census people in different social roles. Hopefully, people would have less cause to hide the real size of their families and the presence of illegal residents. (This is admittedly, a very long shot, but is worth trying.) Social predicaments like this are not uncommon. There are many reasons why Mexican-American respondents, living in such environment, would want to disguise the facts. A woman may be on relief, a member of the family might be on probation or someone else may be in the country. There are more reasons.

Official ethnic labels have worked against the Mexican American people. No-body seems to know what to call them without saying to say: "Mexican." Official classifications, e.g. White Persons of Spanish Surname (WPSS) obfuscate matters. Recently, Vicente Ximenes, chairman of the Inter-Agency Committee on Mexican American Affairs, recommended that Mexicans be called Spanish Surnamed Americans (SSA). I disagree.

Ximenes' label complicates research and should not be adopted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. There are at least two reasons why the label could cause problems. First, the task of finding native-born Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans and other Spanish Surnamed minorities will become extremely difficult. Second, self classification, i.e. what the respondent wants to be called, is lost. As Americans we have the constitutionally guaranteed privilege to call ourselves Rotarians, Sons of Texas, Yankees, Wops, or even dam fools. Many Mexicans long to exercise an ethnic choice and to be respected for that choice. Ethnic labels should be recorded as given by the respondent. For example, if the respondent lives in the state of New Mexico he may wish to be known as a Spanish-American. Someone living in Texas might want to be known as a Latin American. Others may insist on Mexican or Mexican American, and so forth. All should have their wishes acknowledged.

Special studies of the young, the middle-aged, and the aged are needed. Much is said about the problems of youth; middle-aged parents and the oldsters. While all interact together they should be separated for purposes of analysis. How correct are market studies of teenage purchasing power? But, if the need to study the young is important so is the need to research the middle aged parents. The census does not tell us how many fell short of their life goals or how much education they now foresee for their offspring.

The aged, particularly, the Mexican American aged, should be more closely examined. How many are aware of governmental services to which they are entitled? Where do our aged minorities go to die? (An enumerator visiting a home for the aged should note that the respondent was living there and the home *itself* should be counted.)

These are only a few random thoughts. I hope that they are of use to you. I am very pleased with your inquiry.

Sincerely,

RALPH GUZMAN,  
*Assistant Professor of Political Science.*

Senator YARBOROUGH. Our next witness is Mrs. Herminia Ramirez Lewall of the Benito Juarez Senior Citizens Group.

I understand she wants to testify, if given the opportunity.

Would you come around, please, Mrs. Lewall.

**STATEMENT OF MRS. HERMINIA RAMIREZ LEWALL, BENITO JUAREZ SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP**

Mrs. LEWALL. Senator, Congressmen, and committee, I will be very brief, and I will submit a document later.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Fine. You mail that to the staff, and we will give you our address here.

Mrs. LEWALL. Yes. I was not president, but vice president of the Benito Juarez Senior Citizens Group.

The reason this group has been disbanded, and it has folded up several times, is the lack of a proper recreational center for us to meet.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Is this a public or a private group? Is it just a group—who organized it?

Mrs. LEWALL. No, no—

Senator YARBOROUGH. Who sponsored it?

Mrs. LEWALL. The city.

Senator YARBOROUGH. It is a city-sponsored group?

Mrs. LEWALL. Yes, it was. However, we haven't been meeting for quite a while. The reason is—and I will use the map to illustrate this.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Now, we will need the mike over there.

Will you move the microphone over there by you—on the other table so we all can hear you—and so the reporter can hear you.

Thank you.

Mrs. LEWALL. This is the area where the Benito Juarez Senior Citizens—

Senator YARBOROUGH. Are you referring to the area within the circle on the map?

Mrs. LEWALL. Well, the circle is a mile distant from the Center.

This is sort of a pocket, because there is a freeway here [indicating], and the Santa Fe Railway on this side [indicating].

Senator YARBOROUGH. You are referring here to an area just south of Hazard Park and the Santa Fe Railway just north?

Mrs. LEWALL. Right. That's right.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you. That's pretty much of a hazard there, with the freeway on one side and the railway on the other.

Mrs. LEWALL. Well, the land was given by the Hazard family, so that's why the name.

But this was supposed to be our meeting place.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The green? What number is that—3?

Let's identify it for the record—2 and 3—1 and 2?

Mrs. LEWALL. No. The numbers are something else. I will explain that later.

This is the Hazard Park [indicating], this is the general hospital [indicating], and this is the housing project [indicating]. And the whole area where the Benito Juarez Senior Citizens Group was to meet. We met at Hazard Park several times, however, the place is dilapidated. It has been sadly neglected, and the reason is that the Veterans' Administration has decided that—well, the city of Los Angeles offered Hazard Park to the Veterans' Administration for a veterans' hospital.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Is that Hazard owned by the city of Los Angeles?

Mrs. LEWALL. Right.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Are they building a new Veterans' Administration hospital out there?

Mrs. LEWALL. Well, they would like to. We have been fighting this for several years.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You say, "You have been fighting"—to prevent it?

Mrs. LEWALL. To prevent it, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Now, there is a veterans' hospital in Los Angeles, now?

Mrs. LEWALL. Yes, there is. There is one in Sawtelle, which is 16 miles away.

Senator YARBOROUGH. And this was planned to move it out here and build a bigger hospital?

Mrs. LEWALL. No, sir. It was planned to make—to build another one.

Senator YARBOROUGH. A second one?

Mrs. LEWALL. Yes, a second one.

Now the reason it was decided to build this here was because the medical school which is University of Southern California Medical Hospital, however we claimed that there are several areas—and this is where the numbers are—which are just as good as—or just as convenient and some of them—two of them—are vacant, and they are within a mile.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, you say, "This is." Is that where you have the "1" on there?

Mrs. LEWALL. Right. No. 1—

Senator YARBOROUGH. No. 1 in the upper right-hand corner of the map?

Mrs. LEWALL. Yes.

And it is vacant.

Now, this very large one just across from the veterans' hospital—from the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, which are junkyards—very unsightly—

Senator YARBOROUGH. Is that area on the gray on the map—the location of the general hospital? Where is the medical school?

Mrs. LEWALL. The medical school is right around here [indicating].

Senator YARBOROUGH. That is between the green area and the gray?

Mrs. LEWALL. Right.

So we have had several meetings and picnics at the park which have been very well attended by the senior citizens; however, our meetings, because of the neglect in which Hazard Park is, they were moved to another center which is around—I would say around here [indicating].

And it was difficult for the senior citizens to get there, so little by little they started dropping off, and we haven't been meeting since—or the meetings have been very sporadic and poorly attended.

So what we recommend, and what we ask you to do—

Senator YARBOROUGH. This is a local controversy, I take it, in Los Angeles, over location of the veterans' hospital; is that correct?

Mrs. LEWALL. Well, I would say it is about the Federal Government.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Is this a contest in Los Angeles as to the location of a veterans' hospital?

Mrs. LEWALL. It is, in a way.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, is there any dispute about it?

Mrs. LEWALL. Yes; there is.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I don't think that that is a primary function of this committee. We are not a legislative committee. We are a fact-finding committee on what we can do to help the aged.

Mrs. LEWALL. Yes. Well, that's what I am—may I comment?

Senator YARBOROUGH. We don't want to get into a dispute over the location of a veterans' hospital.

Mrs. LEWALL. But Senator, couldn't you recommend—couldn't you speak to the Veterans' Administration in Washington?

Senator YARBOROUGH. I don't think that's our function, to inject ourselves into the location of a veterans' hospital, in Los Angeles.

Mrs. LEWALL. Not as to the location, but as to the—

Senator YARBOROUGH. That was a requirement to study the availability of—

Congressman ROYBAL. Senator, may I clarify a few points, and give you just a very brief background to this?

Senator YARBOROUGH. We are wholly unqualified to pass on where the veterans' hospital ought to be in Los Angeles.

Congressman ROYBAL. I don't think this is the point she is trying to emphasize at all.

The backup on the scene is that the mayor of the city of Los Angeles, at one time, made an offer to the Veterans' Administration to transfer Hazard Park for a property on the west side.

Hazard Park was given to the city of Los Angeles by the Hazard people. Within Hazard Park there is not a playground, but that is completely neglected by the city of Los Angeles since the city made the offer to the Veterans' Administration.

We have been fighting this right along, because we believe that in this area of high density, we should not only have a playground, but we should have a park with the beautiful trees and so forth.

It has developed into a controversy with the result that the senior citizens who were meeting at Hazard Park could no longer meet there because of the delapidated buildings, and are forced to move elsewhere.

Now, this is a local controversy—this is right, this is true. But it is also something that we can give some attention to, particularly since that is a high density area made up of many, many senior citizens.

With the present plan, they don't have any place to go at all.

#### FINAL VA DECISION AWAITED

Now, I do not know what the final determination will be with regard to this problem. I do believe, however, that the Veterans' Administration cannot at this time justify the building of that hospital in its present location. And they have to justify it, as you know, particularly before the Appropriations Committee.

And since we are going to have some problems with regard to finances in the next few years, it is my opinion that the Appropriations Committee will not make the necessary appropriations for the transfer of this.

Now, this is a long, complicated problem in the city of Los Angeles, but I do believe that some recommendation must be made in general,



without naming Hazard Park specifically, that facilities within public property be used more readily for the meeting of senior citizens and establishment of senior citizens' centers.

And I think this is what the lady is referring to, and not asking this committee to get into this controversy. I am already in this controversy, Senator, and the time will probably come when I will ask you to appear before the Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, this committee is not in this controversy, and we didn't come out here to get into this.

I appreciate your friendship, but this is a Los Angeles problem—it is a California problem.

We are interested in the problems of the aging nationwide. This is a Veterans' Administration problem, as you point out, the Budget Committee will be in it, the Appropriations Committee will be in it—there will be so many agencies in it, I feel we will clutter the field by getting into it.

Congressman ROYBAL. We could still make a general recommendation that existing facilities should be used for senior citizens, and that would cover all such facilities throughout the Nation, and I think we are all agreed to that.

Mrs. LEWELL. Thank you very much. I am sorry I wasn't prepared.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Well, that's perfectly all right, Mrs. Lewall. We want to hear everyone.

Is there anyone else in the room that would like to be heard? We have about 3 more minutes, and we must close in order to make the plane.

I believe that completes the hearing list today. And the others who came, who weren't on the hearing list—we have heard all that were on the hearing list, with the exceptions of those who were ill and could not be here, and we have heard all who were here and asked to be heard.

I want to thank you for your cooperation in condensing your statements to enable us to complete the hearing here today so that we will not be forced to leave with some witnesses unheard.

You have been a very fine group of witnesses, and I feel this has been a very beneficial hearing that will have beneficial effects for the Mexican-Americans and their elderly at this time.

We have opened the subject; this is the first day of hearings. We will carry it forward and after the hearings in Texas take all of this to Washington, and call on every area of the Government that deals with the care of the elderly.

And we hope to have meaningful orders and rules and laws that will care for people involved from these hearings.

The hearings are now ordered recessed until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning at which time we will resume in El Paso, Tex.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

I want to compliment this wonderful staff here. They have done fine work.

(Whereupon, at 4 p.m., the committee recessed, to reconvene at 10 a.m., Wednesday, December 18, 1968, at El Paso, Tex.)

# APPENDIXES

## Appendix 1

### ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FROM WITNESSES

#### ITEM 1: MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY GLEN O'LOANE,\* EAST LOS ANGELES LABOR COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

##### WATTS LABOR COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE—ADVISORY BOARD

- James Peck, Teamsters Joint Council 42, 1616 West 9th Street, Los Angeles, Calif. 90006 (381-3571).
- H. J. Sperling, Teamsters Joint Council #42, 1616 West 9th Street, Los Angeles, Calif. 90006 (381-3571).
- Jack Begler, Local #52, Laundry, Dry Cleaners & Dye House Works, 2207 W. 8th Street, Los Angeles, California 90057 (385-0271).
- Leon Woods, 858 East 93rd Street, Los Angeles, California.
- Robert McFall, Local #535, Social Workers Union, 11547 So. St. Andrews Pl., Los Angeles, California 90047 (732-6221, Ext. 423).
- Dave Novogrodsky, Executive Director, Social Workers Union, 1313 W. 8th Street, Los Angeles, Calif. (483-4049).
- Sam Baquera, President, Laborers & Hod Carriers, Local #300, 2005 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, California (385-2841).
- George Hardy, President, Building Service Employees Union, 1200 South Figueroa St., Los Angeles, Calif. (746-0770).
- Bruce J. Wright, Building Service Employees Union, 1200 South Figueroa St., Los Angeles, California (746-0770).
- Harry Bloch, Manager, L. A. Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 2501 South Hill St., L. A. 90007 (749-6161).
- William Lopez, International Assoc. of Machinists, 214 South Loma Drive, Los Angeles, California 90025 (483-6630).
- Herb Ward, International Assoc. of Machinists, 1635 So. Sierra Bonita Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif. 90019 (636-9231, Office; 849-5701, Burbank).
- Gilbert Simonson, Director, United Packinghouse Workers, Dist. #4, 2780 E. Gage Avenue, Huntington Park, California (583-4915).
- Paul Schrade, Regional Director, Region #6, UAW, 1927 W. 9th Street, Los Angeles, California 90006 (381-6561).
- E. J. Franklin, 1302 West 83rd Street, Los Angeles, California (PL 1-0494).
- Sigmund Arywitz, Executive Secretary, L. A. County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, 2130 W. 9th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90006 (381-5611).
- Del Coffey, United Steelworkers of America, 2550 Zoe Avenue, Huntington Park, California (587-1211).
- Paul Bullock, Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA, 405 Hilgarde, Los Angeles, California, 90024 (272-8911, Ext. 3123).
- Ted Ellsworth, Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA, 405 Hilgarde, Los Angeles, California 90024 (272-8911, Ext. 2425).
- Leonard Levy, General Vice President, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 2501 South Hill St., Los Angeles, California 90007 (749-6161).
- Joe Ibarra, International Longshoremen-Warehousemen Union, 5625 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, Calif. (753-3461).
- Louis Sherman, International Longshoremen-Warehousemen Union, 5625 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California (753-2361).

\*See statement, p. 50.

- Fred Schmidt, Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA, 405 Hilgarde, Los Angeles, California 90024 (272-8911, Ext. 3909).
- Sam Kalish, 327 North Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90004 (465-9250).
- I. Stanzor, Joint Board, Int'l. Ladies Garment Wkrs. Union, 400 West 9th Street, Los Angeles, Calif. (629-1151).
- Max Wolf, Joint Board, Dress & Sportswear Wkrs., 1130 South Maple Street, Los Angeles, California.
- William D. Drohan, Int'l. Union of Electrical, Radio & Machine Wkrs., AFL-CIO, 2522 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90006 (385-4079).
- John D. Davis, Int'l. Union of Electrical, Radio, & Machine Wkrs., AFL-CIO, 2522 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90006 (385-4079).
- Floyd Gartrell, Director, United Rubber Workers, Dist. #5, 120 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, California.
- Mrs. Grace Davis, Bureau of Work Training Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, 300 North Los Angeles Street, Room 4349, Los Angeles, California 90012 (688-4993).
- Mr. Raymond Marin, National Representative, Southern California Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, 2501 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90007 (749-6161).

ITEM 2: MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY ISMAEL DIEPPA\*, ACSW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, INC., CALIF.

REACHING THE ELDERLY POOR THROUGH PROJECT FIND—IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE IN VOLUNTARY AND PUBLIC AGENCIES

The Ninety-fifth Annual Forum of the National Conference on Social Welfare provides us with a unique platform for a discussion on our topic—Reaching the Elderly Poor through Project Find—Implications for Practice in Voluntary and Public Agencies. In order to convey the significance of Project Find within an understandable frame of reference, this paper will, first, discuss the Project as an integral part of the War Against Poverty. Secondly, it will outline the development of Project Find in a rural setting, Santa Cruz County, California, and, thirdly, the implications for practice in voluntary and public agencies.

I. PROJECT FIND—AN OUTREACH OF THE WAR AGAINST POVERTY

In 1965, Sargent Shriver, Director of the OEO, appointed a task force to "examine the nature and causes of poverty among middle-aged and elderly Americans and to recommend ways of preventing, reducing, and ameliorating such poverty."<sup>1</sup>

Project Find was developed by the National Council on the Aging and funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity as a model community action program to locate and serve the elderly who are friendless, isolated, needy, and disabled.

The necessity for an aggressive approach such as Project Find is clearly demonstrated in the magnitude of the problems of our aging population which confronts our society. About 9.2 million or one-third of the 29.7 million poor Americans are aged sixty and over. Approximately half of them live alone.<sup>2</sup>

The problems of the older poor is compounded by the negative attitude and concept held in our society about "growing old" while at the same time there is a positive emphasis on "staying young" and youth. This attitude and emphasis is clearly shown in the Economic Opportunity Act which has a definite stress on programs for youth. It is interesting to notice that in the program or bulletin for this conference there are only two presentations related to the problems of the aged while there is considerable discussion concerning youth.

The elderly poor share with other impoverished people in the community the problems of apathy, the lack of understanding and awareness about services and agencies, the lack of organized leadership to help themselves through social

\*See statement, p. 57.

<sup>1</sup> Office of Economic Opportunity, *Poverty and the Older American—Findings and Recommendations*, First Report of the Task Force on Programs for Older Persons, August 1965, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Office of Economic Opportunity, *Programs for Older Americans Fact Sheet*, Washington, D.C., March 1968, p. 1.

and political action and the overwhelming day to day struggle to meet their basic needs for food, housing, and health care. The elderly poor also faces the problems of isolation, lack of mobility, discrimination in employment, and a sense of worthlessness.

Find is a national demonstration Project conducted in twelve communities throughout the country. The twelve communities were selected from among seventy-five applicants. The Project has the following major interrelated objectives:

1. To locate, identify, and reach out to the needy senior citizens.
2. To provide services and problem-solving assistance to the elderly poor.
3. To involve the elderly in a process of community organization, social action, and self-help to enable them to deal more effectively with their own needs and problems.
4. To research and document the particular needs of the elderly poor.
5. To develop a "position paper" based on the data collected from the twelve projects documenting the needs of the elderly poor and the action and programs needed to meet them.

To achieve the objectives delineated above, the Project was developed in two major phases of action. The first one consisted of a nineteen-page questionnaire seeking information in the following general areas: housing, health and medicines, meals and diet, income, knowledge of and utilization of the Federal Food Stamps and Surplus Food Programs. Other areas covered in the questionnaire were: management of everyday tasks and chores, retirement and work, transportation, loneliness and isolation, income and other socioeconomic data. The second phase of the Project included providing services to the elderly poor while at the same time developing a community action effort involving the elderly poor as well as public and private agencies.

## II. PROJECT FIND—REACHING THE ELDERLY POOR IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Santa Cruz County, California, was selected as one out of the twelve communities to develop a Project Find in June, 1967. The County is located on the central coastline of California, south of San Francisco, on the north shore of Monterey Bay. The County is the second smallest in California, covering an area of 440 square miles.

Santa Cruz, with a population of 106,084 (1965 Census), has one of the largest concentrations of elderly people in proportion to its total population. Nearly one in every five of the residents or 19.1 per cent is sixty-five years of age and over compared to a national average of 9 per cent. Two cities within the County have even greater concentrations—25.1 per cent of the people in the city of Santa Cruz is over sixty-five, while in Capitola the percentage is 29.3. About 60 per cent of the population live in urban areas while the remaining 40 per cent lives in rural areas. If by older persons we mean those who are fifty-five years of age or older, we find that families with heads fifty-five years and over make up 33 per cent of the poor in our County.

Poverty is nearly equally distributed throughout the County. Using \$4,000 income for families as a criterion for poverty, three of every ten or 30.9 per cent fell in the poverty category in 1965. Unemployment, another factor determining poverty, is also high. The average unemployment rate in 1965 was 9.1 per cent. This rate is notably higher than the average rate for California (6.0 per cent) and the United States (5.7 per cent). Two years ago the Department of Labor designated Santa Cruz as an economically depressed area and thus eligible for Federal assistance.

Approximately 85 per cent of the county's economy depends on agriculture and related industries. Mexican-American and Filipinos comprise the majority of the labor force in agriculture. Lack of skills, education, awareness of rights and services, sophistication in obtaining them, cultural and language barriers, and discriminating attitudes of agencies and other community segments all contribute to the vicious and inhuman cycle of poverty. Every summer about 3,500 additional Mexican-American farm worker families come to Santa Cruz to harvest the crops.

The aged Mexican-American or Filipino farm worker in our County share many of the problems of other elderly citizens which are complicated by the factors mentioned before.

Our County also faces the problems of fragmentation and lack of coordination of existing services.

In spite of the fact 71 per cent of the total welfare cases consist of Old Age Security, there is no significant service or agency reaching out to the elderly poor. The gaps between some of the existing services and agencies and the problems of the older people in this County became painfully clear as we implemented Project Find.

Project Find was initially funded for nine months. The Project's staff consisted of a Director, two social workers, two team captains and twelve half-time neighborhood aides. Sixteen out of the total staff of eighteen are fifty-five years of age or older. All neighborhood aides fall into the low income category and range in age from sixty-one to eighty years, with an average age of seventy. The staff works out of our two neighborhood centers in Santa Cruz and Watsonville, respectively.

An advisory committee composed of private and public agencies, representatives of the elderly poor and minority groups was organized to give direction to the project and as a method to involve these agencies and groups in developing programs and services for senior citizens.

During the first four-month period ending December 31, 1967, staff of Project Find made approximately 11,000 contacts or home visits throughout the County in their search for poor people aged fifty-five years and up. About 1,600 questionnaires were completed during this period of time. Of the 1,600 persons interviewed by the neighborhood aides, 590 or 38 per cent were referred to one or more types of services. It has become increasingly clear that there is a tremendous need for the kind of out-reach work on a door-to-door basis which Find has been doing in order to inform people of available services and benefits and to determine the extent of the lack of and/or gaps in programs. Many elderly people have been found, for example, existing on minimal Social Security grants without realizing they were eligible for additional financial assistance through the Welfare Department. Others, who are receiving public assistance but who may have special needs such as housing repairs, homemakers services, medical care, transportation, leisure time activities, have been assisted by Find in securing needed help. We have found scores of people who are covered by Medi-Care and/or Medi-Cal who have not been taking advantage of these programs because of lack of information. Many do not even realize they are covered.

At the present time the data collected in 2,200 questionnaires is being processed, collated, and programmed to facilitate analysis and the writing of a final report.

For the purpose of comparison among the three main groups of poor elderly people surveyed, i.e., Filipino, Mexican-American, and other Caucasians, we have taken into consideration the following facts: the rural nature of the County, the necessity for Filipinos and Mexican-Americans to depend on farm labor for their livelihood even through old age, their cultural and language barriers which isolate them more than any other group from services.

Based on a reliable sample of the questionnaires, the following generalizations can be made:

1. The three groups mentioned above suffer in varying degrees the isolation caused by the lack of transportation in a rural county, their lack of mobility due to health reasons, and their lack of awareness about services and programs.
2. Of those interviewed, twice as many Filipino and Mexican Americans stated a need for work.
3. There is a dire need for housing among the elderly poor, but the need seemed greater among the minority groups as indicated by their larger percentage of substandard housing.
4. The income of the Caucasian older citizens was larger than the income for the Mexican-American and Filipino, although it was very inadequate for both groups.
5. The majority of senior citizens in the sample reflected a high degree of loneliness and a serious concern for the lack of leisure time activities and social isolation.
6. There seems to be a definite need for nursing and homemaking services, friendly visitors, and other protective services.
7. In spite of the availability of Medi-Care and Medi-Cal, the health of the elderly people interviewed was poor and the need for medical attention and health care was evident.
8. Project Find enabled us, probably for the first time in California to take a closer look at the plight of older Mexican-American and Filipino farm workers. Migrant farm workers are not only disenfranchised of the usual rights held in common by industrial workers such as, collective bargaining, unemployment in-

insurance, enforcement of minimum wages, child labor laws, eligibility for most public welfare and health programs (due to residence requirements) and public housing. But their prospects for a less hectic and deprived life in their older years are nil since in order to survive they have to continue working in the fields from sunrise to sunset. Find's neighborhood aides have found Mexican-American elderly couples living on an income of \$600 per year derived from part-time work in the fields. Very often ignorance about their eligibility for Social Security benefits and other public programs or failure on the part of the employer to report earnings correctly or to make deductions, prevents them from obtaining financial assistance.

Lack of or inadequate transportation renders the services of agencies in a rural county useless for the elderly poor.

### III. IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE IN VOLUNTARY AND PUBLIC AGENCIES AND RELATED LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Project Find has definite implications for practice both in private and public agencies which are applicable in rural as well as in urban centers. There are also implications for legislative action at the State and Federal levels.

For a creative and effective outreach from voluntary and public agencies in dealing with these problems and needs, old and preconceived attitudes such as the following need to be seriously challenged:

1. Retirement at age sixty-five as an automatic expectation since all elderly citizens want and can afford to retire. As a corollary to this attitude there is the belief that older people want to continue "meaningfully employed" rather than "meaningfully occupied."

2. Elderly people need less money to support themselves. There must be the realization that medical and health needs, transportation, taxes on property, and cost of living refute the fallacy of fixed income.

3. Retirement is an easy, expected adjustment that is natural in the process of aging. We should understand that the psychosocial adjustment required by forced retirement can be very disrupting and traumatic.

4. The lack of aggressive demand for services from senior citizens indicates their needs are being met. Obviously their emotional, social, and cultural isolation and their lack of mobility creates this false impression.

5. Elderly people would rather associate with their own peers and are not interested in the warmth, emotional support and socialization found in a family circle.

6. There is no discrimination in employment because of age for those people with skills. It is necessary that we realize that there are more people discriminated against in terms of employment and opportunity, because their hair is white than because their skin is black or brown.

7. Existing medical and health programs for the elderly are adequate. Public and private agencies need to assess the inadequacy of these services.

Each agency should examine its own policies and attitudes to meet these current needs realistically. This renewed perspective is necessary in discussing the following implications of Project Find:

1. Communities with a heavy concentration of elderly poor should have an inter-agency committee or a division of the Community and Planning Council dealing specifically with the needs and problems of the aged.

2. Both public and private agencies should stimulate and sponsor the organization of Senior Citizens groups to deal creatively with new approaches to their problems. For example, the organization of non-profit corporations through churches and other groups for the building of low-cost housing or to develop a transportation service.

3. Private and public agencies are best equipped to provide new career opportunities for the elderly poor who are able and who want to work. Senior Citizen aides could work very effectively in Public Assistance programs, Social Security Administration, Senior Citizens Centers, Department of Recreation and voluntary agencies. Services such as Friendly Visitors, tutors in literacy classes, training of youth in necessary skills, operating an employment service for elderly people can easily be performed by older people. Our best example of this creative concept is a Mexican-American man of seventy-four who is one of the team captains in Project Find and who recently won one of four national awards for meritorious achievement from the National Council on the Aging. His feeling of satisfaction, fulfillment and regained self-esteem can best be described in the

words of one of the elderly neighborhood aides when she said, "I have received a new lease on life."

How many churches, YWCA's, Neighborhood Centers, City Recreation Departments, and other social welfare agencies are surrounded by thousands of elderly poor clamoring for at least some expression of human concern? And how many of these agencies have failed to see the need and directed some of their resources accordingly? Obviously these agencies could reach out to the elderly with leisure time and other services by allowing them to provide their leadership and ideas.

4. Voluntary agencies should be able to organize a Volunteers' Bureau to serve older citizens as well as to provide opportunities for them to continue to be productive in the community.

5. Voluntary agencies also can enable older people to establish a mutually meaningful and satisfying relationship with a younger family in what we call "adopted grandparents outreach."

6. Both public and private agencies concerned with the needs of the elderly poor should promote the establishment of Senior Citizens Multi-purpose Centers with a unique emphasis on their problems.

Project Find enabled us to identify and document the need for immediate enabling legislative action at the State and Federal levels in the following areas:

1. Increase in Social Security benefits and Old Age Assistance to a reasonable, realistic maintenance income above the poverty level and based on actual cost of living.

2. The establishment of a comprehensive multi-purpose Senior Citizens Center Program.

3. Development of a Family Care Program adequately funded at the State and Federal levels and to be administered jointly by the Departments of Public Welfare and Mental Hygiene to prevent unnecessary and inhuman institutionalization of the elderly.

4. Provision of adequate funds by State and Federal governments to develop manpower programs for the elderly with a new career emphasis.

5. Reorganization and expansion of existing health and medical insurance programs in order to provide a more comprehensive and adequate service.

6. Elimination of property taxes for poor elderly citizens who are dependent on Social Security, Old Age Assistance, or with inadequate income.

7. Expansion of Federal and State, Social Security, and Old Age assistance programs to provide Senior Citizens with adequate homemaking and nursing services through voluntary agencies.

8. Expansion of housing programs with increased incentives for private and voluntary groups to sponsor the building of low-cost housing for the elderly.

9. Extension of rights and services available to industrial workers under State and Federal laws to farm workers.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

This paper has summarized the implementation of a Project aimed at reaching the elderly poor in a small rural County in California. The implications of the Project Find approach for Voluntary and Private Agencies indicate the need for a departure from the traditional concepts of serving the aged poor by developing a new, creative, and aggressive outreach utilizing the skills and interest of older citizens. Services to the aged must be visible and seek to change the attitudes in agencies which bind them in traditional approaches.

Federal and State legislation in the field of housing, manpower, health and medical care, financial assistance, property taxes, farm labor, multi-purpose centers and protective services for the aging, is vitally needed as documented by Project Find. The experience of Project Find and its significance can be best summarized in the statement of one of our elderly aides which was quoted before: "I have received a new lease on life." It is imperative that we develop significant and relevant programs for the aging, not only to give them a "new lease on life," but in order to break the "cycle of poverty" for the new generations of older people.

ITEM 3: MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY MRS. A. M. G. RUSSELL,\* CHAIRMAN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON AGING

EXHIBIT A. ARTICLE FROM THE AZUSA HERALD, OCT. 9, 1968, ENTITLED "EX-DEPUTY SHERIFF WORKS WITH SENIOR CITIZENS GROUPS"

[From the Azusa Herald, Oct. 9, 1968]

EX-DEPUTY SHERIFF WORKS WITH SENIOR CITIZENS GROUPS

From Old Mexico came Leo Pairis more than 60 years ago, and from Old Mexico comes a term used by hundreds who know him to honor him; "Muy Simpatico."

He has won this accolade of one very understanding of his fellow man for his work among Senior Californians, many of them from the same heritage that gave birth to that beautifully-named "Los Angeles."

Mr. Pairis served under Sheriff Gene Biscailuz as a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff for 18 years, and retired July 1, 1961, because of age.

A few years of inactivity was too much, this sitting out a perpetual life of manana-manana grew boresome, and he volunteered for VISTA duty.

He had a training session in Florida and was sent to Taos, N.M., as Project Director, teaching men to do various kinds of construction work; then to Cotula, Tex.; and ultimately returning to Los Angeles on Aug. 5, 1967.

Mr. Pairis has belonged to many civic, social, and political clubs during his life, and it was natural that he become active in Senior Citizens groups.

Thus it was when someone was needed that he was selected to serve as Community Representative of the California Commission on Aging to assist in coordination of state and local agencies in determining community needs and resources for serving Senior Californians.

He has been vigorous in stimulating interest in the building of more clubs for Senior Californians, especially for those who speak the mother tongue for it is in the leaders of the clubs they will find someone to talk to when they have problems.

Club leaders can contact Mr. Pairis, for he is in constant contact with all club leaders as well as the various organizations and agencies in the area, that are set up to assist the aging.

He is well acquainted with Senior Citizens leaders, such as Coordinators Horace F. Flynn, John T. Walker, and F. Kenton Beshore.

In the business community, he calls upon Plutarco M. Garcia, public accountant, or James R. Duffin, business executive.

A willing friend he finds in Renne Galindo, of the Sheriff's Department of Public Relations.

The sincere interest which Mr. Pairis shows in his older compatriots has won high praise from two of the state's leaders in the Senior Californian field, Mrs. A. M. G. Russell, chairman, and Charles W. Skoien, Jr., Executive Director, of the California Commission on Aging.

Mrs. Russell, as a private citizen, has attained a national reputation for her work in the field, and she observed:

"California owes so much to the men and women of Spanish heritage, and it is a tribute to them that one of their own can devote his life to them."

Mr. Skoien is a former Director of Senior Citizens Activities for the City of Los Angeles and is well acquainted with the size of the area in which Mr. Pairis works.

Mr. Skoien said: "In Leo Pairis, you have a man who reminds you of the Mission Padres, working with sincere intentions for those whom he loves. And, as with the men of the missions, he is doing good, a good that will last.

The clubs which he is starting will endure, and be of help to a great many people for a long time to come."

You will find these sentiments echoed in the area he serves, from Arcadia on the north, to Commerce on the south; from Pico Rivera on the east, to Indiana Street in Los Angeles on the west.

\*See statement, p. 65.



Everyday, somewhere in that wide area, you can find him: attending club meetings, in conference with civic leaders; yet not so busy that he cannot enjoy a leisurely pasatiempo with elderly men and women to explain how he and the many like him in the clubs and agencies are dedicated to helping all Senior Californians.

Mr. Pairis lives at 1212 South Farmstead Avenue in La Puente, and from there on every Monday he opens a new week by setting forth to visit Senior Californians in rest homes and hospitals; this he does every Monday, rain or shine.

For, as he says:

"I believe in God. I am a Catholic; I respect, however, all the religions, and definitely try to improve everybody's conditions, for I think that if we have good surroundings all around us, we live happier because the environment becomes more tolerant."

This is being "muy simpatico."

EXHIBIT B. ARTICLE FROM THE LA PUENTE VALLEY JOURNAL, ENTITLED  
"PAIRIS TO SERVE AS AGING COORDINATOR"

[From the La Puente Valley Journal]

PAIRIS TO SERVE AS AGING COORDINATOR

LA PUENTE.—A senior citizen from here, Leo Pairis, has been selected to serve as Community Representative of the California Commission on Aging to assist in coordination of state and local agencies to determine community needs and resources.

Pairis came to this area from Mexico more than 60 years ago. He served as a County Deputy Sheriff for 18 years until retired in 1961.

After a few years of inactivity, he joined VISTA and spent time in Taos, New Mexico as a Project Director, teaching men to do various kinds of construction work.

He has belonged to many civic, social and political clubs during life, before becoming active in Senior Citizens groups.

Pairis resides at 1212 South Farmside Avenue. From there, every Monday he sets out to visit Senior Californians in rest homes and hospitals.

EXHIBIT C. "ELDERLY MEXICAN-AMERICAN." A REPORT FROM PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE,  
*San Diego, Calif., December 6, 1968.*

To: Mr. Charles Skoien, Jr.

From: Pauline DeWolfe.

Subject: "Elderly Mexican-American."

As you know, one of our target areas in Southeast San Diego where a very large percentage of the elderly Mexican-Americans reside. One of the Case Aides employed by Protective Services is a Mexican-American who resides in this district and is personally acquainted with many of the people and is very much aware of their needs and problems. Prior to her employment with Protective Services, she was employed at Neighborhood House, working with the Mexican-American population.

As far as possible, and Protective Services case-load permitting, she has concentrated on a door-to-door reaching-out effort to the Mexican-American elderly people. Her reaction and findings are similar to those disclosed in many surveys. Communication is one of the most important factors confronting the people of this group. Many of the people with whom she works have accumulated problems which are complicated by their lack of understanding of the resources available to them and adequate interpretation of these benefits. She has spent a great deal of time in the interpretation of Social Security benefits and assisting these elderly people in signing up for benefits and Medicare. She has also been of

great assistance to a number of them in procuring Public Welfare benefits. The lack of understanding of the Mexican-American Cultural patterns has been a great barrier in procuring necessary services to them. Housing, transportation, and medical care are also major problems. She has spent a great deal of time in attempting to alleviate long-term problems and improve specific services for individuals as well as the groups. She has had several successful and dramatic situations which has substantiated the feeling that this service should be available to the Mexican-American population.

## Appendix 2

### LETTERS AND STATEMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

#### ITEM 1: STATEMENT OF ARLYN B. CARR, DISTRICT MANAGER, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

District Offices of the Social Security Administration which serve the populations in the "barrios" have long been concerned about the problems which your committee is studying.

We have all tried to develop solutions to these problems, using whatever media and materials are at hand.

The elderly Mexicans have two really serious problems. First, of course, is the language barrier, which is usually compounded by a generally low level of education. The second problem is a general reluctance on the part of these people to have any kind of dealings with any government office.

We think that our efforts to overcome these problems have been moderately successful.

Over the years we have built up excellent relations with the consulates on both sides of the border so that our services are readily brought to the attention of anyone who needs them.

For many years we have made an effort to have plenty of Spanish-speaking employees available to help these people. Preferably, these employees are Mexican-Americans themselves.

We utilize whatever Spanish-language news media is available, such as radio and newspapers.

Last summer we used teams of bi-lingual Youth Opportunity enrollees to canvass the barrios to look specifically for people who might be missing out on benefit payments. We found quite a few, but we were pleased that so many eligible people were already receiving.

Recently, our best results have come through the Community Action Councils set up in the various neighborhoods. When our Mexican-American employees meet with these people on their home ground, real understanding results. The fear or distrust of "government" is eased when they can speak in their own language to our employees who are Mexicans working for the government.

These "solutions" do not remove the problems—they are still there. Hopefully, they are not insurmountable and maybe they are not as serious now as they were before.

---

#### ITEM 2: LETTER FROM JEAN MAXWELL, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, SAN DIEGO STATE COLLEGE, CALIF.

SAN DIEGO STATE COLLEGE,  
*San Diego, Calif., February 6, 1969.*

MR. WILLIAM E. ORIOL: Thank you for returning my telephone call extending the time of the testimony from San Diego State College School of Social Work faculty for the Yarborough hearings on "Availability and Usefulness of Federal Programs and Services to Elderly Mexican-Americans—". Dean Ernest F. Witte left on Friday, January 31, 1969, for a leave of absence from this School of Social Work until September 1, 1969. He will be in Washington, himself, undertaking a special assignment for part of this period.

Meanwhile, I have secured from Mr. Mark Schiffrin his testimony<sup>1</sup> and it is enclosed. A second enclosure for testimony is the study done by a Masters Degree candidate at this School, Mr. Ronald Smith, in 1967 on the "Needs of the Mexican-American Aging."<sup>2</sup> I am enclosing the total study since Mr. Smith's findings here at San Diego contrast with some of the findings out of the San Antonio study.

My own possible addition is simply to highlight some of the major points identified throughout the attached material.

1. Obviously the unique problem among elderly Mexican-Americans in the use and knowledge about federal programs and services to elderly Mexican-Americans is the communication problem.

(a) Most of the written material about the availability of federal programs and services is in English. One of my suggestions is that any material on Social Security, old age welfare programs, health programs, part-time work programs, etc., should be published in Spanish, with special attention to the Spanish as it is spoken among Mexicans in contrast to Castilian Spanish.

2. I wish to underline the need for social workers, Social Security workers, doctors, nurses, health aides, etc., who are bi-lingual in Spanish and English. I wish to underline Mr. Smith's recommendation that bi-lingual workers should be classified at a higher step in the salary range, or some similar device to attract and hold persons with this addition skill.

A second major point that makes federal programs to elderly people ineffective is the major problem of transportation. The elderly Mexican-American's income levels are lower on the average than the average income level for all people 65 and over. This means that they cannot afford to own private cars. Even could they afford private cars, their lack of knowledge of English prevents them from being qualified to obtain a Drivers License in the state of California. Securing a License for all older people in the state of California is difficult at best, and it becomes literally impossible with the added problem of lack of skill in English.

A third major point in relation to health care in my opinion has to do particularly with extended care facilities that are acceptable for older Mexican-American people. Currently, nursing homes and convalescent homes are owned and operated by persons unfamiliar with the Spanish language, the Mexican culture, and its value systems. Certainly one of the experimentations should undertake the establishment of an extended care facility operated by a well-qualified Spanish-speaking staff, knowledgeable about Mexican-American culture and value systems.

I think the Mexican-American elderly are currently caught in a particularly difficult point in history. The Mexican-American young people are struggling for equal recognition and opportunity for their own sub-cultural group. The obstacles are so great and the recognition and awareness of the need for speaking out in behalf of their sub-culture's needs, that the focus is primarily on children and youth opportunities. Therefore, at this time the Mexican-American elderly are seen by the sub-cultural group itself as an extremely heavy burden and of no value to the struggle to establish Mexican-American equal opportunities and special educational and job opportunities for young people. The major culture people interested in services to older people do not have the communication skills and the cultural understanding to have concern about the Mexican-American elderly. Thus, at this point in time the Mexican-American elderly are caught in the double bind.

I hope these three pieces of material will have some value for you as testimony to be attached to the transcription of the hearings. Should you wish additional expansion or other points, we will be delighted to continue to work with you on these matters.

Sincerely yours,

JEAN M. MAXWELL,

*Director of Field Instruction, Professor of Social Work.*

<sup>1</sup> See p. 99.

<sup>2</sup> Retained in committee files.

EXHIBIT A. STATEMENT BY MARK SCHIFFRIN, ACSW, SAN DIEGO STATE COLLEGE,  
FIELD CENTER ON AGING, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

NEEDS OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN SENIOR CITIZENS

The Mexican-American older person in San Diego has problems common to all aged groups as well as problems peculiar to their own group. Contrary to popular belief, most of the older Mexican-American families in the Southwest have not a long history of life in the United States.

Large-scale immigration from Mexico to the United States took place during the period from 1910 to 1930, in part, as a consequence of the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920. Thus, there is now in the United States a large number of first-generations from Mexico who are 65 years of age or older.<sup>1</sup>

It has been estimated that between San Ysidro, border crossing in San Diego and Ventura, there are over 1,300,000 individuals with Spanish surnames. A significant portion of this group constitutes senior citizens of Mexican background.<sup>2</sup> The Mexican immigrant has his mother country close at hand. Often, he has desires to return, and some do.<sup>3</sup> The Mexican-American "barrios" are continually being reinforced by new immigration plus contact with green-card holders comprising a mobile labor pool of Mexican nationals. Thus, there has been and is little necessity for the Mexican immigrant to learn a new culture and language. This has created an obvious problem of language. English is their second language; the assimilation of the language is not one of degree, as indicated in current literature, but one of kind which stultifies a ready entry in the mainstream of the Anglo society.

Another area that has been, and still is, inimical to the older Mexican-American is his work history. In the main, this is a group of unskilled labor, often engaged in uncovered (Social Security) employment. They comprise a large segment of farm workers and an increasing number of service domestics. Having minimal or non-existent education, they were forced to unskilled laboring jobs not requiring or expecting acculturation. It should also be recognized that as most of the Mexican-American people came from an agrarian society, the impact of urban demands are somewhat unfamiliar and often unacceptable to them.

Their life style with its emphasis on personal relationships rather than dependence on institutions has further insulated the Mexican-American from the community as his level of urban sophistication prevents him from seeking, using, or being aware of community resources. Being a minority, and often placed in the role of second-class citizens either by circumstances or choice, they are reluctant to ask for or participate in services for which they are eligible.

The older Mexican-Americans draw positive benefits from their relationships with their families and other key people. To a far greater degree than one at a hasty glance realizes, the children and other relatives are involved with their older relatives. The older Mexican-Americans, in most instances, do have a role that has meaning to them as long as their family exists. They do undergo hardship when through circumstance of life they live beyond their peers and family; then they are truly isolated.

Their life pattern is one that is an internal, personal one, involved with the familiar, the long-time friends, villagers, and extended family. Meaningful, organized, social group activities and programs are not only unacceptable but somehow foreign to them. Often, one hears caseworkers bemoaning their inability to involve Mexican-Americans in senior center group activities. The worker feels that they should be involved in "meaningful activities" but the clients want to stay in their accustomed surroundings.

<sup>1</sup> Ronald Smith, "Needs of the Mexican-American Aging." A sample of Old Age Security Recipients served by a district office of the San Diego County Department of Public Welfare, mimeo report. San Diego State College School of Social Work, May 26, 1967, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Armando M. Rodriguez, "Report to Senator Homdal's Fact Finding Committee on Civil Rights of the Mexican-American in San Diego County. A mimeographed reproduction of presentation made in San Diego on February 19, 1964, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Smith, *op. cit.*, p. 3.

The traditional emphasis is one that personal and social activities revolve around family and home. The older woman stays home, busy with household chores, garden, knitting, and television. The older man mingles with long-time friends over beer and gossip, having a greater tendency to social activity within their own circle.

In looking at the population of boarding homes and rest homes in San Diego, one is immediately struck by the lack of visible residents with Spanish surnames. They are absent, as they stay in the community with family, children, nieces, cousins, etc., all involved, whether willingly or not, in relationships with the older relatives.

Many are satisfied with comparatively little—a small house, often needing repairs, a garden, some chickens, a quasi-rural setting—these appear to be important.

In the main, the older Mexican-Americans are quite conscious of their health needs but they do not utilize fully the available medical resources. Though knowing of medical programs, they appear to fear established programs, preferring home remedies often using traditional family remedies prescribed by nonprofessionals. They have their regular doctor but see him infrequently.

As stated earlier, the major needs of the older Mexican-American are those common to all older people—income, housing, transportation, medical care, etc. The peculiar needs of the Mexican-American group show themselves in their language insulation. In the main, lacking proficiency in English, they do not seek out or avail themselves of established programs. Their need, then, is for personal contact by Spanish understanding, helping, persons with a knowledge of the language and culture, voluntary or otherwise, who would seek them out and inform them of what is available and educate them to the proper utilization of resources.

In October, 1968, through the establishment of an EOC program, Project FIND, in a comparatively small geographical section of the minority area of the City of San Diego, this approach has begun in a modest manner. The community aide staff of eight, two being Mexican-American senior citizens, interviewed eighty-one older Mexican-Americans from October 21, 1968 through December 31, 1968. The greatest need was for transportation and a food service program, as forty-six interviewees stated needs in these categories. A breakdown of the needs was as follows:

Lunch .....	28
Lunch and transportation.....	13
Transportation .....	5
Financial:	
Housing repairs.....	2
Food and clothing.....	4
Medical and dental.....	9
Volunteer visiting.....	2
Jobs .....	1
No needs.....	17

Mrs. Gonzalez, a 62 year old Mexican-American aide in project FIND, describes her views of the needs of the older Mexican-American thusly:

"I suppose that Mexicans and South-American people are entitled to have help because they don't know how to express their ideas, and often they are uncultured or illiterate. That is one of the reasons I am always trying and encouraging people and personally talking to them to go to school. If they can learn English they can have better jobs and they can handle emergencies."

### ITEM 3: STATEMENT BY DIONICIO MORALES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MEXICAN-AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

#### INTRODUCTION

It is particularly meaningful to many of us in East Los Angeles that the needs of aging Mexican Americans be discussed at this Senate Subcommittee Hearing today. It is timely because the consensus is that this area has long been neglected.

The elderly Mexican American is a child in the urban wilderness and is shunned by his own acculturated grandchildren and is often unable to do anything in his last years except wait to die.

In May of this year, there was a Senior Citizens Conference at Laguna Park entitled "Workshop on the Older Mexican American." At that time it was proclaimed that the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation should become involved in programs to meet the needs of the Mexican American Senior Citizen. At that time, it was proposed by those participating in this conference that since the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, as its name states, is concerned with the problems of the Mexican American, it was time for the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation to become involved in developing new programs that would cope with the problems of the elderly Mexican American.

The matter was immediately researched. A proposal was put together with the technical assistance of Mr. Dennis Fargas, the Director of the Office for Spanish Surnamed Americans, HEW. We pointed to the need for the establishment of a Mexican American Senior Center in East Los Angeles. So that we could be in a position to report back to the community, we then went to Washington with a firm determination to return with results other than the usual promises and conference resolutions.

We studied the basic concepts underlying the need for a Mexican American oriented senior center. We pointed out that here in East Los Angeles, which is predominately Mexican American in origin, thousands of aged people's lives are especially difficult, not only because they live in poverty areas, but because of linguistic and other cultural problems related to their background.

Mr. Fargas was quick to respond to our request for assistance. I am pleased to report to you that a major portion of the negotiations are now fairly well advanced. The disturbing element is the fact that we are unable to finalize the proposal because of the need for further technical assistance.

#### SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN AGING POOR

Many of these people, who came to the United States between 1920 and 1935, are virtually lost in the scheme of things. They never were close to the main stream of life in this country from the beginning, and now they are shunned by the very society to which they pay taxes, and to which they devoted the most productive years of their lives. They never had time nor money nor the training and background to make them ready for lives of recreation and retirement, involving the constructive use of leisure time.

They suffer from the combination of the infirmities of old age plus the aggravated aftermath of lives of hard work and poor nourishment. Many of them have become citizens of the United States, technically, but they are experiencing the tragic accident of being cast aside when their productive years are over.

The poverty-stricken aged Mexican American is not only shunned by his children and grandchildren, but he is faced with personal fear and uncertainties which make this shunning by younger members of his family especially serious. He is reticent to go to the Civic Center of his city, to try to find his way among the imposing array of great office buildings. He hesitates to enter elevators. The marble halls and complex offices leave him in a chill of inadequacy and demoralization. He is unable to comprehend the fine points of consumer economics. He is easy prey for sharp television commercials advertising inferior furniture and other commodities at astronomical prices on easy payments. He has no conception of the pitfalls of over-extension of credit, nor of the burden of credit charges added to advertised prices. He is a "sitting duck" for radio and television appeals to his ills and pains of old age by those who offer doubtful or positively harmful nostrum which claim to cure everything from cancer to tuberculosis.

Due to his traditional set patterns of thinking and behaviour, which become more and more ingrained and interwoven into the deepest convictions and emotions of this person, all of this intensifying with age, a Mexican American older is a complex of special challenges which need to be heeded by the heretofore unconcerned community.

Obviously, there are many constructive things that he could do, not picking grapes, of course, even though they have passed their 55th birthday. Not even a retaining for new careers at their age seems called for. Yet, they can be guided and encouraged to pass their days at constructive things which they can do, for the good of their own personalities, for their family's happiness and for the general good of the community as a whole.

It is possible, given the right conditions, that instead of deteriorated, idle, poverty-stricken, demoralized and sick individuals, to develop active happy purposeful and healthy participating members of society.

THE NEED FOR A CENTER FOR THE AGED ORIENTED TO PERSONS OF MEXICAN ORIGIN

The serious social problems referred to above should be remedied, in large measure, through the establishment of a center for the aged with the Mexican orientation.

In general, a center is a program of services offered in designated physical facility in which older people meet at least three days or more each week, under the guidance of assigned leaders performing professional tasks. The basic purpose of such center is to provide older people with socially enriching experiences which help to preserve their dignity as human beings and enhance their feelings of self-worth.

BASIC CONCEPTS UNDERLYING THE NEED FOR A MEXICAN-ORIENTED SENIOR CENTER

1. The social distance between generations of Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans is even greater than the social distance between some Mexican Americans and Anglo Americans. This contributes in a special way to the serious isolation and loneliness of the aging Mexican and Mexican American.

2. Since Mexican immigrants entered this country at the bottom of the age ladder, and work for employers who could not, or at any rate did not have pension systems, the aged Mexicans have been especially unable to prepare themselves for a secure old age.

3. Since Mexican culture places a higher social acceptance on purposeful activity, a Center devoted merely to games and hobbies, or mere time-killing activities would not suffice to meet their needs.

4. Older Mexicans, many of them deficient in the use of English, and unaccustomed to working around Anglos, have a special need, in their old age, for a Center which understands their culture, folkways and language.

5. Since older Mexicans are reluctant to travel into areas where Spanish is less spoken, and customs are more foreign to them, a Center in their home neighborhood environment is essential.

6. Many of the foreign born have failed to become naturalized, and thus face disqualification for services available to the native-born aged.

CONCLUSION

The Mexican American Opportunity Foundation has been in existence since 1963 and has been involved in manpower problems. We have been operating on a \$100,000,000 budget. We have become cognizant of the disturbing need to confront the problems of the elderly Mexican American. We have, therefore, moved ahead and now we need immediate support for the purpose of bringing to a finality a project which has been in HEW for the past six months.

I hereby propose that as a result of these hearings, that a task force be so assigned to give us the necessary professional assistance that often becomes a deterrent factor in the finalizing of a proposal of this type.

Nowhere in the nation can we find a concentration of elderly Mexican Americans who face such perplexing problems of such magnitude that would require serious and immediate attention.

May I then urge this Honorable Committee to make this hearing meaningful and purposeful for the largest Mexican American concentration in the nation here in East Los Angeles, and assist us in the follow-up so that we may add one more historic accomplishment which will benefit thousands of our people, and that we may enlist the committee support so that all programs so instituted would be geared to the special needs of the elderly Mexican American.

ITEM 4: REPORT SUBMITTED BY ADOLPHO REYES, SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE, EASTLAND COMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL, AND GREATER LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE ON AGING, CALIFORNIA

In the early 1950's, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors realized that the growing population of the elderly would require services of a specialized nature to assist them in coping with those problems peculiar to people in their later years. This was particularly true of areas in Los Angeles County, where there is a heavy concentration of Mexican-American population.

As an outgrowth of the experience of the small group originally assigned by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the existing Department of Senior



Citizens' Affairs was formed July 15, 1955, together with a committee of lay advisors, known as the Los Angeles County Committee on Aging.

With the assistance of the Los Angeles County Committee on Aging, the operating arm of the committee, namely the Los Angeles County Department of Senior Citizens' Affairs, established, among other projects, an objective of assisting local communities in organizing local groups to define problems and seek means of solving these problems on the local level.

On this basis, having determined that most of the problems of the Mexican-American aging were particularly prevalent in the Greater East Los Angeles area, and were complicated by language difficulties and lack of communication, a concerted effort of the many public and private agencies in this predominantly Mexican-American community were able to establish in October, 1964, with headquarters at Laguna Park, an effective Committee on Aging, known as the Greater East Los Angeles Committee on Aging.

Under the sponsorship of the Greater East Los Angeles Committee on Aging, the East Los Angeles community has cooperated in sponsoring the following programs which have been presented bilingually in Spanish and English:

1. *Information Days*: Private and public agencies have presented bilingual exhibits and informational materials to the Senior Citizens of East Los Angeles. Professional staff has also been made available to answer questions.

2. *Health Education Day*: In a cooperative program between the East Los Angeles Health District and the Monterey Park Social Security office, Eastside families were encouraged to take advantage of an immunization program; also were given bilingual information about the Medicare program. Over 600 attended this meeting.

3. *Medicare Alert*: Contact points were established at Laguna Park and International Institute from which bilingual crews ranging from 50 to 85 years of age registered East Los Angeles Angles residents for Medicare.

4. *Older Latin-American Conferences*: Two bilingual Latin-American conferences have been held at Laguna Park in which representatives of private and public agencies advised Eastside residents about the latest programs affecting their welfare.

5. *Bilingual Senior Citizens' Information and Referral Center*: Since June, 1967, as a result of funding under the Older American Act through the California Commission on Aging, a Bilingual Senior Citizens Information and Referral Center has been maintained in Laguna Park four days a week. The Center has served Mexican-American Senior Citizens on all problems characteristic with their daily living. The activities of this center have already been referred to in a "Grass Root" paper.

Although mention has already been made of special projects co-sponsored and presented by the Greater East Los Angeles Committee on Aging through their Bilingual Center, our committee would like to stress these programs because of their great benefit and impact on the predominantly Mexican-American community.

Cooperating with the California State Franchise Tax Board, a bilingual representative was made available to come to Laguna Park, explain the provisions of the Senior Citizens tax refund law and assist in completing and forwarding the necessary forms.

A reduction in bus fares is available to Senior Citizens through the courtesy of the Southern California Rapid Transit District. This reduction was secured under the auspices of the Los Angeles County Department of Senior Citizens' Affairs. As one of the implementing agencies, the Bilingual Information and Referral Center has assisted several hundred local residents in securing 1000 identification cards which entitle them to the reduction.

Through the personal interest of the Honorable Ernest E. Debs, present chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, an application was filed with the Housing Urban Development agency to secure funds for upgrading the standards of the homes of low income residents of this Mexican-American community. The Greater East Los Angeles Committee on Aging cooperated with Supervisor Debs' office in publicizing and presenting the H.O.M.E., known as the HOME program, to a large audience of Eastside residents. This bilingual presentation was specifically arranged so that it could be understood by the average layman of the East Los Angeles community.

Due to the dedicated efforts of Supervisor Ernest E. Debs and his staff, supported by the great majority of the Eastside residents, an allocation of \$8,000,000 has been made by HUD.

Our latest Special Project, to which we would like to make reference, is the recently completed training of 48 mature adults as Family Aides. This program was funded by Eastland Community Action Council, which is an antipoverty agency dedicated to alleviating poverty through community programs, and closely identified with the East Los Angeles community.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services envisions employing, on a vendor-payment basis, these aides in their Aid to Totally Disabled and Adult Attendant Care programs. Professional staffs of private and public agencies were used as instructors in the Family Aide program.

You, no doubt, are curious as to what we mean by "Special Projects." Under our definition of "Special Projects" we are referring to those community projects that have been initiated and instituted by the Greater East Los Angeles Committee on Aging to meet the special needs of the Mexican-American residents who constitute over 70% of the residents of the East Los Angeles area.

In all our projects, every effort has been made to prevent duplication of services in existing projects. In every instance, full cooperation has been received from the public and private agencies in East Los Angeles, and our programs have been an extension rather than a duplication of existing community services.

The daily experience of professional members of private and public agencies staff who are members of the Greater East Los Angeles Committee on Aging indicates that there is a limited amount of statistical information available concerning the problems of the Mexican-American aging. Programs that have been established have been based on what information is available as to the problems of the Mexican-American aging. There is no question that there is need for greater research. Our group would like to make several recommendations of urgently needed projects to be considered by the Senate Sub-Committee on Aging as worthy of being carried on.

The programs recommended for action by the Greater East Los Angeles Committee on Aging, concurrent with further research, are as follow:

1. Expansion of the services of bilingual information and referral centers to a full-time basis.
2. Establishment of expanded bilingual centers in other Mexican-American communities such as San Fernando Valley, Pico Rivera, San Gabriel Valley, the Pomona area, and the Harbor area.
3. Plan and implement bilingual training programs for persons aged 45 and over to assist shut-ins, handicapped, and elderly persons with their daily living problems.
4. Concurrent with the training of the Family Aides, institute an area survey in the Mexican-American community of the three categories mentioned in the 3rd recommendation, i.e., shut-ins, handicapped, and elderly persons.
5. Coordinate on the Washington, D.C., state, and county governmental levels administrative procedures which will make it possible for the Department of Public Social Services to readily hire Family Aides once they are trained.
6. Eastland Community Action Council, Office of Economic Opportunity's representative in East Los Angeles, recognizes the needs of Senior Citizens nationally and locally and is currently funding a program to provide training to Senior Citizens as Family Aides. Our agency will be submitting a proposal shortly to the Office of Economic Opportunity to refund this program on a yearly basis through special earmarked funds for Senior Citizens. Eastland Community Action Council would like to recommend to the committee that funds be made available for services and programs as follow:
  - a. Community Services and Continuing Education programs: Our aim will be to focus on utilizing the resources of the colleges within our area to seek solutions to community problems, including assistance in meeting the problems of the community's older Mexican-American population. To broaden the economic knowledge and create employment opportunities for older people. To make health information available to older adults, and to recruit and train volunteers, including older people themselves, to serve older citizens of the community.
  - b. Basic Education programs: Specifically to provide a basic education program for adults so that they can overcome English language limitations, improve their basic education in preparation for occupational training and more profitable employment so as to allow them to become more productive citizens.

For middle-aged and older people, the Adult Basic Education program would be valuable in either of two ways:

(1) Through their participation as students.

(2) Through their participation as volunteers or as paid employees, i.e. teacher aides, child-care aides, recruiters, tutors, or consultants.

c. Vocational and Technical Education Assistance: We must provide a comprehensive program including all recognized occupations, except those generally considered to be professional or which require a Bachelor's degree. The training should be at a semi-skilled, skilled, or highly technical level. Such a program would offer:

(1) Vocational education for older adults who need training or re-training to achieve stable employment or advancement.

(2) Special training for those older persons having academic or socio-economic handicaps that prevent them from succeeding in the regular vocational programs.

(3) Technical training of personnel to serve in such capacities as companion to an elderly person, nurse's aide, and family aides.

d. Construction of an area vocational facilities which may be designed with special features for older citizens.

Our committee deeply appreciates the opportunity to appear and present before this honorable committee a position paper on the problems of the Mexican-American aging, and will prepare and forward supplementary exhibits concerning these existing programs and recommendations at the completion of this hearing.

Respectfully,

ADOLFO REYES,  
*Chairman, Special Projects Committee.*

JOE PHELPS,  
*Vice Chairman, Greater East Los Angeles Committee on Aging.*

HORACE FLYNN,  
*Coordinator, Los Angeles County Department of Senior Citizens' Affairs.*

GINNY SCULLY,  
*Staff Assistant, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.*

---

ITEM 5: MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY ARMANDO A. ZAVALA, ATTORNEY,  
CALIFORNIA RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, MODESTO, CALIF.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY AGING MEXICAN-AMERICANS

A. WHERE AND HOW MANY SPANISH SURNAME AMERICAN SENIOR CITIZENS  
ARE THERE?

According to the 1960 census there are 3,464,999 Spanish surname citizens in the southwestern region of the United States and these citizens make up about 12% of the total population of the Southwest. The southwestern region of the United States consists of the five states of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.<sup>1</sup> By comparison, Spanish surname citizens make up only about 2.3% of the United States population as a whole.<sup>2</sup> Throughout this memorandum the terms "Spanish surname" and "Spanish speaking" will be used to designate those citizens who are also called "Mexican-Americans", "Spanish-Americans", and a large assortment of other appellations. The term "Spanish surname" is chosen because it is a category used by the United States Bureau of Census in the 1960 census to designate an ethnic group consisting mainly of persons of Mexican background, but also containing Puerto Ricans, and South Americans as well as European-Americans from Spain. The term Spanish speaking is used herein to emphasize the obvious language problems encountered by this ethnic group.

The demography of Spanish surname Americans outside the Southwest has not been intensely studied and documented but it is generally well known that there are significant populations of Spanish surname Americans in cities such as

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census, 1960, PC(2)-1B, Table 1, p. 2.

New York and Chicago as well as in the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa and various others. Thus, although there are pockets of Spanish surname American citizens throughout the United States, the bulk of this ethnic group is located in the Southwest.

Spanish surname senior citizens have been statistically isolated which makes it easier to focus on the size of the group.<sup>2</sup> For example, by looking at one table prepared from the 1960 *United States Census of Population* it can be seen that there are 702,000 Spanish surname families which contain approximately 3 1/3 million individuals. Of these approximately 63,000 or 9% have a "head of the family" who is 65 years old or over. Of these 63,000 families, 38,000 are classified as "poor". The 38,000 families whose head is a senior citizen and who are poor comprise 15.8% of the 241,000 Spanish surname families that are classified as poor.<sup>3</sup> These statistics are only mentioned for the purpose of indicating the people with which this memorandum deals.

Three additional factors, work, starvation, and death yield startling statistics. Studies of the 1960 census indicate that 27.5% of the Spanish surname "65 and over males" in the Southwest are in the labor force.<sup>4</sup> Recently the study of starvation, or to use a more polite term, "malnutrition", has become popular. A 1968 report entitled "*Hunger, USA*" indicated that the Southwest and the Southeast contained virtually all of the counties that the Board of Inquiry identified as "emergency hunger counties," and except for most of California and northern Colorado, the overwhelming majority of the remaining counties in the other states of the Southwest were identified as places having serious hunger problems.<sup>5</sup> On the subject of death, a 1967 study in the State of Colorado produced the striking statistics that the mean average age at death of Spanish surname persons who survived their first year was found to be 56.73 while it was 67.46 for all others in the population. In other words, Spanish surname persons had 10 years less of life than did others in the State of Colorado.<sup>6</sup> The aforementioned statistics serve primarily to focus attention on the fact that Spanish surname Americans are a significant minority in the Southwest and the senior citizens of this group are faced with great hardships if they are lucky enough to become senior citizens instead of prematurely dying.

#### B. SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITH WHICH CALIFORNIA RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE HAS HAD FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE

A common practice in the rural agricultural areas which leads to disqualification of many Spanish surname persons for Social Security benefits is the habit of employers hiring a whole family but using only one member's Social Security number for the purpose of deductions. The result is that all Social Security deductions from the family are credited to one member to the exclusion of the rest of the family. In one specific case this resulted in an applicant being denied Social Security benefits because there was no money in her account despite a 25 year work history and Social Security deductions. She did not qualify for State Welfare and was under age to collect her husband's Social Security benefits. A simple solution to this problem is stricter enforcement of the Social Security law by the Internal Revenue Service to require employers to credit each employee with his deductions. Despite CRLA's repeated urging of the IRS to deal with this problem, violations are flagrant and rampant among agricultural employers. County welfare departments are aware of this practice but are powerless to correct it.

Another specific case of disqualification of a Spanish surname woman for Social Security benefits indicates the more general problem of ignorance of the law, caused by inability to understand the English language. A woman lived with a man for 23 years and raised a family of several children and considered herself married. When the man she considered her husband died she was unable to

<sup>2</sup> Samora, Julian, *La Raza: Forgotten Americans*, University of Notre Dame Press, 1966, p. 159.

<sup>3</sup> Mittelbach, Frank G. and Marshall, Grace, Mexican-American Study Project, Advance Report 5, *The Burden of Poverty*, University of California, Los Angeles, 1966, p. 29.

<sup>4</sup> Fogel, Walter, Mexican-American Study Project, Advance Report 10, *Mexican-Americans in Southwest Labor Markets*, University of California, Los Angeles, 1967, p. 23.

<sup>5</sup> Citizens Board of Inquiry Into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States, *Hunger, U.S.A.*, A Report, New Community Press, Washington, D.C., 1968, 100 pp.

<sup>6</sup> Colorado Commission on Spanish-Surnamed Citizens, *The Status of Spanish-Surnamed Citizens in Colorado*, Report to the Colorado General Assembly, Denver, 1967, p. 98.

collect his Social Security benefits because they were never married. California, like the other southwestern states of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas did not inherit the common law and does not provide for common law marriages. This particular case suggests a reform in the nature of a general law which could easily be framed to qualify Spanish speaking applicants for governmental services if they substantially fulfill the preconditions and their failure to meet all the requirements is caused by failure to understand English. This type of law could be made to apply to any program using federal funds, which would include Social Security, state categorical welfare assistance programs such as Old Age Security benefits, Office of Economic Opportunity programs as well as some housing programs carried out by HUD and FHA.

Problems created by not understanding English are common to all age groups of Spanish speaking Americans. Interpreters could be provided by attaching requirements of Spanish speaking staff to federal programs going to areas with high concentrations of Spanish surname persons such as the Southwest. This would have the two-fold beneficial effect of creating more jobs for Spanish speaking persons and improving the services of governmental agencies to Spanish speaking persons. The hiring of Spanish speaking personnel should be made a requirement of federal agencies serving or likely to serve Spanish speaking people, and this fact is indicated by the experience of Project FIND one OEO project designed to seek and help senior citizens. There is no requirement in the grant that the project hire Spanish speaking personnel, even though the county in which the project is located has a high percentage of Spanish speaking people. Consequently, to date the project has no Spanish speaking personnel. Some local government agencies are beginning to recognize the problem of the need for bilingual personnel and deal with it in a very limited fashion. The trend toward hiring bilingual personnel could be greatly encouraged through federal requirements and the provision of funds to carry out the requirement of hiring bilingual staff.

Lay advocates as well as interpreters are needed. Lay advocates have been known to increase the number of recipients for some services, such as county hospitalization where there is much room for discretion in the granting or withholding of service. A nurse of a rural area clinic reports that since she has begun the practice of sending someone from her office with the applicants for services of various governmental agencies, the applicants have reported a higher rate of success in qualifying for services. Older people have a special need for lay advocates because if they are rejected for services, they are more likely to give up in their attempts to qualify.

#### C. RECOMMENDATIONS

Consideration of the foregoing general statistics and a few of the many specific problems that plague Spanish surname Americans, indicate that there is a whole range of legislative reforms which could improve the bleak outlook of Spanish surname senior citizens. The range is from remedial legislation in the form of narrow exceptions built into technical rules to far reaching broad reforms which attack the causes of the problems and could have the effects of eliminating starvation, lengthening life spans, and otherwise giving Spanish surname Americans due process and equal protection of the laws.

