

Mr. PERKINS. Thank you very much for your appearance.

Mr. SCHIFTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PERKINS. The next witness is Mr. E. B. Whitten, executive secretary of the National Rehabilitation Association.

I notice you have a prepared statement, Mr. Whitten. Do you wish to summarize it or read it?

**STATEMENT OF E. B. WHITTEN, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL
REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION**

Mr. WHITTEN. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit the statement for the record, including two documents that are attached to the back of it, one of which is an amendment to the bill, the other a brief statement explaining in detail the reasons for the amendment.

Mr. PERKINS. Without objection, your statement and the exhibits will be inserted in the record at this point.

You may proceed.

(The statements referred to follow:)

**STATEMENT OF E. B. WHITTEN, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL REHABILITATION
ASSOCIATION**

I am E. B. Whitten, director of the National Rehabilitation Association, a voluntary nonprofit association with approximately 20,000 individual and organizational members and with affiliates in 46 of the States. About one-half of our members are people who have a professional interest in rehabilitation of handicapped individuals, including administrators, physicians, counselors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and therapists. The other half are public-spirited citizens in many walks of life who attempt to advance rehabilitation of the handicapped individuals by supporting the association in its efforts. The membership of the National Rehabilitation Association not only cuts across many professions, but includes individuals employed by or otherwise related to both public and voluntary rehabilitation agencies.

Established in 1925, the National Rehabilitation Association was the sponsor of the 1943 Amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, which broadened the program to include physical restoration services and made the mentally ill and mentally retarded eligible for services, and of the 1954 amendments which set up programs of research, training of rehabilitation personnel, and the legal basis for a greatly expanded State-Federal program of rehabilitation. The interest of the association is in the rehabilitation of all physically and mentally impaired persons without regard to age or category of disability.

AMENDMENT PROPOSED

The National Rehabilitation Association is giving general support to H.R. 10440. Our testimony is confined to the bill as it relates to the rehabilitation of handicapped people. At this point, I shall appreciate having inserted in the record a one-page item headed "Amendment to H.R. 10440, Proposed by the National Rehabilitation Association" and a three-page item containing questions and answers pertaining to the amendment which is proposed.

The general purpose of our amendment is simple. It is to assure that in an all-out attack upon poverty we do not neglect physically and mentally handicapped persons who can profit from rehabilitation services and who desire such services in order that they may become useful and productive citizens.

EXTENT OF PROBLEM

Mr. Chairman, testimony on H.R. 10440 has included very little reference to the problems of physically or mentally impaired people, and there has been no mention, so far as I know, of organized efforts now underway to rehabilitate such individuals; yet disability is a most significant factor in poverty. In fact disability contributes to poverty, and poverty, in turn compounds disability. It is generally agreed that we have in this country at least 3½