

income, and at the same time perform a necessary task to help others who are in need.

Now, this is the second amendment, also in the field of aid to senior citizens. My second amendment reads:

Page 76, after line 16, insert the following:

(d) Part A of Title VI of such Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

Use of Volunteer Services of Senior Citizens

Sec. 610-2. The Administrator shall encourage all persons charged with carrying out programs under this Act to make maximum use in administrative and advisory capacities of the volunteer services of persons who, by reason of having retired from their regular employment, may be considered senior citizens.

And redesignate subsections (d) and (e) as (e) and (f), respectively.

Chairman PERKINS. Senator Pepper, I agree wholeheartedly with this statement. I met with the Commission of Aged in my office resulting from a walk that I took over the holidays and seeing that which is being done for our elderly people had just made me sick. We were supposed to have VISTA workers, Appalachian volunteers, but the people who were unable to get out of their bed were being completely overlooked and were receiving some public assistance.

We have this elderly group that we know these people and it would be the greatest thing that we could possibly do to see that their time and mind was occupied in this direction, especially in areas where we will not have any trained nurses any time in the future. I am speaking now of the rural areas. You are more likely addressing yourself to urban areas.

I, personally, am going to insist on an amendment of this kind. I think that you are so right where we could so wisely spend some money and we must do something along this line.

Mr. PEPPER. Mr. Chairman, you know how gratified I am to hear you say that. I am advised Mr. Shriver when asked the question testified before the Senate that nothing is being done for senior citizens, there was no program designed, as I understand it, for senior citizens.

Mr. Chairman, it is intended to require the maximum use of senior citizens in programs authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act. Section 610 specifies that it is the intent of Congress that whenever feasible the special problems of the elderly poor should be considered in the development, conduct, and administration of programs under this act. I find no fault with this section, but I do have doubts as to whether it has been implemented to the fullest extent possible.

I am sure that in many cities, counties, towns, and villages, many of our senior citizens are vitally interested in the war on poverty. Not only are they interested, but many of them have had special experience which could be effectively utilized in the many programs in operation. They have worked as teachers, social workers, businessmen, and lawyers, thereby possessing skills which are in great demand in such programs as Headstart, community action, neighborhood legal services, and adult education and training.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me interrupt and state in your area that is true but in my particular area here these people who are above 65 years of age in a rural area are just more or less withering on the vine, living on a very little income, so many of them are, and we should put those people to work.

Mr. PEPPER. They are so eager to work.