

The antipoverty program has brought significant benefits to this Nation already and the prospects are even more hopeful. One can only hope that this present Congress will give the poverty program a strong overall vote of confidence and vote expanded funds to continue the task which has barely begun.

We see the vital necessity of seeking to change the patterns of poverty in youth and we recognize that the same case cannot be made for antipoverty programs for the aged as those for younger persons. Nevertheless, even in the antipoverty programs, the elderly have been sorely discriminated against.

It is agreed that the elderly poor represent a minimum of 1 in 5 of our total poor. Even the most youth-oriented bureaucrat, you might believe, would not think it unusual if he had to spend \$1 in \$10 of his available budget for antipoverty programs for the elderly poor.

Would you believe that OEO—even by the most conservative estimates—has spent less than \$1 out of every \$50 on antipoverty programs for the elderly who make up one out of every five of our total poor?

Last year Congress passed an amendment to the Economic Opportunity Act to give the Nation's elderly a presidentially appointed Assistant Director of OEO for Programs for the Elderly.

President Johnson clearly supported this congressional move by backing it with a high-caliber appointment. He named Miss Genevieve Blatt, a distinguished public servant and former secretary of state for your own State of Pennsylvania, Mr. Chairman.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, that Congress must now earmark funds for programs for the elderly poor to insure maximum feasible participation and to remove that final degrading discrimination which comes to the elderly poor even in the antipoverty war.

I would like to omit certain items of the testimony and take highlights because I know you are short of time and I would like to comment on some of the testimony you had yesterday.

Mr. DENT. I might say at this time, isn't it a strange situation where we have a presidential appointment, a lady from my own State, but she has not attended one of these hearings.

Mr. HUTTON. Congressman Claude Pepper of Florida has introduced three amendments to the antipoverty bill which will do much to end the discrimination against the elderly in OEO programs. We earnestly hope these amendments win the full support of the entire Congress.

Mr. Chairman, the National Council of Senior Citizens commends these bills not only because they offer flexible procedures for eliminating discrimination in hiring but also because they provide for research of problems of older workers and for fostering job opportunities for these services through the public employment service.

It is clear that the old line agencies have just as much of a problem as the OEO when it comes to discriminating against the elderly. Experience under the Manpower Development and Training Amendments of 1966 reveals that since inception only about 10 percent of all trainees have been 45 years of age and older. During the same years, workers in this age category have made up between 25 and 30 percent of the unemployed and a substantially higher proportion of those unemployed 15 weeks or more.

Frankly, I believe that this House committee should call for an immediate review of all Federal employment and job training programs to determine the number of elderly benefiting from these programs.