Despite Congress' specific amendment to the Manpower Development Act last year providing for positive action to alleviate the employment problems of elder workers through testing, counseling, selection, and referral for occupational and educational training, the inescapable fact remains that improvement has been minimal.

No more than 11 percent of those 45 and over and less than 3 percent of those 50 or over are enrolled for employment or training under Federal programs.

For example, for the concentrated employment program (CEP) being operated presently in 19 cities at an estimated cost of approximately a quarter of a billion dollars, the National Council of Senior Citizens can get no information indicating that the elderly are benefiting in any substantial numbers.

This certainly seems to be true under the Washington, D.C., program being administered by Washington's local antipoverty agency, the United Planning Organization. The District of Columbia program recently held an orientation program for a large group of which the eldest enrollee was 28. We strongly suspect that CEP outside the Washington area are no more concerned about training the elderly than the Washington program seems to be.

Maybe Congress should make it mandatory to enroll 30 percent of all trainees in MDTA or other Government programs from the unemployed aged 45 and over.

The great urgency to enroll young people for job training is understandable in the light of the outbreaks that have occurred in slum areas of our major cities.

While the elderly may not have had a part of these outbreaks it must be difficult for them to hold the younger elements of their families together, and keep them out of violence, when age discrimination in employment has kept them living from hand to mouth, incapable of supporting a decent standard of family life.

The pattern of age discrimination is incredible really—for the greatest nation on earth. "Too old at 45" is the accepted pattern of private industry. Those who have decided the priorities of the fledgling Government newcomer, the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity, have urged concentration of breaking the poverty cycle of youth—the old line agency responsible for our manpower development programs, despite congressional urging, has failed to stimulate private industry, State and local government or other agencies to anything but a lukewarm reaction to the plight of the middle age and elderly worker.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Hutton, the members would like to ask you some questions. If it is not an inconvenience, we will go over and answer our call and come right back. We should not be more than 15 or 20 minutes.

Mr. HUTTON. I will wait.

Mr. DENT. We will stand in recess for about 20 minutes.

(Whereupon, at 11:20 a.m., a recess was taken until 11:50 a.m.)

AFTER RECESS

Mr. DENT. The time of the recess having expired, we will return to the record and continue with our witness, Mr. Hutton.

Mr. HUTTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Perhaps the strongest aspect of these bills is the recognition that only the establishment of a Federal law with enforcement procedures