

for older people through a strengthening of the Federal-State system of employment services.

This would enable the U.S. Employment Service and State employment agencies to provide the additional training and retraining opportunities needed by many older workers today; to develop new or more effective methods of training older workers; and to give renewed attention and emphasis to finding and creating jobs for older men and women in our growing economy.

In conclusion let me emphasize that I believe this measure reflects an essential action of public policy in improving employment opportunities for older people. Only with a clear national policy against arbitrary age discrimination in employment with provision for enforcement can there be a significant improvement in the hiring of older workers.

I, therefore, respectfully urge the committee to give favorable consideration to this legislation which would remove the obstacles caused by arbitrary, unjust discrimination and which would assure that older workers have opportunities for useful work.

Mr. DENT. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. I like your suggestion on page 7 that there should be a more comprehensive program for information.

Is your commission in a position to operate or instigate such a program of searching out and getting information and correlating the information to the employment offices and so on around the country, or do you think it ought to be done directly by the Federal employment agencies and State agencies?

Mr. BECHILL. I think the basic responsibility for the group of people we are talking about today has to rest primarily with the Department of Labor. This does not mean to deny that the Administration on Aging and State and local agencies working with us have an interest here.

Mr. DENT. Would your office be sort of a clearinghouse for the information where Congress, interested parties, public and private, would be able to get from you information relative to the problem? Wouldn't it be a better manner of operation if your office became a clearinghouse for all of the information?

This is what we anticipated when we created the legislation, that is, to have a central body where we could find all the information pertaining to the problems of the aged, including job opportunities.

Mr. BECHILL. Yes; the clearinghouse function for information of this type does rest with the Administration on Aging. I thought your comment went to the question of the operation of employment services themselves. I think these are better located in the Department of Labor.

Mr. DENT. We will review this suggestion. It may be that it will require some amendments to the present act to give the additional authority to proceed in this area. If we do need additional amendments, I would like to consult with both the Department of Labor and your office in order that we can make sure that once the information is gathered everyone will know where to look for it. Our problems appear to be that we provide sufficient funds in most instances to conduct the kind of research you are talking about, the kind of programming you are talking about, but after we gather this information it seems to get lost in the cubbyholes of the complexity of government operations.