

Your administrative duties in your commission, in my opinion, can be the most valuable service rendered in the area of all problems, not the least of which is the question of whether or not job opportunities are available and what obstacles might be there and what we can do to wipe them out.

I think it has to be a very close working partnership.

Mr. BECHILL. Yes; this is quite true and it is recognized. Our responsibilities for serving as a general clearinghouse, do involve the gathering and analyzing of various data. But at the same time, I would like to suggest that in the case of this bill the provisions for research and education being located in the Department of Labor are quite sound and quite appropriate.

As the bill recognizes and the Secretary of Labor has suggested, there are a number of specific questions around the whole area of how to get at this problem of age discrimination in employment, how to create more specific opportunities for older workers that do need both factfinding and analysis as they carry out action programs..

Mr. DENT. That leads me to this question, it being a new departure probably, but what would be wrong in including in this legislation a proviso that will direct the Secretary of Labor to make available to the Administration on Aging all reports and information obtained through the research? This would assure your office receives complete information on all aspects on the aging.

We would be within our jurisdictional rights in the legislation to direct the Secretary of Labor to make this information available to the Administration on Aging because I would see where it would be more valuable to the people who need this legislation.

Would you be able to handle it if we could do it?

Mr. BECHILL. I would just like to suggest that we do receive regular reports from the Department of Labor relative to their activities concerned with the older worker program.

Mr. DENT. Only on a voluntary basis?

Mr. BECHILL. It is on a cooperative basis.

Mr. DENT. There is no covenant in the law that demands that it be given to you, whereas if it is put in the law all those dealing with the problems of the aging would know they could get that information from the Administration on Aging as well as other information which they are dealing with at the same time.

It is just a thought.

Mrs. MINK. Will the chairman yield?

Mr. DENT. Yes.

Mrs. MINK. I am sorry for coming in late. I wonder whether the inquiry you are pursuing was already responded to by the Commissioner. But under the legislation there is reference to an advisory committee and I believe the Secretary of Labor is a member of this committee.

During the course of our hearings on that committee we pursued the very line taken by the chairman this morning; that is, the necessity of making it a functioning operation so we can be sure that somewhere in the Federal Government there is lodged all of this information which is so vital to the problems of the aged.

I would like to ask whether in the opinion of the Commissioner the language in that law which established your commission is inadequate