

I think you are dealing with a problem of real concern and instead of just devoting the energies of your people to lodge work or the type of thing which an organization like this could concern itself with, you have turned a good portion of your energies to constructive involvement with the problems that face the people of America.

I think it is in organizations like the Eagles and other similar organizations that we have a great deal of the strength of America. I commend you for taking time to come here; I know it is not easy for you to just knock off and come this far. We are grateful to you and your organization through you for helping us.

Mr. HAWKINS. Mrs. Mink.

Mrs. MINK. I would just like to join my colleagues on the committee in welcoming you to this hearing and also to say that based upon your great interest in the field of age discrimination affecting senior citizens, you have done this committee a great honor by coming here as the president of your organization.

Mr. McCawley. Thank you and when I get to Hawaii I will try to look you up; I am looking forward to that trip.

Mr. HAWKINS. Thank you and I can only echo what has been said. Mr. Charles Rowan, would you like to proceed now, sir?

Mr. ROWAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAWKINS. Your statement will be made a part of the record and you may summarize it or read from it as you see fit.

Mr. ROWAN. I am Charles Rowan. I regret that Mr. Pucinski could not get a job because he was 47 but I would like nothing better than being 47 again.

I would like, as I have done in my statement, to point out that the Eagles were organized in the State of Washington in 1899 and quickly became an organization of working people, laboring men, small businessmen, and farmers.

We started early in working for needed legislation at a time when it was unpopular to favor such legislation. Among the laws we worked for were the early workmen's compensation act.

In the 1920's the Eagles started their big crusade for old-age pension laws. It was a very difficult time because these were considered to be socialistic, sort of a handout or dole and we were bitterly attacked.

In fact in 1926 in the Milwaukee Journal there appeared a quote from a crusty old county judge from northern Wisconsin to the effect the only people in favor of the old-age pension were a bunch of dirty old rum-soaked bar flies.

We knew who he meant at the time because we were the only ones for the old-age pension laws. We persevered in our efforts and saw the day when every State had these old-age pensions laws.

We have pens in our archives from the Governors of all States for our efforts in getting these laws passed.

We Eagles then turned our attention to getting a national old-age pension law adopted. When the act was finally presented and signed President Roosevelt asked our officers to be present at the signing and presented us with the pen he used for our archives.

Having crusaded for decades to help our senior citizens, our folks 65 and older, we then found that we had forgotten the most neglected people in the world today, the worker who between 40 and 65 is too young to retire on social security but too old to find a job. Here is the man too old to work but too young to die.