

I want to make it clear we are in sympathy with their views on the need for relief for their members from the present discriminatory age limits with respect to their employment as stewardesses which the airlines are imposing on them.

It seems to us that the proviso which is included in section 13 is hardly adequate to provide the protection which they need. We believe that there is a substantial question whether the proviso permitting "appropriate adjustments, either upward or downward" can be stretched far enough to include workers 35 or 32 years of age under the protection of the bill. Indeed, we see no real basis for either upper or lower age limits in the bill, and we suggest, therefore, that section 13 be eliminated.

I have pointed out in the concluding section of our statement that we regard as of particular importance the provisions of the bills which call upon the Secretary of Labor to undertake studies and provide information "concerning the needs and abilities of older workers, and their potentials for continued employment and contribution to the economy." This legislation, we are convinced, as I am sure you are convinced, deals with only one part of the problems of the older worker and the older citizen, and it needs to be kept in that context in order to understand and deal with these problems.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say only that it is our hope that the Congress will act speedily to put legislation along the lines of H.R. 4221 and H.R. 3651, with the changes we have suggested, on the statute books. The need for it is great and, so far as I am aware, virtually unchallenged. The problem which the legislation is designed to meet, far from getting less important, only grows larger, as time goes on. Early passage of the legislation can make a substantial contribution to achieving a better life for all Americans.

I would like to add, if I may, Mr. Chairman, that in response to requests by members of the Senate Labor Subcommittee, we proposed certain amendments to carry out the suggestions for amendments to the bills made in our statement. Those suggestions are contained in the record of the hearings before the Senate subcommittee, and I would just simply like to call the attention of this subcommittee to those amendments which appear on page 100 of the printed Senate hearings.

Mr. DENT. The staff has already noted all of the advisory amendments offered in the Senate and we have made a review of them. In the executive committee we intend to discuss them with the view of accepting what we can of those which appear to be in the best interests of all concerned.

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. With respect to the matter of enforcement, this has been the subject of discussion between ourselves and staff representatives of the Senate Labor Subcommittee and the Department of Labor. At this point we would prefer to see amendments along the lines of those included in the draft of the bill prepared by the Senate Labor Subcommittee rather than those appearing in the printed record of the Senate hearing.

Mr. DENT. I might state, as far as the Chair is concerned, the determination to put it under the Fair Labor Standards Act has already been made. The Department of Labor is best qualified by experience manpower, and training.