

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. We would want to say, Mr. Chairman, that if the enforcement responsibility is put in the Wage and Hour Division, then adequate funds to enforce the act become of critical importance. We are now confronted with the problem of persuading Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to administer the new wage and hour amendments passed last year and have encountered reluctance at some points to providing adequate funds for this purpose.

The more responsibilities are placed in that Division the more critical becomes the need to provide the funds to do the inspection job that Congress requires to be done.

Mr. DENT. I believe we have the logical argument in requesting more funds for that particular bureau because in the end it must cost less than setting up a separate bureau to administer a new act.

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN. That is correct. The only thing we want to point out is that this makes it all the more urgent that the inspection job be effectively carried out and this will require additional personnel at that level to do so.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Meiklejohn follows:)

STATEMENT OF KENNETH A. MEIKLEJOHN, LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE, AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Chairman, my name is Kenneth A. Meiklejohn. I am Legislative Representative of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, and I appear here on behalf of that organization.

I

Mr. Chairman, these hearings on proposed legislation to prohibit discrimination in employment on account of age are of great importance. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz has described the problems of the older worker as "far and away the largest unrecognized need, both in terms of problem and potential, in the country today as far as the development of national policy is concerned." The AFL-CIO agrees with this assessment, and few, we believe, can dispute it.

Mr. Chairman, both you and Representative Carl Perkins, Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, deserve the thanks and appreciation of all American workers, and especially those who have reached or are about to reach the age of 45, for sponsoring the bills, H.R. 4221 and H.R. 3651, which you now have before you for consideration in this Subcommittee. In light of the fact that the Senate Labor Subcommittee has already completed hearings on this subject, and its bill is now before the full Senate Labor Committee for approval, your decision to go forward at this time gives real cause for confidence that legislation to prohibit age discrimination in employment can and will be enacted at an early date.

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Both H.R. 4221 and H.R. 3651 would prohibit discrimination in employment on account of age. The approach is direct and forthright, and this, we believe, is essential if the problem of age discrimination in employment is to be dealt with in an effective and meaningful way.

I shall have more to say about particular provisions of H.R. 4221 and H.R. 3651 later in my statement. First, however, some general observations about the need for, and the importance of, this legislation are in order.

Secretary Wirtz has pointed out that the 45-65 age group with which the legislation deals today includes some 39 millions people and will by 1975 include up to 44 million people. Yet about half of all the job openings in this country are in effect closed to people over 55 years of age; workers over 45 find that a quarter of the jobs in the country are closed to them.

Only a very small portion of newly hired workers today are older workers. According to the report entitled "The Older American Worker", prepared by the U.S. Department of Labor under section 715 of the Civil Rights Act of