

yet found suitable employment. Those senior citizens who do not need jobs, but desire to work in community service programs on a volunteer basis, would be encouraged to work in the Senior Service Corps, and they would be eligible to receive out-of-pocket expenses from the program.

The act would be further amended to provide the authorization of a special grant program to provide for the construction and operation of senior citizen activity centers. Some of these have been operated by pioneering communities for a number of years and represent the most significant and promising new instrumentality yet devised to meet the many and varied needs of older people.

A center facility, adequately staffed and effectively operated, permits older people to develop programs which explore their interests and provide new opportunities for self-improvement. Centers can provide intellectual and recreational stimulation, offer private and personal counseling, provide referral services, and offer information about other services available to the elderly in their communities.

Many communities which are anxious to begin such a program, do not have the available funds. My bill would provide "seed money" to enable communities to begin developing these programs.

In order to open the way to constructive and satisfying roles in employment and retirement, a great deal of further study is needed. Therefore, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare are authorized under title IV of my bill to conduct and support research programs in such areas as early or flexible retirement plans, continuing education and retraining programs for workers who are employed in order to prepare them for new jobs, and advance planning of manpower requirements.

In addition, there is authorized, to be appointed by the President, a Commission on Lifetime Adult Education. This Commission may hold hearings and study the aforementioned proposals in order to make legislative recommendations on these problems, and shall cease to exist after its report has been filed.

Finally, the Secretary of Labor is directed to study the feasibility and desirability of a transitional allowance system for older workers between the ages of 55 and 65 who are unemployed and have exhausted their unemployment compensation. Within 2 years of the Secretary's report, the President will be directed to submit a report to Congress on the means to eliminate the gaps and inadequacies in workmen's compensation and disability insurance systems, particularly as they adversely affect the employment of older workers.

Mr. Chairman, the problems which plague the older worker today are indeed serious. As the longevity of our population increases, we shall probably move into an era where the periods of education, work, and retirement in a man's lifetime will assume equal importance. By acting now to give each man the opportunity to work as long as he chooses and to enter retirement willingly, we will have taken a great step toward insuring a happy and satisfying working life culminating in a constructive and useful retirement. But we must act now, for today's older worker has no time to wait.

I urge the members of this excellent subcommittee to recommend an expanded program to solve the employment problems of the older worker and the senior citizen, so that they may be able to increase their