

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield for a minute, I want to present a distinguished member of this committee, the majority leader, Mr. Carl Albert from Oklahoma.

Mr. O'CONNELL. On my right is Miss Colleen Boland, president, Local 550 of the Transport Workers Union, and on her right is Miss Barbara Eriksson, legislative representative of the stewardesses local.

I appreciate and thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the 150,000 members of the Transport Workers Union, AFL-CIO.

We come here today to support the legislation now before you to prohibit discrimination in employment because of age. Our union, with its railroad division and its air transport division, represents a great number of workers serving both one of America's oldest and youngest transport industries. We seek here to direct your attention and ask your consideration of discrimination problems involving both youth and years.

First, however, let me say the Transport Workers Union is in full agreement with the opening statements made before this subcommittee on August 1, 1967, by Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz, that to prohibit age discrimination in employment is so plainly and unarguably right, that to belabor it is to dull it, that nobody defends such discrimination, and that there is general agreement that it ought to be stopped.

It not only ought to be stopped. It must be stopped. And we have been saying just that for years, first before the House Select Subcommittee on Labor in 1965; before the New York State Commission for Human Rights; before the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission here in Washington; before the Federal district court in Alexandria, Va.; before the Senate Labor Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee; and again here today.

With its enforcement provisions, this bill could have been vital in helping reestablish the employment of some 2,200 members of our railroad division who have been laid off this year in Pennsylvania alone because of cutbacks in the use of some of the railway postal service cars.

Mr. Chairman, in a meeting with the chairman of the board of the Pennsylvania Railroad yesterday afternoon, he informed us that the Post Office Department has informed him of serious cutbacks in the Railway Postal Service effective September 6; the cars are on the New York to Washington run and the New York to Pittsburgh runs.

As you know, it follows, when the Postal Service cars are removed, the railroads immediately petition the ICC to disband their passenger trains and so we are faced on September 6 with further layoffs on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

These men have 15 or 20 years of seniority. They are well over 45 years of age and it is these people in the railroad division that really need this legislation. It is impossible to obtain jobs after you have reached the age of 40 or 45.

It is interesting to note this legislation pertains only to those between the ages of 45 and 65; however, the charts, graphs, figures produced by the Department of Labor usually begin with the figure 40. I don't know why it is 45 in this particular bill.

Discrimination in employment for any reason ought to be stopped. As Secretary Wirtz put it, to end discrimination in employment