

although they have the experience and the training that makes them important to industry.

This is a very important letter that shows to what extent this problem has become a major issue in the country today.

Mr. PUCINSKI. I am delighted to see this legislation moving. I have been working for a bar to age discrimination for 9 years. One of the first bills I introduced as a freshman Congressman dealt with age discrimination and I got nothing but a cold shoulder from the Labor Department. Everyone said how impossible it was to think of such legislation.

I would like to say I have received a great deal of personal satisfaction from the fact this legislation is moving. I remember as late as a couple of years ago, when we tried to get this legislation through, we ran into all kinds of obstacles from industry, the administration and other sources.

There is no question this is one of the most pressing problems in America today. As the young lady before us pointed out, nothing is more cruel than to say that an American citizen, male or female, should be denied the opportunity to earn a livelihood simply because he or she has reached a chronological age of 33 or 35, 40, 45 or 47.

Many of these people at the age of 45 and 47 still have young families. It is a real tragedy in America. A man at age 45 or 47 with two or three or four children, aged 4, 5, 6, 8, through there, and here is a man told he is too old to work, I can't think of any greater contribution this Congress can make than to pass this legislation as quickly as possible. I want to congratulate you Miss Boland.

How many stewardesses are there in America?

Miss BOLAND. Better than 15,000, I would say.

Mr. PUCINSKI. I often wondered how the airlines recruit these young ladies because I have yet to meet a bad stewardess. They are tremendously capable young women and I don't know of any other industry with such high standards as the airlines. Some day, I will call and ask how they do it, I would like to learn a lesson from them.

Mr. O'CONNELL. On that question you asked Miss Boland, would you ask it again?

Mr. PUCINSKI. How many stewardesses are there in America?

Mr. O'CONNELL. Over 20,000, we represent over 15,000.

Mr. PUCINSKI. It has been a pleasure to have you young ladies here and you have made a point in your testimony.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES A. BURKE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, FROM THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. BURKE. I am happy to be here. I wish to endorse the statements made by the previous speakers as far as these airline stewardesses are concerned. This is a subject matter with which I have had a great deal of interest over the years.

In addition to the problems of the airline stewardesses, which they face along with other people, the economy is faced with a real problem, these are the people between 45 and 65 years of age who happen to lose their jobs. These people find it very difficult to even secure an interview for a job because of the bare years and the lines that have been set up barring them from employment because of the