

The study of the problems of the aged and aging which the newly created Subcommittee hopes to undertake is necessary on several grounds.

During 1956-57, the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare gathered a great deal of statistical evidence about the conditions of our older citizens. These figures ~~showed~~ indicated that the number of Americans over 65 increased from 3 million in 1900 to over 14 million in 1957, and that it would reach 20 million by 1975.

The problems which face these people are many. They need more medical care than their younger neighbors; and their requirements in housing, diet, clothing and recreation are more specialized than those of the general public.

Each of these problems is compounded by the generally low income on which our older people must live. In 1954, more than one-half of all families whose head was over 65 had a cash income of less than \$2,000, and more than two-thirds of all single individuals over 65, living alone or with non-relatives, had a cash income of less than \$1,000.

We feel that the new Subcommittee, if given proper staff and consultants, can, by appropriate hearings, determine a rather comprehensive program to solve these problems.

We intend to start our study with hearings in Washington, during which we would hear from ~~established~~ experts from government, private and semi-public agencies interested in the aged and aging, and our colleges and universities.

We then plan to visit a number of the nation's communities to hear from other interested parties; businessmen, labor unions, state and local government officials; and most important, the older citizens themselves.

The attached budget explains, in detail, the use to which our funds would be put. I will be happy to answer whatever questions you may have.