

From the office of
Senator Pat. McNamara
(D. Michigan)

14.5
IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 1961

Senator Pat. McNamara (D., Michigan) today introduced a resolution in the Senate calling for the creation of a Special Senate Committee on Aging.

The proposed committee would replace the present Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging, of which Sen. McNamara is chairman. The subcommittee is part of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee.

In urging the creation of a special committee, Sen. McNamara said it would be charged with studies and investigations in many areas affecting retirement and old age.

It would produce recommendations for legislative action which would be referred to regular standing Senate committees having proper legislative jurisdiction.

The present Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging was created in 1959. It has conducted nationwide hearings which have formed the basis of several bills introduced by Sen. McNamara, including medical insurance financed through Social Security.

Text of Sen. McNamara's remarks on introducing the resolution are attached.

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Text of Senator McNamara's remarks on introducing the resolution in the Senate calling for the creation of a Special Senate Committee on Aging.

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The White House Conference on Aging is now over.

The hundreds of delegates who participated in the four-day conference are returning to their home States re-dedicated in their desire to attack the problems that accompany retirement and old age.

It will take some time, of course, to digest and discuss the mass of information and ideas generated by the White House Conference.

But there is one immediate, tangible result: this is the knowledge that the Federal Government as demonstrated by the calling of this conference is keenly aware of the problems affecting the elderly and the need to do something about them.

But we must not believe that the Federal Government simply by conducting this conference has discharged its obligations or responsibilities in this vital area.

On the contrary, the Conference has shown anew that meeting the problems that exist today and the new ones of tomorrow requires redoubled efforts on the part of all levels of government, of public and private organizations and of individuals.

Over the past two years it has been my honor to serve as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee.

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I am proud of the contributions we have been able to make.

But I am even more impressed by the complexity of the job we have taken on and the work that remains to be done.

Thus, I propose in the resolution I have offered today the establishment of a Special Senate Committee on Aging to carry on and expand the work begun by the Subcommittee.

The Special Committee which would not have legislative functions would be empowered to conduct studies in many fields connected with retirement and aging and make recommendations which would be directed to Standing committees having legislative jurisdiction.

I have been delighted with the cooperation and advice received in the past from the distinguished Chairman of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, Senator Hill, and I am pleased that he has no objection to the creation of a Special Committee.

In conclusion, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the resolution be printed in the Record, together with a statement in support of the measure.

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