

Old age (1952)

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HEADQUARTERS
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Sacramento, 14



EARL WARREN
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE AGING

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January 24, 1952

Progress report on local community and state activities
concerned with the problems of the aging.

Much has happened since we met together at the recent Conference on the Problems of the Aging and Governor Warren has suggested to me, as Chairman of his Staff Committee for the Conference on the Problems of the Aging, that you would doubtless like to be informed of these developments. The Governor has received a great many enthusiastic letters from conference participants. Therefore, because so many of you have expressed an interest in the follow-up to the conference, I am using this letter as a sort of progress report to tell you of local community and State activities concerned with the problems of the aging.

It has been most gratifying to learn how the conference participants have been able to stimulate their home communities into taking cognizance of the problems of the aging and to plan needed programs. Here is a chronological listing of some community activities growing out of the conference:

- October 18: The San Bernardino County Council of Social Agencies discussed the conference and how to apply the recommendations to its communities. More than 70 persons attended this meeting.
- October 24: Under the auspices of the Social Planning Committee of the San Francisco Community Chest and the San Francisco Public Schools a large public meeting was held to discuss "The Importance for San Francisco of the Governor's Conference on the Problems of the Aging."
- October 24: A follow-up meeting on the conference was held in San Diego.
- October 31: The San Bernardino County Council of Social Agencies held a public panel discussion of the problems of the aging.
- October 31: A group of social workers from Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties held a workshop on the problems of the aging in Santa Barbara. Similar meetings were also held on November 7 and 21. The theme of these workshop meetings was the conference recommendations and what social workers could do to apply them.
- November 6: A community meeting was held at Beaumont to discuss the conference recommendations.
- November 7: The Mental Hygiene Association of Riverside sponsored a discussion of the conference recommendations.

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- November 9: The conference recommendations were discussed at a meeting of the Highland Park Christian Businessmen's Breakfast Club.
- November 14: The Inglewood League of Women Voters sponsored a public discussion of community follow-up to the conference.
- November 15: The Business and Professional Women's Club of Los Angeles discussed the conference findings.
- November 16: A workshop on aging was held at Stanford University under the auspices of the Peninsula Volunteers in cooperation with the Stanford University School of Education, Council of Social Agencies of San Mateo County and the Palo Alto Youth Coordinating Council. Some 250 people participated in the discussions.
- November 19: A discussion of the conference and community follow-up was held at the Claremont Community Church of Claremont.
- November 20: A community organizational meeting, for purposes of conference follow-up, was held at National City. Representatives from the area lying between San Diego and the Mexican border agreed to the need for a community program. Plans were adopted for further meetings.
- December 4: A meeting to discuss the problems of the aging in the area was sponsored by the Eureka Recreation Department. This was an exploratory meeting attended by some 30 representatives of city and county organizations. Further meetings are planned.
- December 10: The Oakland Welfare Council met to discuss its responsibilities in following up on the conference.
- December 11: A meeting to discuss the organization of community councils to help solve the problems facing older adults was held in West Los Angeles.
- December 12: Will Cramford, Superintendent of the San Diego School Department called a meeting of various agencies, including adult education administrators, to consider the aging group in the field of adult education.
- December 12: The Community Welfare Council of San Diego City and County sponsored a meeting to discuss the "Problems of the Aged in San Diego."
- December 12: On this date the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Los Angeles held a panel discussion on employment opportunities for the aging.

In addition to the foregoing a number of communities are in the process of planning follow-up meetings. Among them are: Oakland, Sacramento, San Jose and South Pasadena. In most instances, the meetings listed above are just the beginning. I am sure that all this does not represent a complete description

of what is going on; there are probably many other communities just as active as those listed above, but I have not yet received any information about their plans.

I am happy to report to you that our State departments have also been busy following up on the recommendations of the conference. They are now studying them in order to determine which are within the sphere of their responsibilities and how to translate them into effective action. In order to make certain of this, the Governor has established an Inter-departmental Committee on the Problems of the Aging. This committee consists of the heads of the several State departments directly or indirectly concerned with these problems. Among them are the directors of the departments of Education, Employment, Industrial Relations, Mental Hygiene, Public Health, Recreation, Social Welfare, Veterans' Affairs and the Personnel Board. The Governor designated the Director of the State Department of Social Welfare as chairman of this committee; its executive secretary will be Mr. Louis Kuplan. Among the duties of the Inter-departmental Committee on the Problems of the Aging are the following:

1. Co-ordinate all State activities with aid for the aging.
2. Ensure the efficient and effective use of State resources in the development of needed programs.
3. Act as consultants and advisors for, and to, local communities in developing local programs.
4. Stimulate and encourage local communities in developing needed programs.
5. Assist communities in planning institutes.
6. Act as a clearing house for technical information and activities throughout the State and Nation.
7. Act as consultants to the Citizens' Committee to be appointed in the very near future.

You will be interested to know some of the things already done by our State departments. To date their activities have been in the areas listed below:

Employment:

On October 30 the departments of Employment and Social Welfare signed an agreement to push a program of employment opportunities for recipients of Old Age Security.

The Department of Employment is studying ways and means of developing a counselling service for older workers. Some of the local employment offices are already experimenting with such a service.

Social Welfare:

The State Department of Social Welfare is currently working with the county welfare departments to work out local employment programs and to cooperate with local community groups in following through on conference recommendations.

The State Department of Social Welfare has an article on the conference in the November issue of its "Welfare News."

Physical Health:

The State Department of Public Health has participated in local public health meetings in Vallejo and San Francisco on the physical health recommendations of the conference.

In connection with the health problems of the aging it is very gratifying to learn that the conference served to stimulate the formation of a western Gerontological Society. A group of physicians, social workers, recreation leaders, and educators met in San Francisco on November 12 to discuss the organization of this society.

The State Department of Public Health is publishing an article on the conference in its monthly "Bulletin of State Health."

Education:

On October 25 the State Department of Education called a meeting of all principals of adult education schools. The meeting was devoted to discussing ways and means of putting into effect the recommendations of the conference.

The State Department of Education has completed arrangements for a series of talks on the problems of the aging. It will use the services of leaders in the field of adult education.

Recreation:

The Recreation Commission is planning a survey of the recreational needs of older persons. It is giving guidance to local communities, colleges, and universities in connection with these needs. It has also received three requests for consultation with reference to local institutes on recreation for our senior citizens.

Conference Report:

The proceedings of the conference have been compiled and edited and are now in the hands of the State Printer. A copy of this document, which we feel will be a most significant publication, will be sent to you in the very near future. You will see that it includes the report of the Section on Research, which was prepared following the conference and is based upon an analysis of the findings of the other sections.

All of this activity is most gratifying and augurs well for the welfare of our senior citizens. It indicates a real interest in their problems and attests to the great worth of our combined efforts in connection with the conference. It also bears out the laudatory comments from leaders in the field from all over the country who have stated that we, in California, are well to the fore in facing up to our problems and responsibilities. The Governor's thanks and appreciation go out to all of you who have made this possible.

As you know, virtually all of the sections of the conference emphasized the importance of local action. It is our hope that you will continue to do everything you can to stimulate further thinking and action in your community on the problems of the aging. The Governor, in accordance with the pledge he made in addressing the conference, intends to continue helping California to plan its programs so that our senior citizens can live out their lives in security, dignity, and usefulness. This will also be the purpose of the Governor's Inter-departmental Committee.

Cordially,

Charles I. Schottland

Charles I. Schottland
Chairman, Governor's Staff Committee
Conference on the Problems of the Aging