

(A list of the delegates of this section is available in the Press Room)

CONFERENCE ON AGING

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Digest of Proceedings

Section VI

Family Life, Living Arrangements and Housing

Morning session, August 15

Approved by Joseph P. Anderson and

Dr. Ernest W. Burgess, Co-Chairmen

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At the closing session of Section VI--Family Life, Living Arrangements and Housing--Mr. Bleeker Marquette, chairman of the sub-committee on Housing and Living Arrangements, recommended that the Social Security Act be amended to permit old age assistance to persons residing in institutions for the aged.

Mr. Marquette's sub-committee also recommended that:

- (1) Maximums on old age assistance payments should be eliminated.
- (2) "Arbitrary" maximums for purposes of Federal matching funds should be eliminated without necessarily changing the matching formula on which payments of such funds are based.
- (3) Variations in residence requirements, as between States, are a hindrance and uniform residence laws for aged assistance recipients should be enacted.
- (4) "A proper governmental agency" should have the responsibility of inspecting and licensing institutions for the aged.

Mr. Marquette also read a recommendation calling for housing facilities for the aged. "None are being provided for those who need them," he declared. "It is a job for private enterprise, and private enterprise should be stimulated to do something. It is an opportunity for the limited dividend corporation, the cooperatives, insurance companies, and should be stimulated also with Government loans."

Dr. Ernest W. Burgess, co-chairman of Section VI, set off a chain of controversy by introducing a resolution calling for the Federal Security Agency to "provide an administrative unit within the agency" to stimulate interest, action and research in the problems of the aging.

The resolution as finally adopted reads as follows:

"Be it resolved that we recommend that the Federal Security Agency provide machinery:

"First to stimulate interest, action and research in aging;

"Second, to receive and distribute funds for demonstration projects and research in aging;

"Third, to serve as a clearing house for information about action and research in aging;

"Fourth, to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information by holding, preferably, an annual conference;

"It is further resolved that we recommend that the FSA cooperate with other governmental and voluntary agencies in such ways as may seem appropriate and to assure the maximum utilization of private and local resources in dealing with the problems of aging."

The first person to rise in protest of the original resolution was The Rev. Walter R. Harrison, superintendent of the Lutheran Home for Orphans, Philadelphia. Rev. Harrison said he was opposed to the idea of Government "getting into a problem like this too deeply." He said he would like to see the resolution defeated and the National Committee on Aging made the "spearhead" of future programs for the aging. He also wanted to know the status of the National Committee on Aging, and why it was "bypassed in favor of the Conference on Aging."

Rev. Harrison's remarks were challenged by Charles I. Schottland, chairman of the sub-committee on Services for the Aged. Mr. Schottland argued for adoption of the resolution. He countered Rev. Harrison's statement that Government does not get "down to the grass roots" by stating that it is the national welfare organizations who do not get down to the grass roots because they have neither the funds nor the resources.

"Government is in the problem of aging, whether we like it or not," Mr. Schottland asserted. "Local and State governments, as well as the Federal government, are spending millions of dollars annually on the aged," he said.

He was supported by Dr. Cecil G. Sheps, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina, who declared that Government should "continue to play its important role with regard to the aging."

Recommendations from Mr. Schottland's sub-committee called for Federal assistance in providing resources by which services to the aged could be given. His recommendations were:

- (1) The Federal Security Agency, or some other Federal agency, should take the lead in providing resources for services for the aged.

- (2) There should be established a national citizens committee to promote interest in the needs of the aged on a national basis, with State and municipal counterparts.

- (3) The Federal Security Agency, or another Federal agency, should send out consultants to help communities with their programs for the aging, as the Children Bureau does for community programs for children.