

FREE MATERIALS

The National Council on the Aging

FORMERLY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE AGING OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY

345 EAST 46th STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 28 1961

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

The National Council on the Aging and its Library.

New York 17 1961

Librarians whose work relates to meeting individual and community needs in the field of aging will be interested in knowing about the program and services of The National Council on the Aging and its Library.

The organization was established in 1950 as The National Committee on the Aging, a standing committee of the National Social Welfare Assembly, in response to the need for a clearinghouse of information in this field. Its membership included people from business, government, labor, and the varied professional groups concerned with services to the aging. It has published books, held conferences, produced films—one of which, "A Place to Live," won the Silver Reel Award of the Film Council of America—, held an architectural competition for the design of a home for the aged, as well as initiated projects on center and club programs, and guardianship and protective services. In 1957 The Committee, recipient of the first Ford Foundation grant in the field of aging, expanded its consultant staff and established its Library. In January 1961 The Committee became The National Council on the Aging, an independent organization.

In recognition of the importance of public library services to older people and to the many people involved in the programs and services being developed to meet their needs, The Council invited several librarians to become members and to give advice and counsel in formulating a library program. The American Library Association, already concerned with library services to older people, likewise acknowledged the role of The National Council on the Aging by appointing The Council's librarian to membership on the Adult Services Division Committee on Library Services to an Aging Population. Currently the librarian acts as consultant to the Committee.

The Library has a collection of printed materials relating to an aging population, with emphasis on the psychosocial, economic and health aspects of the subject. Programs of business, government, libraries and voluntary organizations on local, state and national levels are represented in surveys, conference programs, speeches, reports of studies, projects, etc. Because of The Council's special relationship to activities in aging, the Library is in a position to acquire unpublished materials as well as those intended for limited distribution. The professional organization of the source materials thus acquired renders the collection unique and enhances its research value.

A pattern of service was decided upon for The Council's Library program which would be geared to meet the national responsibilities of The Council and to assist the public library to fulfill its obligations in this area. It was apparent that neither the public library nor The Council working separately could meet the growing demand for information and materials, but that with mutual cooperation and support both would be strengthened in their services on behalf of older citizens. For example, through its loan service The Council's Library makes available to organizations and to libraries (through inter-library loan) those items not generally available in local libraries or state library extension agencies, and refers borrowers to their local libraries for publications of a general nature.

The Library has initiated other services which some libraries will find of value. **SELECTED ACQUISITIONS**, issued ten times a year is currently received by many libraries, and is planned as a source of information about some of the current literature in the field of aging. A **GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY ON AGING**, issued in June 1960, is a bibliography covering a selection of the most important publications in the field. It is supplemented by **RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON AGING** issued in April 1961. The latter publication includes a preliminary list of subject headings developed by the Library. All of the above items are available free, as are bibliographies on special aspects of aging, such as Retirement Planning, Homes for the Aged, Housing, Religion and the Older Person, Meals on Wheels, etc. The Library also exhibits publications of interest to librarians at the annual conferences of the American Library Association.

A major portion of The Council's program is carried out by its consultants. Librarians in communities which are in need of professional consultation in relation to activities or services for older people may refer individuals or organizations to The Council's consultants for assistance and guidance. At present, consultants cover the fields of Health, Community Services, Employment and Retirement, and Social, Educational and Recreational Programs. The Council has a Project on Guardianship and Protective Services and a Public Information Department.

* * * * *

Library Staff

Mrs. Winifred E. Stone, Librarian
Miss Marie Ponzo, Assistant Librarian
Mr. L. Ransom Burton, Library Assistant

Library Hours

Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed on normal holidays.

April 22, 1961