84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 172

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 1955

Mr. FOGARTY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Whereas in the last half century there has been a tremendous increase in the total population of the United States; and

Whereas profound changes in the age structure of our population have accompanied its growth, particularly in the sharply increased life expectancy of the individual; and

Whereas the fastest growing segment of our population consists of persons sixty-five years of age and over, the number of whom totaled approximately three million in the year 1900 and whose number increased to twelve and one-half million in 1950, an increase which is expected to continue and to reach approximately twenty-one million in 1975; and

Whereas during the last fifty years, as our national economy moved from one based upon agriculture to huge industrialization, many new and unanticipated social problems have been created, particularly with respect to our aging citizens

who have been shunted more and more to an increasingly insecure, dependent, and apparently hopeless and helpless position in our society, solely on account of their age through the deprivation of their opportunity for gainful work and by compelling them to retire prematurely; and

Whereas many of our older people have inadequate financial resources to maintain themselves and their families, are unable to continue to maintain themselves with self respect as independent members of their communities, are confronted with disabling health and medical problems, are driven by frustration and despair to mental institutions, find themselves in increasing numbers on old-age assistance rolls; and

Whereas in time of emergency persons falling within our older age citizens constitute a source of tremendous potential for mobilization purposes, a potential which in peacetime can be used for the development of a healthy and high production national economy in the future; and

Whereas it is essential that an immediate concerted and comprehensive effort by governmental agencies and private industry be undertaken in order to formulate a program which will not only permit our aging people to continue to lead proud and useful lives, but also to prevent further aggravation of their problems, with resulting increased social, financial, and medical burdens upon the community: Therefore be it

Resolved, That there is hereby created a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on Problems of the Aging, to be composed of seven Members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker, one of

whom he shall designate as chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

SEC. 2. The committee is authorized and directed to—

(a) investigate the status of the older age group within our population to determine what their basic problems are, to determine what the basic problems are in the fields of employment, health, education, and community services in connection with the utilization of our older population group, what the Federal Government's responsibilities are or should be with respect to the solution of any of these problems, and what order of priority should be given these problems in planning methods for obtaining their solution.

(b) determine how the Federal Government can best cooperate with local communities and private industry in their efforts to provide better health and medical care, employment opportunities, living arrangements, recreation and education facilities geared to the needs of such older-age groups.

SEC. 3. The committee shall report to the House (or to the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session) as soon as practicable during the present Congress the results

of its investigations and studies, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable.

SEC. 4. For the purpose of carrying out this resolution the committee, or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the committee to hold hearings is authorized to sit and act during the present Congress at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, and to require, by subpena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents, as it deems necessary. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of the committee or any member of the committee designated by him, and may be served by any person designated by such chairman or member.