

From the office of

CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY
Room 1235, House Office Building
Capitol 4-3121, Ext. 2735

FOR RELEASE
Wednesday
Jan. 27, 1965

Representative John E. Fogarty, D.-R.I., today introduced a bill to establish an Administration on Aging within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The bill, entitled the "Older Americans Act of 1965" also would authorize a five-year program of Federal grants to the states for research, training, community planning and demonstration projects relating to aging. The grants would total \$28.5 million for the first three years of the program.

The bill would create a new position of Commissioner on Aging, appointed by the President and subject to confirmation by the Senate, to be head of the Administration on Aging. It also provides for a 16-member Advisory Committee on Older Americans, with the Commissioner on Aging serving as chairman.

Under the bill, \$21 millions would be authorized for the first three-year period for grants to states for community planning, demonstration projects, training of personnel and other programs in the field of aging. An additional \$7.5 millions would be authorized during the same period for grants to public or nonprofit private agencies, organizations or institutions for research, training and demonstration projects.

In introducing his bill, Representative Fogarty said, "In the national climate that seeks to create a 'Great Society' through the enrichment of the life of man, we shall be guilty of dereliction of duty unless we give more than lip service to the needs of the 18 million Older Americans in our present society."

The Congressman told his colleagues in the House of Representatives, "The bill meets the major organizational recommendations of the White House Conference on Aging and overcomes the present welfare stigma on aging by establishing the 'Administration on Aging' in HEW but removed from the welfare setting and supervision."

Calling for early consideration of the bill, Mr. Fogarty said, "It is inexcusable that 15 years after the first committee on aging was established in the Federal Security Agency in 1950, we have made so little progress in implementing the knowledge that we have derived from the hundreds or even thousands of meetings and conferences that have been held on the subject of aging, including the White House Conference on Aging held four years ago."

The bill is identical with the "Older Americans Act" which was introduced in the 88th Congress by Senator Pat McNamara, D.-Mich., and Congressman Fogarty.

That bill was unanimously reported with bi-partisan support by the House Committee on Education and Labor in June 1964.

#####

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS OF "OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965"

The bill provides for the creation of an operating agency known as the "Administration on Aging" within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. It creates a new position of Commissioner on Aging to be head of the Administration on Aging who will be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

A DECLARATION OF OBJECTIVES FOR OLDER AMERICANS

In keeping with the traditional American concept of the inherent dignity of the individual in our democratic society, the bill sets forth a 10-point declaration of objectives for older Americans.

These objectives are:

1. An adequate income in retirement
2. The best possible physical and mental health
3. Suitable housing
4. Restorative services
5. Opportunity for employment without age discrimination
6. Retirement in health, honor, and dignity
7. Pursuit of meaningful activity
8. Efficient community services when needed
9. Immediate benefits from proven research knowledge
10. Freedom, independence, and the free exercise of individual initiative for older Americans in planning and managing their own lives

FUNCTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

The Administration on Aging will: (a) serve as a clearing house of information on problems of the aged and aging; (b) assist the Secretary in matters pertaining to the aging; (c) administer grants provided by the Act; (d) develop, conduct and arrange for research and demonstration programs in the field of aging; (e) provide technical assistance and consultation to State and local governments with respect to programs for the aged and aging; (f) prepare, publish, and disseminate educational materials dealing with welfare of older persons; (g) gather statistics in the field of aging; (h) stimulate more effective use of existing resources and available services for the aged and aging.

GRANT PROGRAMS

The bill provides for three types of grant programs to be administered by the Administration on Aging. They are:

1. Grants for community planning, services and training.

The bill authorizes grants to the States by the Secretary, amounting to \$5 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966, \$8 million in fiscal years 1967 and 1968, and such amounts as may be appropriated during each of the next two years for: (a) community planning and coordination of programs for older citizens; (b) demonstration programs or activities relating to aging; (c) specialized training of personnel needed to carry out such programs and activities; (d) other programs to carry out the purposes of the bill, including centers for older persons, exclusive of construction costs. Funds are to be allocated to States on a formula based on each State's population aged 65 and over. State plans for project grants shall be approved by the Secretary.

2. Project grants.

The bill authorizes grants by the Secretary to public or nonprofit private agencies, organizations, institutions, or individuals, for study, development, demonstration and evaluation projects relating to the needs of older persons.

3. Grants for training of personnel.

Grants by the Secretary may be made to organizations and individuals for the specialized training of personnel employed and preparing for employment in carrying out programs related to the purposes of this act.

For the purposes of carrying out the functions in items two and three above, the bill authorizes the appropriation of \$1.5 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966, \$3 million per year during fiscal 1967 and 1968 and such amounts as may be appropriated during the next two fiscal years.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OLDER AMERICANS

The Older Americans Act creates in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare an Advisory Committee on Older Americans for the purpose of advising the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare on matters bearing on his responsibilities under the act and related activities of his Department. The Committee will be composed of the Commissioner, who will be Chairman, and 15 persons, not otherwise in the employ of the United States, appointed by the Secretary without regard to civil service laws. The appointive members must be persons who are experienced in or have demonstrated particular interest in the special problems of the aging.

The term of office of Committee members will be three years except that the terms of office of the members first appointed will be so adjusted that an equal number of new members will be appointed each year.

#####