

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

In seeking your support for re-election as your Representative from the Second Congressional District of Rhode Island, I would like to call your attention to what I have done and what I plan to do about two of our greatest national problems: the problem of juvenile delinquency and the difficulties faced by the growing number of our senior citizens.

As your Representative, and as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Appropriations for health, education, and welfare funds, I have been fighting for a new, scientific program to deal with juvenile delinquency. This evil is spreading like a malignant cancer in the body of our whole society, but especially in our depressed urban areas. Statistics do not tell the whole story because they are limited to those cases that have been recorded by law enforcement agencies and the courts. Yet, the figures that are available are startling. One boy in five in this country now has a delinquency record by the time he reaches 18, and the U. S. Children's Bureau reports that the juvenile crime rate has doubled in the last ten years.

I am concerned, as I believe every American should be concerned, with that one boy or that one girl, who is likely to have a record of delinquency. I am concerned with that child, not as a court statistic, but as a human being, a young citizen of this great and wealthy nation.

There have been a number of legislative hearings as well as a number of State and National conferences on this problem, but there has been too much talk and too little effective action. I believe that we need a practical approach which will use the resources of science to develop means of prevention and control.

Accordingly, last year I initiated a cooperative effort between the Children's Bureau and the National Institute of Mental Health to investigate ways of giving scientific aid in lifting the dreadful burden of juvenile delinquency from our national life.

A report of the progress of this work was presented last March. It clearly demonstrated that we can meet the problem if we are willing to take coordinated, bold action on a large scale. It is most important that we should undertake the training of adequate

personnel and the expansion of research in the psychological, emotional, and environmental factors in delinquency.

The actual services to children and their families must, of course, be provided in the individual communities by public and private agencies, with the help of State and local governments. But the Federal government must undertake the responsibility for the support of the necessary research and training needed. Consequently our Subcommittee appropriated \$1 million dollars for the National Institute of Mental Health and \$60,000 for the Children's Bureau to continue their work in finding scientific methods for the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency. This seems little enough when you consider that youthful offenders cost this nation \$4 billion every year and when you survey the waste of human values which delinquency involves.

If I am re-elected, I intend to see to it that the resources of the world of science are made increasingly available to provide parents, social workers, educators, and all others who are doing their part in meeting the national epidemic of delinquency with effective means for doing their work.

I am, however, equally interested in the special problems of older persons arising from fundamental changes that have taken place in this country within the last few generations. In 1900, only 4 per cent of our population was over 65 years of age. Today the figure is 8.6 per cent, which means that our senior citizens number over 16 million. That figure increases by 42 persons every hour, so that by 1975 the number will reach 20 million.

Even with Social Security payments, which average about \$72 per month, 60 per cent of our citizens over 65 years of age have incomes of less than \$1000 per year. Only 20 per cent have an income of more than \$2000. Consequently, three out of five older persons are in real financial trouble in 1960.

Along with the major problem of decreased income and rising living costs, our senior citizens face problems of housing, employment, medical care, and the useful enjoyment of the years of retirement to which they are entitled.

For the past 14 years, during which I have been either the chairman or the ranking minority member of the House Subcommittee on Appropriations for health, education, and welfare, I have been able

to obtain funds for the development of research in the problems of the aging. Furthermore, I have also fought for adequate housing and for changing the Social Security law so that the \$1200-a-year ceiling on what may be earned by a person drawing Social Security benefits might be raised to \$1800.

I have also campaigned vigorously against the practice of forcing people to retire simply because of their age. This country needs the skill and the experience of its older citizens and it is a waste of one of our greatest human resources when they are simply pushed to one side by compulsory retirement practices.

It is evident that this country has the means to deal effectively with the problems of our older citizens. What is needed is a coordinated concentration of effort. With that in mind, I introduced legislation which provided for a White House Conference on Aging. This legislation was passed in 1958 by the 85th Congress. Accordingly, the Conference will be held in Washington this coming January.

I am very hopeful that this carefully planned event will give us national direction on meeting the problems of the senior citizen.

I intend to do all in my power to see to it that it will be a truly bi-partisan, grass roots conference, not simply a convention of technical experts. What we want to hear most of all at the White House Conference is what our senior citizens themselves have to say.

If I am re-elected, I will certainly continue to fight for a practical national program for making good use of the Conference's reports. Like the former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Mr. Marion E. Folsom, I favor the establishment of a bi-partisan Congressional Commission on Aging as the best functional approach. Such a Commission would not only include members of Congress and other government officials. It would also include representatives drawn from the ranks of management, labor, the professions, and the general public. My experience of government bureaus leads me to believe that such a representative Commission established by Congress would be far more responsive to the needs of the aging and consequently far more effective.

In addition to the Congressional Commission, I favor the establishment of regional research centers on aging. And I believe that the University of Rhode Island is ideally situated to become the location for such a center in New England.

A Congressional Commission on Aging would be greatly aided in its work by such regional centers, for they would be close to the local problems. It might also work closely with a Federal Consumers Council set up under bi-partisan Congressional auspices to investigate unfair prices in such vital things as drugs and medicines.

Since 1947, average consumer costs have climbed 25 per cent, but the expense of medical care has gone up by 49 per cent, while Hospital room charges have skyrocketed by 105 per cent. In the age group of people over 65, over 300 per 1,000 require hospitalization. How can they meet these rising costs?

They certainly cannot meet them by schemes to get the Federal government to underwrite private health insurance companies. Nor will they get much help from the shabby and inadequate health-care bill which the Republicans and the Southern Dixicrats compelled Congress to agree to last August. Under this legislation only those on relief or declared by the states to be unable to pay medical costs would be aided. Moreover, the states would be called upon to contribute matching funds estimated at \$1 billion. Rhode Island alone would have to contribute about \$4 million, and there is no evidence

that this is about to happen.

The only sound way to provide the proper medical care for our senior citizens is by the use of the machinery of Social Security. This is the opinion of most experts in the field, and it has growing bi-partisan support, for some leading Republicans, like Governor Nelson Rockefeller, realize that the Social Security approach to medical care for the aging is the only one that is fair and financially workable. If I am re-elected, I will continue to support that approach.

Problems like those of our older or our younger citizens with which I have dealt this afternoon are problems created by modern life. They must be dealt with in a practical, scientific, and modern manner, with programs geared not only to present, but future needs. To build such programs I will always bend my efforts so long as I am in public office.

Thank you and good afternoon.