

Social Security Administration explained very carefully that the other agencies have their own programs, that they have no more staff than they need, that they are unwilling to loan personnel, and that the 1960 White House Conference would have to have a staff of its own. This seemed to be a reasonable position and we approved the request. Presumably the request had the prior approval of the Office of the Secretary and of the Bureau of the Budget before it reached us. Therefore, I cannot understand the position of the Assistant to the Secretary. I cannot see why personnel should be any more available to assist the Special Staff on Aging on a continuing or periodic basis when they are not available to aid the Children's Bureau in conducting, one, single project.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I believe we should have obtained at least a little action from the Department on this matter but for the Bureau of the Budget. I know that, at times, the Department has requested small increases for the Special Staff on Aging, and that, in most instances, these have been turned down by the Bureau of the Budget. During our appropriation hearings in February, I repeatedly asked Secretary Folsom why he had not requested increases for the

food and drug program, vocational rehabilitation, medical research, for aging and for other useful programs. In almost every instance, the Secretary admitted that the Department was not a free agent, that it was working under orders from the administration and the Budget Bureau.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss the Federal Council on Aging for a few moments. This is the interdepartmental group which the President set up 2 or 3 years ago in a brief flurry of interest in older people. I have been interested in this council. I have read its reports. I have heard about its activities at the hearings. I believe it may well prove useful some day in coordinating the programs in aging among the several Federal agencies involved. I am sure they could use coordination. I believe it should produce some ideas for improving our programs for the aging, and I told them so at the hearings. However, so far, I have seen almost nothing of any tangible quality which has come from the Council during the years it has been in existence.

Again I come to the conclusion that responsibility for specific programs and services clearly belongs within an established and continuing agency. The De-

partment of Health, Education, and Welfare already has several major programs directed toward older people. This is where what little activity there is, on a broad basis, is now located and where it needs to be more adequately nourished. When they are willing to give the special staff on aging the personnel it needs, it can also provide even more effective services to the Federal Council.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion I would like to say that since I introduced my bill, H. R. 9822, on January 8, there has been a net increase of 131,000 people in our population 65 years of age and over. Every day that passes more than 3,420 people have the experience of joining the ranks of those for whom we propose action but to whom it must now seem a series of empty promises.

I am convinced that your constituents and mine are sincere in their demands and that the Departments responsible for leadership have either failed to recognize their role or have been unable to get budget approval for programs adequate to meet the needs. I am therefore urging that we, the Congress, substitute deeds for words and give favorable consideration to H. R. 9822 which will become a blueprint for action—now.

Thank you.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1958

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. Bernard Braskamp, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Luke 17: 5: *And the apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith.*

Eternal God, who art always sensitive and responsive to every human appeal, we are coming unto Thee with our prayers of intercession for the needy.

We earnestly beseech Thee that we may not sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for them.

Bless all whose very thoughts flow in sadness and who know the bitterness of want and carry heavy burdens, arising from the ills which make life so difficult.

Grant that those who walk in the shadow of doubt and despair, and whose sense of defeat often brings them to a standstill, may be inspired with a greater revelation and realization of Thy presence.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord, who was moved with compassion when he saw the multitude and went about uttering words of sympathy and comfort and performing works of mercy. Amen.

The Journal of the proceedings of yesterday was read and approved.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Ratchford, one of his secretaries, who also informed the House that on the following dates

the President approved and signed bills of the House of the following titles:

On May 19, 1958:

H. R. 2151. An act to provide for the temporary suspension of the import duties on certain coarse wool, and to provide additional time for the Tariff Commission to review the customs tariff schedules;

H. R. 3604. An act to amend section 831 of title 5 of the Canal Zone Code to make it a felony to injure or destroy works, property, or material of communication, power, lighting, control, or signal lines, stations, or systems, and for other purposes;

H. R. 7568. An act to amend the District of Columbia Police and Firemen's Salary Act of 1953 to provide that service in the grade of inspector and the grade of private in the Fire Department of the District of Columbia shall be deemed to be service in the same grade for the purpose of longevity increases; and

H. R. 8544. An act to provide for the restoration to tribal ownership of all vacant and undisposed-of ceded lands on certain Indian reservations, and for other purposes.

On May 20, 1958:

H. R. 11470. An act to adjust the method of computing basic pay for officers and enlisted members of the uniformed services, to provide proficiency pay for enlisted members thereof, and for other purposes.

On May 22, 1958:

H. R. 7300. An act to amend section 15 of the District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Act.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate, by Mr. McGown, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H. R. 9291. An act to define parts of certain types of footwear.

EXPLOSION OF AJAX MISSILES

Mr. VANIK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend my remarks at this point in the Record.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. VANIK. Mr. Speaker, the devastating explosion of eight Ajax missiles at a Middletown, N. J., Nike site certainly calls for an immediate Congressional investigation on the public safety factor relating to the handling of this device. Too many people in 23 cities—the major population areas of America—live too close to this weapon to permit uncontrolled hazard.

The tragic horror in the unnecessary loss of nine lives is minute beside the calamity that might have occurred. It was only accidental that colossal loss of life did not result.

At the time the Nikes were installed in my community and throughout the Nation, assurances were made that there would be no hazard to community life. Every community now has grave doubts that Nike may produce hazards which may exceed security advantages. Only a prompt investigation by civilian as well as military authorities can restore public confidence.

ADJOURNMENT OVER

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.