

**AVAILABILITY AND USEFULNESS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS  
AND SERVICES TO ELDERLY MEXICAN-AMERICANS**

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**HEARINGS**  
BEFORE THE  
**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING**  
**UNITED STATES SENATE**  
NINETIETH CONGRESS  
SECOND SESSION

—  
**PART 2—EL PASO, TEXAS**  
—

**DECEMBER 18, 1968**



Printed for the use of the Special Committee on Aging

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

28-745

WASHINGTON : 1969

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<sup>1</sup> Five vacancies in committee membership were caused by the departure from the Senate of Senators George A. Smathers (Democrat, Florida), Wayne Morse (Democrat, Oregon), Edward V. Long (Democrat, Missouri), Frank Carlson (Republican, Kansas), and Thruston B. Morton (Republican, Kentucky). With the adjustment early in 1969 of committee party ratio from 13-7 to 11-9, one Democratic vacancy existed and was filled by Senator Hartke. Senators Murphy, Fannin, Gurney and Saxbe were appointed to fill the remaining vacancies.

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# AVAILABILITY AND USEFULNESS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ELDERLY MEXICAN-AMERICANS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1968

U.S. SENATE,  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING,  
*El Paso, Tex.*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in main courtroom, Federal Courthouse, Senator Ralph Yarborough presiding.

Present: Senator Yarborough.

Also present: William E. Oriol, staff director; John Guy Miller, minority staff director; and Margaret M. Fink, assistant clerk.

## OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR RALPH YARBOROUGH, PRESIDING

Senator YARBOROUGH. The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging will now come to order.

It gives me a deep sense of satisfaction to have this hearing here in Texas, particularly in El Paso where I lived 3½ years while I was a young man; and it is a special privilege since this is the first time the Committee on Aging has had a field hearing in this State during the more than 7 years this committee has been in existence. I have heard Texas witnesses many times in Washington during this 7 years but today I want to say to you witnesses and other people, you are helping the committee to broaden its knowledge right at the grassroots level.

The subject before us demands just that kind of firsthand testimony and discussion. We want to know about the elderly Mexican-American. We want to know whether he is getting the understanding and the action he may need from our Government and from society in general.

There is serious reason to believe that he is not getting full participation in these programs. That was ratified by the hearings we had in Los Angeles, Calif., yesterday. There is reason to believe that the Mexican-American is often cut off from help or even attention, largely because of the language problems but not only from that, but because other problems have persisted so long that many people tend to accept that status as a part of life.

And that, of course, is what they said just a little while ago about my bilingual education bill; it couldn't be passed because the problems were so ingrained and they had lasted for so long. Now that bill is law, and we can look at other work that needs doing, including the unique difficulties faced by older Mexican-Americans in the Southwestern States of the Nation.

We heard part of the story yesterday in Los Angeles. We went there because of the great numbers of Mexican-Americans who live in that community and also because there have been a number of significant experiments extended to make life better for the elderly of that population group.

Here in El Paso, we will receive other parts of the story. El Paso was chosen as a hearing site because it is a border city with problems that must be discussed and understood before this committee can say that its study is complete. In fact, we had hoped that your former mayor, Raymond Telles, could be here to testify in his capacity as Ambassador for the United States-Mexico Commission for Border Development and Friendship. He has assignments that he must fulfill elsewhere today, but you can be sure that we will call upon him to testify at our final hearing next month in Washington, D.C. After we complete the hearings today and in San Antonio tomorrow, we will go back to Washington and in January we will complete these hearings by calling the Federal officials having jurisdiction over different areas of laws that apply to the Mexican-American elderly, housing, social security, medicare, welfare payments and all of these fields.

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE WITNESSES

To our witnesses who can be here today, we will ask many questions, including:

Are elderly Mexican American citizens in this area receiving the benefits to which they are entitled, including social security and medicare coverage?

Are housing needs adequately recognized and appropriately met?

Are Mexican-Americans participating in the planning and execution of projects funded partially or wholly by Federal programs?

Are relocation problems acknowledged? Are they dealt with adequately?

How far along is this community in "outreach" efforts to help isolated elderly individuals?

What strains are today's urban pressures putting on the traditional Mexican-American family structure, and what, if anything, can public programs do to relieve such pressures?

What can be done about the high incidents of tuberculosis in this area, and how are the elderly affected by it?

Many more questions will be asked today, and I will close now by introducing a good friend whom I have known many years. His father was a judge in this county in the years I was a young attorney. Judge Colbert Coldwell was reared in a bilingual family. I remember the first time I ever visited his family. I might have been 6 or 7 years of age and they spoke English only when they turned around to speak to me.

Judge Coldwell will you come around? I understand you will be accompanied by County Commissioner Richard Telles, who has helped with many worthy causes over the years. I would like to acknowledge their help in setting up this hearing and helping us with witnesses and also, the third witness on this panel will be Mr. Manuel De La Rosa, of the El Paso County General Assistance Agency. I would like for these

three witnesses to come around and sit as a panel. They will speak on the low assistance level, I believe. You are to tell us what the problems are, what is needed and what Congress should do or should not do, what should be done at the administrative level.

I recognize Judge Coldwell.

### STATEMENT OF HON. COLBERT COLDWELL, COUNTY JUDGE

Judge COLDWELL. Senator Yarborough, on behalf of all of the citizens of this community, which includes close to a million people, now, on both sides of the river, we welcome you here. You are as good a friend to those on the other side as you are on this side. We know when you get in a problem you don't gloss over it. You go to the roots. We have the Guadalupe National Park, Fort Davis, Padre Island, and other areas. In your position on different committees in the U.S. Senate, including the Appropriations Committee, is eloquent testimony to your rating with that body.

I have a book I would like to present to you called "The Pass of the North", which I think would be good background material. It is the history of El Paso written by an eminent El Paso scholar, Mr. Sonnichsen—Dr. Sonnichsen. I give you this with a great deal of pleasure and you will probably recognize him as—

Senator YARBOROUGH. I receive this book with more pleasure even than you have in giving it. I know Dr. Sonnichsen. I have a number of volumes written by him. He is one of the finest historians of the Southwest. When I was out here as a young lawyer I wasn't affluent enough to own an automobile. My wife and I lived in an apartment up on North Oregon and we walked down to the city library at night, Maude Sullivan was in the library at that time, and we read, through that 2½ to 3½ years I lived here, 2½, we were married, we read through the shelves in the El Paso library on the history of El Paso and early exploration of this Pass of the North. Not only will I enjoy it but my wife will enjoy it greatly, since it is written by such a competent historian.

Judge COLDWELL. I want to welcome the members of the staff, Mr. Oriol, Mr. Carleton, and Mr. Miller. I hope your stay here is enjoyable and I won't take up any more time.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Judge Coldwell, I know your family has been here four generations, contributing to this history. I will be surprised if they aren't mentioned in this book. I must put it down and go ahead with our business. Thank you very much. I am very pleased with it. When I get on the plane I am going to read all the way to San Antonio. I don't think I will get too much sleep tonight.

Now, Judge Coldwell?

Judge COLDWELL. Senator, we do have an aging problem. The problem on aging is complicated, of course, by the fact that we are a border city. Many of our aging are aliens, not U.S. citizens. That complicates matters further. We have many people with a great deal more expertise on these matters than I. Commissioner Telles very ably represents his people in precinct 2, which is directly involved in these matters and gives these people a great deal of aid. Mr. De La Rosa is a very able director of the county general assistance agency.

I have knowledge of individual cases, Senator, through my area. I live in the lower valley and I have these people come to me, these aged Mexican-Americans or aliens when they get letters from the Government that they can't read. When they get them translated they don't understand them. Fortunately the ones that live close to me have a person, while I am not an expert, I can at least explain to them what the letters mean and where they can go get help and understand the terms of the letter, social security letters or other types but many of them have no place to go for things like that. I will say now that Project Bravo remedied that a great deal but many people don't have anywhere to get that information and translation, not only of the words but the meaning of the letter. The letters were written, of course, in Government gobbledygook, and many times where even a lawyer has difficulty in decoding what it means. Sometimes I have to go see a lawyer to get him to help me on these things.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I have a staff to help me figure out what they mean, Judge. I understand the problem.

Judge COLDWELL. I had a case, Justice of the Peace Sanchez came to me and told me about some elderly people. These people weren't particularly poor but the woman had an incurable disease and didn't want to go through a hospital. They asked me to see if I could talk her into going to the hospital. The old man had been a very good friend of my father's and he said, "Well, she is going to die so she might as well die here in bed at home." That was their attitude. We did what we could, of course. We couldn't forcibly take them to the hospital.

#### TOO OLD TO WORK

I had an elderly man that lived on my farm. He is too old to work now. He gets \$65 a month for him and his wife and they moved off the farm. They are independent. He got where he couldn't work and he had a house on my farm but he is too independent to stay there rent free. He bought a little piece of land, I don't know how, and built a little shack and moved off the farm. He was too independent to stay on the farm. He is the one I am referring to that brings me his mail occasionally.

I would like to defer, now, unless you have some questions, to Commissioner Telles.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I think we will just forego questions and address them to the panel as a whole when we finish.

Judge COLDWELL. One other matter I would like to bring up, Senator. South El Paso, where many, many of our elderly Mexican-Americans live, is turning into a manufacturing area. The city of El Paso is combating this. They built a million-dollar park down there, and it would be a shame if we had factories around the park. There is some land available that resulted from the Chamizal, 193 acres down there. Sixty-five acres is to be used for a school, which is a very fine thing, which will take the place of Bowie High School, which leaves the remainder, I think, for monuments and things of that nature. Now this area is near Thomason General Hospital, the county hospital, and State and county welfare areas. It is a good area for housing for elderly, if this could be worked in, and evidently Federal money is available for the monuments so it might be possible for some of this

money to be diverted for some type housing for not only the Mexican-American elderly, but the elderly without means.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That is part of Cordova Island that came to El Paso in the Chamizal settlement?

Judge COLDWELL. Yes, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. How many acres was that, Judge?

Judge COLDWELL. 193, and 65 acres of it has been set aside for school purposes.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That would leave, according to my rapidly attempted arithmetic, 128 acres, not for school purposes. You say present plans are for monuments and things like that? Would you recommend housing for the elderly or low cost housing for part, if not all of the 128 acres?

Judge COLDWELL. I would strongly recommend it be studied very carefully. I think it is a good idea. I think it bears further study.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I concur in that it ought to have further study. I direct staff to prepare memorandums for me to sign to food and housing authorities, city and county, and border commission, as to whether part of this acreage couldn't better be used in housing for the elderly or other types of housing.

Now, where did all the people go who left the Chamizal area? I understand there were numbers of people that lived in that part of the Chamizal that went to Mexico. Where did they move to?

Judge COLDWELL. They scattered quite a bit. Some came to where I live; Socorro received quite an influx and many of them stayed in the city limits. I have never seen any study of exactly where they did go.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I believe the figures would be available. I will direct staff to get information about where those people went. That was low cost housing in the Chamizal area before the settlement of the dispute and I personally went down and observed this housing. A number of them were brick houses built for veterans of World War II and while it was low cost housing it was substantial and nice housing. That is peripheral to this problem of the aged. That is the area west of Cordova Island left on the north bank of the relocated channel where you say it is being industrialized?

Judge COLDWELL. It is in that area.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Residential area?

Judge COLDWELL. Yes, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. What has happened to the people in that area?

Judge COLDWELL. It is very difficult. Houses are very scarce. Commissioner Telles has a great deal of insight into that.

Senator YARBOROUGH. This is not the immediate problem of the aging but since we worked on that Chamizal settlement for years and I lived here for years when the Chamizal dispute was testified about I am glad that you brought it up. We will study that further; where the people went and what has happened to the housing.

Judge COLDWELL. It is a problem.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The use of that other 228 acres at the north part of Cordova Island left in the United States with the rectified river channel and especially those parts not needed for Bowie High School. Thank you.

Commissioner Telles?

## STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD TELLES, COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Commissioner TELLES. Thank you very much, Senator. First let me tell you that in all concern we must admire you for the interest you have taken in the Mexican-American. Speaking for myself and speaking for the Mexican-Americans of Texas, let me say we have no closer friend; that is all there is to it.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Richard, I am grateful. I came out here as a young lawyer and knew nothing about the problems of the Mexican-Americans. I was engaged to be married and every weekend we walked down and walked across the bridge and went to Juarez to get one of those game dinners. I came from a family in east Texas that hunted and you could buy venison and wild duck and game over there and then when we married and came out here we were taking Spanish at night school. We were taking those courses when I was appointed as assistant attorney general and we moved to Austin there and there were no available night courses. Had I not been assistant attorney general I hope I might have been bilingual years ago. My wife and I were studying together there and from that 3½ years residence here I formed a great admiration for the people of Mexican-American descent and I resolved that if I was ever in a position to do something about improving the status of those people I would work at it. This to me is work that goes back years as a young lawyer when I first came here and received many kindnesses at the hands of the people of Mexican-American extraction.

Commissioner TELLES. We know, Senator, that before you were elected you lost four or five times and we lost with you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I am grateful for that. I got part of that from Judge Coldwell's father. He was a friend of mine, visited in my home, and while Judge Colbert Coldwell told about families that didn't speak English, I have seen his father, when we were trying lawsuits, the bailiff would come and tell him "Judge, there is someone from down in the valley that doesn't speak English," and the judge would say "Ya'll just step aside," and he would receive this elderly citizen of Mexican-American extraction and then we would go ahead with the lawsuit after that. I got early lessons in putting first things first and helping people in dire need.

Commissioner TELLES. Senator Yarborough, members of the staff, I am going to make some statements as an officeholder and some as a citizen. I hold an interest in both because they are problems that concern me both as a citizen and also as a political figure or commissioner of this county. I must make the statement, even though it hurts a little to admit it, Your Honor, that the city of El Paso and the county of El Paso have entirely and totally failed the senior citizens of this community. I repeat to you, the city and the county both have completely and entirely failed the aging citizens of this community. There is no evidence in this county or in this city where we may claim that we are doing something for them. The question may arise as to why I as an individual or member of the county commission cannot do something for them. Well, in every occasion or every time I have had the opportunity I have brought this issue up. We have Federal housing in the city of El Paso which is governed by a board and I can tell you that that is not housing entirely for the aged. It is housing for

the poor, but it is frustrating to have to tell you that the project meant for the poor is making money. I have always condemned the project for that. I believe public housing was created with the idea of assisting the poor and that includes the aging citizens. But when I can tell you that our administrators, with all due respect to them, have made a profit with our public housing, then I say to you we have failed in the cause.

When I make the following statement, Senator, I guess I should feel ashamed, not only as a citizen, but as a county commissioner, and that is that many of our aging citizens have gone to Mexico for refuge; it is a shameful thing to admit. It is shameful to admit we have no facilities at all to take care of aging citizens in El Paso County and that if there are, I would like for someone to point them out to me. We have a great number of aging citizens. As a businessman I have had experience with them and I have kept in touch with some of these people. I happen to own some real estate and I know how some of these people live and wait, maybe, just to die. It is shameful to admit that there is nothing that I as one commissioner or as a member of the court can do for these people. Most of us go on about our business. We forget the aging citizens. There is no help. We have a few that get some assistance from the Federal Government through social security, et cetera, but the number of the needy aging citizens is so much greater than what we have been able to help.

#### LIMITATIONS ON GENERAL ASSISTANCE

It is the legal and moral obligation of the county commissioners to alleviate the poor in this county. What I have to say to you is that we have been a failure. Not only that, Your Honor, but only about 4 or 5 months ago we were on the verge of closing up the little aid we give some of these people through our agency—the general assistance agency. We came that close to closing up the general assistance agency. To some of the people serving with me in court, these are just words, but let me tell you that some of the citizens that are totally and entirely dependent on the little help we give them, in paying \$20 a month rent, food stamps, et cetera, would face hardships unlimited. A good businessman, conservative as he may be, would have to admit that helping these people is a healthy financial situation. But some like to turn the thing around and say “If they are poor, if they are needy, they are so because they are lazy,” and this is the only justification—this is the only justification I found in questioning some of the people’s refusal to come to the aid of these people, that they are lazy. Your Honor, let me tell you they are not lazy people. They are children of God. Now, at an age of life where they have nothing else to do but wait for death to come. It hurts and it was very painful to even consider closing up our general assistance agency but I want you to know how close we came to that point and to this day I don’t think that too many people realize the seriousness of closing such an agency.

We spend an average of a million dollars in food stamps and we expend an average of some \$130,000 of tax dollars—a miserable amount—on our aging needy citizens of this community. I say this is a very miserable amount compared to the amount of money we waste or spend on other things. Your Honor, I hope I can impress you

enough with what would have happened to our needy poor had we closed up our general assistance agency. A great number of the aged citizens would have been ousted from their homes; from their apartments; from the ugly, dark, and gloomy rooms in rooming houses. Members of the panel, I can take you directly to the poor where they are still using oil lamps because they have no other facilities. Last winter I had the occasion to witness many, many people suffering because they couldn't pay their utility bills and, therefore, having to do without such needed services. We, the county, asked for their help, companies such as the gas, water, and the light companies and in answer to our plight, we got a very courteous letter stating it would be impossible, that the most they could do would be to let these people make payments on time. This is the plight of the poor people, the aged people. I speak not only for the Mexicans, I speak for all of the elder senior citizens of the community. Of course, in El Paso, we have focused light on needs of the Mexican-American.

We have a great number of Mexican-Americans who suffer because of the inadequacies of the county and city governments. I think it is fair to say to you, Senator, if it weren't for the help we get from the Federal Government and the State, that I don't know what these people would do.

#### COUNTY BEARS RESPONSIBILITY

The picture as far as the county government is concerned is a very sad one. I can't see where next year or the year after next year the county can financially come to the assistance of the aging citizens. We have been facing financial problems and we are faced with them for the next 2 or 3 years, even if we have any relief in moneys. So I am appealing to you, Senator, for Federal money to help us in our plight. The city ordinance has no responsibility toward the aging citizen or the poor or the indigent. They are completely out of the picture. The entire responsibility lies with the county, we are in trouble, financial trouble. I am telling you that the help and the assistance we can give these people is very small or maybe none. That very day in August when we discussed the closing of our general assistance office, Senator, was one of the most ugly, dark days I have ever been faced with in my life. We have 70 to 90 people, old people, who depend on that small county money they get every month. I know it is tiresome to listen to some of these things I have said, Senator, but they are here with us and they cannot be ignored. I hope in your hearings here you will find a way of helping the county and maybe the city in providing money for the people who need housing so bad. It is a great problem and one we must be confronted with. In the near future it is going to be a terrible problem unless we start doing something about it now.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Commissioner Telles, thank you for your forceful statement. We came here to get the facts and using the facts we hope to make recommendations and take actions that will help alleviate the conditions that you describe. We will have questions when we finish with the panel. The next witness is Mr. De La Rosa, acting director of the El Paso County General Assistance Agency.

STATEMENT OF MR. DE LA ROSA, ACTING DIRECTOR, EL PASO  
COUNTY GENERAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY

Mr. DE LA ROSA. I want to thank the Senator for the opportunity to come before you in this way. I also want to thank Judge Coldwell and Mr. Telles for permitting me to serve on the panel with them. For 22 years I have worked as a social worker, and I have come to recognize some of the problems that exist not only among the Mexican-American poor, but among the Anglo-American and Negro-American poor as well.

There are people here in El Paso who could perhaps speak more vividly and eloquently of the problems than I can. I would like to put these names before the committee so that perhaps after the hearing, some of you might get statements from them, and they too can tell you of some of the problems that they are confronted with. Sister Helen Marie, of Hotel Dieu, has done a tremendous job in the area of immigration and citizenship among the Mexican-American aged. At Thomason General Hospital, Consuelo Martinez has worked long and hard with the Mexican-American oldster. Armanda Lancaster, of Catholic Counseling, has done an outstanding job. Mr. Arthur Reardon, formerly of our agency, can also speak of this problem. Although it has become vogue in the last few years to criticize the established agencies, I would like to suggest that the committee speak to some of the executives of these agencies, particularly those involved in OAA. All these people can speak, from first-hand experience, about the problems that confront the Mexican-American aged here in El Paso and in the Southwest.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. De la Rosa, we have a full list of witnesses, all that we can hear today. We want this information and we are going to hold this record open for 30 days and if you could talk to them and get them to write us—you don't have to fix it up like a petition or legal document. It can be typed or penciled or ink or anyway they can write and describe what they know and send it to us and we will print it in this record and every Federal agency will have it and State agencies and the Congress also. We invite them. We want them, and we wish we had time to stay another day and invite them to the hearings. We will have to go to San Antonio but I appreciate your telling us about them. We want your cooperation and that of the Judge and Commissioner Telles in getting them to write what they know of this problem and recommendations they have to help us. I appreciate very much your bringing that in. Go ahead, please.

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Let me further preface my statement with these remarks. That the aged Mexican-American represents a sizable portion of our population here in El Paso, and that the problems faced by them are essentially the same as those faced by aged Anglo-American or Negro-American with a very low fixed income. With this exception, many aged Mexican-Americans are noncitizens, and thus ineligible for OAA. I believe that if we knew something of their attitudes and philosophy concerning America, we would learn then why so many of them contribute to their own problem, and why in so many cases, it is difficult to help them.

Let me remind you, Senator, that the elderly Mexican-American has spent all of his productive years here in the United States—his youth, his middle years, and now his old age. He came to the United States not because he heard in glowing terms about the welfare programs here in our country, but he came to the United States because he had a dream. He knew that here in the United States he would find for his family a way of life that would lead to more education, a better standard of living, and the opportunity to guide himself and his family to whatever goal they wished to attain. They would be able to develop their full potential without the obstacles of ignorance, hunger, and personal need. He did not look to the United States for a handout, but as the source of opportunity to help himself.

#### WELFARE REFUSED OR DENIED

This is his frustration. This is his anger; that after all these years of working hard for his family he finds himself in a position where he is no longer able to help himself and must look elsewhere for this help. Consequently, you will find many aged Mexican-Americans staying away from our welfare agencies, because they do not want to admit that they have failed. They would rather "scrounge" to support themselves than admit failure. Like everyone else, they want to be contributing members of our society.

Let me say that the Mexican-American has contributed a great deal as a group, and as an individual, to the well-being of our Nation. Many of these aged Mexican-Americans have sons who have served in the Army, the Navy, and the Marines. Some of them even have grandchildren now fighting in Vietnam; but, in spite of this, these oldsters find themselves in conditions that no man or woman should have to endure.

We have accepted the fact that after 72 years they are no longer able to work. We made social security available to them. We know what the cost of living is here in El Paso, and yet we made available only \$32, and later \$45 a month. We know that a family cannot live on this, yet this is all they can get. We anger and frustrate them even more. Could it be that after all these years, the sum total of all their efforts is only worth \$45 a month? At first he is grateful, but soon he realizes that this sum is not enough, and then the quiet moments of desperation begin to take their toll, as he learns that he will still continue to live in want.

About 2 years ago, we finally made OAA available to these oldsters, but only if they had lived in the United States 25 years. If he is eligible, he will receive the maximum grant of \$110. Here again, Senator, \$110 is not enough to keep a family of one, two, or three, up to a standard of living which is conducive to good physical and mental health.

We have made this program available to them, but we have discovered that our aged Mexican-Americans have found it difficult to prove that they have lived here 25 years. They just have not kept those records.

Since OAA is available to them if they are citizens, why not make them citizens? Why not make all that America has to offer available

to them? They have given of their strength, of their youth, and they have given their children. Why not make citizens of them?

At the present time, they all have to take a test, but we now have on our caseloads people who refuse to go. Let me remind you, Senator, that the people who came to the United States from Mexico did not have much education, and Spanish is the language they speak best. At General Assistance we know of people who have gone to take the test and failed. They are thus confronted with another frustration. They have to admit to themselves that though this is the country of their choosing, they do not know enough to become a citizen of it. I believe these elderly Mexican-Americans have earned the right to be citizens.

#### FOOD STAMP LIMITATIONS

As I have said previously, we have made available to our oldsters a sum of money which is totally inadequate for their needs. To supplement this income, we have in operation the food stamp program, which I feel is one of the best programs that our welfare system has to offer. The recipient gets involved in the giving and the getting. This is more dignified and is in keeping with their feelings of pride and worth. Although this is a good way of helping, we are not helping enough. For example, we at General Assistance give a total grant to elderly Americans of \$24 a month. With these \$24, he must use \$10 to purchase \$18 in food stamps. He has remaining \$14 to buy nonfood items. He has a total of \$32 for a month. We must make our food stamp bonus plan more realistic to lower income families. Our bonus plan must be such that when families participate, we can assure them of being able to purchase sufficient food, and of such quality to insure good health.

We have also discovered that because of their low, fixed income, many of our elderly Mexican-Americans are in poor health. Many cannot travel to and from the general hospital. Many live in surrounding parts of our city. Fabens, Clint, Tornillo, Anthony, and Canutillo are rather distant for our county hospital. Instead of having them come to the clinic, why could not the clinics go out to them? Why couldn't we organize clinics, mobile units, out in the areas where the elderly live. The cost of transportation and their low income make frequent visits prohibitive. I say let us open geriatric, or multipurpose clinics, just as we have opened baby clinics in these areas.

We need housing for the aged Mexican-Americans. We have discovered that after years of residence in a given area, they are reluctant to move. They are greatly attached to the church of their parish, their friends, the small storekeeper. They play a meaningful part in the lives of our oldsters, and yet to get them into better housing we have to often move them out of these areas. In this way, we too are causing them more unhappiness.

I think there will be no better testimony to the fine relationship we enjoy with Mexico than to build some kind of housing for our aged in the Chamizal, and within their income. We have such housing here in El Paso. It is adequate and it is beautiful. But this housing is not within the income level of our elderly Mexican-American. We have to accept the fact that this Mexican-American is culturally different, and to force him into surroundings where he will be even more alien is

unfair. We must keep him close to his friends, close to the "barrio" he loves, but most important, close to his church.

Yes, I believe that housing for the aged is needed, but housing alone is not enough, Senator. Our elderly people are lonely, spend many hours and many days in search of someone to visit. It is not unusual to go into their homes and have them cry just because we have taken the time to visit. Very often we have also seen them become angry and frustrated when they realize that our help cannot be increased. The social worker has been abused verbally, as well as physically. We take the brunt of their anger. I don't blame them; great are their feelings of desperation.

#### EXTENDED HEALTH CARE

We must have programs of extended health care. Many who go to a hospital return to a home where nobody will take care of them. We must provide extended health care or "visiting nurse" programs to insure them continued health service, even after they leave the hospital.

When we build housing for the aged, we must also provide nursing home care for the bedridden. The oldsters themselves can help. They do a tremendous job of visiting old friends who are sick, or who are in nursing homes, if they are nearby.

Now with all the knowledge we have about the aged, why not in this housing provide a comprehensive program for the aged? Why not provide them with all the services they need so that they will not have to travel far to go to the agencies? Why not put the workers down there within their reach? Why not have group-workers develop the kind of recreational, occupational, and social programs they need? We need to develop educational, vocational, and recreational facilities for them. They are not ready to be put on the shelf. These are men and women who can, and still will, contribute to society, whose lives will be prolonged because they are contributing and because they are being cared for properly.

Now let me summarize. I believe that we must accept that our social security grants to the elderly Mexican-American are inadequate. We are now giving them the minimum of \$45 a month, but this has not raised their level of living, which is already very low. We need to liberalize our giving.

The food stamp program, already accepted as one of our best welfare programs, needs to be changed. The purchase and bonus plan needs to be more liberal. Low-income families should be permitted to get maximum benefits in order to insure an adequate diet.

The Mexican-American oldster has proven that he is a good citizen. They have given the best years to this country, and our society has been quite willing to exploit their youth. Now in the winter of their years, why not permit them to enjoy full citizenship?

#### THE SECURITY OF THE FAMILIAR

Housing should be adequate and within a level they can afford. They should be kept in their neighborhoods, where they can have the security of old friends, old haunts, and the security of their church. All services should be made available to them in their neighborhoods, and steps should be taken to provide for them a complete geriatric program. We must guarantee them a full and dignified life.

A comprehensive health program must be provided for them. Many of our oldsters need dental service, they need glasses, and other such services. They need extended health care, also nursing home care. The oldsters themselves can be invaluable in providing home visits, sick calls, reading books, running errands, and a multitude of other personal services.

I offer, Senator, that if our country, being one of the richest, and one of the most powerful in the world, cannot solve this problem, then I fear for all the people in the rest of the world. Thank you very much.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. De la Rosa, Commissioner Telles mentioned this General Assistance Agency which you are the acting director of was almost disbanded. I believe that was last August?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Yes.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Under what type of action? What type of action would have led to the dissolution? How did you manage to keep it open and operating?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Thank you for that question. It gives me an opportunity to remind the Senator that it was through OEO, Emergency Food and Health Services. We were successful in getting a grant of \$18,000. With this grant plus the subsequent raise that the county commissioners gave us we were able to keep the agency going. We have asked OEO for another grant because we feel there are needs for the services we render and that they will continue. The demands on our budget will always be heavy. Yet, as Mr. Telles and the judge have indicated, the county is in a bind. The money isn't here. I must say in all fairness that where they have been able to, they have raised our budget. Thank goodness this year we were able to get the OEO grant.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You have heard threats nationally to liquidate the OEO and do away with the antipoverty program, that it isn't doing its job. What do you think of those proposals we have in many quarters?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. OEO has done a tremendous job of making people aware of the needs that exist, not only here in El Paso, but in all parts of the area. I think they themselves will admit that now it is time to organize new programs and they are about to do this. In fact, I have had the privilege of being present at one of the co-op stores just recently opened and the people are involved in this and they are making every effort to make for themselves the kind of living we all aspire. They are also making plans for nurseries for the working mother. No, I believe OEO has made a good contribution, tremendous contribution here in El Paso and I for one would be very hopeful that they would continue.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Mr. De la Rosa.

Commissioner Telles, you have mentioned the failure of this community to care for the aging. What, in your opinion, was the basic cause for this failure? Is it leadership, money, taxes, public apathy, or what?

Commissioner TELLES. All of the things you have mentioned, combined, Senator. It seems we have a great number of conservative people and I won't appear to make mention of them, but they seem to think—label the needy, as I mentioned before, lazy people. This is not the case. If these people took the trouble to investigate they would find there are many, many more reasons for the needy. Now, I would like

to make the statement, Senator, that I think Washington is taking a tremendous chance and tremendous risk with the poor if they are to rely on the counties and cities to take care of the aging citizens because if I can tell you, Senator, that just 4 months ago we came that close to closing up our General Assistance Agency, that means all these people came that close to starving or getting kicked out of their homes. I say to you that in order to keep the aged within a secure psychological compound it is going to be on the shoulders of the Federal people and they should not rely on the cities or the counties. All it takes is the election of a few conservatives in the city to deny the poor of their needs. It is just how close the needy are to losing the little help we give them.

We have a great number of people, good people, in this town. VISTAS who have come to the aid of the poor. These young people, I don't know, they possess a very special virtue. They seem to be able to communicate with these people and they are doing a tremendous job. I have worked with them and I have nothing but compliments. If you have anything to do with it, continue with this program, because this may well be the solution to our problems. They are young people, inexperienced people. Some are sons and daughters of multimillionaires and they have chosen the road to help the poor. If that doesn't call for compliments I don't know what calls for compliments.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Let me ask you this question. You told of the aged going to Juarez because of the lack of facilities here. What aid do the aged receive at Juarez that they can't receive in El Paso?

Commissioner TELLES. The religious organizations, mostly, I think. It is the Catholic Church, maintained by the sisters—I forget the name of the order, Senator. They maintain quite a large number of people and they do that by going out and begging, if you want to call it that, getting funds from the public that are interested in this problem. I want you to know, Senator, that we don't have a single unit, public or otherwise, that has an interest in taking care of our senior citizens—may be not interest but the financial situation is such that it is impossible.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Those homes in Juarez, are they privately financed? They are privately financed homes for the aged?

Commissioner TELLES. They are rather public. The nuns go out and borrow and mooch and beg for money to maintain that home and they get clothes from people in El Paso and also money from here, just begging for it.

Senator YARBOROUGH. They have homes for the aged there?

Commissioner TELLES. It is a complex.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Do those sisters have any similar homes in El Paso?

Commissioner TELLES. The Sacred Heart Church does but they only have room for 21. The only help they get that is not from the county is from the Federal programs, food stamps and the rest of the money is put out by the church.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You say there are homes, low-cost housing here for the poor, but not for the aged?

Commissioner TELLES. It is for everybody, the aged likewise and the only objection I have to that, your honor, is the fact that it seems to me that the institution has become a money-earning institution, not

one necessarily to help the poor. It seems to me that if they were to come out in the red every year this would call more for compliments than being able to brag about making \$40,000 or \$50,000 or \$60,000 with a project that was meant to be directed toward helping the poor.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Is that the kind of money they earned? Did they issue statements?

Commissioner TELLES. That and more. They come to the county and give us an average of \$10,000 a year, money they made.

Senator YARBOROUGH. What are they doing with the money they make?

Commissioner TELLES. They have a good sum of it in surplus funds plus the fact they come to the city and county and give us something like a Christmas bonus. I know we get \$10,000 and the city gets, I guess, \$18,000 of the profits.

Senator YARBOROUGH. They turn this back to the city and county to use for other purposes?

Commissioner TELLES. Yes, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Who fixes the rent to be charged by this public housing?

Commissioner TELLES. I imagine it is the board which is composed of people selected by the city.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That rent is not fixed by the county or the city directly?

Commissioner TELLES. No sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. It is fixed by the governing board?

Commissioner TELLES. That's right. It runs on a 20 percent basis and a 70 percent basis but I maintain, Senator YARBOROUGH, that—

Senator YARBOROUGH (continuing). What do you mean by this 20 percent and 70 percent?

Commissioner TELLES. His earning power. In other words if he earns \$200 he has got to pay 20 percent or \$40 a month.

Senator YARBOROUGH. But if your aged you described are getting \$26 a month or \$45 a month on Social Security, it would be hard to pay 20-odd dollars. What would they have to pay for housing in one of these public projects?

Commissioner TELLES. A minimum of \$27.50, I think, your honor, so they wouldn't even qualify.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Why wouldn't they qualify? Would they have to earn so much money to qualify?

Commissioner TELLES. That's right.

#### "MIDDLE-INCOME POOR"

Senator YARBOROUGH. In other words, in the housing for the poor, to be qualified to enter the housing you have got to earn a certain amount of money or you are too poor to qualify for the housing for the poor. There is a middle income poor, in other words.

The poorer poor can't even get in it, is that right?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. It is very difficult for the elderly Mexican-American to get into this housing because, like Mr. Telles says, they must have a source of income.

Senator YARBOROUGH. To qualify?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. To qualify. The general assistance has been—getting some there but we only get them in there because the housing they have now is substandard but this is what I mean. We have to take them out of their community and put them into these housing areas that are completely alien to them and they are very unhappy.

Senator YARBOROUGH. How much is spent on the poor by the county of El Paso and the city, if you know, each separately, per year?

Commissioner TELLES. The city spends nothing at all.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The county, I think, spends about \$100,000?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Our entire relief budget this year was \$90,000.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The county put up that \$90,000?

Commissioner TELLES. Yes.

Senator YARBOROUGH. \$90,000 by El Paso County for relief?

Commissioner TELLES. You see the danger, Senator, like for instance next year our financial problems or money problems are such that we don't have that money. What are the poor people going to do, not only the poor, but the aging citizens? They are so close to just being thrown out in the cold. That is why I say it is going to be a burden for the Federal people to do something for these people. I think we are gambling when we say the cities and the counties are going to take care of these people.

Senator YARBOROUGH. How many people are there in El Paso County over 65 years of age?

Judge COLDWELL. You will have some statistics later, Senator, but I am not prepared to say.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That hasn't been established? In 1963-64, it was estimated that there were 22,000 residents of 62 years of age or over and it was estimated that half of these were of Mexican-American extraction.

Commissioner TELLES. We have the secondary problem, Your Honor, that we have not even discussed. We have a number of Mexican citizens who have been here many, many years. They are denied many of these privileges simply because they are Mexicans. Now, I think if we let these people come into this country it is the responsibility of the citizens of this country to also take care of them. I cannot understand how we can let these people come into our country and then when they get here and they need some help—well, they say, "Well, you are not an American, I am sorry, go someplace else," this is a problem we also must note, Senator.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Commissioner Telles, of those 11,000 El Pasoans over 62 years of age of Mexican extraction, do you have any estimate of what percentage are citizens, either native born or naturalized?

Commissioner TELLES. I would say at least 30 percent are Mexican citizens.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thirty percent are Mexican citizens?

Commissioner TELLES. This constitutes a tremendous problem. We open the door for these people, and when they get here we deny them any help. Of course, we know about the affidavits prepared by Immigration. All of that is not the idea in mind. The idea in mind is if we

let these people come in this country we must have provisions for their welfare.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Several times in recent years, we have passed laws to open up naturalization for people of Mexican-American extraction, people who have been in the country a long number of years, the so-called grandfather clause. I have introduced another bill this year to open that up. I haven't had time to complete the bill yet, and I will introduce it in the next session of Congress. That is for the naturalization of those long residents of the country.

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Senator, let me make the additional comment that we must keep in mind that when we talk about social security, a great many of the elderly Mexican-Americans have worked or had jobs that were not covered by social security. As you know, we have many Mexican-American women who work as domestics. That is the problem that exists in that they have not accrued any benefits from social security.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Domestic labor wasn't, in those years, covered by social security, but domestic labor is now covered.

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Right. Many of them—let me also remind the Senator that we brought with us some elderly Mexican-Americans that could also speak to this problem, men who have worked, laborers who have worked hard and were not covered by social security and, therefore, are ineligible. These are people that are helped by our agency.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE LOST

Senator YARBOROUGH. Let me tell you something we learned in Los Angeles yesterday, and I will ask you if you have a comparable problem here. We learned in Los Angeles yesterday that the Mexican-Americans, particularly farmworkers, had to fill out forms to get jobs. They were illiterate and didn't like these forms and were rather suspicious of them. They only had to fill them out when they had to get a job and then they abandoned them and when the administration came to ask for social security numbers they found some of them had as many as 15 different social security numbers. They would leave a job and sign up and work and then the next year come back and work for another farmer and they don't keep records and each year they would fill out a new application. They had actual cases out there with different workers where, when they want to collect social security, there was a great deal of difficulty in finding their records and getting them compiled as to how much they were entitled to. Have you had that problem? That problem would be more exacerbated and aggravated with migratory workers. Have you had experience with that problem?

Commissioner TELLES. To some extent, Senator. I personally know of many, many cases in that category.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Where they have more than one social security number and they have trouble computing the social security benefits?

Commissioner TELLES. Yes.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Of course, Los Angeles was doing much more for the aged, much more gross, much more per capita. Of course, it is

a county of 7 million people, but they have a number of programs there of different types.

Now, Vice President Humphrey in his campaign for the Presidency promised double the social security benefits. President-elect Nixon did not promise to double them but promised a sharp increase. Both candidates of both political parties went into that November election committed to sharp increases in social security. I believe in it myself, and I hope both parties are committed to it, and I hope we do have an increase in social security this coming session of Congress to aid these people such as you have described. Are there any further questions from the staff?

Mr. ORIOL. I am not clear on one point. Are there any Federal funds involved in the county assistance program?

Commissioner TELLES. The only other programs involved are the stamps, but the only county money I guess we spend is the \$90,000. There is no other Federal money coming in except the stamps which is a million dollars a year.

Judge COLDWELL. One year we got this OEO grant. We don't know whether we can get it again.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That was the \$18,000 that this agency was kept open with?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. A little over \$18,000.

Senator YARBOROUGH. What period was that?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. From June the 12th to August the 31st.

Senator YARBOROUGH. What happened on September the 1st?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. This was the original grant, \$16,000, and then they gave us an additional \$2,000, which carried us over to about the beginning of November.

Senator YARBOROUGH. What happened at the beginning of November?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. By that time, the commissioners had allocated us another amount for our relief budget.

Senator YARBOROUGH. In other words, you had a kind of hand-to-mouth existence? How long has the money been allocated now?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. We have used it and we are waiting for further word. Our second grant was for—to be the entire year beginning September 1 to August 31 of next year.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Has that money been allocated to you?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. I got word today that Congress had passed and approved the appropriation and it was being divided to the various States in this program and as far as we know we don't know how much we will be getting.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You are hoping that will come before the 20th of January, aren't you?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Before the 1st of January.

Mr. ORIOL. Could a person receive county assistance and be on old-age assistance, too? In other words, can a person receiving Federal and State assistance receive assistance from the county?

## AID FOR EMERGENCY CASES

Mr. DE LA ROSA. No. Basically the philosophy of the General Assistance Agency is to help in emergency cases, temporary cases. Once they are eligible to receive help in any of the various programs we will stop helping. As I said, many elderly Americans are ineligible. At the county assistance agency we have 93 oldsters receiving grants from us. This does not give an accurate picture of the amount of elderly Mexican-Americans that are in El Paso. It is just that that is all we can afford to carry.

Mr. ORIOL. So the county assistance is usually the only form of income that the recipients have?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Right. We are reaching the hardcore poor.

Mr. ORIOL. Can you tell me what the average Federal-State old-age assistance is to the elderly Mexican-American in this area?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. The new maximum grant that they can receive is \$110.

Mr. ORIOL. Is that for a family or an individual?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. An individual. This could be also for a family of two.

Mr. ORIOL. Now that is maximum. What is medium or average, would you say?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. I would say that is in keeping with the average.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The statewide average is what? It is \$86 or \$88, something in that neighborhood.

Mr. DE LA ROSA. That is what I gather.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Where you have a person, an elderly person, receiving social security of \$45, if they have no other source of income the administrators of the old-age assistance program is authorized to raise that up to a maximum of \$110, depending on the need, aren't they?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. It is my understanding that once they get OAA they will not get social security benefits.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Once they get—no, no, that is not the law. The social security is earned. If your social security is \$45 and you get old-age assistance, that is an authorized supplement just like when a man gets out and earns additional money.

Mr. DE LA ROSA. I was thinking of a different group, I am sorry, yes. I was thinking of the 72-year-old and older group.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You take the Mexican-American citizen, and I won't raise the complication of noncitizenship, but suppose he is a citizen and gets \$45 in social security payments. The administrators of the old-age pension or welfare payments, as we call them, are authorized to raise that to subsistence level. Do they do that?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Up to \$110.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You do not have them declining to add welfare assistance because they get a lower social security payment; do you?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. No.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Because the purpose of welfare payments is to raise the subsistence level. A person might be earning, as a baby-sitter, \$60 a month, but that isn't subsistence. They take that \$60 and add to it to bring it up to \$80 or \$90 or \$100.

Mr. DE LA ROSA. They are doing that.

#### OAA BENEFITS CUT

Senator YARBOROUGH. Texas is one of the few States in the Union that automatically cuts old-age and welfare payments back every time Congress increases social security. This is one we in Congress can't solve and this does add to the problem of the aging in Texas.

Mr. Miller, minority staff counsel?

Mr. MILLER. In your general assistance program, is assistance restricted to clients who are citizens or can noncitizens receive general assistance benefits?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Any person who is a legal resident of the United States is eligible to receive our benefits. We have a group of oldsters, 72 and over, receiving \$45 a month from social security that cannot receive OAA because they cannot prove they have lived here 25 years or it is difficult for them to prove. If they were made citizens they would get OAA.

Senator YARBOROUGH. If they can prove residency they can get old-age assistance without having to be naturalized?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Right.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That is 25 years residency?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Twenty-five years. We have 93 people on our rolls that should be getting that OAA but cannot because of the difficulty in proving how long they have been here.

Senator YARBOROUGH. And the county is making up for that?

Mr. DE LA ROSA. Yes.

Judge COLDWELL. Our rules are very stringent and it doesn't do any good to relax them because we don't have any money to take any more. We have very, very stringent rules on who we give aid to and this is the best we can do considering our financial situation.

Senator YARBOROUGH. And the county puts up \$90,000 a year?

Judge COLDWELL. For a population of 400,000. That is very minimal.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Four hundred thousand people and the county puts up \$90,000 a year. What is the population of Los Angeles? I believe it is 7 million. I think the county of Los Angeles spends about as much on old-age assistance as the entire State government of Texas.

I thank this panel very much. You made a real contribution. We have many witnesses and the hour is growing near noon, so unless our counsel have other questions we will excuse this panel. You are invited to supplement what you said by written statements. We can receive them in Washington within 30 days and they will be printed with the record. We will be glad to have them. Thank you very

much for the contribution you made. We have found the problems are different from State to State and city to city and county to county.

The next witness listed was Rev. Robert Gafford, pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart. I notice he cannot be here but in his place we will have Mr. Eugenio Montelongo, chairman of the South Side Improvement Association. Come around and if you have people to accompany you, bring them up also. You may proceed in your own way and identify yourself in the record for the reporter who is making the report on which our printed records will be based in Washington and proceed in your own way with your statement please.

#### STATEMENT OF EUGENIO MONTELONGO, CHAIRMAN, SOUTH SIDE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. MONTELONGO. Senator, my name is Eugenio Montelongo, and I am chairman of the South Side Improvement Association. As it was stated, Reverend Gafford was not able to attend and he asked me to come in his place. I brought two other people that were supposed to come with him.

I am very pleased to hear that the people that preceded me said a lot of the things that I was going to talk about but mainly the people asked me to talk for them, the people of the south side and also other parts of the county. The problem they are having now is the problem of relocation. As they have said before, they have plans for the south side being a business district and people are worried about where they are going to be sent. This is one of the things we have tried to do something about. If only the local governments will let us into the hearings or discussions where we could take part in deciding where we want to be, but the people of this part of town, they want to stay where they are and want to see what can be worked out for where they can get housing. They want to find out where they can go and who they can go to and how the Government can help us develop housing in south El Paso. I have lived there all my life and I feel very proud of south El Paso.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Montelongo, what areas are included in south El Paso? In my young days it was that area west of Cordova Island and south of where Paisano Street is now and north of the border. Does that include any of the territory east of Cordova Island? Is that part of south El Paso too?

Mr. MONTELONGO. Well, that is part of it.

Senator YARBOROUGH. How far east would it go?

Mr. MONTELONGO. To about Pecan Street.

Senator YARBOROUGH. It would be west of Pecan? All right, thank you.

Mr. MONTELONGO. We found that the city is planning to develop this area into an industrial district. Like they have mentioned, this half a million dollar community center is set up there and it is going to be quite silly to have all those warehouses all around it for everybody that is going to take part in the programs to see, but we, as the people of the south side, as Mr. De la Rosa mentioned, we are very proud of our accomplishments, our co-op, and we are not lazy. We are willing to do something for ourselves. We are always working on housing and we are

trying to organize other programs where we can get funds through the Federal Government. Also, we are discussing several other projects, like medicare and how we can, ourselves, raise funds and can buy the properties in south El Paso so this way we will be sure to stay in south El Paso. It is going to take work and money and we are willing to work and we are going to need some help, some legal assistance, and we are open to anyone that wants to give us the legal assistance.

INCOME: \$35 A MONTH

Like this lady on my left, her name is Mrs. Velasquez, age 87, and she has been living in El Paso and Arizona over 25 years. This lady lives in two small rooms with no services of any kind. She pays \$18 a month and her income is \$35 per month from social security left by her husband. She is in poor health and has no relatives and only a few friends to help her take care of herself. Welfare has not been able to do anything about it and Project Bravo helped her with food and clothing and transportation in every possible way. As you know, she is hard of hearing and she cannot express herself. There is a lot of other people that wanted to come but the place kind of scares them away but in the future, I think any hearings of this kind should be held in their community without all of the microphones and all this lot of people and they would come and speak. There is a lot of problems. I would like for you to hear from Mr. Ortega who is with me. Mr. Ortega, can you speak English?

**STATEMENT OF MR. ORTEGA**

Mr. ORTEGA. I ain't had very much education. I know English. I was born Arizona in the year May 20, 1907. My father work with copper mines most of his life. We came to El Paso in 1921 because there was this big depression going on there so times were pretty hard in El Paso so I had to drop out of school to help my daddy pay the rent and so on. During these times wages was pretty low. There was no gas. We had to buy wood for kindling and so on. During that time most of my lifework was here in El Paso. It is pretty hard to take note of the places because it would take a lot of time. I even worked in this courthouse right here for, I believe it was, Mr. Morgan, and I worked during the depression. I was in three camps, CC camps in Arizona and Las Cruces. After I come home I got with the WWP. I worked in all them public schools replacing broken windows. I started working as a laborer and then they find out I knew a little English. After that I go to California and see if I can find work. There were whole families living—riding freight trains and people asked if they could get in jail, if they had vacancy so they could stay for the night. They just wanted a place to stay. We went through the bread lines and I was one of them and I am 61 years. I am going to be 62 next year but I would say about 3 or 4 years ago I had an accident. I was hit with a heavy object and I landed in the hospital but 1 month before the hospital my wife was there too and it was a broken

leg and I was discharged from the hospital and they treat us very, very nice, very, very nice and I am very thankful for them people. Course I couldn't work too. I can't even work right now. They been helping us ever since and give us one room. That room is our kitchen, that room is our living room. We ain't got no—we live in that same room I would say 9 by 12 feet. I am very grateful about the county assistance agency. If it wasn't for them where would we be right now? My wife, she is sick too. She is going to be 61 years too. I don't know what we would do without county assistance and I thank you, county assistance agency, from the bottom of my heart. If it hadn't been for you we probably would have starved to death. That is about all I have got to say, thank you very much.

Senator YARBOROUGH. When you reach 62 next year will you come under social security?

Mr. ORTEGA. I have no income of no kind. Social security turned me down because they told me I just been here around nine quarters. This accident happened to me about 5 years ago. During that time social security come around most of the time. When I was working for contractors there was no social security at all and then I was drafted in the Navy and I took my oath right here in this court and they find something wrong with me over there and I just stay 1 month but I was—the war was almost over when I was discharged. I come back and the Army called me and I went to Logal Heights Reception Center and they find something wrong with me so they turned me down. I was 4-F. I didn't pass the physical examination.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You didn't draw any disabled veterans payments?

Mr. ORTEGA. No, I was just there 1 month and I didn't see no action. It was almost 1945, a little before the war was over but I took a little basic training in San Diego and I didn't have enough education. I didn't pass the written examination or anything like that. We have a lot of young kids in there and one young kid, he was our chief petty officer, cause he was well educated and he was very smart because he had enough education, which I didn't, so that is just about all I got to say. I am very happy. The County Assistance Agency gives us \$28 for food stamps and \$27 for rent and I am very proud—very grateful and thankful for the County Assistance Agency and I thank you again.

#### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM CHANGES

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you for your statement and I will order it printed in the record at this point. There was an article in the New York Times, December 12, 1968, an announcement by Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, that beginning in February, the lowest income groups get at least \$10 more in food stamps for the same amount of money they are paying now. That means about 500,000 persons will be able to get more food under the revision and that will increase stamps for poor families with up to \$70 a month. I won't take time to read the full statement but it will be ordered printed at this point in the record and I think it important that we note that.

(The article referred to follows:)

[From the New York Times, Dec. 12, 1968]

#### FOOD STAMP PLAN TO BE LIBERALIZED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The poorest Americans will get more food for their money under a liberalization of the Federal Food Stamp Program announced today by Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman.

Beginning in February, the lowest income poor will get at least \$10 more in food stamps for the same amount of money they are paying now.

Mr. Freeman and Rodney E. Leonard, administrator of the consumers and marketing division of the Department of Agriculture, disclosed that the department's existing stamp formula had been based on more money than the poor actually spent for food each month.

Mr. Leonard said that a recent survey showed that the poor actually spent less than the department had used in formulating their tables for the distribution of food stamps. The revision announced today, he said, was a step in trying to correct the situation.

#### FUNDS TERMED SHORT

He estimated that the revised program would cost an additional \$14-million this year and \$25-million the next fiscal year, starting July 1, 1969. The current program is running at about a total of \$230-million, which Mr. Freeman said was far short of the \$1-billion needed to assure the poor of "fair minimum" diets.

Mr. Freeman announced the revised program in a talk before the Falls Church High School student body in nearby Fairfax County, Va., where the student council is engaged in a Christmas food drive for the poor.

About 500,000 persons will be able to get more food under the revisions, he said. He also told a briefing on the new plan that there was "little hope" that the poor would get free stamps, as demanded by some members of Congress and welfare workers, because of "opposition in Congress."

"This is not a relief program," he said, "it's a food stamp program." Mr. Freeman also has opposed free stamps on grounds that purchase of stamps provided an incentive to the poor to upgrade their diets.

The revised program increases stamps for poor families with an income of up to \$70 a month. There was no increase in the amount of stamps above the \$70 a month level.

The revised program is scaled slightly downward for Southern states where, Mr. Leonard said, living costs are lower than Northern states.

In February, a family of four in the South with an income of less than \$30 a month will be able to purchase \$58 worth of food for \$2 in stamps. At present, \$2 in stamps buys \$48 in food. At the top of the range, a family of four with a monthly income of \$70 will be able to buy \$62 worth of food for \$24 in stamps.

In Northern states, a four-person household will be able to get \$2 in stamps worth \$60 in food on a \$30 a month income. The present exchange is \$52 in food for \$2 in stamps.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I also want to state more fully, as I mentioned a moment ago, that I introduced a bill in 1967 on citizenship. My bill provided that those that lived in the United States for 20 years, at least, and were at least 50 years of age, be exempted from the English language requirement imposed. My bill was attached to Edward Kennedy's bill and we were unable to get those bills out of the committee but we plan to continue working along that line. I want to ask a question. I am also a member of this full committee's subcommittee on the consumer interests of the elderly. We have worked on truth in lending and truth in packaging. Have you ever had any experience with the small loan companies here in these years?

Mr. ORTEGA. No.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Are there any questions by the staff? If not, thank you very much for your help. If there are no further questions we will, in an effort to finish all witnesses, excuse you, unless you have another statement you want to make.

All right, thank you for expressing your views and please express our regrets to Father Gafford that he couldn't be here today.

The next witness is Mr. Thomas Sinclair, assistant director, Project Machos. I notice you have a prepared statement. We have it here and you may condense it if you wish and file a full statement and we will print the full statement in the record and then orally you may make a condensation of this statement if you prefer.

**STATEMENT OF THOMAS SINCLAIR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,  
PROJECT MACHOS**

Mr. SINCLAIR. Thank you. I am sorry I don't have 50 copies. They will be here later this afternoon.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You have enough copies for us here while you are testifying. We will distribute the others to other members of the committee.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I would like to outline for you what I am going to talk about, and then I will condense what I have to say in the written statement. Basically, there are four points I am concerned with.

First of all, I would like to give you a brief history of the program I work for; second, to talk about the citizen participation in Federal housing programs; third, to mention some things about representation of poor people from south El Paso; and fourth, to mention the old-age housing now being planned.

To begin with, Project Machos was funded under the Adam Clayton Powell amendment to the OEO act which said that in certain communities, OEO money could go directly to a board of directors of poor people, if it was approved by the local CAP agency. We were first funded in July of 1967, and we were refunded for this year. With the passage of the Green amendment we were not able to continue under the Adam Clayton Powell amendment. We had to receive permission from the local CAP agency which we did receive. The most important thing about our program is that we run it entirely as a self-help agency. Almost all of the funds which we spend are for salaries, not programs. Our philosophy is that if the project is really to be successful in the final analysis, then the poor people should raise the money for their own program eventually. One problem we have found in the past, is that programs are planned first by a small group and then put in a community. Our approach is to organize people first, find out what they are interested in, and then raise the money for these programs.

One of the main things we did was start a food cooperative, which opened about 6 months ago. In order to start it, we raised \$2,000 from south El Paso. The average yearly income there is about the same amount—\$2,000—so that is quite a bit of money for these people

to put out. But this is their cooperative. We think it will be here 10 or 15 years from now, whether we are or not.

#### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Now, to turn briefly to the subject of citizen participation, I must say it has become more popular with the advent of these hearings. I would like to discuss some of the things that have happened over the past 4 months in this regard in which we have been directly involved. I don't want to take up an awful lot of time in saying or restating to you what the conditions are in south El Paso. I think it should be evident to anyone who has lived here what the conditions are. You have there the very worst housing in this part of the United States. The normal family will have two rooms, which 5½ people usually share, 10 feet by 10 feet each, with 30 people sharing the same toilet, and no shower. I think it is quite obvious that something has to be done about the housing situation. The question with which we are faced is how this is to be done, which, of course, is the entire question of citizen participation. I would like to mention at the beginning, however, that I think a basis for cooperation between the people of south El Paso and the housing authority and citizen's advisory committee is being worked out. It looks now as if things are going to come about much to the satisfaction of everyone.

Nevertheless, I would like to bring up some of the problems that have arisen in the past, for whatever value they might have for this city and others. We first became interested in the area of low-income housing a little less than a year ago. The city passed a housing code which eventually made them eligible for Federal funds. They submitted a workable program for community improvement. This document does not entitle them to funds as such, but it does entitle them to request funds. We were able to obtain a copy of this document and noted that there were two committees listed in it. There was a citizens' advisory committee and a subcommittee on minority group housing, which was to handle specific problems relating to minority groups, such as placement, relocation, and all this sort of thing.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Do you have a list of the members of those committees?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes; do you want me to read them?

Senator YARBOROUGH. Yes; read it or——

Mr. SINCLAIR (continuing). Why don't I give you that afterwards?

Senator YARBOROUGH. All right. Were representatives of social workers and others who work with the poor and elderly on these committees?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes, but we would like to have seen more representation.

Senator YARBOROUGH. All right, go ahead.

Mr. SINCLAIR. To continue the story, briefly, over the past few months, we have been trying to obtain the minutes of the meetings of the citizens' advisory committee, which we were unable to do.

Senator YARBOROUGH. How was that citizens' advisory committee set up?

Mr. SINCLAIR. It was appointed by the mayor. It grew out of another committee, I believe, appointed in 1964, a very large committee and it was eventually condensed to 20 or 25 members, if I am correct.

In the past, there was a council on slum housing set up to study these problems, and eventually the citizens' advisory committee was condensed out of the larger committee. The chairman of that was Rev. James Oliver of the First Presbyterian Church.

Let me continue with what happened in our attempt to find out what was going on. We tried to obtain the minutes from the meetings, and we were simply turned down. We pointed out to the planning department that there is a public information law in Texas and one for the United States as a whole. We were told by Mr. Pearson that these laws did not apply to the citizens' advisory committee.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The laws of Texas and the United States in public information, you were advised, didn't apply to the citizens' advisory committee?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes; that is correct.

Senator YARBOROUGH. All a man has to do to evade the law is appoint him an advisory committee; is that correct?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I suppose.

Of course, our main interest in all of this was to find out where these low-income units were to be placed. There were a lot of rumors circulating that there were plans to place them in other parts of the county. This is a copy of the workable program and it does say in here that south El Paso was informed of all of the plans of the citizens' advisory committee. That simply was not the case. We were able to talk to Mr. John Dockendorf, of the housing authority, about these low-income units. He has always been more than willing to cooperate with us. Through his cooperation, we attended a meeting of the housing authority board; we did find out at this meeting that the contractors were submitting plans for areas a long way from south El Paso.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Where were the areas where the plans were being made?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Well, some were to be located not too far from south El Paso. Some, as I recall, were farther down the highway in the vicinity of Tigua and Ysleta. Some were in the vicinity of Fort Bliss and some were near Chelsea Street, which is near Bassett Center, if you know where that is.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That is not an area where the poor are concentrated, is it?

Mr. SINCLAIR. No, it is not. It is an area where land was obtainable by the contractors to put the housing, I presume at a rather minimal cost compared to south El Paso.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That is minimal cost out at Bassett Center?

Mr. SINCLAIR. No, but I think it is safe to estimate the land is cheaper down the highway than in south El Paso these days.

#### SEVENTEEN NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

All right, we started discussing these plans with people in south El Paso. We have 17 neighborhood organizations in south El Paso and we discussed the possibility of moving to other parts of the country with the people in these organizations. In each conversation, we brought up the point "Have you ever been informed that the low-income housing might be located in other parts of the county?" and they would say, "No." And then, "Do you want to move?" "No." And,

"Under any circumstances would you move?" And their answer, "No, unless there was no other housing available."

Some of the people in the larger community that we discussed this with would argue, "Well, maybe it is better to place the poor people in another part of the county." We don't want to argue about that. Our only argument is that the people from south El Paso itself should be guaranteed a voice in what happens.

I don't think you do people any favor by planning to move them to another part of the county, and then informing them after the plans are made. And particularly since all during this planning period, the Subcommittee on Minority Group Housing was supposed to be meeting, and it wasn't. Let me talk about that subcommittee for a minute. We noted who the representative of south El Paso was, a man by the name of J. M. Bustillos. When we contacted him and asked him how things were going on the subcommittee, he said "What subcommittee?" He did remember that a city alderman had asked him to be on a committee about 3 months previously, but he never heard anything about it again and didn't know what committee it was.

We felt we were at a dead end with the subcommittee. We took two other avenues. We called the regional office in Fort Worth where we spoke to a gentleman named Clyde Emmons. I informed him of the situation and asked him if there was some way we could get the subcommittee to meet. He told me that there was not. He told me of instances of communities in which no people on any of the committees had ever been informed that they were on them. I said, "Can't you do something about that?" and he said, "No, once we have certified these programs, we don't have the right to go into the community and ask if they are doing what they said they would." I said "Well, how about the people that give out the money for housing programs, do they have any interest in citizen participation?" He assured me that they had no interest whatsoever. He suggested we elect a new mayor.

This led us to the idea of going to the mayor and seeing if we couldn't get something started with this subcommittee. We went to the League of Women Voters because they had chosen housing as a study project. We went around and spoke to nearly all of the members in four separate unit meetings. They passed a resolution and had their president, Mrs. Irwin Brand, approach the mayor about getting this subcommittee to meet. He told her that the subcommittee did not meet because they did not have anything to do. This is rather hard to understand because the plans which concerned the subcommittee were, at that very time, being made. Last week, the subcommittee did meet, a week ago today, and it looks as if we are really moving in the right direction. Mr. Bustillos and Mr. Ramirez, gratefully, suggested that some of the organizations in south El Paso be allowed to put representatives on the subcommittee. Mr. Bustillos and Mr. Ramirez were appointed by the mayor. We were, of course, very much in favor of more representation. One of the members of the subcommittee suggested, however, that the people who represent organizations from south El Paso be put on kind of a sub-subcommittee. The objection which I must raise is that the people who really represent somebody in terms of being responsible to a community are at the very lowest level of decisionmaking. Those

who are going to be affected by the decisions have least to say about them in other words. I think you enter a very dangerous situation when those who represent a community do not have direct lines of responsibility to those they represent.

#### NEED FOR REPRESENTATION

I don't call into question at all the good faith of the people that have been appointed by the mayor, but I do say that if the people of such a community, poor or otherwise, feel that they are not being properly represented, they have no recourse. What this all comes down to is more of an opinion than a legal question, but I think it is very difficult to get any kind of meaningful representation on any level until you have got some kind of organization to be represented. I use the example, which might be a little ludicrous of the President not appointing Congress after he has been elected. People in Congress are elected, and they are responsible to a constituency. I think the principle should be the same on the local level. I think we are fortunate in south El Paso in having some organizations, as fragile as they might be at this point, that can put forth representatives.

I think it is a dangerous situation that has come up in the northern cities with the Negro people in terms of this matter of representation. Say for example, that some kind of crisis arises. You have a riot or some kind of civil disorder. What you often have happening is that a group of enterprising blacks, or some other minority group members, get together and go see the mayor. They say, "We are black. We are minority group members. We understand our people. We can do something about this situation, but you will have to come up with some kind of grant for us to run a program." I think this is the kind of thing we really want to avoid.

Now, concerning the matter of representatives, not of the poor, but of the middle class, on the committee and subcommittee. There is, sitting on the committee—in fact he is the vice chairman of that committee—a man named Garland, of Garland & Hilles, architects. Their architectural firm submitted plans for low income housing. Now this committee has a right to make certain decisions about the placement of that housing. I think a person that has a vested interest in its location is not the best person for that committee. The same thing exists with the subcommittee. There is a man there that submitted plans for low-income housing too.

Senator YARBOROUGH. One question, in your statement there, who is head of the city-county health unit?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Dr. Hornedo.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Does he own any houses in south El Paso?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes, he does.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Who appoints the city health inspectors?

Mr. SINCLAIR. I think they are hired by, I believe, they are hired by this man. They are in his office but whether he does the hiring—

Senator YARBOROUGH. They work under him?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Yes.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Go ahead and finish your statement.

## SUPPORT FROM FAMILIES

Mr. SINCLAIR. Now lastly, I want to bring up the subject of housing for the aged here in El Paso. We run into a lot of aged people in south El Paso. This should be obvious. I think one peculiarity or important factor about the Mexican-American community is that many of the aged people depend on support from their extended families. It is not like growing old if you are an Anglo. You have a lot more support from the family. Now, presently, there is only one housing project for aged people here in the county. Another is being planned. My objection concerns the location of this new proposed housing. By placing it away from south El Paso, you are going to discourage Mexican-Americans from moving there and living. You are going to make it more difficult for their families to offer the kind of support they have been giving. You have got to remember that only 40 percent of the families in south El Paso have cars. Transportation is a problem.

So I raise the objection of the proposed location on Chelsea Street and also the fact that the site was picked before the Subcommittee on Minority Group Housing even met.

It hasn't been approved by HUD as yet.

Recently there has been a study by HEW entitled "Factors of Utilization of Services by the Mexican-American Elderly" which concerns mostly San Antonio. I haven't read all of it, but it says in part that when housing for the aged is located outside the normal parts of the Mexican-American community, then this discourages very, very strongly the use of that housing by elderly Mexican-Americans.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I might say, Mr. Sinclair, we found that, too, in Los Angeles, if the housing was moved away from the community where they lived they just couldn't get them to move away from the community regardless of the condition of the housing they had.

## "LOWER MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSING"

Mr. SINCLAIR. Now, another problem comes up with what is called Sun Plaza, which is the present housing complex for the aged. The minimum rent is \$40. Well, why is that higher than the rest of the low-income housing projects? Mr. Munoz of the housing authority says it is because they have air conditioning there. I said to him, "How about this place you want to build on Chelsea Street?" He said, "Well, we strongly hope we will get air conditioning there." Well, \$40 minimum rent is going to make it almost impossible to serve the needs of the elderly Mexican-Americans. We called the planning department and said "If we were to move into El Paso and rent an apartment on the open market comparable to the low-income housing for the aged, what would it cost us?" The answer was \$72. So you can see Sun Plaza is not really low-income housing. It is lower middle-income housing. Now it seems to me that if you have to choose between putting in air conditioning and raising the minimum rent by \$12.50, which means serving the people that really need the housing, then the air conditioning should go. I also inquired of Mr. Munoz how many Mexican-American people there were in the present housing for the aged. He told me it was 35 percent. I have been in and out of that building innumerable times during the past 6 months and I have never seen a

Mexican-American. I seriously doubt that one-third that many Mexican-Americans are living there.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Which project?

Mr. SINCLAIR. Sun Plaza.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Now I think one serious problem you run into is this matter of minimum rent. If what Mr. Telles said is correct, that the housing authority is making money off this housing, then it seems to me, quite obviously, that some of this money should be reinvested so that the minimum rent can be lowered. At the green card hearings held here less than a year ago there was testimony to the effect that El Paso has got the lowest wage scale of any major urban center in Texas and Texas has got among the lowest wage scales in the United States. In other words, there are very poor people here. There are people who can't pay the \$27.50 minimum any way you slice it. So it seems to me that you are going to run a serious risk, particularly with the housing authority making money, of providing housing for the not so poor, and then those who are really poor are just going to be in worse housing than they have now. The reason for that is that if things go like we think they will, the present tenements will be torn down. And what people move into after that, I just don't know. I think rent supplement programs should be explored to lower the minimum rents.

#### LIMITATIONS ON ENTRY INTO HOUSING

Now there are other matters in terms of housing. This I get from one of our staff members who has worked quite extensively in the projects. I don't get it from the housing authority. One of the objections which people raise to public housing is that it is extremely difficult for a person on welfare to get in. This is because their source of income is categorized as unstable.

Also, it is very difficult for people with large families to get in. And I understand that at least one member of any family living in a public housing project must be a citizen. Now what these three things add up to are that people who need housing the most are the ones that don't get it. It seems to me, particularly in the matter of citizenship that if a person is eligible to be drafted, if he is eligible to fight a war, and not eligible for public housing there is something seriously wrong. The general philosophy of the Immigration Service, as I understand it, is to admit people to the United States on the basis that they have something to offer. It doesn't seem very logical to me to admit people to our country on that basis and then put them in the very worst environment we have got. That is almost precluding the possibility of their developing into tax-paying citizens.

#### AMIGOS DE LOS MACHOS

Now, I will just conclude by saying that in spite of all these things that have happened in the past, I think we are moving in the right direction. The chairman of the main committee last Wednesday night made a statement at the first meeting of the Subcommittee on Minority Group Housing that he would propose the location of 1,600 units in south El Paso. I would like to also mention one thing that we have

done. Let me preface this by explaining that we have organized a middle-class group of people called the Amigos De Los Machos. This middle-class group often speaks and can get a hearing where the people of south El Paso cannot.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You say this Amigos De Los Machos is a middle-class group organized to help the poor get representation and the aged get representation and service. I noticed on page 15 of your statement, Mr. Sinclair :

Citizen participation in regard to housing for the aged has been zero at the present time, at least insofar as elderly Mexican-Americans are concerned.

Is this Amigos organization organized for the purpose of getting representation as regards to the Mexican-American aged ?

Mr. SINCLAIR. It wasn't specifically organized in regards to the Mexican-American aged, but that has become one of the things that is interrelated.

To reiterate, the subcommittee did not meet before the decision was made about placement of this housing. Now the Amigos De Los Machos have addressed a letter to the citizens' advisory committee saying they are aware that the citizens' advisory committee has changed their minds about the location of the housing, that they would like it in south El Paso. Then the Amigos offer to act as mediators in case any disputes arise in the future. Our hope is that this group will be able to watch over, not to oversee, but to keep an eye on the situation. And when injustices do occur the people from south El Paso will come to this group and present their case. This group can speak for them. This group has a much better chance of getting a hearing, at least if the past is any indication, than the people from south El Paso.

To summarize, I think we are moving in the right direction. Our problem is getting to the people at the very bottom of the scale. One of two things can happen. The person at the bottom can benefit, if things are planned correctly. Or if they are not planned correctly, he can end up worse off than he was to start with.

Thank you very much.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Sinclair, you mentioned the fact that Texas has the lowest—one of the lowest wage scales in the Nation and that El Paso has one of the lowest wage scales in Texas. Of course, the problem being Texas is the only large State, large population, only industrial State, only rich State that has no minimum wage law.

Thirty-eight of the 50 States have minimum wage laws. All of the 12 or 13 with no State minimum wage laws are little population, small, weak States except for Texas. Texas is the only big, rich State with no State minimum wage law. I think Congress remedied that somewhat for the people of Texas by the 1966 minimum wage law which for the first time brought under its protective folds those who work in service industries, laundries, and hospitals and cafeterias and hotels and many other types and places. This has helped the situation in Texas but not through a State minimum wage law and, of course, El Paso suffers from that failure to have a State minimum wage law but the Federal minimum wage law of 1966 aided more people in Texas than any other State in the Union. That is one reason, of course, for our low social security payments in Texas, the wages paid in past decades in Texas have been so low that the social security is based correspond-

ingly. We are worse off than other industrial States. Texas has become urbanized and industrialized. Of the 10 biggest cities in the Union two are in Texas. Of the 15 bigger cities three are in Texas. Whether counted by the 10 largest cities or the 15 largest cities, Texas, with  $5\frac{1}{2}$  percent of the population or  $5\frac{1}{4}$  has 20 percent of the 10 largest cities or 20 percent of the 15 largest cities.

Are you familiar with recent rezoning of south El Paso to commercial?

MR. SINCLAIR. No; that is not correct. There has not been recent rezoning to commercial. Since the 1930's south El Paso has been zoned commercial manufacturing, for the most part.

Senator YARBOROUGH. There hasn't been any recent rezoning?

#### RELOCATION DIFFICULTIES

MR. SINCLAIR. We are attempting to have south El Paso rezoned as a residential area. The reason for this was dramatized by a situation in which a major grocery concern came in and bought a couple of tenement houses in south El Paso. They planned to tear them down and put a wholesale grocery outlet there. Immediately, some gigantic problems arose because people could not find other places to live, for comparable rent. Something like 15 percent or so of the people were able to move into \$40 places. But the rest of the people simply could not afford that. We became involved when the people were being moved out. A lot of these people were going to agents in south El Paso saying they wanted apartments. The agents were saying, "You can't move in, your family is too big. The housing code prohibits your moving in there." Their concern with the housing code was something quite new on the horizon. So we went to the agents and said, "OK, if you want to obey that part, suppose you obey the rest of the housing code by putting running water in every apartment and bathrooms." Eventually the agents gave way. But if arbitrarily moving people out happens on any large scale at all, people are going to be displaced. There is going to be no place for them to go. This is why we have tried to emphasize that if the low-income housing is placed in south El Paso, as we hope most of it will be, you must follow a plan of building. For example, you must build on an empty lot first. Then you move the people from another block in. Then you tear down the tenements where they were living and build. So you establish a pattern. You can't go in and tear things down all at once because the people won't have any place to live.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Sinclair, you heard questions raised about the possible use of 128 acres of Cordova Island for housing. You have worked here and you know the plans for Bowie High School and you know of the other plans. What do you think about that? Do you think that is feasible? Do you think it would downgrade the use of the surroundings of the school or home complex there? You have studied this and from knowing where these housing projects are proposed and where the people live, what do you think of the suggestion that possibly part of the 128 acres be used for housing for the elderly?

MR. SINCLAIR. Well, personally I think it would be a good idea. I have no argument with it. However, as I have said in this regard be-

fore, I am not speaking for the people. What I think is essential is that the people who are affected must have some voice in saying how these affairs are carried out.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I have read your entire statement and you have stressed all through it that nobody has really been selected by them to represent the people.

Mr. SINCLAIR. That's right. I think you run into very serious problems when the people are simply shuffled around, particularly in regards to south El Paso because it is a much stronger community than slums normally are.

In regards to the subject you brought up before of low wages, I was going to say that one of the reasons we found people want to stay in south El Paso are economic reasons. People can walk to Juarez and shop and people can get downtown easily and people can get to work fairly easily. Where you have got a very depressed wage scale I think it is a very bad idea to interfere with things that help the people save a little money.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Sinclair, yours is a comprehensive statement and it will be printed in full in the record. If we could have some more copies we would be grateful. You have condensed it due to our time limits and I appreciate it. I know it took a great deal of research. Are there any questions by the members of the staff? Fine. Thank you very much.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Sinclair follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF TOM SINCLAIR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PROJECT MACHOS, EL PASO, TEX.

In this statement, I will discuss the questions which Senator Yarborough sent to me, especially those relating to citizen participation in low-income housing projects, and the relationship of federally financed housing to the poor in El Paso.

I then want to make some observations about improving the situation. I shall base my comments upon my experience over the past 3½ years as a Vista Volunteer and as Assistant Director of Project Machos.

The most important thing about the poor in El Paso is the housing they live in. It is the worst housing in this part of the United States, and I include all of the Southwest. In terms of the proximity of tenants, the unavailability of running water, and scarcity of rest room facilities, the housing in South El Paso is the very worst you can find in the Southwest.

In the average tenement dwelling, there are, perhaps, 25 apartments. These apartments usually consist of 2 rooms, 10 feet by 10 feet each. In these 2 rooms will live an average of 5.2 people. Each 12 families or so will share a sink. (There is usually one sink per floor, with two floors per tenement house.) There will also usually be 2 or 3 rest rooms, located at the back of the tenement building, for each 12 or 13 families. That means that up to 30 people will share the same toilet, if all of the toilets are in working order, which is often not the case.

I bring up these rather unfortunate facts of life in South El Paso to emphasize the need for low income housing for people of all ages. There simply is no other solution. If the City of El Paso expects to meet the very minimal standards of human decency, these housing conditions must be eradicated.

The question which we are faced with presently is HOW to do this, which is the whole question of citizen participation. I must say that until about two weeks ago, the situation seemed desperate indeed. I do think that at the present time, a basis for cooperation between the people of South El Paso and the Housing Authority and Citizens' Advisory Committee has been worked out. About two weeks ago, Mayor Williams did make the announcement on television that he wanted to locate the low-income housing in South El Paso, and the location of the new housing was the biggest problem which we were facing.

As I said, I do think that a basis of cooperation does now exist, and will continue to exist, but I want to outline some of the problems which we faced in the

past. A restatement of these past problems will offer a good deal of insight into what problems might arise in the future.

We in Project Machos first became involved with federal housing projects about 6 months ago when we learned of the possibility of low-income housing coming into the El Paso Area. As you are probably aware, last January, the City of El Paso did pass a new Housing Code, which eventually made the City eligible for federal funds. We inquired and found that a "Workable Program for Community Improvement" had been submitted to H.U.D. and had been accepted. We did get a copy of this Workable Program for the City Planning Department. In this proposal, we found that certain provisions had been made for citizens participation. There was a Citizens' Advisory Committee set up and also a Subcommittee on Minority Group Housing. The members were listed for both the Committee and the Subcommittee, and these were different people. In other words, the Subcommittee members were not necessarily also Committee members.

We found out that the Citizens' Advisory Committee had been meeting regularly. We tried to obtain the minutes from those meetings to find out what plans they had in terms of the low-income housing, but we were told that this information was not open to the public and we could not see the minutes. We pointed out that there is a Public Information Law in Texas and one for the United States as a whole too. We were told by Mr. Pearson of the Planning Commission that these laws did not apply to the Citizens' Advisory Committee.

We then had a conversation with Mr. John Dockendorf of the Housing Authority about these low income units. Mr. Dockendorf has always been more than willing to cooperate. He told us that the low income units which were to be built came under the Turnkey Program, which provided for individual contractors to submit plans for the housing. The Housing Authority Board would then pick the most feasible plan, the contractor would build the units, and upon satisfactory completion, the contractor would be paid by H.U.D. through the Housing Authority.

Naturally, we were most interested in *where* these units were to be located. We subsequently attended a Housing Authority Board meeting and saw some of the plans which were submitted. All of the plans were submitted for areas other than South El Paso, and the vast majority were very far away.

So we began discussing these plans with people in South El Paso. We have 17 neighborhood organizations in South El Paso, and we discussed the possibility of moving to other parts of the county with the people in these organizations. Invariably, the response was quite negative. We spoke to no one who was in favor of moving to other parts of the county. It is interesting to note that these people did not have the slightest idea what the Housing Authority had in mind.

Now, naturally, people are not usually disposed to picking up their belongings and moving to unknown parts. But besides this, there are other reasons why people do not want to leave South El Paso. For example, this is an area where immigrants from Mexico have traditionally settled upon arrival in the United States. This makes the community ties very strong. Some people even choose to live in South El Paso when they have more than enough money to move to other, more comfortable, parts of the City. And then, too, there are economic reasons. If you are living in South El Paso, you can easily walk to Juarez to shop. It is generally easy to get to work from South El Paso, and it is easy to get to downtown. And only about 40% of the families own cars, so it is not a very mobile community, and moving to other parts of the county would work a hardship so far as transportation is concerned.

During the Green Card hearings which were held here in El Paso a little less than a year ago, there was testimony given that wages in El Paso were the lowest of the major urban centers in Texas, which, as a state, had among the lowest wage scales in the country. Because of such low wages, people in South El Paso are always looking for ways to economize. Moving the people to other distant parts of the county would only make things more difficult for them. They did not ask for these low wages.

#### RELUCTANCE TO MOVE

Having found out that the vast majority of the people in South El Paso did not want to move to other areas, we began to wonder if we could do something about the situation. We decided to contact the man listed as the representative for South El Paso to the Subcommittee on Minority Group Housing in the "Workable Program," a man named J. M. Bustillos. When we contacted him, we found that he was not aware that he was on such a Subcommittee, although he did remember being approached by a City official to serve on some committee several

months previously. He never heard from the City official again. With a little more inquiry, we did find out that this Subcommittee had never met.

When we looked in the "Workable Program", we did see that the Subcommittee was specifically to handle "neighborhood participation" and "relocation housing" (p. 24, "Workable Program"), both of which were very crucial to the residents of South El Paso. Because the Subcommittee had never met however, the man who had been appointed to represent South El Paso had naturally never been able to express his opinion. And the Housing Authority was considering the plans at that very time which the Subcommittee was to have a voice in.

We then decided to take this issue to the Mayor. We decided since the League of Women Voters had taken up housing for a study project, and since we had spoken with nearly all of the members in four separate unit meetings, we would ask them to approach the Mayor about the Subcommittee. So on November 6, Mrs. Irwin (Peg) Brand did approach the Mayor about getting this Subcommittee to meet. The Mayor told her that the Subcommittee did not meet because they did not have anything to do. This was rather hard to understand because the decisions were, at that very time, being made in which this Subcommittee was supposed to have a voice.

We also decided to take up this matter with Mr. Dockendorf. He did say that the Housing Authority Board was in favor of locating most of the low-income housing in South El Paso, but that no contractors had submitted plans for this area. We inquired as to whether or not the Board could exercise the Right of Eminent Domain. Mr. Dockendorf said that they could, but were reluctant to do so, for fear of being sued by the tenement owners.

As you can see, we were facing a very difficult situation. We tried calling the H.U.D. Regional Office in Fort Worth, where I spoke with a gentleman named Clyde Emmons. I inquired if there was not some way that the Regional Office could get the Subcommittee to meet. He said that there was not. In fact, in the course of the conversation, he said that there were some cities in which no one, on any of the committees, had ever been informed that he was on the committee. I asked if the Regional Office had any objection to this sort of thing, in that it meant that a municipality was not doing what they said they would do in the Workable Program. He said that once the Workable Program was submitted and approved, their office had nothing more to do with it until the City came up for recertification. So I inquired as to whether the people in H.U.D. who gave out the funds had any concern with citizen participation. He assured me that they did not. I then said that the "Workable Program" must be a mere formality, and he agreed that this was basically correct. He also suggested that we elect a new Mayor if we could not work with the present one.

I include these comments of Mr. Emmons' to emphasize how difficult it is to get any meaningful citizenship participation in these programs.

#### PROBLEM OF REPRESENTATION

The other problem which we were facing was the problem of representation. I want to discuss this because it is at the heart of this whole citizen participation business. One of the main problems which arises is that elected officials *appoint* those who "represent" the poor. And the sad fact of the matter is that these people usually do not represent any one except themselves. To be a representative of a group of people, you must, at minimum, have their consent, and at best, be *elected* by them. Certainly this is a basic tenet of democracy which cannot be questioned under our form of government. For example, the President does not appoint the Congress. And this principle should be no different on the local level.

Now quite obviously, a line must be drawn. Certainly commissions appointed to study a problem and make reports are of great benefit, and there is no reason that these commissions should be elected.

But on the other hand, when a body has the right to make decisions which seriously and concretely effect the lives of people, this body should, in some meaningful sense, be *responsible* to those they represent.

I do not mean to say that the Mayor's appointees have necessarily misrepresented the people of South El Paso. I only say that if the day should arise when this happens, there are no lines of responsibility between these appointees and the people they represent. And this can only lead to a very dangerous situation.

Sal Ramirez and J. M. Bustillos are the two people appointed by the Mayor to represent South El Paso. I do not question the good faith of either of these

men. I simply say that neither of them has mass support from the community, and so they are not accountable to the very people whom they represent.

And that is just the hangup we have in the United States today. We cannot find the people who really represent the poor. That is because the poor are usually not organized. You can't get meaningful representation until you get some sort of organization which can *then* be represented.

Along these lines, I want to hazard an opinion about a situation which might be developing here in El Paso. I bring it up because if it is developing, it is very serious and has had very serious consequences in other communities across the country. I am referring to the situation which has developed in some other cities with the blacks. You see, let's suppose a crisis situation arises. Say there is a riot or some sort of civil disturbance. Well, those in charge of the City are perplexed about where to turn, what to do. So some enterprising black citizens get together and go to see the Mayor. They say, "We are black. We understand our people. We can do something about this situation, but you will have to get an O.E.O. grant for us." Of course the Mayor falls for it, the blacks get the money because the Mayor thinks they represent the black community, and then they retire into comfort with big salaries.

To a lesser extent in El Paso, this situation might be developing. You have a few Mexican-Americans here who have learned to play this game. They go to the Mayor, or to the federal government, and say that because they are blacks or Mexican-Americans, they can best work with their own people. And in theory, this is true. But what often happens is that these guys get the money and then decide to retire into a comfortable position, and they forget about their own people.

The only way to avoid this situation is to get together an organization which can put forth their representative. And if they don't like how they are being represented, they get rid of the guy.

Now in El Paso, the situation is more hopeful because there are some organizations in South El Paso. There is the Machos group, there is the Southside Improvement Association, and there is the Camino de las Viviendas. It was a hopeful sign last Wednesday night when Mr. Sal Ramirez suggested that representatives of these groups be put on the subcommittee on Minority Group Housing, even though, at the insistence of the El Paso National Bank representative, put on a subcommittee to the Subcommittee. This is better than no status at all, which was the previous situation.

One thing which we must realize in this business is that the real representatives of the poor may not sit too well with the local government. They often do not dress well or speak well. They are often not too articulate. But you are 100% better off with them than with someone who is not clearly responsible to those he represents.

Maybe all of this seems like nit picking, but it should be born in mind that democracy is a slow and arduous process. But in the final analysis, it is the best system of government in the world. By not being careful about true representation, any governmental body will ultimately pay a high price in the consequent social problems created.

I also want to mention another factor in representation which concerns the representatives of the middle class and not the poor. It is interesting to note that on the Citizens' Advisory Committee there is a man named Robert Garland, who works for Garland and Hillis, Architects. This firm presented plans for the low income housing to the Housing Authority.

#### THE "WORKABLE PROGRAM"

In the "Workable Program", it states, in part, that the duties of the Committee are to "Study certain areas of the city with housing problems. Discuss possible solutions." One of the "possible solutions" offered by the Committee was to relocate the new low-income housing in parts of the county distant from South El Paso. The proposal which Garland and Hillis presented asked for the new low income housing to be located in other parts of the county.

Because the Citizens' Advisory Committee is supposed to approve of the location of this housing, it hardly seems appropriate to have a person on that Committee who has submitted plans and has a vested interest in a particular location.

Also, listed in the "Workable Program" as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Minority Group Housing is Andrés Guevara of Guevara Realty. This realty company had submitted plans for the construction of low-income housing too.

Since this Subcommittee supposedly represents the voice of poor people, it seems that the placement of someone with a direct economic interest in the poor making a specific decision is not best. The people who should have a voice are those whose lives and living conditions are directly affected, and not those whose pocket books are affected.

This discussion of representation in a sense leads us to the question of why Project Machos has become involved, at least indirectly, in pressure tactics with the landlords. I want to say first of all that it is literally impossible to work in South El Paso, to organize people in South El Paso, without housing becoming the main issue. This is the problem which people feel affects them most stringently. And then you must realize too that when you try to do something about housing, you will immediately enter a very dangerous political situation. For example, the Head of the City-County Health Unit, Dr. Hornedo, owns tenement houses in South El Paso. (The City Health Inspectors work for him.) Until a couple of weeks ago, the son of the Editor of the *El Paso Times* was one of the largest agents for slum property in the Southside. The brother of the congressman from El Paso also owns tenement property. So if you decide to do something, you had better be prepared for some opposition.

And then the question arises of why something is not done through the City if all of these slumlords are not in compliance with the new Housing Code.

We tried doing something through the City inspectors. I must say that they were generally more than willing to help us, but they were very limited. For example, there are only two Health inspectors for the entire county. I understand that when an inspection is made by one of them, it might be up to 6 months before the inspector's work load permits him to recheck and see if any repairs have been made. Then, too, for more than 6 months now, the City Administration has been saying that they are going to hire 8 more inspectors, which would obviously better the situation. But these people have yet to be hired. In fact, one City official, whose name I cannot mention for obvious reasons, told me that word has come down from the Mayor not to enforce the new Housing Code.

Another factor works against us. This is the existence of the Tenement Board. This Board is made up of 6 persons. When a tenement owner receives a letter from the City inspectors that something is the matter with his property, he has the right to appeal to this Tenement Board for more time to make repairs. I understand that they will usually give him 1 or 2 months, and sometimes give him up to 3 or 4 months. (On this Tenement Board are 2 people who have direct or indirect interest in tenement property.) And then the fact is that if the person loses he appeal, or if his time runs out, and he is taken to court, the charge is only a misdemeanor, usually fineable only up to \$200.00. So obviously, it is often cheaper to pay the fine and start the process of appeal again.

Everything seems to be working against the tenant. In fact, in one Planning Commission report, it states that the Housing Code could not be enforced concerning doors that don't quite fit, and cause drafts, and poorly fitting windows. It cannot be enforced because the heating apparatuses are so bad, and anoxiation of tenants would result.

So we have found that the only practical way to get repairs is to organize the tenants and apply pressure to the landlords. In a sense, it is too bad we have to do this, but there are only so many alternatives to choose from. And if we are unable to do anything for the people with whom we work, then what justification is there for the expenditure of funds. It just gets to be a dole.

#### HOUSING FOR THE AGED

In the context of this discussion, I want to bring up the subject of housing for the aged. Citizen participation in regard to housing for the aged has been zero to the present time, at least insofar as elderly Mexican-Americans are concerned.

Recently the Housing Authority announced that they had chosen a tentative site, near Chelsea Street, for the new housing for the aged. (I understand that H.U.D. must now approve this site.) I disagree with the fact that this location was chosen before the Subcommittee on Minority Group Housing met. They are supposed to have a voice in these decisions. And there is the fact that this housing will be located away from South El Paso. I presume that elderly Mexican-Americans with little money are going to reside in these new apartments. So why

place them in an entirely different part of the city from South El Paso, where most of the impoverished elderly Mexican-Americans now reside? You must understand that in the Mexican-American culture, there are strong family ties. The elderly people depend on the larger family for many things. So why make it more difficult for their families to take care of them? Why can't the housing for the aged be located where the young and middle aged people live?

Another problem arises too. In the present housing for the aged, Sun Plaza, the minimum rent is \$40.00. This compares to a \$27.00 minimum in the rest of the low-income projects. Mr. Muñoz of the Housing Authority explained to me that the difference is brought about because there is air conditioning in Sun Plaza. Well, the practical effect of putting in air conditioning is that very few elderly, impoverished Mexican-Americans can live there. Mr. Muñoz states that the percentage is around 35% Mexican-American to 65% Anglo-American in Sun Plaza now. For my own part, I have never seen a Mexican-American living there, but even if these figures are correct, it is obvious that Sun Plaza is not a place for those people with very little money. With a minimum rent of \$40.00, this is lower middle income housing. (This \$40.00 compares to \$73.00 for comparable housing in El Paso according to the Department of Planning.)

This example brings up another problem in terms of all of the low-income housing which is to come into El Paso. Mr. Muñoz told me that the average rent will remain about \$33.00 for the new low-income housing [not for the aged], and the minimum will be \$27.00. (There are other charges too, such as a mandatory 50¢ for fumigation, \$1.00 for a radio, and \$1.00 for a television, etc., etc.)

#### CAN'T AFFORD MINIMUM RENT

The simple fact of the matter is that there are families which cannot afford the minimum rent. Some provision must be made for them. If it is not, you will end up with the really poor just being forced into even worse housing conditions than they now have—if that is conceivable. I understand that this problem has come up in other cities—that is, that the low-income housing has really become lower middle-income housing. This is one of the reasons that I think citizen participation is so important: If the people who are supposed to benefit from the low-income housing are involved from the beginning, they will not let themselves be squeezed out.

Now obviously there are certain budgetary limitations in these matters. The Housing Authority must meet certain expenses too. But when it comes to a question of putting in air conditioning—and thereby excluding the people who really need the housing because this little convenience raises the minimal rent by \$13.00 per month, then I think you should consider excluding the air conditioning.

I think too that there are more avenues open than the Housing Authority has explored. This is merely an opinion, but it does seem to me that rent supplement programs are available which could get that \$27.00 minimum rent reduced somewhat. We have got to keep asking ourselves how these programs effect the really poor people, the really disaffected and disenfranchised members of society. If we cannot help them, we are just creating larger problems for ourselves in the near future.

In this regard, I want to note what one of the Machos employees told me recently. He has been working in the Housing Projects, and he told me some of his opinions. He stated to me that persons on welfare have a particularly hard time getting into the Housing Projects because their source of income is not considered "stable." Many of the older people are on some form of welfare, and this policy makes it particularly difficult for them. Also, people with very large families are not eligible for the Projects because the Housing Authority does not allow overcrowded apartments. Also, any increase in a family's earnings must immediately be reported to the Housing Authority, which means that the family's rent is immediately increased; however, if the family's earnings decrease [if the man loses his job], the family must continue paying the same rent until their contract expires.

What all this means, if it is true, is that those who really need better housing are discriminated against. There is also a rule that at least one member of the family living in the Projects must be a citizen. This means that recent immi-

grants and permanent residents must live in the worst housing. It seems to me that these are the very people to whom we should be extending a helping hand. We admit them to the United States on the basis that they have something to offer, and then put them in an environment which, to say the very least, discourages their developing into fully productive members of society. Furthermore, it seems to me quite ludicrous that our government can ask residents to fight a war in Vietnam, and perhaps die, and then deny many of them adequate, decent housing upon their arrival home.

#### SUMMARY

Now to summarize, in regard to housing for the aged, more citizen participation is essential. If this citizen participation does not come about, the minimum rent for the new units will probably be the same \$40.00 as it is now at Sun Plaza, and thus elderly, impoverished Mexican-Americans will, for all practical purposes, be excluded. Furthermore, lack of citizen participation will allow the units to be built in a part of the City which will discourage their use by elderly, impoverished Mexican-Americans from South El Paso.

Concerning the low-income housing units for the poor, we do seem to be moving in the right direction. At the first meeting of the Subcommittee last Wednesday night, Rev. Oliver, Chairman of the Citizens' Advisory Committee did state that he would propose the location of 1,600 low-income units in South El Paso, if the rezoning of the area is approved in January. Mr. Ramirez stated that he thought Machos and the Camino de las Viviendas organizations should have representatives, although it was finally decided that they should be a sort of sub-sub-committee, thus relegating the true representatives of the poor to the lowest category of decision making. But we are 100% better off than 3 weeks ago.

And finally, there must be some mechanism set up to assure the really poor people of South El Paso a place in the low-income housing. We are attempting to let the Amigos de los Machos handle this. They have sent a letter to Rev. Oliver offering to act as mediators if disputes of this nature arise between the Citizens' Advisory Committee and the poor people of South El Paso. The Amigos organization will continue to watch the situation very carefully, so that if injustices do occur, regardless of whose fault they are, they can be presented to the Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Housing Authority by the Amigos organization.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Our next witness listed is Mr. Salvador Ramirez, director of the El Paso Boys Club. Mr. Ramirez, do you desire to testify now or we can recess?

#### STATEMENT OF SALVADORE RAMIREZ, DIRECTOR, EL PASO BOYS CLUB

Mr. RAMIREZ. We would prefer to testify now.

Senator YARBOROUGH. All right, come around.

Mr. Ramirez, just introduce the people with you for the benefit of the record.

Mr. RAMIREZ. To my left is Mr. Lalo Delgado. Mr. Delgado has worked in south El Paso for some 15 years.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Now, is that private work or Government work or what type work?

Mr. RAMIREZ. He has worked in the church, local agencies, and Government work.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Go ahead with your statement.

Mr. RAMIREZ. I have asked Mr. Delgado to read the statement due to the fact I have somewhat of a cold and we will subject ourselves to a question and answer session after he reads the statement.

## STATEMENT OF LALO DELGADO

Mr. DELGADO. Senator Yarborough, members of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome the opportunity to talk to you on my assigned topic "Availability and Usefulness of Federal Programs and Services to Elderly Mexican-Americans" and, I want to compliment those of you who had the foresight to invite members of my cultural heritage to give testimony in regards to our beloved parents and/or grandparents.

Mr. Chairman, my associates and I are indeed grateful to you for having accepted our advice in not inviting courteous, hypocritical, educated dreamers, whom we have identified as false representatives of our reality. No longer can we allow exploiters of our confidence, particularly a certain education sociologist, to talk to you or any interested group in reference to the people of our cultural heritage.

This hearing is the beginning of a new chapter in the history of our "sacred race" and because we are true Machos (somos muy machos) we must insist and demand that you make an honest human effort to understand, appreciate, and respect the viability of our differing spiritual and material cultural values.

Now, I want to share with those who have testified before me and those who will testify after me this simple Mexican saying: *El primer paso para adquirir la sabidura es ad mitir neustra ignorancia.* "The conviction of ignorance is a necessary first step to the acquisition of knowledge—for no one is going to seek knowledge on any subject if he is under the delusion that he already possesses it."

### CRITICISM OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The main detriment of your Federal domestic programs is that they were written and subsequently implemented by arrogant, self-righteous, middle-class incompetent professionals. Therefore, today, you are supporting an amalgamation of domestic programs that are not organically related. You are still making the same mistake of funding activities that are program oriented instead of activities that are people oriented. Very few of your Federal programs are where the action really is, hence, you are negating your Federal commitment to (1) decentralization of services and institutional change, (2) innovative approaches, (3) new technological approaches, and (4) the involvement of our people in the planning and decisionmaking processes.

Three years ago, when your domestic programs became a reality, I was overwhelmed in my realization of one fact standing out, as particularly mischievous. The professionals' talk was interlarded with a great variety of general terms, especially terms intended to be descriptive of ethical notions, such as (1) justice, (2) temperance, (3) courage, and so forth. I started in my naivety and ignorance by supposing that they knew what these words meant, since they used them so freely, and I set out full of hope that they would tell who did not know. When I questioned them, however, I found that none of them could give a proper explanation. Mr. Chairman, men cannot talk about

acting wisely, justly, or well unless they know what wisdom, justice, and goodness are.

If, as I suspected, different people using the same words mean different things by them, they are talking at cross-purposes and only confusion can result. The confusion will be at once intellectual and moral. Intellectually, discussion with a man who is using his terms in a different sense from you can lead nowhere, except possibly to a quarrel; and morally, when the terms in question stand for ethical notions, nothing but anarchy can result.

Civic and professional leaders have a concern for the progress of their communities. Civic activities are directed toward such worthy community goals as good government, effective schools, improved health, and enhancement of property values. It is generally agreed that all citizens should have civic pride, share in community benefits, and at least make individual efforts toward self-improvement.

The Mexican-American shows little interest in Federal programs that fail to touch their immediate and pressing concerns. They are likely to regard such activities as cleanup campaigns, literacy programs, and citizenship courses planned to teach them the laws so they will not get into trouble as unwarranted impositions. They turn away from programs that seem to do little about what they consider more urgent and prior needs.

You may regard people who are victims of disadvantage as "irresponsible" as "chiselers," or perhaps more sympathetically, as the "unfortunate poor." The people of my cultural heritage, on the other hand, consider themselves as human beings who simply have not had life's breaks. They believe they have a right to ask for and obtain the community's help when circumstances force them to require it. They resent being singled out and given labels that dishonor them. The larger society frequently expects gratitude when they disburse their gifts in response to people's needs. Our people may appear grateful, but, deep underneath, they are ashamed and they resent the fact that the society in which they live has forced them to an inferior position in which they must accept from someone else what they really want to earn for themselves.

Our parents are adults with adult feelings and adult responsibilities. They want to be treated with the same courtesy and respect that other mature persons in a democratic society expect. They will turn away from a teacher, a social worker, or a civil volunteer who fails to respect their need for a self-image of mature dignity and who, instead, places them in a position of childlike dependency by offering them programs at a fourth-grade level.

In American educational endeavors, it is considered efficient to divide into groups for learning and to determine class enrollment by the alphabet or by level of achievement. Mexican-Americans think it is more comfortable to consider important matters among relatives and friends where a person does not have to guard his thoughts or expose his ignorance before strangers. In civic activities, you see the committee, the council, the organized group as ideal instruments for task accomplishment. Mexican-Americans think that important decisions should be made in small groups of family members and long-time friends.

The Federal Government often regards as influential leaders among Mexican-Americans the educated and successful individuals who have risen to some prominence beyond their own group, such as the young lawyer, the prominent merchant, the clergyman, the politician, and you seek out these individuals to endorse and promote your programs. The Mexican-Americans prefer to rely on those who have always made their decisions—the fathers, the family heads, the barrio leaders, the elders of the community. For guidance they look to persons whom they have known and trusted for years, whether or not they are educated or successful in the dominant society's terms.

#### LIFE IS "HERE AND IMMEDIATE"

In view of the complexity of our society, the Government sees education as a long process of preparation for competent citizenship. You expect our people to be willing to expend effort to learn today so that tomorrow they can use their knowledge and skills to overcome adversity and, in the American tradition, rise to success. But the Mexican-American sees life as here and immediate. They have no patient with vague rewards to come someday. Their troubles confront them today. If education cannot show results promptly, it can be given only low priority.

It is generally assumed that the Mexican-American people have the same opportunities to success as anyone else, if only we will use them properly. Residents of a community believe that Mexican-Americans must earn the right to take their places alongside other citizens, that they should learn to do things in the acceptable way; that it, the way "We" do them. Mexican-Americans are willing to adopt new ways that are fairly easy to observe and copy, but they do not readily adopt other ways more complex and subtle. Ultimately they reject the idea of doing things "Our" way because they do not have the necessary skills to do so and encounter frustrations when they try. Their views are reinforced by continuing experiences in which limitations from the mainstream of community life and daily pressures exert depressing force upon lives of accumulated disadvantage.

Whether or not Mexican-Americans are justified in maintaining their present views is beside the point. The fact is they do hold many of the programs you propose in low regard as practical ways to ease their burdens, and thus they reject you and your efforts. To help Mexican-Americans join the mainstream of American life, educators, social workers, and community leaders must understand that the point of entry to Mexican-American world, so to speak, is in the barrios (neighborhoods) where they live. All planning must begin there and not in institutions with a middle-class orientation.

Community leaders must be willing to learn and understand the differing perceptions, values, and habits of Mexican-Americans and take them into account when fashioning strategies for social improvement. Especially important are deep-seated attitudes conditioned by life histories of disadvantage, deprivation and second-class stature. Materials aids of one kind or another, programs successful with middle-class groups, or activities based on what the larger so-

ciety thinks Mexican-Americans ought to do are generally ineffective in altering these attitudes.

Rather, programs must strike directly at the heart of the psychology of Mexican-American low status as typified by attitudes of defeat, retreat, rejections and hostility. This negative psychology must be replaced by a positive one. To change motivation must be central objective of every successful approach to low status Mexican-Americans.

#### EDUCATION AND REEDUCATION

Education, indeed, reeducation is essential. What is needed is a kind of education that can restore to our people hope for the future, a sense of pride, a sense of initiative, and a sense of responsibility for themselves and for the community. This kind of education is the same as that required for all men in a free society: The rights and responsibilities of citizenship. But for the people of my cultural heritage, the methods must be especially designed.

Mr. Chairman, due to time limitations and other considerations, I will conclude my presentation by sharing this thought with you and the audience.

If you want to be a good shoemaker, the first thing necessary is to know what a shoe is and what it is meant for. It is no use trying to decide on the best sort of tools and material to use and the best methods of using them unless you have first formed in your mind a clear and detailed idea of what it is you are setting out to produce and what function it will have to perform. The shoemaker depends first and foremost on the possession of this knowledge. He is able to describe in clear terms the nature of the thing he intends to make, and his definition includes a statement of the use of which it is put. Thank you for your courteous attention.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS SOUGHT

Senator YARBOROUGH. In your statement, you referred to a number of Federal regulations that were un-understandable. You said, in different language, what the late Maury Maverick used to say is "gobbledygook." Would you spell those out and give us a list of those regulations so we can send those to the proper Federal agencies and ask for clarification? You didn't name any specific programs or departments or agencies or regulations. I won't ask you to list every one now. You doubtlessly have some in mind. You spoke in general terms. If you prefer, you can say all Federal laws and regulations or pick out specific ones. In the latter part of your statement you say over and over "proposed programs." We haven't proposed any. We are here to find out the facts, to find out what the problem is. We know there is great poverty and suffering among the aged Mexican-Americans, so we are here to find out what that problem is and what should be done to alleviate it. I don't believe you made any specific recommendations, as I listened very carefully to your paper, but you mainly attacked all programs in existence and programs we propose, and we haven't proposed any. We are an investigative committee to find out what the facts are and make recommendations based on that. If you have any recommendations, we would like very much to have them.

You don't have to file that today; we will have this record open for 30 days. Send it to us any time within 30 days, and we will publish it.

Mr. RAMIREZ. First of all I can assure you that recommendations will be forthcoming with reference to specific programs and, secondly, yes, reference was made to you in terms of the fact that you are a Member of Congress and the fact you voted for domestic programs in a positive fashion and the fact that intent of the domestic programs in term of OEO and subsequent programs has been decentralization of technological approaches and so on and so forth, and it seems to me like it is not enough for you who are in such a very influential position to vote for something that presumably creates change and assist a lot of people to move toward the American mainstream of life and never viewed from the point of view of not coming to the realization that the implementation of these programs is very superficial and that it does not include the poor and, thirdly, it seems to me like many people in Congress take "Oh, yes" places, primarily because they want to minimize risk and want to please the constituents and follow through in really evaluating programs and see what kind of real human impact these programs are having on Mexican-Americans.

Senator YARBOROUGH. We are doing that very thing now. You say we have never done anything like that. You are indicating you think these programs should never have been enacted. I am the author of the bilingual education bill. Do you propose that this should never have been enacted? I am coauthor of the GI bill that has helped many Mexican-Americans. Do you criticize that? Do you think that should not have been enacted, the GI bill?

Mr. RAMIREZ. No; I think—

Senator YARBOROUGH. We are here to get the facts. Now, this committee has been in existence 7 years, and it is an investigative committee. We have been working 7 years and we have had hearings all over the country except Texas. This is the first one in Texas and we want the benefit of your expertise and your knowledge. I believe you were appointed by the mayor, weren't you, as chairman of the housing commission that Mr. Sinclair has been describing. Weren't you appointed on that commission?

Mr. RAMIREZ. Yes; I was.

Senator YARBOROUGH. To plan this housing. You had a very interesting paper. If you have any recommendations—I am not trying to force any recommendations out of you, but tell us what they are.

Mr. DELGADO. Well—

Senator YARBOROUGH. Certainly you do not consent to poverty. You do not consent to have the lowest wage scale in America and you do not consent to have more poverty-stricken people in the city.

Mr. RAMIREZ. We are against domestic programs. We are not against domestic programs, per se. In fact, we need more meaningful domestic programs.

Senator YARBOROUGH. More meaningful programs. That is what we need. We want your recommendation, things like that. That is the type thing we are short of. We need recommendations on this. All of these programs are bad, so we would certainly be grateful to have your—

Mr. RAMIREZ. We are not saying that all of the programs are bad. We are saying some of the programs are, in fact, good.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Write us about what is wrong with the existing ones. Many are being changed. Many are going to be changed in the next Congress. Name some of them and tell us how they can be of more benefit. There is a great danger if these programs are improperly administered, so we want constructive suggestions, what is wrong and how can we remedy it and we know for example that medicare was voted in and all of the instructions were sent out to social security recipients in English where they should have been sent out in some areas in Spanish. I have here one handed me today. Is this the document you were talking about?

Mr. RAMIREZ. We weren't making reference to any documents.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I think you ought to say how they are not understandable.

Mr. RAMIREZ. That is—

Senator YARBOROUGH. Spell it out. Don't make generalities. Lay it on the line. These witnesses have been putting out names and programs.

Mr. RAMIREZ. We make reference to the nonorganic related programs, and I think it is explicit—

Senator YARBOROUGH. How can we in Congress act if you won't tell us which ones need improving?

Mr. RAMIREZ. Uh huh.

Senator YARBOROUGH. We are not here to talk circles. I want you to lay the facts on the line. I am in Congress and I have been there 11 years and 8 months and we don't beat around the bush. We lay it right on the line regardless of who likes it or doesn't like it and a lot of things I have proposed haven't been particularly popular around places like certain newspapers.

Mr. RAMIREZ. I appreciate that.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I am not cutting you off. We have got 30 days to keep this record open and send in anything and please tell us which programs work and which ones you think don't work and which regulations are not understandable and how they ought to be included and make your recommendations and make constructive recommendations.

Mr. RAMIREZ. We will propose some; certainly will.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Are there any more questions, anything you would like to add?

Mr. DELGADO. This is my own personal statement. I have been asked to inform you before coming here, Father Gafford could not be here because he had been communicating with some of your people. He has invited you to have these hearings at the Sacred Heart Church where he promises to fill the gym with 500 oldsters.

Senator YARBOROUGH. We don't have to move the U.S. Government hearing out of the U.S. Government courthouse and put it in a private institution to legitimize it.

Mr. DELGADO. I was thinking in terms of participation of the people. We are trying to help and secondly and perhaps we sound a little uncommunicative because way back in 1954 we were building—we had money and we were building the old folks' home on the south side and also way back 10 years ago we were trying to create a credit union to get these people out of the hands of the loan sharks and trying to provide them with meaningful employment and at least, to me personally, a lot of it is Johnny-come-lately.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I don't think the Congress of the United States is Johnny-come-lately. They have only been attempting to benefit the welfare of the United States as long as they have been in existence. Were you here before the Constitution and Congress?

Mr. DELGADO. No, sir; I don't know—

Senator YARBOROUGH (continuing). You might be interested in knowing that the hearing in San Antonio tomorrow will be in a private institution because in searching each place the staff has gone out and worked on these for weeks and days and have placed these hearings in places where it seemed, from all their surveys, had the best facilities available to the people and for all of the other things needed. In Los Angeles, it was in a county building and here it is in a Federal building and in San Antonio it will be in a private institution on the west side where there is the largest concentration of Spanish-speaking people of Mexican-American descent in San Antonio. I thank the staff for their help. They have been in Texas to survey and talk to many people and I think they have done a fine job in picking a cross-section of the Southwest in a county building, a Federal building, and a private building and I don't think your criticism is justified. I wholly reject it.

Are there any further questions? Thank you very much. The committee will recess until 2 p.m.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

Senator YARBOROUGH. The Senate Special Committee on Aging will come to order. The hearings will be resumed, and we will call at this time as a witness the Honorable Rogelio Sanchez, El Paso County Commissioner from Precinct 3, and I believe he is to be accompanied by three other witnesses. Come around, Commissioner Sanchez, and, if you will, introduce the panel, please.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. ROGELIO SANCHEZ, EL PASO COUNTY COMMISSIONER\*

Mr. SANCHEZ. Thank you, Senator Yarborough. First of all, I would like to thank the chairman of the committee and the members of the committee that are here with us in El Paso for the invitation extended to me to testify or give a statement pertaining to the problems that face the elderly Mexican-American citizen of El Paso County. With me to the right is the Reverend Robert Getz, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Fabens. To my left is former county judge, Travis D. Johnson, from El Paso County. I have given you a written statement and I will read it, and at the end I will ask Rev. Getz to say a few words and also our ex-county judge Travis Johnson.

Senator YARBOROUGH. All right. I notice that attached to your statement, Commissioner Sanchez, there are numerous tables, in connection with population, income classification of population, area population characteristics, and so forth, numerous tables. I think it would be very beneficial to us to have all these tables printed in the appendix of the hearing record.

Mr. SANCHEZ. Thank you, sir.

\*See app. 1, p. 196, for material supplied for record.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You may proceed, please.

Mr. SANCHEZ. I was elected to the post of county commissioner from precinct No. 3, El Paso County, in the general election of 1960, and sworn in on January 1, 1961. I have served for two 4-year terms and was recently reelected for a third term.

The area that I represent is mostly outside the city limits of El Paso and includes the following unincorporated communities—Tornillo, Fabens, Clint, San Elizario, Socorro, Horizon City.

I live in Fabens.

El Paso County is a young county, insofar as ages are concerned. According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the median age was 24.7 years in 1950, and in 1960 the median age was 22.6.

The total population of El Paso County in 1950 was 194,968, and in 1960 the total population was 314,070. The estimated total population for El Paso County in 1968 is 390,300.

In 1950 there were 9,032 persons over 65 years of age, and in 1960 there were 14,130. This figure represents 4.5 percent of the total population of El Paso County.

As for income classification of total population the following information is furnished:

*El Paso County*

All families.....	69, 528
Under \$1,000.....	3, 023
\$1,000 to \$1,999.....	4, 859
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	7, 476
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	9, 072
Total earning under \$4,000 (families).....	24, 430

PROUD OF HERITAGE

The elderly Mexican-American is a person who is proud of his heritage, his culture, his customs and his church, and he is determined to work and earn his livelihood so long as he is physically able. Even though he may be entitled to benefits from the Federal, State or local governments, he frowns upon these benefits, thinking that they are hand-outs. Sometimes, you will find that these elderly Mexican-Americans are a bit leery when they are contacted by someone who informs them of the services and benefits that are available to him from the Federal, State or county government.

You will find in El Paso County that the majority of the elderly Mexican-American either lives alone in the same house where all of his children were born and raised, or lives with one of their children. You will further find in El Paso County that the elderly Mexican-American prefers to live alone so long as he is physically able to get around. He simply does not want his children (who, perhaps, are married and have families of their own), to bother with him.

Prior to the coming of the community action program (Project Bravo), the elderly Mexican-American citizen was informed of the various services and benefits that he was entitled to by his neighbors. His neighbors would also notify their elected official from that particular area, and this individual, in turn, would notify the welfare agency of the county. The county agency would then send its representative to visit with the person in question and either give him im-

mediate relief and/or inform him of the State or Federal benefits that he may be entitled to.

This practice is still followed today, but to a lesser degree. Project Bravo personnel has contacted many of the elderly Mexican-Americans and they have informed them of the benefits and services that are available from the Federal, State, and county governments.

Project Bravo has also provided, to some degree, transportation for these persons, who do not have transportation of their own, when they have to come in for medical attention at our county hospital. Many still have to pay a taxi fare to get this service because Project Bravo does not have the facilities to transport everyone.

Prior to the coming of Project Bravo to the county of El Paso, in 1966 we spent a total of \$122,391.77 in our general assistance agency, which handles our community relief. In the year 1967, we spent a total of \$165,794.80, this includes \$29,450 for our food stamp program, which we started in November 1966.

Prior to our food stamp program, we participated in the surplus food program with only one center to distribute the food located in the city of El Paso. This caused a hardship to many of my constituents because the majority did not have transportation and it was rather expensive since they had to pay at least \$2 for taxi fare.

Since we started the stamp program (which is a very good program), we have opened two centers in the lower valley, one in Fabens, and another in Ysleta. We also have a center in the upper valley which makes it more convenient for the people in the immediate area.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Now, these are the rural centers you are talking about?

Mr. SANCHEZ. Yes, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. There must be others in the city, your testimony is limited to the rural.

Mr. SANCHEZ. I am talking about the rural areas.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Yes, you are talking about the problems in the rural areas.

Mr. SANCHEZ. Yes, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. All right, thank you.

Mr. SANCHEZ. I have given you a general orientation on the population of El Paso County and have outlined the basic problems of the elderly Mexican-American. Attached to this report you will find detailed statistics concerning the food stamp program, elderly population and income.\*

#### FOUR MAJOR PROBLEMS

The problems facing the elderly are many and would require more time than this committee has allotted to itemize. However, I would like to mention at least four problems which I consider to be the most urgent:

1. Transportation: When a person is 80 years old and not in the best of health, transportation becomes a problem even if that person is living only 5 blocks away from an agency headquarters or a doctor's office. Consider, if you will, the problems of the elderly who live 30 miles away in Fabens, or 17 miles from the city of Canutillo. In

\*See appendix 1, pp. 196-203.

Fabens there is no bus service. There is only one taxi which makes only one round trip per day. Without private automobiles or Project Bravo's service, the elderly indigent have no way of getting into El Paso to shop, visit the doctor, register for food stamps, or to conduct any routine business. The situation in Canutillo is as serious.

2. **Housing:** Many of our indigent elderly of Mexican-American descent live in housing which is substandard by even the lowest of standards. Houses are made of adobe, many with dirt floors, and no inside sanitary facilities. The majority of the homes are badly in need of repair and since the elderly are low on funds, repairs are out of the question. Most homes of the elderly in the San Elizario and Socorro areas are without a potable water system. Each little home has its own shallow well. Many of these have been tested by our city-county health officers and found to be contaminated. As bad as this housing is, there is a psychological problem in moving the elderly from their homes as most of them have been living there all of their lives. Relocation becomes inadvisable because of this emotional attachment.

3. **Taxes:** Although the housing of the elderly ranges from modest to substandard, the advantage of this housing is that it is paid for. However, State, county, and school district taxes continue to accrue and the elderly, struggling on a small fixed income, have to meet this expense. Money spent to pay taxes becomes an additional burden.

4. **Bilingual Problem:** Most of the elderly Mexican-Americans in El Paso County speak only Spanish. Their natural reluctance to register for assistance is further hindered, in many instances, by a lack of bilingual personnel at the various assistance agencies. Hiring of qualified bilingual personnel is hampered by the requirement that Federal civil service employees must all have passed a civil service examination. I have figures to show, of course, I mean I don't have them with me, but out of 80 seniors from UTEP who took this examination only 14 seniors passed it, so you can see it is a very potent examination.

Solution of these problems will take a massive effort coordinated by the Federal, State, and local governments. These is no simple solution, because the problems are deep rooted.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

However, Mr. Chairman, I would make the following recommendations:

1. **Transportation:** An intensive study should be made into the feasibility of establishing cooperative transportation pools, both within and without the city limits, but especially connecting the rural areas of the county with the central city. This cooperative would benefit not only the elderly Mexican-American, but all members of the community, regardless of age or economic status. Various civic clubs and churches would be helpful in establishing such pools. The city would have to assist in smoothing out franchise problems. As an immediate solution, I recommend that Project Bravo be given more funds to enlarge its transportation service program.

2. **Housing:** The Federal Government should give consideration to the establishment of a county housing authority to serve the elderly and the needy Mexican-American in the outlying areas of the county,

such housing authority to be constructed within the rural areas so that the elderly would not have to leave lifelong friends. Federal funds for repairs to the homes of elderly Mexican-Americans should also be considered.

3. Taxes: I know that taxes is a State problem, your honor, I would recommend that the State legislature abolish all property taxes on homes of the elderly who are now living on small fixed incomes. These taxes include ad valorem State tax, county property tax, and school district property tax.

4. Bilingual Problem: In order to provide adequate service to the indigent elderly of Mexican-American descent, I would recommend that each appropriate Federal, State, and county agency dealing with the poor be properly staffed with bilingual personnel. I recommend that the Federal civil service examination be waived or, perhaps, requirements lowered if this examination is providing to be a deterrent to the hiring of bilingual personnel.

This is respectfully submitted to you, Senator Yarborough. If there are any questions I will be very happy to try to answer them, but I would like for the Reverend Getz, our pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Fabens, to say or make any statements pertaining to anything that I have perhaps left out.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I will call on the pastor of the church at Fabens to supplement this statement or make an original statement of your own, father, give us the benefit of your knowledge and thinking and observations and work with these people, dealing with the elderly people of Mexican-American extraction.

#### STATEMENT OF REV. ROBERT GETZ, PASTOR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH IN FABENS

Father GETZ. Our parish is largely I would say 95 percent Mexican-American and probably one-third of elderly years because, of course, in most of the small rural areas most of the young people are leaving, so consequently you will have more and more of an increasing elderly population in the small towns because it is left to them, they cannot go out and challenge new opportunities and a young person in these towns has no future in employment, so consequently the small areas, the rural areas it seems will be increasing in elderly population and I think especially these things that Mr. Sanchez touched on of transportation, that the facilities and opportunities are available but they are usually concentrated in the city and large urban areas and people living on the fringe of a metropolitan area or on a subsistence level, the problem is transportation. Now, we have a schoolbus, for example, we run some children into private aand parochial schools and we are not allowed to take any people into the hospital or into any other services even though we would do this freely, because of franchise problems. Another thing is the housing, which is a problem, the people there live usually with pots and pans under the roofs when it rains collecting the rain because they cannot afford the price of the new tar paper and the roofing, and they will live out their lives this way. There is nothing being done in Federal rural housing to my knowledge in our county, and the programs seem to be largely un-

touched, the rural housing problem all over, and of course people are made aware of the advantages of this.

### BILINGUAL PROBLEMS

In the bilingual problem, especially on the State levels, the bilingual services are a great problem. You have your bill of bilingual education, Senator, and this is wonderful, but as the population increases the bilingual services will still be a problem for 20 or 30 years, and these people are discouraged by forms, by personnel who only will communicate with them or do communicate with them in their principal language, English, and they are left unaware and discouraged with the services and benefits which they might receive. The last one I will touch on is the citizenship, in the same way I find that people sometimes are refused service because they are not citizens and they are elderly, and it seems that there might be some type of followup or a person who would be a consultant and available to just direct the two services, of this citizenship tieup which often keeps them from benefits, and these are some observations that I will make. I think Bravo has done a very good job on this transportation area in our rural setup in bringing more people to services within the county and the city, otherwise they would simply not have had them.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much. Judge Johnson, may we hear from you.

### STATEMENT OF JUDGE TRAVIS JOHNSON

Mr. JOHNSON. I am a practicing attorney and former county prosecutor and former county judge, and a native El Pasoan, and I spoke Spanish before I did English, and I would like to thank and commend you, Senator Yarborough, and the members of this committee for investigating the availability and the usefulness of the Federal programs for the elderly Mexican-American, and this is, as we discussed earlier today, a very vast subject which you could probably talk about for a month and not touch on all of the problems that really exist in this area. I have in my opinion tried to outline six priorities or six main area of concern. These are, No. 1, housing; No. 2, language; No. 3, health; No. 4, transportation; No. 5, adult education; and No. 6, Legal. And Commissioner Sanchez has touched on three of these, and I will try to limit my discussion to the other three.

### DIFFERENCES: RURAL AND URBAN

One of the mistakes that all of us make when we go into public service and we try to come up with programs and systems that will benefit the people in this area is to try to treat them as one group, and this is a tragic mistake because we have in this county, for example, we have the rural elderly person, and we have the urban person, and the needs for one are completely different from the needs of the other. For example, transportation in the urban area is not as critical as it is in the rural area. And the same way with housing, and problems such as those. So, I think that first of all in any program that we try

to discuss and consider for this area, we make a tremendous distinction between the rural Mexican-American and the urban Mexican-American.

On housing, the thing I can say for this county, as far as the old people are concerned, is that it is just not adequate for the old people in this area. Now, we can break it down into three areas. We have what I call the extremely old person of Mexican-American, these are the people that are senile that require constant around-the-clock nursing help, medical attention, they are unable to provide for themselves as far as the nursing and drugs, and things of that nature, and one of the tragedies that we have run into in this county where they don't have their own family to take care of them, in many cases, where we do not have adequate nursing facilities in the community to take care of them, we end up by shipping them off to the Big Spring mental institution when they might be senile or just old and require constant service, but we don't have the services here to provide for them in this category. And then we run into the old folks who can take care of themselves, but they come under one or two categories, they either are homeowners, or they rent; they don't own their own home. Well, a lot of old folks that are homeowners, they have little pensions and live off their pensions or maybe other assistance, public assistance, but every time the city or the county or the State decides to take in a little more money they always do it by the ad valorem tax which is a tax on the property, and these people, some of them are so overtaxed with property taxes that they can't pay their bills, they can't take care of their necessities, and one of the suggestions I have in this area would be a little more incentive, tax incentive, as far as the Internal Revenue Service is concerned, for the people in the low-income brackets who have to pay the property or the ad valorem tax.

Then we get into the area of the low-cost housing, and this was touched on very ably this morning by Mr. Sinclair, and I want to make one comment on what he had to say, and that is this, if you try to put the low-cost housing project in an area different from where these people were born and raised, then you are just going to destroy the whole concept. The people, they have got many traditions, they've got their churches, they've got their friends, they've got their culture, they've got their own little social organizations, and I think to try to put a low-cost housing project of any nature in an area different from where the people have lived all their lives would be futile. I don't see any point in building the project if it cannot be located in the area where the people have been raised and where their families were raised, and we have seen this come up with our Chamizal settlement. The Chamizal settlement, which was a very fine thing for the community and for the relationship of the two counties, forced some of the people from the south side into dispersing and moving into other areas, and we have noticed in the last year or so that a lot of them got enough money to move in what you might call a more affluent area of the community but they are trying to get back into the area that they were raised in which their churches are, so I think that in regard to low-cost housing that some consideration ought to be given to locating the projects or the housing complexes in the area where the people are residing at this time.

## BILINGUALISM IN FEDERAL AGENCIES

With regard to language, as Commissioner Sanchez pointed out, many of the old folks in this county and in Texas along the border did not have the educational opportunity that their grandchildren are now having, and a surprising number of elderly Mexican-Americans do not speak English, and I have three small recommendations in this area that I would like to make to the committee. The first one is, any program or any service that is available for these people should be printed in Spanish where the people can read it, and any pamphlets for medicare or any of these similar programs for elderly people should be printed in the language that the people understand. The second is that the Federal agencies should be urged to do everything that they can to hire people who speak the Spanish language that are going to be operating these services or these programs, and we ran into this problem a few years ago, that the social security office here issued some sort of a statement that from here on out anybody that couldn't speak English had to bring their own interpreter with them. Well, we contacted your office, if you will remember, and they changed that policy in a matter of 2 or 3 days after we contacted you. I think it is grossly unfair for the people in the Federal agencies to try to expect these people to come in and muddle through English when Spanish is their language, and I think tremendous consideration should be given to the hiring of people in these programs that speak the language.

The third recommendation, it wouldn't hurt to have the Senate committee to check on the attitude on some of these agencies because many times the people cannot speak the language and they go in and because they speak a different language than the GS-6 or GS-8, or whatever the person may be, they treat them like they were bums and with complete rudeness, so I think there should be some effort made to check the attitudes of the people that are administering the programs. The next consideration, health, I won't comment here because we have a very able and qualified hospital administrator who will touch on it, and it is one of the most important areas. The next area, transportation, this is a very critical area, especially among the rural people, as Commissioner Sanchez has testified to, and in the county government the county has made every effort to solve this problem. In 1965, Commissioner Sanchez and Commissioner Telles and myself who were alarmed with the fact that we had the surplus food but we couldn't get the food to the people or the people couldn't get to the food, we made a trip to Fort Worth to study the stamp program, and we put the stamp program into effect in 1966, and it has worked out real well. We got our city-county health unit now dispersed throughout the county, we've got branch county offices now where the people can go in and pay their taxes and register their automobiles, we have branch county libraries, and I want to say this to commend the people of Project Bravo, they have done a tremendous job of helping in this area of transportation, but as Commissioner Sanchez pointed out, there is much more to do. For example, a constituent from his area could take as long as 3 hours to get to the social security office. They have to ride one bus all the way to El Paso, then they have to ride another bus out to the social security office, and they could spend

as much as 6 hours in 1 day getting to the social security office, and I think any program in this area that the thought ought to be to try to take the service to the people rather than the people having to try to figure out a way to get to the service.

#### LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

In the area of adult education, we have already covered that, and the one comment that I can make here is that not only elderly Mexican-Americans, but we need more programs to retrain old folks that have been retired from their jobs but still have many more years of usefulness left and they can continue to be productive citizens, and this would apply to old people. The last consideration that I have, and I really ought not to touch on this since I still plan on practicing law here, is the legal consideration. The legal consideration can be broken down into two areas. The first is the criminal law and the second is the civil law. Regarding the criminal law, as far as I am concerned, is not just for old people but for all people. We've got at this point the indigent situation of the appointive system which I feel is totally inadequate. It is a list of all the members of the bar association, some of them have no training at all in the criminal law, and they are appointed to represent people in the Federal court or in the State court and in many cases it is an elderly person who cannot understand English, and maybe the attorney, if he is appointed, he is not compensated too much and he has to leave his practice, he doesn't put his heart into it, and maybe this isn't even his field of practice, and I think the public defender system with Federal grants in this area would be much more adequate. We are very fortunate in this country in the sense that our county attorney's office, and U.S. attorney's office, and the district attorney's office, all have Mexican-American attorneys who know how to deal with many of the problems that the Mexican-American people have in this area. As far as the civil law, there are two tremendous problems in this area. One is the language problem.

The other is the legal consequences, and this is one I can really get red-faced and holler over when you look around and see that we've got more loan companies and more furniture companies and more of these high-interest-rate people probably in this town on a per capita basis than any other town around, and the people come into your office as a prosecutor and as a private attorney, and they have signed a note, maybe they bought a \$35 second-hand icebox that they will be paying on for the rest of their lives, and this is a tremendous problem, that we do not have adequate educational programs for the people to understand about contracts, notes, and so forth, they not only don't understand it from the language point of view, they don't understand it as far as the legal ramifications, and there is a tremendous area here that we need some improvement in. I would like once again to thank you, Senator, and thank the committee for coming here and trying to look into this problem and any way that we can cooperate with you we want to do it. Thank you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Judge Johnson, and members of the panel, and we will begin with the last witness first and the last part of his statement first, and work back to the first witness. First, about the legal services, do you all have a funded legal program here?

Mr. JOHNSON. No, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. They are in a number of cities and it has worked extremely well in a number of cases.

Mr. JOHNSON. We don't have any program of that nature.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You mentioned the attitude of people administering the program, how they treated people who didn't speak English. Of course, the Federal Government and the State government can take steps to improve the attitude toward people. And of course in Congress we are elected, but as you know, the GS system, GS-8 on up to GS-19, they don't have to run for office, and most of them are courteous people. While I hope most of them are, some of them are very rude to people, they get the idea that "I am Mr. Big and you are just coming in here." I think there ought to be orientation schools for all public officials, nonelected public officials, and particularly in the Federal Government because there are about 3 million of them, and we talk about the social security telling people to bring their own interpreters.

As you point out, they should furnish the interpreters in the Federal service especially where instead of dealing with multiple languages here it is largely one, the social security people should learn that language, they could learn it in a few hours time. I was in Stockton, Calif. 2 nights ago, and they have some language problems there, and it was discussed that a person of average intelligence can learn another language within a short time, but they say they can't do it in conventional high school and college courses, they start out teaching them grammar and how to read it, but not how to speak it. A person doesn't have to spend a lot of time learning it if they want to learn to talk the language very readily. In fact one young judge out there that I know of went a few summers ago to Poland and met a young lady. He didn't speak the Polish language; he fell in love with her, came back and trained himself in Polish that year and then went back and courted her and married her the next summer in Poland. He is a superior judge in California. That shows what you can do. So, this is something that we haven't done in America because we have not gone into language training. It is something that you have to go through, this slow method of learning, starting out with grammar first and then learning something about reading, and never anything about speaking; but it can be learned as the spoken language.

#### CIVIL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

A good many questions have been raised by this panel. One of them is about the representation of people, and the public defender system that some States have. Mr. Sanchez, Commissioner Sanchez raised this question, that the Federal civil service examination be waived or perhaps lowering the requirements if that proved to be a deterrent in the hiring of bilingual personnel. Of course, we could have different types of civil service examinations. We do have different types, like for engineers and so forth, but Commissioner Sanchez pointed out that out of 80 seniors at the University of Texas at El Paso that took civil service examinations, only 14 out of 80 seniors at the University of Texas at El Paso passed it, so it depends on what they are doing. I think we might well have a civil service examination for bilingual people and not

expecting that they are going to be an assistant secretary of agriculture, or something like that, but have it gaged to the type of work they are doing. I know the Post Office Department has been driven to that; they have to constantly lower their former standards of civil service examination to get enough people at the salaries that they have to go in and fill the vacancies there, and certainly when it goes out to dealing with a staff of bilingual people we can substitute bilingual qualifications for some other qualifications and get enough people to go talk to these people.

This transportation problem, too, has been mentioned everywhere we have been. It is a crucial one in Los Angeles where the cost of transportation is much higher than it is here because of the higher rate scale generally, and you have mentioned as a method of meeting that problem some kind of a cooperative transportation service. Have you discussed, have any of you discussed that, Commissioner Sanchez, with the city?

#### COOPERATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SANCHEZ. Well, Your Honor, that is where the whole problem lies. Reverend Getz here tried to bring in some of the people who needed transportation to the city of El Paso for perhaps medical services, and they would not allow him to do so. He does have a bus there that belongs to the church. They would not allow him to do that. He has a bus there, and they just allow him to bring the small children to school. So, that is the problem. This idea would probably be out of the question. Therefore, I mentioned the fact that an immediate solution would be to provide and allow Project Bravo more funds in order for them to provide more transportation for these people who need transportation.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Why is it out of the question to get this cooperative system to haul people from certain areas there?

Mr. SANCHEZ. Well, the city would frown upon any group coming in and transporting people in from the outlying areas since they would have to have a franchise in order to ride over the city streets, so that would be the problem there.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I think that some solution could be had, you say there is no private bus service to Fabens?

Mr. SANCHEZ. No, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Shouldn't the county consider putting in some kind of service? It is not unconstitutional for the city and the county to furnish this kind of service.

Mr. SANCHEZ. All these communities outside the city limits, Your Honor, are not incorporated cities, they are under the county rule, and there is service as far as Clint, and there is service as far as Clint because the owner of this bus line lives in Clint and he has to go home every day, and you know, to come in and pick up customers in the city limits well, his route is checked by the city, but the people in the Fabens area, the people in the Tornillo area, which is farther east of Fabens, have no means of transportation.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You mean some kind of bus service like a schoolbus that makes a circuit under some conditions?

Mr. SANCHEZ. Yes, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I think that the transportation experts could work that out and your problem would be under what kind of sponsor-

ship it would be and get it legalized, get it to where it could be legal; I think some kind of community co-op bus service could be worked out. Of course, you got certain problems there for insurance and protection for people on the bus, but it is done in case of schoolbuses and I think it could be done in certain public projects for people to serve their needs—problems of aged people, and problems of health, public health—coming in for treatment, coming in to qualify for their social security checks, coming in to see about this food stamp program. I think I saw one cooperative bus service like that in my suburbs in the city of Austin where I live now, in the eastern part of the county, where they have gotten some kind of cooperative assistance to get a bus to take these people over to where they could get their food parcels with green stamps, they couldn't carry their parcels, they were elderly people, but I think that is a matter of exploration and that something can be worked out in that area. Does the staff have any further questions?

Mr. ORIOL. The Federal Administration on Aging, in correspondence with Senator Yarborough, has raised the question about possibly having special demonstration programs for elderly Mexican-Americans. I wonder what you think about whether a demonstration program would be useful for your area, or do you feel you already know the need and merely require the means to meet those needs, or do you think a demonstration program would allow you to try new techniques that perhaps you are not bringing out now but have some thoughts about. For example, could you have food stamp registration for purchases from a mobile unit? Would this be practicable?

#### BRINGING SERVICES TO PEOPLE

Mr. SANCHEZ. That could be practicable because we have the surplus food program, we only had one center, then when the food stamp program came into being we opened up a center in Fabens which serves the Tornillo area and Clint and San Elizario, the San Elizario area, which is about 6 miles, and Fabens is right in the middle. Then we opened up another center in Ysleta which served the Ysleta, Tigua, and Socorro areas, the people there, and that is bringing the services closer to where the need is, and we are thinking now that instead of the people coming in to apply for the food stamp program right into the center of El Paso, that we are working on that plan right now, and I think it is going to go into effect, going up to where perhaps the stamps are issued, and also to have some individual taking applications and at the same time going through that application and going through the immediate problem there where it is now. I think it is going to be a great help for these people. As far as the mobile unit is concerned, we haven't talked about that but that is also a good idea.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Any further questions? Do any of you have any further suggestions you care to make; we welcome any further suggestions, if, after thinking about the testimony you heard today or testimony that you might hear later today, if you care to write us any further recommendations, reports, or suggestions, we would be glad to have them. You see part of the staff here, we brought the minimum number, we have a larger staff in Washington. We will

turn this record, when it is printed, over to them and instruct them to start working to try to find means of alleviating this problem, such problems as you might have heard, I have a veritable library full of manuscripts about these problems from people that have written about them. Thank you very much.

Mr. SANCHEZ. Thank you.

Reverend GETZ. Thank you.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you very much.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The next witness that we have scheduled is Mr. Curtis Dewey, acting director of the El Paso Council on Aging, accompanied by Mr. R. C. Hagerty, planning director of the United Fund. Gentlemen, we are running far behind the schedule we have, so I will try not to ask so many questions. If you can anticipate those questions, answer them, please, and if you have some prepared remarks, if you care to condense them, and if you will file those remarks, we will print those in full in the record. We are under the difficulties of trying to finish here within the allotted time.

#### STATEMENT OF CURTIS DEWEY, ACTING DIRECTOR, EL PASO COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.

Mr. DEWEY. Senator Yarbrough and members of the staff, we are grateful to be here today. We are a very new agency. Our one purpose is to deal with the aged, and we are called the El Paso Council on Aging, Inc. We were organized July 1 and our location now is at 508 South Virginia Street, which is two blocks south of Paisano. This is the central spot of what we call south El Paso. We began in the Sun Plaza, and now we are in the oldest project in El Paso, and, therefore, we have a great amount of work to do to devote our full time to the aged. Today we will discuss the Mexican-American people. Since July 1 through November we have worked in the field of informational referral, with 346 different people, 27 were of Mexican-American nationality. We are also in the field of casework. We deal with case referrals which means doing the work ourselves. We also have a program that we call the homebound project which is a program developed by people who are interested in aging in El Paso. We have covered 108 cases, 11 were Mexican-Americans. We are now working on 91 different cases, 31 are Mexican-Americans, totaling 230 people. Most of these cases are families; 46 of these are Mexican-American. So you see that we are dealing more and more and we will deal more with Mexican-Americans from our new location in south El Paso. We also worked with 428 people in Sun Plaza, 69 of which were Mexican-American families. This was not mentioned this morning, but I checked only yesterday, 69 Mexican-American families now live in Sun Plaza. We are also dealing with the training and instruction of these people. In this training and instruction program 152 people were involved, 32 were Mexican-Americans.

The 1960 census revealed that El Paso County had 136,993 (43.2 percent) citizens with Spanish surname out of a total population of 314,070. There were 9,034 Mexican-Americans living in the county at that time who were 60 years of age or over which was 2.8 percent of the total population. The population has increased and was esti-

mated to total 390,300 as of April 1, 1968, with approximately 167,829 of these Mexican-Americans. It is estimated that there are 11,328 Mexican-Americans in the county who are over 60 years of age. It is expected that the population of the county will increase to 566,500 by 1985.

#### 10,000 SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS

As of February 28, 1968, the Social Security Administration was paying benefits to an estimated 10,000 persons in El Paso. If the ratio of 43 percent is applied to this figure, it would appear that approximately 4,030 Mexican-Americans over age 62 are receiving social security benefits. This would be less than half of the total Mexican-Americans in that age bracket.

The department of public welfare reports that there are now 2,242 persons receiving old-age assistance. If 43 percent of these are Mexican-Americans, it is estimated that 935 are receiving aid in this manner from \$1 to \$110 per month—average equals \$58.90.

Of the 2,242 persons receiving welfare checks, only about 314 are participating in the food stamp program. Average payment was \$59.04 during the month of November 1968.

El Paso County is currently paying general assistance to 93 persons. It is estimated that 83 of these are Mexican-Americans. Payments to these individuals average from \$23 to \$30 per month.

It is apparent that many of our elderly Mexican-Americans are not receiving sufficient income for the bare necessities of life unless they receive help from close relatives.

It is estimated that the number of elderly will increase to 9.5 percent of the total population by 1970 compared to 8.2 percent in 1950. We have 19 million elderly today in the United States and this will increase to about 28 million in the year 2000.

At a forum on aging held in El Paso recently, it was pointed out that half of the aged couples of the Nation have incomes of less than \$3,000 per year. Sixteen percent of the Nation's poor are aged and 31 percent of the aged are poor. Only one-fifth of the persons over age 65 are employed (many only part time) and many of the four-fifths want and need employment for economic and psychological reasons.

#### 9,000 PAST 55 IN POVERTY

In El Paso County it is estimated there are 9,000 individuals over 55 years of age living in poverty. Five thousand of these are over 65 years of age. It is estimated that between 1 and 2 million Americans over age 65 are eligible for old-age assistance who are not receiving it. It is apparent we have a need for extending the Information and Referral Services to elderly individuals not now served and to develop innovations for making contact with them. Many are getting help but most do not get enough help. Some have jobs but more jobs are needed. Some are receiving adequate nursing home and hospital care but there are not enough of these institutions to meet the need. We need a health center and a local VA hospital. The nearest VA facility is at Fort Lyons, Colo., a distance of more than 600 miles. The distance there makes it difficult if not impossible for families to visit the patient, which is an essential part of the treatment.

We need more housing projects in El Paso such as Sun Plaza to provide adequate housing at a price the elderly can afford. We heard about low-cost housing but I would like to insert here that we need more low-cost housing. There are plans, as many of you know, to have a new 330-unit housing project built for the aged. It will take about 18 months to do this.

The majority of our poor are Mexican-Americans and most of these live in south El Paso which is a longstanding problem in our community. Thousands of our citizens live there in slum conditions which are unsanitary and many are not properly heated. We cannot afford to ignore their plight.

#### A CATALOG OF NEEDS

I would like to now hurriedly talk about the needs that I have found and worked with for 10 years. We need a nutritional low-cost diet for the aging as a part of housing services. I would say we need a visiting nurses association program of a size to meet the need. We now have started it, but we need more. We need a program to provide medical services in the home. We need more housing, low-cost housing for our low-income people. Future programs which we can envision should: 1. Create a sense of usefulness and significance for participants. 2. Provide vocational activity which can include community service combined with some kind of leisure time activity of the individual's choice. 3. Provide for involvement of the individual in a communal living environment while providing for retention of individual privacy and pursuits. We have a tremendous need for home-making services. We have a tremendous need for bedside nursing, and most of all, we have the loneliness of the old living alone. We need more of what we call the protective care service; we have some of that going on now. We need financial aid for emergencies.

There is no agency in the city that we can turn to for financial aid. Then we need a placement bureau for job referrals, when applicable, and a central location to obtain prosthetic devices such as glasses, dentures, hearing aids, and wheelchairs. Now, I would like to point out, first of all, that when we have the greatest need, there are many agencies working together privately and publicly, but we do not yet have a central location where we can work together. First of all, I don't think any of us know where these older people are, we know where some of them are, but our big job, and some of my recommendations relate to this, would be to set up a conference throughout the area with all existing agencies who are now dealing with the aged Mexican-American people. We should organize and set up data for a centralized records headquarters. This central location would have systematic records about all aged Mexican-Americans receiving aid and services. When available, these records of service being rendered, can be pooled by all member agencies and their manpower devoted to seeking out all other Mexican-American oldsters who are not receiving any type of service or help. That is very essential. I think we have many people that are not receiving anything, and if we are to do relevant work, we should have all of this knowledge available.

This plan should include both public and private agencies and would be a new development here in El Paso. To launch such a plan would

require that sufficient clerical personnel be provided as well as other obvious needs. Coordination at this level of community effort is one of the prerequisites to the implementation of this recommendation.

1. Because many elderly poor, and especially Mexican-Americans in this area, have insufficient incomes to pay the minimum rentals in public housing, it is recommended that housing intended for such persons be exempted from minimum rentals. In this connection it is urged that exemptions to rent minimums be distributively made to those otherwise eligible throughout existing housing rather than concentrating all such exemptions.

2. That the provision for payment by the recipient of the first \$50 of the cost of service provided under medicare be waived, or reduced on a sliding scale adjusted to the local cost of living, for all elderly poor who meet poverty criteria as established by the Congress and are of retirement age—65 male and 62 female—or are disabled or otherwise unemployable.

3. That the minimum paid under social security be raised so as to provide, with other existing benefits, or entirely of itself where no other benefit is payable, sufficient income to support at minimum standards of decency those receiving such payments by reason of age.

4. That the payment of social security be based on cost of living at place of residence of the recipient and be adjustable dependent upon other sources of income as well as the currently used basis.

5. That consideration be given to the provision of transportation facilities as a part of the housing service in areas devoted exclusively or primarily to the aged, so that those able to utilize community facilities are able to visit them and to shop.

My last statement would be that I haven't heard anything today about many of our professional people who serve as volunteers. We cannot always pay for this type of service, but we must use our professional volunteers to do the work which otherwise will not be done.

Mr. ORIOL. Mr. Dewey, Senator Yarborough was called out and asked that we continue the hearing. Mr. Hagerty, would you care to proceed?

#### STATEMENT OF R. C. HAGERTY, PLANNING DIRECTOR, UNITED FUND

Mr. HAGERTY. I would like only to add some short remarks concerning the figures that were furnished your committee and to call your attention to the fact that we were unable to project entirely accurate estimates. Dividing the population of the aged among the county and the city was not feasible, therefore we only show those who resided in the county, to include the city. What we have cited here specifically relating to transportation and housing would be in view of this condition. Secondly, I would like to state that in our recommendations we have made no attempt to indicate by the order in which they occur any priority among them. We will leave priorities to the discretion of the committee based on the wider exposure available through the testimony that you have heard and upon the recommendations of others better versed in some of these areas. I think the remarks this morning concerning the location of any housing that might be proposed, and

the remarks just preceding ours, concerning transportation, were adequate. I have nothing else to add. Thank you very much.

Mr. ORIOL. Mr. Dewey, I think you said 69 of the families in Sun Plaza are Mexican-Americans as compared to the total of 428.

Mr. DEWEY. That is right.

Mr. ORIOL. That would be about what, 16 percent, roughly about 16 percent. I thought it was higher than that.

Mr. DEWEY. It was mentioned today that they didn't have any but I just checked with the manager yesterday and I find that there are that many people there. We have our office there and I know it is a very well-coordinated program.

Mr. ORIOL. Have you ever had any thoughts about enlarging on that figure?

Mr. HAGERTY. I think I could probably remark on that. There is a minimum concerning the rents of the units, which also I believe relate—

Mr. ORIOL. The minimum is \$26 or \$40?

Mr. HAGERTY. The minimum is \$40. This is an irreducible minimum. It must in some way be met in a consistent way by the applicant. Those applicants who are unable to meet this requirement are denied admission. Therefore, you have a lower percentage of those who are afflicted with poverty as a group in this housing establishment than would otherwise be the case.

Mr. ORIOL. The El Paso Council on Aging is supported partially by the United Fund?

Mr. DEWEY. Yes.

Mr. ORIOL. Approximately how much have you received from the Administration on Aging funds?

Mr. DEWEY. We are on a 75-25 basis this year. Next year, beginning in 1969, it will be 60-40, and the third year it will be on a 50-50 basis. The fourth year it will be taken over locally.

Mr. ORIOL. Do you anticipate any difficulty in matching the increasing matching requirements?

Mr. DEWEY. No, sir.

Mr. HAGERTY. I would like to remark that I don't think that is a fair question to Mr. Dewey. At this point the results of the current budget deliberations of the United Fund have not been made public as far as I know. Well, I am told that they appeared in the newspapers this morning. In that case you might have read it, I didn't, but assuming that the need continues to exist at the current level, and it is not otherwise met, this organization would make a presentation to the United Fund and probably would be supported.

#### MATCHING REQUIREMENTS: PROBLEMS

Mr. ORIOL. I asked the question because in some other communities in Texas and elsewhere great difficulty is encountered in meeting the matching requirements and I wondered what your expectations were. Also, referring again to the question I asked Commissioner Sanchez, Senator Yarborough has a statement saying that the U.S. Administration on Aging would like to launch a demonstration project de-

signed to deliver necessary services to the older Mexican-American with priority given to those living in poverty in small towns or rural areas. I wonder—we don't have the time here—and this is a tough question to spring on you, whether perhaps you, after discussion with Commissioner Sanchez and others who have testified here and others in the community might not give the committee some suggestions, well, some comments on how practical you think the demonstration approach is and also some suggestions as to what it might include? If you have a brief comment now we will hear it.

Mr. DEWEY. We have a responsibility to El Paso County, Fabens and those areas would be part of our responsibility and I am sure that we can get together with our Board and we can start moving. We are so new and we have a tremendous job to do here. It is our purpose to make this a countywide program.

Of course many activities will have to be cooperatively sponsored and that is one of our jobs; to try to meet every need possible.

Mr. HAGERTY. In that connection, it is not that I wish to detract at all from what anyone has said concerning the problems in the rural areas, I am in agreement with everything that has thus far been said concerning this problem. It should, however, be noted that you limited the question on demonstrations, upon which you would like us to comment, only to the rural areas.

Mr. ORIOL. I am glad you are making that distinction. That was in the letter, but I think for all purposes we are talking about a city-county combined operation.

Mr. HAGERTY. To the extent that this is a possibility, if we can talk about a combination program here, I should think that we ought to be able to cooperate more adequately since about 90 percent of all persons living in the county are living in the city.

Mr. MILLER. I have two questions with reference to your recommendations contained on page 6 of your statement, Mr. Dewey. Item No. 3 recommends: "That the minimum paid under social security be raised so as to provide, with other existing benefits, or entirely of itself where no other benefit is payable, sufficient income to support at minimum standards of decency those receiving such payments by reason of age." I have a question as to your reference to other existing benefits, are you referring to other income of any type or—

Mr. DEWEY. Could Mr. Hagerty answer that?

Mr. HAGERTY. Thank you. I think it should be very clear in the case of an individual who has a rather substantial income, say five figures or in excess per year provided by his own resources, that we are not very concerned at least here, about the provisions for that individual on social security. I am sure he could handle that matter on his own, but we are very concerned about an individual who may have \$12 coming in from retirement from the collection of the garbage from the streets of an unincorporated community, which has never paid a minimum wage and was not covered by social security payments until recently, and so on. What we are referring to here are the small benefits which may accrue to the individual but which together with the social security payments are inadequate for his support and maintenance and thereby leave this individual destitute.

Mr. MILLER. My question, I am sure you realize, as will by next question, relates to the fact that both your recommendations No. 3 and No. 4, would rather substantially alter the current concept of old-age survivors and disability insurance, which is what most people refer to as social security. My question about No. 4, "That the payment of social security be based on cost of living at place of residence of the recipient \* \* \*" is: Are you referring to the place of residence as the geographic location for example, El Paso as distinguished from San Antonio, or are you referring to the individual's specific place of residence within a community?

Mr. HAGERTY. Well, my answer would be in two parts. To the second part of your questions which is specifically whether we are talking about geographic location or place of residence, I would say place of residence. As to the first part of the question, I believe that the sum and substance of testimony so far heard here today with respect to the social security payments as related solely at this juncture to their adequacy, indicates to me, and I have said so in this recommendation, and Mr. Dewey presented part of this in his remarks, to be rather low. Generally speaking, in terms of the aged Mexican-American, it is relatively inadequate. Correction entails increasing the program as we mentioned; that is what is needed.

Mr. MILLER. My questions are prompted by the fact that you have taken certain exceptions to the concept of simple across-the-board increases in social security by reason of your reference to other income and your reference to geographic location. I will pose what I suspect is a leading question regarding these recommendations. If they can be accomplished through the total social security program which includes old-age assistance, and a variety of other things, rather than solely through OASDI, which is a wage-contribution-related program, would such action be perfectly acceptable in accordance with your recommendation?

Mr. HAGERTY. Yes, sir; I believe that it is.

Mr. MILLER. That was the essence of my line of questioning.

Mr. HAGERTY. Of course, my recommendation was based on the fact that it wouldn't be necessary to alter the program if the need was met somewhere else.

Mr. CARLETON. We received testimony this morning to the effect that the \$40 minimum rental entailed a screening-out process rather than a screening-in process. Have you received complaints or comments to this effect? Would you substantiate the testimony we received this morning or would you dispute it?

Mr. HAGERTY. So far as I know I have received no complaints to this effect, and I am not sure that I understand what you mean by a screening-out process instead of a screening-in process. If you mean that those who cannot pay the rent are not allowed to enter, well then that is exactly what transpires, so far as I understand. That this results in a specific complaint, I am unaware of any that have been registered thus far.

Mr. DEWEY. Some might be interested in the fact that if we had these units built tomorrow we would have sufficient people to fill those 380

units immediately; we have a tremendous waiting list; so there is need for this home for the aged.

Mr. ORIOL. Do you have any way of telling how many persons on the waiting list are of Spanish surnames?

Mr. DEWEY. Only percentagewise.

Mr. ORIOL. What is the percentage?

Mr. DEWEY. About 36 percent right now.

Mr. ORIOL. But in this area, in the area within a few block of this, the Mexican-American population is what, more than 50 percent?

Mr. DEWEY. It is pretty well surrounded by Latin American people.

Mr. ORIOL. The 36 percent of the total list of applicants might be rather low.

Mr. DEWEY. Yes.

Mr. ORIOL. Does it all go back to rental or are there other factors?

Mr. DEWEY. As I said before, we talk about lower rentals, but we also must talk about lower housing cost, and this group of people that you think should be there needs another type of lower rental.

Mr. CARLETON. How much lower?

Mr. HAGERTY. Zero and work up. For those that have no income no rent is too much.

Mr. ORIOL. I think your exhibit includes the figures about the rental?

Mr. DEWEY. Yes. As you know, the older units are a low-income-group unit. Where we are now, there are 85 families living in the unit. Rent is from \$27 up; some apartments have as many as six rooms, and some families have 11 and 12 children.

Mr. ORIOL. All right; we don't have further questions. If you will submit recommendations in writing, we would be happy to have them. The next panel is composed of Mr. Jack Rogers, administrator of the R. E. Thomason General Hospital; Mr. Melvin Fox, M.D., acting director, Texas State Department of Health, Division of Tuberculosis Control, Region I-D; and Vincent Ravel, M.D., El Paso Radiological Group. Mr. Rogers, do you care to begin?

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, sir.

Mr. ORIOL. I thank you for your patience in waiting. We have been waiting for this panel with great interest.

#### **STATEMENT OF JACK ROGERS, ADMINISTRATOR, R. E. THOMASON GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Mr. ROGERS. First, I would thank you for asking me here. I feel greatly concerned about this problem and I will say that this is a personal problem in a way as I buried my aging daddy just 3 weeks ago, so I feel quite close to it. Although I am wearing a good suit today, I, myself, have been familiar with the leaking roofs and holes in the shoes that I heard about today, when I was a young person during the depression back in 1934. I am grateful to Senator Yarborough for asking us to be here. Our subject as to health problems and health services for the elderly Mexican-American is very apropos. I feel that probably one of the greatest problems that we have is that of communication and it is greater than just a language barrier, whether it is bilingual or not, and that we are not able to communicate with the

people because of several local cultures. Frankly, I feel that our people here, and I speak both as an employer of some 625 employees, and as a hospital administrator concerned with the care of sick people, that this culture is probably identified as the old padrino type of culture.

Our people identify with this familiar and real type of culture much quicker than they do with one that is not real to them. They identify with brother, with sister, with mother, with grandmother, people in the family, and are very apt to believe and do what they suggest. They identify with Rogelio Sanchez who has been on this panel today. Now, what I do recommend in regard to the health care for the aging is that we have more paramedical schools whereby we can teach young people health needs and health methods so that they can take these to the homes and explain them to grandma and grandpa and the family. I feel that they would be accepted much better than our team concept of going into the rural community and showing some slides on a screen that maybe they understand, maybe they don't understand, regardless of language. I feel that they would accept that much better. I am convinced that it would be very necessary for these paramedical schools to insist on bilingual education so that when their students graduate they will be able to speak both Spanish and English correctly. I think it would be very important that these students be allowed to live in their homes during their period of education. Now I am talking about laboratory schools, X-ray schools, the junior college-type schools for nutrition, for the dietitian, et cetera.

#### NUTRITION AND THE ELDERLY

I think it is important to think of nutrition for the elderly. I think that the time has come when we need to be able to put the vitamins in the tortilla and vitamins in the Mexican food the same as we have in the corn flakes and we have in many other things that are on the shelf. I think we can take that nutrition to them if we really work on it. Travel has been expounded on much during this day but I feel it is a very very important thing. I think it is high time that we get our clinics open at an appropriate time, at a time when the one car in the family or the unit can bring them to the clinics. I think it is important that we take clinics to where these people live and by the same token take health care to their homes. Now, when I say this, it produces a tremendous curtain, a tremendous barrier, because many of our people who are educated professionally to do this type of work will not go into some of these pitiful homes to care for the patients who have no better place to live.

Mr. ORIOL. Why is that?

Mr. ROGERS. Now, I would raise this question or I would propose this for what it is worth, we see many a patient, and I expound upon this with a little bit of hesitancy because our Latin American people are a very proud people, they feel that they can care for their own aged and well they do, many of them, but we must remember that we are living in a two-generation span, and I am sorry to say that some of the habits, some of the culture from Anglos probably rubbed off on the second generation, and the older people being proud, prefer and want to be cared for in the home, but the second generation does

not feel the same as the first generation. Consequently, we find people who, when they take off their clothes, have their flesh come off with the clothes because they have been worn so long. We find people who are crawling with parasites and various vermin, because of neglect, when they are brought in from their homes, so I say there is a great curtain here, it makes it difficult for health care people to go in, they must truly be mission minded, and I thank my Lord that I feel that I am mission minded, they must feel that there is a need, that they can go where the unlvely are. Now, I say this, in a community that houses Latin-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Negroes, and Anglos and all classes of people, it is difficult not only right here, but even as far away as Odessa, to find the kind of leadership they can believe in.

### STRONG FAMILY TIES

Who do they listen to? They listen to this member of the family or this grandmother, in regard to health care needs and they will listen to that brother, or that sister, who might have a little more education along these lines. These are the people that they believe in. They will not go way out of town to take nursing or to take laboratory training, or any of these specific courses, because they are a close family group. They are needed in the homes, in the evenings to sit with children, to be a part of the family. I think we need schools locally so that this can rub off or so that it can penetrate these barriers and eventually benefit the older people of the community. In some of these homes where there are older people mixed with younger people, we literally have cesspools of disease, and this can be borne out a little later. I think that it is important that we have better and more posthospital planning. We have good facilities in the line of nursing homes for those that have money or who are in the higher middle class, but when it comes to the class without money, those that are without means, it is nearly impossible for us, a hospital, an emergency care unit, to find posthospital space.

Mr. ORIOL. Does that mean that you have patients in your hospital who don't need to be there?

Mr. ROGERS. We have patients who have been there 364 days and should be in nursing homes.

Mr. ORIOL. What is the average cost per day in your hospital as compared to an average cost per day in a nursing home?

Mr. ROGERS. My average cost per day in the hospital would be about \$42. It will be somewhat higher as we become a little more sophisticated in some of the things we have to do. I do not know what the cost would be in a nursing home but I believe that \$20 is quite adequate.

Mr. ORIOL. So it is costing twice as much keeping a person in the hospital even though that person doesn't need to be there?

Mr. ROGERS. That is right. We have utilized extended care quite a bit and have been able to care for these aging patients in this facility. I feel that we need more and more adequate social service assistance to provide for posthospital home health care so that they can follow up and help these patients. Is a dressing rubbing a sore? Is it too tight? This sort of thing—rather than an old person having to be brought back to the hospital for a medical checkup.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You feel that this kind of care, Mr. Rogers, that from your administrative experience, that that patient could leave the hospital area and get adequate care only if you had paramedical—

Mr. ROGERS. Paramedical education.

Senator YARBOROUGH. If you had that, it would enable you to have a faster turnover in the hospital and enable people to have better medical care.

Mr. ROGERS. That is right, Your Honor, but what I am really thinking about is that with more education to the young Latin-American person at the bilingual level, they would in turn communicate the need for this kind of health care to their grandmother, to their granddaddy at home, and also, if we allow them to go home each night while they are getting this education, they would remember that they just left this environment and that they have not graduated into a new environment when they graduate from that education.

Senator YARBOROUGH. From the hearings we held last year in California, New York, Texas, and Washington, on the bilingual education bill, and the hearings we have had this year, I am glad we are coming to the conclusion that what we need is good adult bilingual education classes in this country.

Mr. ROGERS. That is right, but I am making one point even further than the bilingual education bill and that is that I want to make sure to get across that whether they speak Spanish or whether they speak English, in our community they need to speak the language of their family and the people there who can tell them, this is the right way, because let's face it, they are a little fearful of the unknown, and this presents a real problem.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Nearly everyone is, aren't they?

Mr. ROGERS. That is right; it isn't just the Mexican-American, it is each of us.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Yes.

Mr. ROGERS. Was that all, sir?

Senator YARBOROUGH. Yes.

Mr. ROGERS. With this adequate social service program and the post-hospitalization, I feel we could ambulate the patient earlier, they could be back in their homes and certainly just as all of them desire, but also we could produce more empathy for the patient, they like a young person caring for them; they also like one of their own to care for them, and I certainly would recommend that we try to get more adequate paramedical education in our community, teaching it on a bilingual basis. If they talk only English when they come into the program, they would have to talk Spanish when they left, or vice versa, and I would recommend that we take some girls and boys into the classes that could speak only Spanish, then they would have to learn English while they are there. In summary, Your Honor, I feel privileged to come and bring this information. I feel that I am on a mission, it is a tremendous challenge, and I love every minute of it.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Mr. Rogers, as administrator. We had the medical doctors testifying from Belvedere Hospital in Los Angeles yesterday and, of course, that is one of the problems of the

elderly, all elderly, is the medical problem, the health problem. The next witness on this panel is Mr. Melvin Fox, M.D., acting director, Texas State Department of Health, Division of Tuberculosis Control. Is that the correct title? We have had several titles in here. That is the one that was given to me on this sheet; is that correct?

Dr. Fox. Actually, I am a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, and I have been assigned to the Texas State Department of Health, Division of Tuberculosis and, in turn, assigned to region I-B, Texas, of which El Paso is a part, as director of tuberculosis control. I have been in this community for approximately 18 months, and during this time I have been quite actively involved in the care of the patients with tuberculosis both in the hospital and as out-patients, and as a consequence of this I developed certain ideas, certain observations, and I would like to relate those to you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. If you will, do you have a paper here?

Dr. Fox. Yes, I do.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You can digest that, if you wish, and we will put the whole report in the record.

**STATEMENT OF DR. MELVIN FOX, ACTING DIRECTOR, TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DIVISION OF TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL, REGION I-B**

Dr. Fox. City, State, or Federal Governments, concerned and interested in the well-being of the Mexican-American, especially their aged, will find that the success of any program will depend upon the understanding of the implications of the Mexican-American culture. Culture not only has its language differences but also develops a peoples' way of thinking, which makes it different from other cultures, as Mr. Rogers alluded to. Unless this is understood, people will not respond to treatment or to whatever programs we are trying to offer them. We can no longer accept the notion that all people are essentially the same, and consequently must fit into a set mold, a set pattern of action. We must accept the differences and deal with them. Only with this as a background can any success be hoped for in our community-oriented programs.

In El Paso, one finds a complex economic and social situation. The Mexican-American and the Anglo community are integrated from an economic point of view. However, socially these groups are fairly distinct entities.

The majority of the Mexican-American population lack the educational background to obtain well-paid work, and even those who are fully qualified for the job usually receive lower salaries than the Anglo community for the very same work.

The Mexican-American family structure must also be fully appreciated. The male represents the complete authority within the household, possessing the basic characteristics of dignity, aloofness, and the ability to stand up for his own rights. The woman is quiet, passive, and understanding. Children are taught to defend themselves in order that they will know how to maintain their dignity as adults. Mexican-American parents gain increased respect as they grow older, since age is venerated. The older a person is, the greater his knowledge and

wisdom, and the closer he is to God, if he has led a good life. Any disrespect shown to old people is regarded as an offense against God which may bring illness or misfortune to the culprit. Respect for the aged is a strong force for cultural conservatism, since the older generation tends to be the more conservative element of the community. Outside of the immediate family one has the God parenthood system known as the *compadrazgo* system. It is under this envelops which the Mexican-American functions and achieves most of his satisfaction.

In the area of health, we must remember that the condition of one's health later on in life is in large part determined by the habits that he has picked up early in life. We must clearly educate people more adequately when they are young if we are ever to expect intelligent health habits in later years.

#### ATTITUDES TOWARD ILLNESS

Within the Mexican-American family no one is regarded as ill unless the head of the family agrees that he is. No major treatment is ever accepted for a sick person unless the head of the family has approved of it. Consequently, we must always remember that a health worker does not deal with a single individual but with an extended family which often includes distant relatives and *compadres*.

Natural illness is perceived within this culture setting as being caused by a multiplicity of factors such as improper diet, fatigue, and so forth. It may be purely natural and, consequently, have no derogatory connotations. On the other hand, it can also represent a punishment from God for immoral behavior. Therefore, the Mexican-American tends to associate some natural phenomena with the development of any given disease so that no onus of guilt will be placed upon him.

Tuberculosis is believed to be a complication of advanced *susto*—fright experience—that has not been treated. If *susto* is cured, then tuberculosis will respond to simple home treatment, according to Mexican-American disease theory, which does not classify tuberculosis as a communicable disease. Within this superstitious framework of disease one also finds *diviners* and *curanderos*.

The professional physician is viewed at times with suspicion and at times with hostility by the conservative members of the lower class. Mexican-Americans are somewhat skeptical when viewing the germ theory of disease. Germs which cannot be seen perhaps cannot exist. He often refers to germs as *animalitos*—little animals—furthermore, he knows that physicians lack the knowledge needed to treat illnesses of supernatural origin. The *curanderos* petition God and the saints for aid and cure, but a physician apparently ignores the possibility of divine help, at least to his patient. In addition, the typical physician or nurse does not achieve a close, effective relationship with the Mexican-American patient which is so characteristic of this group's relationship with other important people within their lives. This may at times be related to language difficulty, and in part may be related to the authoritarian type of relationship that the physician and nurse tends to foster.

The patient faces the same problem when he enters the hospital which offers an environment extremely mechanized and impersonal.

Consequently, this has fostered the concept that the hospital represents a place where one is to die. A sense of fear may then be engendered instead of hope—although to a lesser degree in the past few years.

In approaching the Mexican-American community we must see that on the one hand we must try to get them to accept the scientific approach to medical care without disrupting the social organization in creating unnecessary tensions within the group. We must adapt scientific medical services so that it will be compatible with the prevailing cultural pattern.

#### INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS

In El Paso the incidence of tuberculosis is very high in the Mexican-American community. If one compares the rate of disease in El Paso with the national average one finds a rate of over 45/100,000 in El Paso—double that seen nationally. In numbers this represents approximately 180 newly reported cases of tuberculosis for this year, with about one out of every 10 cases being someone over the age of 64.

One effort which has been spent on the part of the Texas State Department of Health in response to the elderly and his needs to maintain continuity with his family has been the recent contract agreement with Thomason General Hospital which will enable a patient to remain in the community near his family for treatment. In the past, all too often, the moving of a patient out of the community has been like separating a tree from its roots—death becoming inevitable.

Each year there are a significant number of children who are identified as having tuberculosis within our community. The source of infection and disease among these children is often traceable to an adult member of the community. Most often, it is the parent or the grandparent. It is frequently difficult to get families to bring in the grandparents to a clinic setting so that proper examination may be performed to try to track down the source of infection in the younger members of the family. Part of this problem lies in the area of transportation. Because of the physical nature of this community, unless an old person is driven to a health facility, there is no way that a person can very effectively be counted on to arrive at a given destination at a given time. More often than not, this will create a burden on either a daughter or a son who will have to lose half a day's work or full day's work so they can bring their family to the proper facility. When the person lives alone the problem is compounded further. A second phase of the difficulty is the respect for the elderly and for their wishes. Third, there is an unvoiced fear of finding out that a particular individual in the family does in fact have tuberculosis, a disease which is still dreaded in the community. It is feared to such an extent that even after a person has been identified as having the disease and has been adequately treated and allowed to return to his community and occupation, he finds that many of his friends and previous contacts have now disappeared and are not willing to have anything to do with him.

## FLOW ACROSS THE BORDER

Another problem, unique to border communities such as ours is the tremendous flow of people across this manmade barrier. People from both the United States and Mexico seek medical aid in each others' country. The result is a lack of adequate information regarding the incidence and prevalence of disease for that migrating population. In addition, if part of a family lives in the United States and another in Mexico and tuberculosis is identified in the family, how can you effectively diagnose, follow, treat, and prevent disease in the entire family?

When viewing tuberculosis we must not lose perspective. Tuberculosis is still a problem not only in Texas but throughout the United States. In dealing with a communicable disease within a mobile society, such as ours, we must never lose control of the situation for a given State's problem may become another State's problem. We must extend every effort until this disease is eradicated from our country. The time to spend more money is when you appear to be winning the battle for health. Our goal cannot be achieved if Federal expenditures are cut back as they have been in this program. We must remember that there are 25 million Americans who are infected with the tuberculosis germ. A great majority of these being our elderly citizens. When we know that 75 percent of all future cases of tuberculosis will arrive from this infected population, the implications become clear.

## OTHER HEALTH FACTORS

We are all aware too that other factors contribute to the health of the aged population such as good nutrition which in part is based on good dentition, proper living conditions, and a healthy state of mind. The living conditions which most elderly people must accept are far below any level of acceptability. However, one cannot attempt to provide only this aged group with new dwellings as they are integrated members of families. Consequently, the only way that we can offer proper living dwellings, which helps establish a sense of dignity in one's life, is to improve the living conditions of the entire family and through this improve the conditions of the elderly members of that particular family. In medicine we know only too well the part played by the psyche in fostering organic disease.

We then face another problem, and that is the problem of communication. There may be any number of city, State, or Federal programs which are available to the elderly members of the community, but this information may never filter down to those we are striving to reach.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I have read your complete statement carefully. It is a very fine statement, and the staff has read it too, so we would like to file it. We have already read ahead of you, of course, we can read it faster silently than you can read it aloud. We have the prerequisite number of copies, and I would like the staff to hand one to Commissioner Sanchez and Commissioner Telles because some of these recommendations so closely coincide with some of their recommendations. I want to commend you. You see, we print this record.

You don't have to read it, it will be in the printed record, it goes to the Public Health Service and the HEW and all the related agencies. We will file this. You have very good material in here. You have material that I have never read in any other statement about the Mexican-American's concept of medicine and treatment, and the part of the family and the church and—how do you pronounce the word, "curanderos," would you consider them faith healers, or doctors, how would you categorize them in English?

Dr. Fox. A mixture of faith and superstition.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Anyway, there have been articles in folklore magazines about them. Are they active here?

Dr. Fox. Yes, there are quite a number to whom these patients do go to.

Senator YARBOROUGH. There are pictures in the recent historical magazines as though they didn't exist any more, you say they are here?

Dr. Fox. Yes, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I have seen pictures in the last 6 months like something that existed a generation ago.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Fox follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DR. MELVIN FOX, ACTING DIRECTOR, TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DIVISION OF TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL, REGION 1-D

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#### FEAR AND HOSPITALS

The patient faces the same problem when he enters the hospital which offers an environment extremely mechanized and impersonal. Consequently, this has fostered the concept that the hospital represents a place where one is to die. A sense of fear may then be engendered instead of hope. (Although to a lesser degree in the past few years.)

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One effort which has been spent on the part of the Texas State Department of Health in response to the elderly and his needs to maintain continuity with his family has been the recent contract agreement with Thomason General Hospital which will enable a patient to remain in the community near his family for treatment. In the past, all too often, the moving of a patient out of the community has been like separating a tree from its roots—death becoming inevitable.

Each year there are a significant number of children who are identified as having tuberculosis within our community. The source of infection and disease among these children is often traceable to an adult member of the community. Most often, it is the parent or the grandparent. It is frequently difficult to get families to bring in the grandparents to a clinic setting so that proper examination may be performed to try to track down the source of infection in the younger members of the family. Part of this problem lies in the area of transportation. Because of the physical nature of this community, unless an old person is driven to a health facility, there is no way that a person can very effectively be counted on to arrive at a given destination at a given time. More often than not, this will

create a burden on either a daughter or a son who will have to lose half a day's work or full day's work so they can bring their family to the proper facility. When the person lives alone the problem is compounded further. A second phase of the difficulty is the respect for the elderly and for their wishes. Thirdly, there is an unvoiced fear of finding out that a particular individual in the family does in the fact have tuberculosis, a disease which is still dreaded in the community. It is feared to such an extent that even after a person has been identified as having the disease and has been adequately treated and allowed to return to his community and occupation, he finds that many of his friends and previous contacts have now disappeared and are not willing to have anything to do with him.

Another problem, unique to Border communities such as ours is the tremendous flow of people across this man-made barrier. People from both the United States and Mexico seek medical aid in each other's country. The result is a lack of adequate information regarding the incidence and prevalence of disease for that migrating population. In addition, if part of a family lives in the United States and another part in Mexico and tuberculosis is identified in the family how can you effectively diagnose, follow, treat, and prevent disease in the entire family?

When viewing tuberculosis we must not lose perspective. Tuberculosis is still a problem not only in Texas but throughout the United States. In dealing with a communicable disease within a mobile society, such as ours, we must never lose control of the situation for a given state's problem may become another state's problem. We must extend every effort until this disease is eradicated from our country. The time to spend more money is when you appear to be winning the battle for health. Our goal cannot be achieved if federal expenditures are cut back as they have been in this program. We must remember that there are 25 million Americans who are infected with the tuberculosis germ. A great majority of these being our elderly citizens. When we know that 75 percent of all future cases of tuberculosis will arrive from this infected population, the implications become clear.

We are all aware too that other factors contribute to the health of the aged population such as good nutrition which in part is based on good dentition; proper living conditions and a healthy state of mind. The living conditions which most elderly people must accept are far below any level of acceptability. However, one cannot attempt to provide only this aged group with new dwellings as they are integrated members of families. Consequently, the only way that we can offer proper living dwellings, which helps establish a sense of dignity in one's life, is to improve the living conditions of the entire family and through this improve the conditions of the elderly members of that particular family. In medicine we know only too well the part played by the Psyche in fostering organic disease.

#### PROBLEM OF COMMUNICATION

We then face another problem, and that is the problem of communication. There may be any number of city, state or federal programs which are available to the elderly members of the community, but this information may never filter down to those we are striving to reach. The mass media of television, newspaper and radio is not that media which this particular population utilizes. Finally, the eligibility for medicare or various aspects of this program, the institution and participation in various preventative screening techniques, cannot be handled solely on a mass media scale. Whenever you are confronted with an approach at prevention, the idea of seeking medical evaluation when in apparent good health stimulates the remark "why look for trouble?" It is a general attitude on the part of many elderly citizens.

If we take all of this into consideration, the question then arises as to what can we offer the aged Mexican-American members of our community. To begin with, we must always remember that the aged pool continually increases, and this comes from that population which was at one time in fact young. Therefore, programs must be started to improve the level of understanding within the young age population. This must be done not only with the attitude of inculcating this population with our own ideas, but also showing a respect for and urging the Mexican-American community to look at their own culture and history with pride and to take dignity in being a Mexican-American. Unless the educational system takes this point of view there should be no astonishment at finding out that so few of this community survive the entire educational process.

We must involve specifically the elderly person's most immediate family in his education. The way to reach out to him should be through his home and through his families' place of work. By this method we would be confident that the information which we wish to impart to elderly citizens, the benefits which we wish to offer them, will arrive at their appropriate destination, and that treatment schedules would be more enthusiastically followed. Would it not be a fine idea in terms of the myriad of programs which are administered through the Federal System or through State channels for an office to exist right within the community, right among the people to whom you are trying to administer? You cannot expect those elderly people, who do not understand English well, to travel for fairly long distances and wait long periods of time, to grasp concepts which at times escape even the most learned person.

#### NEEDED NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES

Would it not make sense to have a facility or facilities available right within the neighborhood where the elderly could seek aid in times of illness. A facility which would not be difficult to walk to instead of having to depend upon the assistance of many other people to drive them to a county hospital. This factor at times may dictate to the individual to postpone seeking medical help to a point where the particular disease process has progressed to irreversible stages. Would it not be wise to structure the clinic setting according to the needs of those people to whom you are trying to deal with. To broaden our present well baby clinics, which are strictly health prevention oriented, to total outpatient care facilities to be ultimately under the direction of a qualified city-county health officer who would coordinate the Health, Education and Welfare Programs for the entire community.

In view of the strong religious emphasis that the Mexican-American places in the successfulness of treatment, would it not be wise to have various murals within the clinic setting which would depict a multi-religious message. The presence of flowers and possible the presence of culturally oriented music within these clinic settings would also appear to be of benefit. An attitude on the part of the physicians and nurses giving full recognition of the need to develop strong interpersonal relationships with those who they will be caring for. To take the time to explain as clearly as possible exactly what is happening and what can be expected. The need to have continuity; to have the same physician, the same nurse always available to the Mexican-American elderly and not have a continual cycling of medical personalities. To avoid fragmentation of care. The patient should be seen by a single doctor who takes care of all of his needs. And to know that if he returns in one month the same doctor will be there to meet his needs. We need to also see a return to a generalized public health nursing program for our community. For those patients requiring hospitalization, would it not be wise to help modify the regulations that often govern the running of a hospital so that it would be more compatible and acceptable to the Mexican-American aged population. Could we conceivably modify the visiting hours' schedules and allow a family to bring in meals from home allowing for the fact that the patient was not on any special diet.

Yes there is a need for all those who will be intimately involved with this population to have some working knowledge of the culture of these people—I mean a complete understanding and not just a mere superficial smattering of information—a need to be bilingual. In such a fashion, one will be in a better position to show respect for the Mexican-American culture and beliefs, to know what is superstition and not to ridicule it—to utilize the patient's culture for his benefit.

The forthcoming United States Public Health Survey which will begin in the next several weeks will identify the total extent of the health problems which exist in the South El Paso community. The definition arrived at by a close involvement with the people who live in the community, with the people to whom you wish to administer to, will enable us to evolve a more meaningful program which will express the communities' needs rather than meet the needs of the program sponsors.

We must not also forget that there is a certain population of Mexican-American aged who have no family structure to return to after recovering from illness, and who are not completely independent. There is no domiciliary kind of setting

nor any chronic disease facility which is readily accessible to patients within our community. In a certain percentage of homes the classical family structure has developed flaws. In certain instances either the mother, father, or both may be absent from the home. The continuity of one generation to another, the heirarchy system is weakened. This will begin to present new kinds of problems for the community in the future.

Thus it should be. We must somehow coordinate the various disciplines and provide a uniform approach to the patient. We must deal with ourselves before we can plan for others. We must not only repair our medical fragmentation but also our community service fragmentation.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The next witness is Dr. Steglich. I want to commend you. We have been studying this fine report, this "Survey of the Needs and Resources Among the Aged Mexican-Americans"\* that you were the leading author of, that you made in the Texas Technological College and prepared for the Governor's Conference on the Aged. It is a very fine report and we are honored that you are here in person and you will proceed, please, in your own way.

**STATEMENT OF DR. W. G. STEGLICH, CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO**

Dr. STEGLICH. In the interest of time, and since the statement does go into the record, I will simply take about 3 minutes mainly to point out that this is a study in Lubbock, Tex., not El Paso, it is one of two published studies dealing with the needs and the resources to meet those needs of elderly Mexican-Americans, which makes me a half expert, I think. The study involves interviewing 291 people 50 years old or over. Actually, all but 11 of those were over 55. We were interested in aging and not aged. These were very poor people. Lubbock is much poorer than El Paso, and concerning the Mexican-American population, the average educational level in the city for Mexican-Americans is 3 years. Of these, half of them have never been in school. The income level of these people was between \$25 and \$300 a month, with a median of \$70 a month. I would like to read my recommendations.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Yes, sir, let me ask you a question first, Doctor, we know that Lubbock per capita is one of the highest income cities of Texas.

Dr. STEGLICH. Right.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Since the average per capita income in Lubbock is much higher than the average in El Paso, how do you account for the very impoverished condition of our Mexican-Americans there in Lubbock?

Dr. STEGLICH. Well, most of the Mexican-Americans—as you know this, of course, but perhaps not—but Lubbock is an agricultural center, and most of the Mexican-Americans there are settled out migrants who have been under the migratory labor program, and therefore they are of low education, they have lack of skills, and they naturally lack income and, as a consequence, have poor health, but, in addition, the city is not, as you also know, a heartland of liberalism, or even compassion, so the welfare program—

Senator YARBOROUGH. I think that is the understatement of the year.

\*Retained in committee files; for conclusions from the report, see appendix 1, p. 203.

Dr. STEGLICH. The welfare program turned back \$70,000 a few years ago, the city-county welfare department were not reaching people who were in need and those who wanted the services couldn't have them. Is that an adequate answer?

Senator YARBOROUGH. Yes; it confirms my own casual observations of Lubbock. I do know of a survey that was made up there for other purposes. Frankly it was for political purposes, and this survey reported that 80 percent of the people of Lubbock are what we would call middle class and above in income, one of the most highest percentages of people of relatively better income probably than any other city in Texas of over a thousand. This is rather shocking that the higher average of affluence the less care they have for those that are not affluent.

#### PRIMARY PROBLEM: INFORMATION

Dr. STEGLICH. I would like to recommend a number of things that are not radically new. I think the overriding matter of health in our findings suggest that certainly something needs to be done in that respect, but the primary problem is that we need to get to these people the information that they are eligible for aid programs that now exist and which they are not aware of. Half of them have never heard of medicare, 49 percent, and none of that half have of course signed up though they are eligible. How they should be reached is a point that was touched on a great deal this afternoon during the time that I was here, but it seems to me you don't reach a nonliterate people by the printed page, that you do not seriously really help them by house to house contacting, but that we have not utilized the mass media as much as we might. There is a television program coming into El Paso in March dealing with the adult basic education program which will try to reach the nonliterate Mexican-Americans, and this program I think will tell us a few things. We used the radio very effectively in our study of getting the cooperation from the community of Mexican-Americans.

I feel very strongly about the need for more sympathetic and understanding orientation of people who work for the agencies, welfare service, public health, and medical service, not just that they be bilingual but that they be themselves Mexican-Americans, and I know this is not out of the question because you can't suddenly make social workers out of people who haven't got the high school education, much less a college education, and M.S. in education, but it seems to me also that we can and should be engaging in experimental programs with less than college graduates acting in the capacity of social workers. In respect to health specifically I think it is not enough to recognize that the people who go to the hospital to get treated there have problems, I think we need to do some painstaking county-level work on what the mortality patterns of Mexican-Americans are. You do not code a Spanish surname into the death certificates nor into other vital records, and that is unfortunate from a research point of view, but we need on a survey basis to get more specific information because not all health problems are the same nor do they call for the same kind of treatment or programs of treatment, so these recommendations I think will help.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Let me ask you, in these projected programs on television for nonliterate adult Mexican-Americans, that are to be carried out in El Paso in March, that is this coming March, will they be in Spanish?

Dr. STEGLICH. Oh, yes; that is a program by the University of Arizona in a series of 15, I think, and there is a group that is primed to hear it, and they will be tested before and after, and then there will be a general pickup.

Senator YARBOROUGH. It would be easier to do that in San Antonio where they have a Spanish-language television station, all Spanish.

Dr. STEGLICH. Yes; I guess. The reason that this is being done here is that this is by the lab in Albuquerque rather than at Austin.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I don't think that you can do it here but I mean that you have nothing but Spanish spoken, a few words of English in it; but I think there are a number of Spanish-language radio stations in Texas. I am glad you raised this point of using the broadcasts which has not been used as much. And your report says that you used a Spanish-language radio station in Lubbock and that the cooperation was excellent despite the fact that the educational level was three and a fraction years compared to 6 years in El Paso. I think that we can be hopeful for similar programs here.

Dr. STEGLICH. I think actually it will help.

#### LETTER FROM HEW

Senator YARBOROUGH. Doctor, we thank you and your colleague, Dr. Cartwright, Mr. Ben Crouch, and others that helped you on this very fine report, which is documented, and footnoted, in addition to your research, your recommendations, the type of questions you used in finding all this material, let me tell you that we were mailed copies of this report by the Governor's commission, Mrs. Clopton at Austin, and we took this and studied it, and this was the basis of my letter of inquiry to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare on the 14th of October asking for details as to actually what was done. He answered on November 15, had given my letter considerable study, and the Secretary signed this in person, a letter of more than four pages.\* It was rather laudatory of what they had done, we don't think too laudatory in the light of the hearings; but out of this study we have had several studies, your report primarily, but we have had three reports, we found yours the most helpful of all. And then they had this volume on the relocation of dispossessed elderly from the University of Pennsylvania, the study of Mexican-Americans, a study was by the University of Pennsylvania but they made it for the senior community services of San Antonio.

These three basic reports, and particularly yours, we made this inquiry, and out of the studies that you have done, we have set up these series of public Senate hearings, and finally completing in Washington where we will call in many authorities in January, that out of the work you all have done and the research you have done, as the basis for needed legislation, needed programs, needed personnel to carry them out, we hope to alleviate the conditions of the needy Mexican-Ameri-

\*For text of letter from the Secretary, see pt. 1, pp. 4-6.

cans. I want to thank you and congratulate you as one of the leaders in this field. Have you read Secretary Cohen's letter?

Dr. STEGLICH. No, sir. I have been sort of out of touch.

Senator YARBOROUGH. If you have an extra copy, Mr. Carleton, give Dr. Steglich a copy of our letter also.

(The prepared statement of Dr. Steglich follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF W. G. STEGLICH, CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO, EL PASO, TEX.

"Everywhere with old age there come aches and pains." This answer to the question of whether or not it is easier to grow old in some societies than in others has much truth in it. In our society today, growing old is definitely not pleasant. For some people, it means boredom and loneliness, isolation from meaningful life in a society whose main concerns are with youth. For others, it means poverty and dependency as well as loneliness. And for many it means, in addition, poor health with very real physical aches and pains as well as the psychic aches and pains of loneliness.

For most Mexican-Americans today, growing old does not mean loneliness. They do not express concern about being bored or having left a meaningful life behind. But they do express much concern about poor health and the inability to do anything about it. A life of poverty, coupled with negative attitudes toward the nature and organization of Anglo medicine, have left their toll in the way of chronic ailments and illnesses. And poverty continued into old age means that adequate care for aches and pains simply isn't in the cards for them.

I do not presume to speak for all Mexican-American old people. No one really can. Mexican-American old people, like Mexican-Americans in general, are a very heterogeneous group. They range from the Anglicized and highly urbanized middle-class person in San Jose or Los Angeles to the settled out migrant in a West Texas town who, though technically living in a city, lives very close to the peasant way of life of his forbears. He lives in a city, but he is poorly equipped for city living. He is almost totally uneducated, he had no job skills, he is too old to be retrained for meaningful work, and his children and grandchildren are becoming Anglicized so that he doesn't always feel comfortable with them.

Although I have lived all but seven of my 47 years in Southwestern states and communities (Austin, Albuquerque, Colorado, California, Lubbock, and now El Paso), and although I have been involved in several research projects which studied large numbers of Mexican-Americans of all ages, I do not feel qualified to generalize about them. I shall, therefore, limit my comments to a study of Mexican-American old people recently completed in Lubbock, Texas in which 291 Mexican-Americans 50 years old or older were interviewed. My collaborators in this study were Dr. Walter J. Cartwright, Mr. Ben Crouch, and Miss Rosa Escamilla. It was funded by a grant from the Governor's Committee on Aging under Title III of the Older Americans Act. The final report was submitted on August 25, 1968.

#### "SETTLED OUT MIGRANTS"

Unfortunately, the Mexican-Americans of Lubbock, Texas are not representative of Mexican-Americans in the Southwest. They are, by and large, settled out migrants who left the migrant stream during the last fifteen years, or they are friends and relatives of former migrants who moved to Lubbock from South Texas because opportunity was relatively greater in Lubbock than in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Their numbers in Lubbock increased from slightly more than 3,000 in 1950 to more than 21,000 in 1968, indicating a tremendous influx from the outside. Most of them are young, as migrants generally are, and they are very poorly educated. Adult Mexican-Americans in Lubbock in 1950 had an average grade achievement of only 1.7 years, the lowest figure for any minority group in any Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area in the United States. In 1960, that figure had risen to 3.1 years, still leaving it the lowest for any group of people in any SMSA in the U.S.A. In 1960, according to Census data, Mexican-Americans in Lubbock had the lowest median income of the three ethnic groups in the city (\$3,260 per family per year), and they lived in housing which was classified as deteriorated or dilapidated in nearly three-fifths of the cases.

There are very few older Mexican-Americans in Lubbock, less than one-and-one-half percent being 65 and over. Of these, more than half have had no formal education whatsoever, and the average grade achievement for the group is less than one year of school.

It is clear from this brief resume that the Mexican-Americans of Lubbock do not represent Mexican-Americans generally, but that they are, rather, an exaggerated version (almost a caricature) of the problems which poverty and lack of education bring to so many members of that large and rapidly growing group.

#### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objectives of our research were the following: (1) to discover whether growing old has different meanings for Mexican-Americans from those which other researchers have found to be characteristic of Anglo-Americans; (2) to learn what services, if any, of a private or public kind are available for elderly Mexican-Americans; (3) to ascertain what elderly Mexican-Americans believe their problems to be; and (4) to learn what attitudes elderly Mexican-Americans hold toward their families, the church, and the government as possible sources of help. Each of these four areas included many specific sub-areas. Although some of the findings are interesting, I shall report only the major results which have to do with needs and services.

Our study reveals that, although the traditional family relationships characteristic of Mexican-Americans are still basically intact, Anglicization is also taking place. This means that the traditional obligation of children, especially oldest son, to care for dependent parents is weakening. Although slightly more than half of our respondents lived with children, many did not believe that the children had any obligation to provide for them in their dependency. It is reasonable to expect that further weakening of such family lines will occur as this population is increasingly Anglicized. Until now, many Mexican-American old people—whatever their problems may be—have at least had the feeling of security which goes with being involved in a meaningful group. With Anglicization, this will diminish.

With respect to services designed specifically to serve elderly Mexican-Americans, we learned that there are none in Lubbock. There are no programs intended specifically for elderly Mexican-Americans by churches, private rest homes, voluntary community agencies, or other public or private agencies.

What do elderly Mexican-Americans believe their problems to be? The answer is so overwhelmingly "health" that the others really are of no consequence. However, health problems are in some part the product of poverty and the Mexican-American respondents frequently lumped these two together. We asked them what they would wish for themselves, or for other aging members of La Raza, if they had but one wish. The answer was "better health" in 79 percent of the cases, and more money in six percent of the cases.

There are other dimensions to the health problem than just the lack of money. Many express a fatalistic view of life which does not contribute to availing oneself of medical care even if it is available and free. Others have the traditional rural folk view that a hospital is a place to which one goes to die. Many are afraid of doctors and hospitals, and some resent the cold and impersonal treatment which they receive from the medical profession. **This is a complex area** and one which has been well described by Lyle Saunders in his book, *Cultural Difference and Medical Care*. Other works, especially those by Madsen and Rubel, also discuss the cultural aspects of the problem.

The final question to which we sought answers was what they thought the family, the church, and the government should provide in the way of services. The most common answer was that the government should provide "everything." However, more detailed probing in this area revealed that many were unaware of such services as already exist. Half, for example, did not know about Medicare nor, of course, were they signed up for it. The catch-all label for government services which many of them used was "Social Security." But Social Security was vaguely perceived. Knowledge of Old Age Assistance and General Assistance programs was minimal. Many who had had contact with the General Assistance program were not happy with treatment received.

It is obvious that these respondents were neither very perceptive nor articulate. It is, of course, not reasonable to expect them to be, since most of them

had never been to school at all. But one might hope that means will nevertheless be devised to bring them into contact with services provided by the several levels of government for which they are eligible. And one might also hope that they will be treated properly (that is, with respect) by the people in charge of such services when contact is made.

#### USEFULNESS OF TELEVISION

Our study suggests, among other things, that means of reaching the dependent and needy elderly Mexican-Americans must be devised. Research needs to be done in this area, and soon. One such project, involving the effectiveness of television programs as means of reaching non-literate adult Mexican-Americans, is to be carried out in El Paso in March. It will involve the Adult Basic Education program. However, the results should also be useful for other governmental agencies. We found in Lubbock that our appeals on the Spanish language radio station were widely heard and that cooperation on the part of the listeners was excellent. It seems clear that various media other than the printed word are available and can be used to inform elderly Mexican-Americans about programs of assistance which are available to them and to which they are entitled.

A further suggestion derived from the study is that a much more sympathetic and understanding orientation toward these people and their problems needs to be developed in the personnel of the welfare and public health services. What is actually needed is bi-lingual social workers who not only speak the Spanish language but are sensitive to the culture and social status of the clients. Although programs to develop bi-lingual social workers are underway, much more needs to be done. The problems won't wait until four to six years of training have been given to Mexican-American youngsters now entering college. Experimental programs in which high school graduates, and perhaps even persons with less education, can be used in various social work capacities are needed. Such personnel are needed urgently not only in General Assistance or Old Age Assistance, but also in public health and medicine.

Finally, much needs to be learned about the health and medical problems of elderly Mexican-Americans. Unfortunately—at least from a research point of view—Spanish surname is not coded into birth and death certificates, nor does the Spanish surname population show up as a separate category in the National Health Surveys. Consequently, short of detailed analysis of raw records at the county level, there is no way to find out what peculiar problems of morbidity prevail in the group. Such research needs to be done, even if it is laborious and costly and involves hand tallying of records in county vital statistics offices. All we know at this point is that they themselves consider health to be the main problem of growing old, but we don't know just what that means, nor are we in a position to do much about it until we know.

I repeat, our Lubbock study is not representative of the eleven million Spanish speaking people in the United States, nor of the four and a half million Mexican-Americans of the Southwest. Other studies need to be made. However, we do not need to wait on interminable studies before we take action in some of the obvious areas discussed above.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That completes the list of regular witnesses. If we have another witness that wants to be heard, we can hear you, Mr. Cuellar, we have run over a half hour, but we can hear you, Mr. Cuellar, for 3 or 4 minutes. Did you want to be heard for 3 or 4 minutes, Mr. Cuellar?

Mr. CUELLAR, Yes, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. All right, and is Dr. Carlock here? I want the staff to contact Mrs. Carlock, who is administrator of welfare programs for the State here, and ask her if she will write a statement.\* She was not on the list of witnesses. I have talked to her, she has much information on this area.

\*See app. 2, p. 215.

Mr. DEWEY. I will be glad to see her in the morning.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Will you please tell her to please write us in Washington any report she has, or recommendations, and we will be glad to have them and read them and print them in the record?

Mr. CUELLAR. Thank you, Mr. Yarborough and members of the committee.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Will you give your name to the court reporter?

#### STATEMENT OF F. R. CUELLAR

Mr. CUELLAR. My name is F. R. Cuellar, resident of El Paso for the last 40 or 50 years. Maybe I come in here from Mexico as a wet-back, but I am here, and I am proud that I made myself a citizen of the United States. I am not here for pay, I am here of my own free will and my own time for the only interest of not only you or your committee but of the interest of the whole United States, which is my duty. I want you to know that the future of the United States is in danger being disintegrated, excuse my English, because I lost some of my teeth during the battle of the Democratic Party in the last several years.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That was a great cause to lose them in.

Mr. CUELLAR. But I know you will understand what I am saying. In the past, the future of the United States was one that I was proud of, and I am still hopeful that I can be proud. That I don't know. If we keep on going the way we are going and the way we have been doing for the last 4 or 6 years, Mr. Yarborough, then my interest, which is yours, your interest, I can assure you of nothing, I would like to recommend four items and I am going to send you a full report of my recommendations in writing with the understanding that what I am going to have to say in my report will be under oath, under perjury. I am not here to brag about myself that we have been doing a tremendous job. Gentlemen, I don't believe half of what I heard this morning here, I am going to recommend that the welfare be placed under Federal Government control, that is the only way you and I can expect something out of it. The idea was good but the results are not what we are paying for. I want you to be sincere with yourself, now I am here, I am old, I am 70 years old, that is why I want to recommend in writing to place this welfare under Federal jurisdiction because we are humans, and sometimes we fail, I am going to say this because with Mr. Telles here, I don't think this probably will result in the commissioner's court, or with these projects here, or any churches, or any civic groups, no, sir; you know that the crime has gone up 19 percent, according to the report this month, 19 percent, this month. We had the representative of the Boy Scouts say what we had to spend and that is why I am here. I am not here to ask you for any money. I am not here to ask you to waste the taxpayers' money. I am here to recommend that you go back to Washington and that you be careful of the money of the taxpayers. I have proof here, if we keep on spending money like this I am afraid that we are working against our own interests, and I don't want to tell you because it will be more than 1 hour but I am making my report in order to help you, in order to help my own Government. I can recommend many things. These hear-

ings are supposed to be made with plenty of time in order for you to know all the circumstances. What this doctor says of the tuberculosis is true, 100 percent true, we can't keep disease away when we allow more than 25,000 persons coming across from Juarez every day in order to work here and go back to Mexico, they go back healthy and come back with some disease. It isn't true that people are moving to Juarez because they have better conditions there. They move there because they have a second wife, or third wife. I have proof here, and I have it in writing, and you can hear it from me. This problem, Mr. Yarborough, is not one to be solved in 1 day. You can stay here 15 days, in order for you to go through the barrios, it is your obligation, and the officers in Washington.

Senator YARBOROUGH. We agree with you that we could not assemble the full information in 1 day. What we do, and the Congress, is to have these hearings, and then turn them in to the department, go out there and get all these facts. Then we have to put a permanent staff to work on it. You brought up some points here that no one else has mentioned. I invite you to write us in Washington. It doesn't have to be typewritten. Mr. Carleton has given you the address there; you supplement your statement; we invite you to write us any other observations or recommendations that you have.

Mr. CUELLAR. Thank you, Mr. Yarborough. Before I finish I want to say that we are property owners on a pension in the country and we are getting so much every month; the prices are increasing every day and we cannot meet the situation. There are several people like me, and we are liable to lose our property because the expenses, we can't meet them; we just can't meet them. Thank you for giving me the time to say these things.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much. I have only one word that I wanted to say, when you expressed fear for America. All the problems of America in the last 5 or 6 years are the growing pains of a young, dynamic, vigorous Nation; they are not the death rattle of an old Nation. I think our Nation is young, dynamic, vigorous, and growing, and we are on the threshold of things that have never been done before. That is my faith about it.

Mr. CUELLAR. Thank you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you. Now we will hear the other witness.

#### STATEMENT OF JAVIER VALLES

Mr. VALLES. Senator Yarborough, I would like to thank you for the opportunity you have given me, and the committee. I would like to state just a couple of things. One problem that we have in communicating with our own people—

Senator YARBOROUGH. May we have your name and address for the reporter?

Mr. VALLES. My name is Javier Valles, a citizen of El Paso. The problem that we have in helping ourselves in El Paso is a problem of communication between ourselves, the Mexican-Americans. The reason that I wanted to talk here is because it was mentioned that there was a television station and a radio station in San Antonio. It is something that we don't have here in El Paso. We have to depend on the news

media, which is strictly non-Spanish, and as a result we use the grapevine and little organizations and sometimes just raise a little hell just to make contact with one side of town with the other, and so on, but in this type of organization all we are trying to do is to unify ourselves so that we can have a development of the programs that have been presented to us by the U.S. Government to help our people. In this sense I would say that I am one of the poverty workers. I work for Project Bravo, and I would like to say that if it hadn't been for this program, if it hadn't been for Project Bravo, none of our problems would have been raised to the surface where they would be recognized and someone would have an opportunity to observe them as they are in their true nature. As a result of all this, now we ourselves are aware that we are equally responsible for these problems and what we really want to do is assume responsibility for our own people within the scope of our rights in this country, and in order to help our elderly and our youngsters we must develop also a program where we will be able to communicate between ourselves without having to beg for communication services from the news media. We might even have to establish our own radio station or newspaper as a result of this. I would say that I would like to present two evidences of community action in El Paso, and we had to use the Mexican paper. This is a co-op in south El Paso known as Macho, \$1,500. The way it was done for 3 years the people were organized and selling small items, food, and whatnot, and then they invested their money and now they have a co-op. Now, with this co-op we are helping the elderly, and they save as much as 20 and 25 percent on food items, some of this stuff is delivered to them within the poverty area.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I can see the headline about this cooperative, the second headline in the paper [indicating], but I can't identify those photographs; is that some pictures of the cooperative that you have in south El Paso?

Mr. VALLES. Yes, sir; and the other one is the South Side Improvement Association of the Mexican people in south El Paso who invested some money so that they could write an article when President Johnson came over thanking him for his humanitarian efforts in this program, and that is this here.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Would you like to file those papers with the committee?

Mr. VALLES. Yes, sir; in behalf of south El Paso and the South Side Community Action Program, we would like to file these with the committee.\*

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much. I congratulate you for your statement and thank you for bringing this information to our attention, and these papers. Any further witnesses to be heard? If not, the committee will stand adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, at the Inman Christian Center, in San Antonio, Tex., on the west side. The committee is adjourned for the day.

\*Retained in committee files.

# APPENDIXES

## Appendix 1

### ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FROM WITNESSES

#### ITEM 1: MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY HON. COLBERT COLDWELL, COUNTY JUDGE

##### STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

El Paso County	Participants	Month—November, 1968
Number public assistance cases.....		754
Number nonpublic assistance cases.....		972
Total.....		<u>1,726</u>
Number public assistance individuals.....		2,812
Number nonpublic assistance individuals.....		4,558
Total.....		<u>7,370</u>
	<i>Food coupons issued</i>	
Food coupons purchased.....		\$51,004.25
Food coupons bonus (free).....		55,941.75
Total food coupons issued.....		<u>106,946.00</u>
Percentage of bonus coupons : 52.3.		
County Judge : Hon. Colbert Coldwell.		
County Auditor : Mr. Willis Sample.		
Regional Director : Miss Hettia L. Carlock.		

#### ITEM 2: LETTER FROM JACK L. ROGERS,<sup>2</sup> ADMINISTRATOR, R. E. THOM- ASON GENERAL HOSPITAL, TO SENATOR YARBOROUGH, DATED FEBRUARY 4, 1969

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: I am most interested in the education of youth while they live at home with their parents in the community. We, here in El Paso, feel a tremendous need for a Junior College which would give us the academic facilities to go along with the clinical facilities for vocational education. Our young people, the Latin-Americans, need to live at home while they earn and learn. "Career ladders" are very important to the young high school graduate in South El Paso. They are important, not only for their own good, but for the information that they communicate to parents, grandparents, and others living in the same dwelling.

If I can be of any help to your committee or your causes, do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

JACK L. ROGERS,  
*Administrator.*

<sup>1</sup> See statement, p. 111.

<sup>2</sup> See statement, p. 174.

**ITEM 3: LETTER FROM HON. ROGELIO SANCHEZ,\* COUNTY COMMISSIONER, EL PASO, TEX., TO SENATOR YARBOROUGH, DATED FEBRUARY 4, 1969**

DEAR SIR: I do not believe it could be possible to use the school buses for transportation of the elderly due to the red tape involved with your local school districts and the State Education Agency.

As for Project Bravo continuing giving some relief in transporting the elderly, I would recommend appropriating more money to Project Bravo for this purpose. If the OEO programs are to be eliminated, I would recommend that the problem of transportation be handled by the HEW Department.

Sincerely,

ROGELIO SANCHEZ.

**ITEM 4: MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY HON. ROGELIO SANCHEZ,\* COUNTY COMMISSIONER, EL PASO, TEX.**

**POPULATION**

**NUMBER OF INHABITANTS**

	City of El Paso	El Paso County (SMSA)	State of Texas
1920 <sup>1</sup> .....	77,560	101,877	4,663,228
1930 <sup>1</sup> .....	102,421	131,597	5,824,715
1940 <sup>1</sup> .....	96,810	131,067	6,404,824
1950 <sup>1</sup> .....	130,485	194,968	7,711,194
1960 <sup>1</sup> .....	276,687	314,070	9,581,512
1961 <sup>2</sup> .....	286,000	323,588	9,856,000
1962 <sup>2</sup> .....	294,000	338,467	10,124,000
1963 <sup>2</sup> .....	300,000	337,650	10,110,566
1964 <sup>2</sup> .....	304,800	339,240	10,257,000
1965 <sup>2</sup> .....	315,000	352,600	10,547,000
1966 <sup>2</sup> .....	322,000	360,000	10,747,000
1967 <sup>2</sup> .....	331,000	377,000	10,984,900
1968 <sup>2</sup> .....	339,000	390,300	.....

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census.

<sup>2</sup> City, planning department.

\* Estimated, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

† Sales Management Survey of Buying Power.

**OTHER POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

**INCOME CLASSIFICATION OF POPULATION**

	City of El Paso	El Paso County
All families.....	63,415	69,528
Under \$1,000.....	2,724	3,023
\$1,000 to \$1,999.....	4,395	4,859
\$2,000 to \$2,999.....	6,880	7,476
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	8,278	9,072
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	7,811	9,002
\$5,000 to \$5,999.....	7,667	8,493
\$6,000 to \$6,999.....	5,092	6,532
\$7,000 to \$7,999.....	4,605	4,988
\$8,000 to \$8,999.....	3,874	4,195
\$9,000 to \$9,999.....	2,838	3,021
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	5,878	6,278
\$15,000 to \$24,999.....	1,803	1,867
\$25,000 and over.....	669	716
Median income: Families.....	\$5,211	\$5,157

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Family Income in 1959.

See statement, p. 155.

## AGE TRENDS OF POPULATION

Age	City of El Paso				El Paso County			
	1950	Percent	1960	Percent	1950	Percent	1960	Percent
All ages.....	130,485		276,687		194,968		314,070	
Under 5.....	16,925	12.95	42,160	15.23	26,466	13.57	47,468	15.11
5 to 9.....	12,430	9.53	35,590	12.86	19,178	9.83	39,806	12.67
10 to 14.....	10,145	7.77	28,242	10.21	14,976	7.68	31,333	9.98
15 to 19.....	10,309	7.90	20,614	7.45	18,605	9.54	24,187	7.70
20 to 24.....	12,201	9.35	21,299	7.70	19,626	10.06	27,894	8.88
25 to 29.....	12,624	9.67	21,262	7.68	19,272	9.88	25,034	7.97
30 to 34.....	10,272	7.87	21,466	7.76	15,568	7.98	24,525	7.81
35 to 39.....	9,049	6.93	19,800	7.15	13,096	6.72	22,315	7.10
40 to 44.....	7,862	6.02	15,534	5.61	10,868	5.57	17,199	5.48
45 to 49.....	6,984	5.35	12,378	4.47	9,376	4.81	13,433	4.28
50 to 54.....	5,710	4.37	10,232	3.70	7,515	3.85	10,938	3.48
55 to 59.....	4,867	3.73	8,486	3.07	6,259	3.21	9,022	2.87
60 to 64.....	3,981	3.05	6,273	2.27	5,131	2.63	6,687	2.13
65 to 69.....	3,021	2.31	5,167	1.87	3,852	1.98	5,526	1.76
70 to 74.....	1,948	1.49	4,021	1.45	2,463	1.26	4,272	1.36
75 to 79.....	1,803	1.38	2,327	.84	2,251	1.15	2,483	.79
80 and over.....	354	.27	1,309	.47	466	.24	1,848	.63
Median age.....	26.3		22.7		24.7		22.6	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## EDUCATIONAL LEVELS

The median school level for residents 25 years of age and older (1960 census) are as follows:

[Years]

	City of El Paso		El Paso County	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1950.....	9.7	9.3	9.3	9.1
1960.....	11.6	10.6	11.7	10.6

## RURAL-URBAN PATTERN (EL PASO COUNTY)

	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm	Total rural population
1950.....	41,473	8,706	50,179
1960.....	30,453	3,355	33,808

## SPANISH-SURNAME POPULATION

	City of El Paso		El Paso County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1950.....	66,875	51.2	89,555	45.9
1960.....	125,745	45.4	136,993	43.6

## WHITE-NONWHITE

	Nonwhite			
	City of El Paso		El Paso County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1950.....	3,452	2.6	4,679	2.4
1960.....	7,424	2.7	10,515	3.3

## OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic	City of El Paso		El Paso County	
	1950	1960	1950	1960
Percent under 18 years.....	24.7	42.9	30.4	42.3
Percent 18 to 64 years.....	69.8	52.2	65.0	53.5
Percent 65 years and over.....	5.5	4.9	4.6	4.4
Percent male, 18 and over.....	34.2	47.6	56.3	50.3
Fertility ratio <sup>1</sup> .....	(?)	61.5	(?)	66.9
Number of households.....	35,509	78,517	44,365	85,933
Population per household.....	3.60	3.80	3.70	3.83
U.S. rank in population.....	75	46	124	100
Median income.....	\$3,109	\$5,211	\$3,048	\$5,157

<sup>1</sup> Children under 5 years old per 1,000 women 15 to 49 years old.

<sup>2</sup> Not available.

## AREA POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

## POPULATION AND GROWTH RATES FOR 10 LARGEST TEXAS CITIES

[Among a total of 320 Texas urban places]

Rank		City	Population		Growth rate, 1950-60 (percent)	Land area in square miles, 1960
1960	1950		1960	1950		
1	1	Houston.....	938,219	596,163	57.4	321.0
2	2	Dallas.....	679,684	434,462	56.4	254.0
3	3	San Antonio.....	587,718	408,442	43.9	148.2
4	4	Fort Worth.....	356,268	278,778	27.8	138.2
5	6	El Paso.....	276,687	130,485	112.0	109.1
6	5	Austin.....	186,545	132,459	40.8	45.4
7	7	Corpus Christi.....	167,690	108,287	54.9	37.1
8	10	Amarillo.....	137,969	74,246	85.8	57.9
9	11	Lubbock.....	128,691	71,747	79.4	75.3
10	8	Beaumont.....	119,175	94,014	26.8	69.3
		10 1960 largest cities.....	3,578,646	2,329,083	53.8	.....

## POPULATION AND GROWTH RATES FOR 10 LARGEST TEXAS COUNTIES

[Among a total of 254 counties]

Rank		County	Population		Growth rate, 1950-60 (percent)
1960	1950		1960	1950	
1	1	Harris.....	1,243,158	806,701	54.1
2	2	Dallas.....	951,527	614,799	54.8
3	3	Bexar.....	687,151	500,460	37.3
4	4	Tarrant.....	538,495	361,253	49.1
5	6	El Paso.....	314,070	194,968	61.1
6	5	Jefferson.....	245,659	195,083	25.9
7	7	Nueces.....	221,573	165,471	33.9
8	8	Travis.....	212,136	160,980	31.8
9	9	Hidalgo.....	180,904	160,446	12.8
10	13	Lubbock.....	156,271	101,048	54.7

Note: 10 largest counties, 1960, 4,750,944; 1950, 3,261,209; percent, 45.7.

Source of basic data: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## POPULATION ESTIMATES

*El Paso City-County*<sup>1</sup>

## Chamber of Commerce estimates:

County -----	390,000
City -----	339,000

## City planning department:

County -----	377,000
City -----	339,000

<sup>1</sup> Difference due to inclusion of active duty military personnel in the larger figure.*Aged persons, percent of population*

55 years and over, 1960 census-----	29,838
55 years and over, estimated to 1968 (by Bravo)-----	37,098
65 years and over (5.3%), estimated to 1968-----	19,981
65 years and over—homebound (.042%), estimated to 1967-----	1,600

*Poor as percent of population—Persons at or below poverty level (OEO)*

	<i>Percent</i>
55 and over, 37,098÷12,354-----	<sup>2</sup> 25-33
65 and over, 19,981÷6,554-----	33

<sup>2</sup> Estimated; no precise data available.

## ETHNIC GROUP DISTRIBUTION IN POPULATION

*Total population*

	<i>Percent</i>
Mexican-American -----	43.6
Negro -----	3.8
Anglo -----	52.6

*Aged population—65 and over (19,981)*

	<i>Percent</i>
Mexican-American (7,593)-----	38.0
Negro (599)-----	3.0
Anglo (11,789)-----	59.0

*Aged population—55 and over (37,098)*

	<i>Percent</i>
Mexican-American (15,952)-----	43.0
Negro (1,112)-----	3.0
Anglo (20,033)-----	54.0
Homebound (155)-----	.042

*Aged population—Persons who are at or below poverty level (OEO)*

Mexican-American (55 and over), no data available.

Negro (55 and over), no data available.

Anglo (55 and over), no data available.

	<i>Percent</i>
Mexican-American (65 and over) 19,981÷8,591-----	43.0
Negro (65 and over) 19,981÷599-----	3.0
Anglo (65 and over) 19,981÷10,789-----	54.0
Homebound (65 and over) 19,981÷84-----	.042

*Distribution and location as a percent of population*

	<i>Percent</i>
Central city:	
Area 1—(Census tract 9-10-22-27)-----	9.7
Area 2—(Census tract 16-17-21-28-29)-----	8.9
Deprived Area (Census tract 18-19-20)-----	5.8
Average county-----	5.3

REPORT CONCERNING ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO ELDERLY POOR BY  
PROJECT BRAVO.

Since February, 1966, all of the various components of Project Bravo have rendered approximately 27,577 services to poor persons 55 years of age or older. Approximately 2,000 individuals received these services, yielding an average of more than 13 services per person.

The following break-down reflects the estimated distribution of these social services into categories with reference to social service agencies. Transportation to and from the agencies concerned constitutes more of the services rendered; the remainder were referral and informational services.

(a) Consumer aide home visits-----	7,257
(b) Thomason General Hospital and other medical-----	6,521
(c) Social security:	
(1) Medicare alert-----	6,000
(2) Other-----	394
Total social security-----	6,394
(d) State welfare-----	785
(e) County general assistance-----	644
(f) Food stamps-----	2,158
(g) Relocation, Salvation Army, Rescue Mission, other agencies, miscellaneous services-----	3,710
(h) Job placement-----	68
(i) Job training-----	40
Total-----	27,577

PROJECT BRAVO CASELOADS

*8,627 personal records—Age breakdown*

0-5-----	280
6-15-----	2,007
16-21-----	1,500
22-44-----	2,706
45-64-----	1,377
65 and over-----	1,039

The above figures are accurate as of October 14, 1968. Therefore, certain corrections will be necessary in order that data for the age group 65 and over might be understood within the context of the balance of the caseload.

Approximately 1,000 of the persons who are included in the age bracket, 16-21 were participants in the summer youth program and therefore cannot be regarded as members of the adult caseload. The adult caseload then actually consists of approximately 5,500 persons. 1,039 of these are persons aged 65 or over. The persons 65 and over, then, represent 10.4% of the entire adult caseload.

In this connection it should be borne in mind that the largest percentage of persons who are enrolled on the Bravo caseload come from deprived areas where the group aged 65 and over constitute only 5.8% of the population.

## FOOD STAMP PROGRAM—BASIS OF ISSUANCE—NET INCOME BASIS OF COUPON ISSUANCE

## 1-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

Net income	Monthly			Semimonthly		
	Purchase	Bonus	Total	Purchase	Bonus	Total
0 to \$19.99	\$0.50	\$13.50	\$14	\$0.25	\$6.75	\$7
\$20 to \$29.99	6.00	10.00	16	3.00	5.00	8
\$30 to \$39.99	10.00	8.00	18	5.00	4.00	9
\$40 to \$49.99	12.00	8.00	20	6.00	4.00	10
\$50 to \$59.99	14.00	8.00	22	7.00	4.00	11
\$60 to \$79.99	16.00	6.00	22	8.00	3.00	11
\$80 to \$99.99	18.00	6.00	24	9.00	3.00	12
\$100 and over	20.00	6.00	26	10.00	3.00	13

## 2-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

0 to \$19.99	\$1.00	\$23.00	\$24	\$0.50	\$11.50	\$12
\$20 to \$29.99	6.00	22.00	28	3.00	11.00	14
\$30 to \$39.99	12.00	18.00	30	6.00	9.00	15
\$40 to \$49.99	16.00	18.00	34	8.00	9.00	17
\$50 to \$59.99	18.00	18.00	36	9.00	9.00	18
\$60 to \$69.99	20.00	18.00	38	10.00	9.00	19
\$70 to \$79.99	24.00	16.00	40	12.00	8.00	20
\$80 to \$99.99	28.00	16.00	44	14.00	8.00	22
\$100 to \$119.99	32.00	16.00	48	16.00	8.00	24
\$120 to \$139.99	36.00	14.00	50	18.00	7.00	25
\$140 and over	40.00	12.00	52	20.00	6.00	26

## 3-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

0 to \$19.99	\$1.50	\$36.50	\$38	\$0.75	\$18.25	\$19
\$20 to \$29.99	8.50	34.50	42	4.75	17.25	21
\$30 to \$39.99	14.50	30.50	44	7.75	15.25	22
\$40 to \$49.99	18.50	30.50	48	9.75	15.25	24
\$50 to \$59.99	22.50	28.50	50	11.75	14.25	25
\$60 to \$69.99	26.50	28.50	54	13.75	14.25	27
\$70 to \$79.99	30.50	26.50	56	15.75	13.25	28
\$80 to \$89.99	34.50	26.50	60	17.75	13.25	30
\$90 to \$99.99	38.50	24.50	62	19.75	12.25	31
\$100 to \$119.99	44.50	24.50	68	22.75	12.25	34
\$120 to \$139.99	50.50	22.50	72	25.75	11.25	36
\$140 to \$159.99	54.50	20.50	74	27.75	10.25	37
\$160 to \$179.99	58.50	18.50	76	29.75	9.25	38
\$180 to \$199.99	62.50	18.50	80	31.75	9.25	40
\$200 to \$219.99	66.50	18.50	84	33.75	9.25	42
\$220 to \$239.99	70.50	18.50	88	35.75	9.25	44
\$240 to \$269.99	74.50	18.50	92	37.75	9.25	46
\$270 to \$299.99	78.00	18.00	96	39.00	9.00	48

## 4-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

0 to \$19.99	\$2.00	\$50.00	\$52	\$1.00	\$25.00	\$26
\$20 to \$29.99	8.00	44.00	52	4.00	22.00	26
\$30 to \$39.99	14.00	42.00	56	7.00	21.00	28
\$40 to \$49.99	20.00	40.00	60	10.00	20.00	30
\$50 to \$59.99	24.00	40.00	64	12.00	20.00	32
\$60 to \$69.99	28.00	38.00	66	14.00	19.00	33
\$70 to \$79.99	32.00	38.00	70	16.00	19.00	35
\$80 to \$89.99	36.00	36.00	72	18.00	18.00	36
\$90 to \$99.99	40.00	36.00	76	20.00	18.00	38
\$100 to \$109.99	44.00	34.00	78	22.00	17.00	39
\$110 to \$119.99	48.00	34.00	82	24.00	17.00	41
\$120 to \$139.99	52.00	32.00	84	26.00	16.00	42
\$140 to \$159.99	56.00	30.00	86	28.00	15.00	43
\$160 to \$179.99	60.00	28.00	88	30.00	14.00	44
\$180 to \$199.99	64.00	26.00	90	32.00	13.00	45
\$200 to \$219.99	68.00	24.00	92	34.00	12.00	46
\$220 to \$239.99	72.00	24.00	96	36.00	12.00	48
\$240 to \$269.99	76.00	24.00	100	38.00	12.00	50
\$270 to \$299.99	80.00	24.00	104	40.00	12.00	52
\$300 to \$329.99	84.00	24.00	108	42.00	12.00	54

## 5-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

Net income	Monthly			Semimonthly		
	Purchase	Bonds	Total	Purchase	Bonds	Total
0 to \$19.99	\$2.50	\$57.50	\$60	\$1.25	\$28.75	\$30
\$20 to \$29.99	8.00	52.00	60	4.00	26.00	30
\$30 to \$39.99	14.00	50.00	64	7.00	25.00	32
\$40 to \$49.99	20.00	48.00	68	10.00	24.00	34
\$50 to \$59.99	24.00	48.00	72	12.00	24.00	36
\$60 to \$69.99	30.00	46.00	76	15.00	23.00	38
\$70 to \$79.99	34.00	46.00	80	17.00	23.00	40
\$80 to \$89.99	38.00	44.00	82	19.00	22.00	41
\$90 to \$99.99	42.00	44.00	86	21.00	22.00	43
\$100 to \$109.99	46.00	42.00	88	23.00	21.00	44
\$110 to \$119.99	50.00	42.00	92	25.00	21.00	46
\$120 to \$129.99	54.00	40.00	94	27.00	20.00	47
\$130 to \$139.99	56.00	38.00	94	28.00	19.00	47
\$140 to \$159.99	60.00	36.00	96	30.00	18.00	48
\$160 to \$179.99	64.00	34.00	98	32.00	17.00	49
\$180 to \$199.99	68.00	32.00	100	34.00	16.00	50
\$200 to \$219.99	72.00	30.00	102	36.00	15.00	51
\$220 to \$239.99	76.00	28.00	104	38.00	14.00	52
\$240 to \$259.99	80.00	28.00	108	40.00	14.00	54
\$260 to \$279.99	84.00	28.00	112	42.00	14.00	56
\$280 to \$299.99	88.00	28.00	116	44.00	14.00	58
\$300 to \$329.99	92.00	28.00	120	46.00	14.00	60
\$330 to \$359.99	96.00	28.00	124	48.00	14.00	62

## 6-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

0 to 19.99	\$3.00	\$67.00	\$70	\$1.50	\$33.50	\$35
\$20 to \$29.99	8.00	62.00	70	4.00	31.00	35
\$30 to \$39.99	14.00	58.00	72	7.00	29.00	36
\$40 to \$49.99	20.00	56.00	76	10.00	28.00	38
\$50 to \$59.99	24.00	56.00	80	12.00	28.00	40
\$60 to \$69.99	30.00	54.00	84	15.00	27.00	42
\$70 to \$79.99	34.00	54.00	88	17.00	27.00	44
\$80 to \$89.99	40.00	52.00	92	20.00	26.00	46
\$90 to \$99.99	44.00	52.00	96	22.00	26.00	48
\$100 to \$109.99	48.00	50.00	98	24.00	26.00	50
\$110 to \$119.99	52.00	48.00	100	26.00	24.00	50
\$120 to \$129.99	56.00	46.00	102	28.00	23.00	51
\$130 to \$139.99	60.00	44.00	104	30.00	22.00	52
\$140 to \$159.99	64.00	42.00	106	32.00	21.00	53
\$160 to \$179.99	68.00	40.00	108	34.00	20.00	54
\$180 to \$199.99	72.00	38.00	110	36.00	19.00	55
\$200 to \$219.99	76.00	36.00	112	38.00	18.00	56
\$220 to \$239.99	80.00	34.00	114	40.00	17.00	57
\$240 to \$259.99	84.00	32.00	116	42.00	16.00	68
\$260 to \$279.99	88.00	32.00	120	44.00	16.00	60
\$280 to \$299.99	92.00	32.00	124	46.00	16.00	62
\$300 to \$329.99	96.00	32.00	128	48.00	16.00	64
\$350 to \$359.99	100.00	32.00	132	50.00	16.00	66
\$360 to \$389.99	104.00	32.00	136	52.00	16.00	68

## 7-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

0 to \$19.99	\$3.00	\$75.00	\$78	\$1.50	\$37.50	\$39
\$20 to \$29.99	8.00	70.00	78	4.00	35.00	39
\$30 to \$39.99	14.00	64.00	78	7.00	32.00	39
\$40 to \$49.99	20.00	62.00	82	10.00	31.00	41
\$50 to \$59.99	24.00	62.00	86	12.00	31.00	43
\$60 to \$69.99	30.00	60.00	90	15.00	30.00	45
\$70 to \$79.99	34.00	60.00	94	17.00	30.00	47
\$80 to \$89.99	40.00	58.00	98	20.00	29.00	49
\$90 to \$99.99	44.00	58.00	102	22.00	29.00	51
\$100 to \$109.99	50.00	56.00	106	25.00	28.00	53
\$110 to \$119.99	54.00	54.00	108	27.00	27.00	54
\$120 to \$129.99	58.00	52.00	110	29.00	26.00	55
\$130 to \$139.99	62.00	50.00	112	31.00	25.00	56
\$140 to \$149.99	66.00	48.00	114	33.00	24.00	57
\$150 to \$159.99	68.00	46.00	114	34.00	23.00	57
\$160 to \$179.99	72.00	46.00	118	36.00	23.00	59
\$180 to \$199.99	76.00	44.00	120	38.00	22.00	60
\$200 to \$219.99	80.00	42.00	122	40.00	21.00	61
\$220 to \$239.99	84.00	40.00	124	42.00	20.00	62
\$240 to \$259.99	88.00	38.00	126	44.00	19.00	63
\$260 to \$279.99	92.00	36.00	128	46.00	18.00	64
\$280 to \$299.99	96.00	36.00	132	48.00	18.00	66
\$300 to \$319.99	100.00	36.00	136	50.00	18.00	68
\$320 to \$339.99	104.00	36.00	140	52.00	18.00	70
\$340 to \$359.99	108.00	36.00	144	54.00	18.00	72
\$360 to \$379.99	112.00	36.00	148	56.00	18.00	74
\$380 to \$419.99	116.00	36.00	152	58.00	18.00	76

## 8-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

Net Income	Monthly			Semimonthly		
	Purchase	Bonus	Total	Purchase	Bonus	Total
0 to \$19.99	\$3	\$83	\$86	\$1.50	\$41.50	\$43
\$20 to \$29.99	8	78	86	4.00	39.00	43
\$30 to \$39.99	14	72	86	7.00	36.00	43
\$40 to \$49.99	20	68	88	10.00	34.00	44
\$50 to \$59.99	24	68	92	12.00	34.00	46
\$60 to \$69.99	30	66	96	15.00	33.00	48
\$70 to \$79.99	34	66	100	17.00	33.00	50
\$80 to \$89.99	40	64	104	20.00	32.00	52
\$90 to \$99.99	44	64	108	22.00	32.00	54
\$100 to \$109.99	50	62	112	25.00	31.00	56
\$110 to \$119.99	54	60	114	27.00	30.00	57
\$120 to \$129.99	58	58	116	29.00	29.00	58
\$130 to \$139.99	62	56	118	31.00	28.00	59
\$140 to \$149.99	66	54	120	33.00	27.00	60
\$150 to \$159.99	70	54	124	35.00	27.00	62
\$160 to \$179.99	74	52	126	37.00	26.00	63
\$180 to \$199.99	78	50	128	39.00	25.00	64
\$200 to \$219.99	82	48	130	41.00	24.00	65
\$220 to \$239.99	86	46	132	43.00	23.00	66
\$240 to \$259.99	90	44	134	45.00	22.00	67
\$260 to \$279.99	94	42	136	47.00	21.00	68
\$280 to \$299.99	98	40	138	49.00	20.00	69
\$300 to \$319.99	102	40	142	51.00	20.00	71
\$320 to \$339.99	106	40	146	53.00	20.00	73
\$340 to \$359.99	110	40	150	55.00	20.00	75
\$360 to \$389.99	114	40	154	57.00	20.00	77
\$390 to \$419.99	118	40	158	59.00	20.00	79
\$420 to \$449.99	122	40	162	61.00	20.00	81

If there are eligible households, for example, PA or mixed PA-NPA households, with income above those shown on the tables, the following formula is provided for the necessary extension of these tables.

A. *For households of one and two persons.*—The Basis of Issuance for eligible households with income above the maximum shown on the one and two person schedules will be the same as listed at the highest income level in the appropriate schedule.

B. *For households of three to eight persons.*—For eligible households with incomes above the maximums shown on the schedules for these households add \$4 to the maximum monthly purchase requirement, and \$2 to the maximum semi-monthly purchase requirement for each \$30 of monthly income (or portion thereof) over the maximum income shown for the last income interval on the appropriate schedule.

C. *For households of more than 8 persons.*—(1) Use the purchase requirement by income level for 8 person households up to the maximum shown. For each \$30 worth of income (or portion thereof) over the maximum income shown, add \$4 to the maximum monthly purchase requirement shown and \$2 to the maximum semi-monthly purchase requirement.

(2) Add \$4 to the appropriate monthly bonus coupons, or \$2 to the appropriate semi-monthly bonus for each person in excess of 8.

#### ITEM 5: SURVEY OF NEEDS AND RESOURCES AMONG AGED MEXICAN-AMERICANS; CONCLUSIONS OF FINAL REPORT BY W. G. STEGLICH,\* WALTER J. CARTWRIGHT, AND BEN M. CROUCH, TEXAS TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE, LUBBOCK, TEX., AUGUST 25, 1968

##### CONCLUSIONS

This study represents a survey of older Mexican-Americans in an urban environment. It is an attempt to obtain some idea of their perception of old age and of three types of institutional support. Because of the significance of age and sex, perceptions of old age and institutional support have been analyzed in the light of these two variables. Of the two, age is more important than sex in determining perceptions.

The major findings of the study are summarily presented below:

1. The older Mexican-Americans in this sample generally consider themselves to be old at or below the age of 60. The stated chronological age at which one is

\*See p. 186 for statement of Dr. W. G. Steglich.

old, however, varies with the age of the respondent; older subjects indicate that old age begins at a somewhat later year than do younger subjects.

2. Responses by these older Mexican-Americans regarding the present obligation of the family to support older members deviate from the traditional pattern of expected support. A majority feels that the family has no obligation at all. This feeling prevails for both sexes and all age groups.

3. Perception of the church has been assessed in terms of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the church's effort to aid or support older Mexican-Americans. Findings indicate that the majority of the sample is dissatisfied. This dissatisfaction, however, is more characteristic of the younger members of the sample regardless of sex.

4. Knowledge of government financial aid programs for older persons is limited, with the most familiar program being social security. Knowledge of Medicare is also limited. Participation in Medicare is limited in all eligible age groups, particularly in the oldest.

The findings reflect in part an expected picture of older Mexican-Americans. These people are of lower socio-economic status and hold almost exclusively to the Spanish language. Predictably, poor education and the language barrier preclude extensive knowledge of government programs.

There are, however, findings which suggest that these older persons do not entirely fit the picture of persons completely dominated by traditional culture. Some expectations and assumptions derived from current literature regarding older Mexican-Americans are not upheld. An obvious example of this is that there appears to be little or no difference by sex in the perception of either old age or institutional support. It was expected that the rigid status and role demarcations consistently referred to in the literature would produce different perceptions. This finding suggests that, among older Mexican-Americans sex differences do not significantly influence perceptions. A second, and possibly the most important, instance in which these older Mexican-Americans depart from the picture presented in much of the literature is in terms of their perception of the family. Such a departure from traditional patterns indicates that this older group is more Anglicized than was expected. It is suggested that the urbanization process which these persons have undergone has been the primary precipitator of movement away from traditional cultural patterns.

As this study is one of only two on older Mexican-Americans in an urban setting, conclusions drawn are tentative. The extent to which movement toward Anglo customs in an urban setting has occurred is not measured here but simply inferred and presented as a possibility. The presence and degree of such movement must be left to another more rigorous study.

## Appendix 2

### LETTERS AND STATEMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

ITEM 1: MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY JOSE L. AGUILAR, DIRECTOR,  
MEXICAN-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON HONOR, OPPORTUNITY AND  
SERVICE, INC.

#### NEEDY OLDSTER STORIES—1968

**NEEDY OLDSTER #1**—A lady of 70 suffered a stroke, but with enviable determination she has worked her way back to a state of relatively normal activity. She is alone but lives a full life, giving a helping hand to neighbors by sewing and mending for them. Her scant earnings do not mar her outlook on life and she is grateful to be still alive and active. Her gratitude will most surely embrace the people of El Paso when she is the recipient of their generosity.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #2 & #3**—The man, 70, is ill with cancer and his wife, 69, has very little sight left. They keep a tidy, clean house and a cheerful outlook in spite of real difficulties, financial and otherwise. A cash gift would truly be a bonus for them and help to put a little extra joy into their Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #4**—A little 88-year-old lady is of that admirable class of people who believe in fending for themselves, at all costs. Last year she was still picking cotton to eke out her very slender means. She still cultivates her garden. To economize on shoes she is usually barefooted. A cash gift from a thoughtful benefactor will enable her to buy a new pair of shoes.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #5**—An elderly woman, aged 70, keeps a roof over her head thanks to public welfare. But the roof is such that it is a marvel that it has not fallen in long ago. She works at cleaning and ironing, when she can get a day's work. In spite of constant hardship, she smiles through it and is deeply appreciative and heartened by the generosity of the community. Will someone please remember her this Christmas?

**NEEDY OLDSTER #6**—Mr. P. is a lonely, 71-year-old bachelor. His only income is from Social Security. He used to do odd jobs as a carpenter but four years ago he began to lose his eyesight and had to stop working. Now he is almost blind and this makes it necessary to stay in his room most of the time. Christmas will be a meaningless day for him unless some kind person remembers him. A small cash gift would be very much appreciated.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #7**—A little lady, aged 70, lives in one room. She has very high blood pressure so that essential medicines are a drain on her meager resources. In spite of this, she tends a small garden that always has a rose or other flower in season. A Christmas gift would be a ray of joy in her solitary life.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #8**—Mr. Q., 80, is a widower who has no source of income. He makes his home with a married daughter and her family of five. The family income provides for only the barest necessities. A cash gift would make it possible for him to buy personal items he needs.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #9**—Mrs. B., aged 79, lives with her mentally retarded daughter who has never been able to work. In her old age, with failing health, the burden of her daughter has not become lighter and at best her way of living is reduced to essentials. The generosity of an unknown friend will enable her to participate at least a bit in the festive season of Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #10**—Mr. F., 57, is completely disabled due to emphysema. He moved to this city because of the beneficial effects of the dry climate. Because of the one year residence requirement he was ineligible for assistance until recently and is now awaiting a decision on his application for Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled. A cash gift at Christmas would be most welcome.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #11 and #12**—A couple, aged 84 and 68, are burdened, he with age, she with diabetes. Their house, from being a haven for their chil-

dren and their children's children, has slowly subsided into the quietness of an abandoned nest. But they are tranquil and peaceful, resigned to the inevitable inconveniences of poverty and old age. The joy of being remembered will make their Christmas a happy one.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #13**—A little lady of 80 keeps house for a blind friend. In spite of her age and painful arthritis she keeps the little house in perfect order and has the time and energy to cultivate a little garden filled with fragrant winter violets. She is illiterate, so instead of written thanks for a Christmas remembrance, her prayers will call down blessings on her benefactors.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #14**—Mr. Y., 58, makes his home with his 80-year-old mother. He is a diabetic, is deaf and has failing eyesight, so there is not much opportunity for work. Mr. Y's mother receives assistance through a local agency and provides for her son as best she can. He would like to work and become the breadwinner again but this seems unlikely. A cash gift this Holiday Season would brighten their day.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #15**—Although just 68 years old, this little woman has been confined to a wheelchair for many years. Until the death of her mother she had company and was fairly well taken care of. Now she lives alone but manages to do her chores and cook her meager meals. She will most certainly bless those who give of their earnings to brighten Christmas for persons less fortunate than they.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #16**—Mr. S., 82, is a lonely widower. His small monthly grant from an agency pays rent, utilities and basic food needs. He has no family to provide little extras. Christmas will be just another day on the calendar unless some kind-hearted persons sends him a gift.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #17**—This dear old lady of 90 lives a fairly active life, attended lovingly by her 68-year-old daughter. In spite of her age, she helps prepare their modest meals and keep their two-room home in order. She is always cheerful even when afflicted with severe arthritic pain. A cash gift for little extras they need will fill the Christmastide of this elderly lady with joy.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #18**—Mr. G., 69, has lived alone since his wife died. He has two married daughters who have families of their own and they seem to have forgotten him. His only income is from Social Security. It would add a great deal of happiness to his life if someone would remember him at Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #19 & #20**—Mr. and Mrs. F. are an elderly couple who have an income of \$82 monthly. After paying rent and utilities, they have only enough cash for the basic necessities. A warm blanket and money to buy some personal items they need would indeed bring them Christmas cheer.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #21**—Mrs. A., 71, lived for short periods of time with various friends and relatives but no one wanted the permanent responsibility of providing for her. She is now dependent on an agency and happier living by herself, even if limited financially. A cash Christmas gift would brighten her life.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #22**—Mr. T., 68, has been a patient on and off for some time at Thomason General Hospital. He receives a small check from Social Security. Drive-A-Meal brings him a hot noon lunch on weekdays, which he looks forward to, as much for the companionship as for the meal. A gift from an unknown friend would be his only gift. Would you like to be that friend?

**NEEDY OLDSTER #23**—Mrs. C. is a lonely, physically ill, 86 year-old-lady. She does receive a small Social Security check every month to pay for a room and food. Her only source of entertainment is talking to other old ladies about other happier days when she visits Thomason General Hospital. Someone to remember her at Christmas would be a great boost to her morale.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #24** Mrs. Y., 62, lives alone since her son died suddenly not long ago. A chronic ailment prevents her working. She receives \$40.00 a month from Social Security. She has one other son but due to his small income and large family he cannot help her. A cash gift would certainly be appreciated.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #25**—Mr. M., 69, has no family. He manages to pay his rent and supply himself with the bare minimum food needs. A gift at Christmas to buy shoes and warm clothing would make him happy and keep him from feeling forgotten.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #26**—Miss R., 68, has no source of income. Due to a very traumatic injury in her childhood her tongue was so badly burned that she has since been unable to talk. She has no known relatives and relies on a close friend for total support. Christmas will be very lonely for Miss R. if there is no one to remember her. A cash gift would lift her spirits considerably.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #27**—Mr. S., a partially blind invalid, lives with his sister who receives an old age pension. Mr. S. has difficulty moving about and must depend on his sister for nearly everything. He would be very grateful for any gift which would brighten his Christmas day.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #28**—Mrs. B., 63, is alone as her only daughter died last year. She is not very strong. She has sought work as a domestic but due to her age finds few employers. It will be a sad Christmas for her unless someone remembers her with a gift.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #29**—Mr. E. is a 63-year-old gentleman who in the last two years has had two accidents that preclude his employment. He is managing to live on a small Social Security payment. He would be very happy to know that someone remembered him at Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #30**—Miss H. is a 62-year-old spinster. She is sick and spends most of her time inside her two-room apartment where she does sewing and knitting. An agency supplies her basic needs. A gift of money would enable her to purchase little extras she would like to have.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #31**—Miss V., 74, has no relatives and never married. The neighbors have been assisting her since she is no longer able to take in ironing. She is almost totally deaf. She lives in a little adobe shack in the back of a neighbor's house. She needs clothing and a cash gift for personal items.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #32**—Mrs. J., 65, is frail and feeble in appearance. She hasn't worked in more than 10 years. Her son who has a large family can only pay the \$12.00 monthly rent for the one room apartment she lives in. Because she worked as a domestic, she has no Social Security coverage. She is also ineligible for Old Age Assistance. Any gift would brighten her Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #33**—Mrs. L. is 59, and has been confined to a wheel chair since 1960 when she broke her hip. The break never healed due to lack of medical attention. She lives alone as her children are all married and gone. Her physical condition, her lack of saleable skill and her limited knowledge of the English language make her totally incapable of self-support. She needs personal items and clothing. Please help make Christmas a happy day for her.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #34**—Mr. W. came to this country nearly fifty years ago with a group of his countrymen. With the passing of the years, many of this group have moved away or passed on, and now Mr. W. finds his circle of friends has dwindled. He never married and has no family. A gift at Christmas would help him to feel that he is not forgotten by the world.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #35**—Mrs. W's husband died thirty years ago, and she has no children. She is 77 years old and has had serious health problems for more than ten years; yet, she is determined enough to live alone. Her only income is from State welfare. A gift to buy warm clothing would help her have a nice Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #36 & #37**—Two sisters, 76 and 73 respectively, live together on quite modest means. They are like little birds and keep their tiny apartment spotless. One suffers from high blood pressure and, of course, medicines are a drain on their slender purse. They have a dove as a pet that gives them great joy. The thoughtful generosity of the more fortunate would permit them to participate somewhat in the rejoicings of Christmas. Any gift would be much appreciated.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #38**—Mrs. V, 74, has lived alone for the last 44 years, and she has lost contact with her only son. She spends many hours of her lonely days reading her Bible. A Christmas remembrance will certainly remind her that someone cares.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #39**—Mr. O lives in his own home, and some would hesitate to call it a home due to its poor condition. His only companions are the pets that he has had for many years. He is quite crippled by arthritis, but wants to remain as independent as possible. Something extra at Christmas might serve to brighten the holiday season for him.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #40**—This 60-year-old blind woman does not want to be a burden to anyone and is struggling to live alone. This past year has been an especially hard one, as she has had one illness after another. State Welfare is assisting this very deserving person, and a Christmas gift would be most warmly received.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #41**—Mrs. Z is nearly ninety years of age. She managed to look out for herself until age forced her to retire. Her own children are now retired and unable to help her. Her health is fair and she tries to stay as active as possible. A Christmas gift might enable her to treat herself to something special for a change.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #42**—Mr. X has no family to call his own. The son of a former employer provided him with shelter but, due to his own responsibilities, cannot do more. Mr. X tries to repay this kindness by helping with odd jobs when he can. He is too elderly to seek employment elsewhere. Since his adopted family is unable to do more for him, a Christmas gift would help him realize that there are others who also care.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #43**—A woman, aged 71, lives alone in a matchbox house she built herself. It is, of course, extremely flimsy and, although she has a little burner, it is impossible to keep the cold out. She still works in people's houses and lives on the meager gains of her work, because she wants to be independent as long as possible. A cash gift at Christmas would be a real help and would certainly brighten her holiday.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #44**—Mrs. D is over seventy-five. She spent a number of her early years in an orphanage and managed after that to become independent and take care of her needs. She was reluctant to seek assistance when age and circumstances made it necessary; however, she is most appreciative and uses her meager resources well to maintain herself and her small home. A remembrance at Christmas would certainly brighten her holiday.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #45**—Mr. H is confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Unsuccessful attempts have been made to strengthen the remaining portion of his amputated leg so he could wear an artificial limb. He can only afford inadequate housing. He very seldom leaves his apartment, and a contribution might bring Christmas into this man's home.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #46**—Mrs. I and her husband always worked hard to make ends meet and raised a large family. Trouble was part of their life, but somehow Mrs. I always managed. Now her husband has had a mental breakdown, and she is alone. She still tries hard to cope with each day, but her own health is deteriorating. She remains cheerful, and a gift at Christmas would surely help.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #47**—Mrs. X lives alone, as her husband is ill and in a nursing home. For years she tried to take care of him at home, but then her own health forced her to give it up. They are still devoted to one another, and the separation is hard. The holiday season only increases her feeling of loneliness. A gift at Christmas might help her feel that others do care.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #48**—Mr. A, 70, suffers from diabetes and epilepsy. He is now recovering from an operation for removal of gall stones. He lives alone in a small sparsely furnished apartment. His only relative lives in the East and is unable to visit or help him. Mr. A has so many extra medical expenses each month that he is unable to buy clothing warm enough for the winter months. A Christmas contribution would help this oldster.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #49**—Miss C, 65, recently became eligible for old age assistance. Prior to this, she lived on \$24.00 a month. Miss C has lived alone in a small, two-room apartment for several years but still does not know her neighbors or participate in group activities because of her timidity and impoverished condition. A Christmas contribution would bring the spirit of Christmas to this woman.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #50**—Mrs. M, 78, lives alone in her old house. She remains in bed most of the day and her health is not expected to improve. Stomach ulcers prevent her from eating most foods, and she is now suffering from malnutrition. Mrs. M would like to be remembered during Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #51 & #52**—Mr. and Mrs. Z make their home in a small, very cramped, made-over trailer, and their monthly budget is quite meager. Mrs. Z has been ill for many years with an incurable illness, and she is not old enough to be eligible for a pension of her own. They have no medical coverage. Any help would be appreciated.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #53**—A lady, aged 62, is constantly ill. She has no income because she cannot work. Her relatives assist her to the best of their ability, but it is a limited best, due to their own financial restrictions. A cash gift will indeed make a difference in her Christmas outlook.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #54**—Mrs. R. makes her home in a very modest two-room apartment. Because of ill health, Mrs. R is unable to get around much. Her only sources of enjoyment are a very old television and her two grandsons, who come to visit her after school each day. The boy's mother, Mrs. R's only child, is not able to provide a Christmas for her because of her own financial circumstances. A gift would be appreciated.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #55 & #56**—This elderly and infirmed gentleman worked very hard all of his life to buy a modest home and support his parents and sister.

His savings were used up recently to pay for an operation for his elderly sister, his only remaining relative. Both Mr. D and Miss D are uncomplaining and appreciative people and manage on an agency grant. A gift would brighten their Christmas Day.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #57**—Mrs. T, 75, has no real family to call her own. Her adopted daughter no longer lives nearby so she depends on church and friends for companionship. She enjoys reasonably good health, fortunately, but she is lonely. Mrs. T has always tried to help others when she was able to do so. A Christmas gift would be well received by this lady.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #58**—Mrs. N recently lost the son with whom she lived. She depended on him for many services, and they shared their small pensions. Being quite crippled, she finds it difficult to manage without him but wants to try and be independent of others. A remembrance at Christmas would cheer her up.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #59 & #60**—Mr. X and his sixty-year-old wife are still trying to complete the payments on their small home. Mr. X had to retire from a good paying job as he is going blind. He and his wife, who is also practically blind, used up their savings meeting medical expenses and helping relatives, who are unable to reimburse them either financially or in services. Their basic needs exceed their income and they end up skimping on their grocery bill. Any type of contribution would help.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #61**—Mrs. J is a short, gray-haired woman who always has a pleasant smile on her face. Her home is very old and dilapidated. She is very conscientious about paying her taxes even though the house is practically beyond repair. She is trying to save enough money each month out of her \$83.00 pension to repair the badly leaking roof. A Christmas donation would help stretch this sum to meet the necessary expenses.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #62**—Miss B, 77, lives alone with her dog in her old and run-down home. Miss B is suffering from malnutrition because she would rather feed her only companion, her dog, than feed herself. As a result, Miss B becomes quite dizzy at times and has fallen down on a number of occasions. She is recovering from a recent fall. Miss B cannot afford to pay someone to look after her. She would be happy to be remembered at Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #63 & #64**—Mr. & Mrs. B married late in life and have no children to whom they can turn. They are both too old to work and their health is poor. They receive some financial assistance, but even with this, they have a difficult time managing. A little extra would brighten their holiday.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #65**—Mrs. C, 79, has long suffered from arthritis. Because of this and other health problems, she is a shut-in and never leaves her apartment. Her husband died many years ago and she has no children. She receives old age assistance. It would surely please her to be remembered at Christmas time.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #66**—Mrs. J is permanently incapacitated and has been widowed for eleven years. Being a very brave woman, she insists on managing and living alone. Her only income is from a welfare agency. A gift will brighten her Christmas Day.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #67**—This 78-year-old widow once lived in comfortable circumstances, but her husband's long illness before his death depleted their resources and left her penniless. A severe heart condition keeps her almost entirely confined and she has no children or relatives to remember her. A gift at Christmas will brighten her lonely life.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #68**—A jovial little lady of 84 would have every reason not to be so happy. She lives alone and is afflicted with a serious illness. But she insists on keeping house herself and cooking her own simple meals. Her beaming smile will be all the brighter if she is presented with a gift at Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #69**—Mr. Y, a bachelor, spent all of his lifetime in the lower valley working the fields. He suffers from severe arthritis, and a recent stroke left him paralyzed. Relatives have large families and are unable to contribute to his care. He is in a nursing home with no prospects of improving sufficiently to return to his home. A remembrance on Christmas Day will be greatly appreciated.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #70**—Mrs. X lives by herself since the death of her husband. She did not have children. A niece and a nephew write to her occasionally. Severe illness made it necessary for her to enter a nursing home. Mrs. X is very lonely and a gift on Christmas Day will help cheer her up.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #71**—Mrs. Y's companion deserted her recently, after incurring several debts. Mrs. Y's honesty, however, led her to sell her treasured sewing machine to pay her friend's debts. She does need a machine to bring in her small income. Would you like to help her out by remembering her this holiday season?

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #72 & #73**—Mr. T is looking after his wife, who is recuperating from recent surgery. Due to a health problem of his own, it has been very difficult to tend to his wife's needs. They receive a small amount from Public Assistance and Food Stamps. A cash gift to help supply warm clothes would certainly brighten their lives.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #74**—Mrs. V is a 78-year-old widow. She supported herself working as a domestic until age forced her retirement. Diabetes made a leg amputation necessary and further complications caused her to become totally blind. She is now in a nursing home. Her only visitors are the civic groups that come around occasionally. She would be most appreciative of any remembrance at Christmas time.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #75**—Mr. C, 88, had a hobby as a rock hound and enjoyed the outdoor life and freedom. Recently, however, he became very ill and was placed in a nursing home. He has a few friends that visit him and are interested in his care, but something extra this Christmas Day would help to alleviate his loneliness.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #76**—Mr. F, a widower, is a fine, alert, 82-year-old gentleman. It is very important to him that he take care of himself and he does amazingly well on his small old age assistance grant. He is lonely, though, and it would mean a great deal of happiness to him if someone would remember him at Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #77**—Mr. A is very crippled with arthritis. The VA check which he receives since the death of his son is his only income. Mr. A is now very ill in a nursing home where no one comes to visit him. A gift this holiday season would certainly relieve some of his loneliness.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #78**—Mrs. W is dependent on two ill children, who have no regular employment, to daily prepare her meals and do her housekeeping. These three people have substandard housing and barely get by on their inadequate diet. A Christmas gift for these people would raise their spirits at this holiday time.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #79**—Mrs. N is 75 years old. Her husband died this year. Paying the funeral bills has created a hardship on her. A small Social Security check and some Public Assistance barely cover her needs. A gift of warm clothing at Christmas would help her a great deal.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #80**—Mrs. B, a widow was living alone supported only by her Social Security check. Six months ago she suffered a stroke which left her right side paralyzed and unable to speak. She has no one to visit her where she is confined at the nursing home. To be remembered would brighten her Christmas Day and the days to come.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #81 & #82**—Mr. and Mrs. Z are devoting their last years to an invalid grandchild. Despite her pathetic condition, she is the joy of their lives. Mr. Z is retired and they have exhausted family funds taking care of the child. Their only income is from Public Assistance, which is inadequate. A gift at Christmas time would be greatly appreciated.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #83**—Mrs. D. is completely paralyzed and bedfast because of a stroke. A godchild she raised was taking care of her on her Social Security check, in her home. The godchild has been stricken with cancer and is hospitalized. No one to care for Mrs. D. meant she must be taken to a nursing home. Now, very worried about her godchild and lonely, life is sad for Mrs. D. Wouldn't you like to send a gift to cheer her up?

**NEEDY OLDSTER #84**—This tiny 81-year-old lady must have an iron constitution to have weathered all the hard luck she has had. She was unjustly evicted recently. She has lost contact with her two sons and has no other family. Mrs. O receives old age assistance, and she barely exists on her income. Brighten her holiday with something extra if you can.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #85**—Several years ago, Mrs. D. 68, was beaten over the head and robbed. Since that time she has had quite frail health, including two commitments to the state mental hospital. She receives old age assistance as her only income and would be truly pleased to receive a Christmas gift.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #86**—Mrs. X, alone in her later years, is dependent on irregular attention from neighbors to get her food and help wash her clothes. She is just out of the hospital after recovering from infected burns which occurred when, unsteadily, she tried to cook her meals. A gift would brighten her day.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #87**—Mrs. G is very old and cannot work anymore as a domestic, picking cotton. She has high blood pressure and kidney trouble. Too often she tries home remedies before going for proper medical treatment. She cuts corners trying to save money to help her infant grandchildren who often only have her to turn to. She would like to help them know Christmas as more than another day in their long year of hunger.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #88**—Mrs. A has no income other than her small Public Assistance grant to support herself and a mentally retarded son who lives with her. She suffers from aneurysm and the doctors will not operate due to her advanced age. A little extra money would make Christmas a happy day.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #89**—Mrs. E. totally blind and almost deaf, has no relatives. Due to her physical condition she was placed in a nursing home. The home provides food and shelter but she has nothing extra to call her own. This Christmas wouldn't you like to give her something special and give her a feeling of the independence she once treasured?

**NEEDY OLDSTER #90**—Mrs. T is 70 years old and a widow of many years. She barely gets by on her Public Assistance grant. She is unable to work as a domestic anymore because of age. A small donation would provide her with a good meal on Christmas Day. Someone's remembrance would mean a great deal to her.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #91**—Mrs. P is totally crippled with arthritis and cannot even open the aspirin bottle containing her relief from constant pain. Her daughter and neighbors help her through her difficult days. Any bit of holiday cheer would mean a great deal to Mrs. P.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #92**—Mrs. L has been in a nursing home for several years. After her husband died, she supported herself by doing domestic work. A small Social Security check helps pay for her care. She has no relatives or friends. She has progressively become feeble and senile, but not so much as not to be able to enjoy and appreciate being remembered at Christmas time.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #93**—Mrs. B is 74. In spite of her age she worked till recently as a domestic one day per week to pay her rent. She was unable to earn money for her other needs. All her neighbors were providing her with food. She is now receiving food stamps and rent payment and is awaiting a decision on her Social Security application. She needs warm clothes. Would you like to help her?

**NEEDY OLDSTER #94**—This 64-year-old woman lived with her relatives until placed in a local home for the aged. She eagerly awaits her 65th birthday when she will be eligible for Old Age Assistance and will have some income for herself. A small gift would brighten her holiday season.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #95 & #96**—Mr. and Mrs. Q make their home with a son who is married and has ten children. This son can provide food and shelter only. Mr. Q is unable to work and he and his wife both need shoes and warm clothing. To help this couple will bring a great deal of pleasure to someone, why not you?

**NEEDY OLDSTER #97**—Mrs. V, 76, is ineligible for old age assistance. She does get \$42.00 a month from Social Security but being partially blind, she is unable to work to supplement this. A friend pays her \$2 or \$3 a week to do her ironing. This income helps a little but Mrs. V is in need of warm clothes and a blanket. Would you like to be Santa Claus to Mrs. V and see that she gets these things?

**NEEDY OLDSTER #98**—Mrs. M, 71, attends the clinic at Thomason General Hospital regularly. An income of \$50.00 is all she has. Despite her illness and limited means, she is a cheerful person. Christmas will pass as just another day unless someone contributes to make that day a special day for her, too.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #99**—This 63-year-old woman had been living with relatives. When she became ill and had to be hospitalized, her relatives were unable to have her in the house anymore. An agency rented a room for her and is giving a small grant for food. She has applied for Social Security. Any gift would heighten her holiday season.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #100**—This 70-year-old single lady has no relatives and lives alone in a small but neat room. She supported herself by doing domestic work until a few years ago when a severe heart condition necessitated surgery. Her activity now is extremely limited. A gift at Christmas will brighten the lonely holidays.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #101**—Miss M, 66, is crippled and bent with a spinal condition. She worked by the day for several families for years and supported herself. She still hopes that her back will get better and she can return to work, but the doctor says otherwise. A small amount of local relief and help from a private agency sustain her. Your gift will bring cheer at Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #102**—Mrs. F is 68 years old. Her monthly income amounts to \$40.00. She adds to this during the summer by picking onions and lettuce in the upper valley. Due to her age, she can do this only two or three times a week during the season. She has no family. A cash donation at Christmas time would be a pleasant surprise.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #103 & #104**—Mr. and Mrs. D, 70 and 65 respectively, are naturalized American citizens. For many years Mr. D was a janitor until ill health forced him to retire. He receives a small pension and an old age assistance grant which does not cover their basic needs. They would be appreciative of any gift presented at Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #105**—Mr. B, a 65-year-old bachelor, has been paralyzed from the knees down since shortly after birth. In spite of this he has managed to work for many years in the cotton fields. He now has no income except a small OAA grant. He has no family to celebrate the holidays with. Mr. B would very much appreciate any extra Christmas remembrance this year.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #106 & #107**. Mr. and Mrs. T, 77 and 75 years of age respectively, are happy to have each other this Christmas, but this older couple has not really had enough money to avoid day by day worry for a long time. Mr. T had to give up his real estate job in 1957 because of poor health. He now raises vegetables in his small back-yard garden. They would certainly appreciate any financial remembrance during this holiday season.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #108**—Mrs. A, 87 years old, became a widow this past year, so she is now living alone in her small home in a rural community. She is healthy and alert for a woman of her age, but has a hard time managing her home expenses and paying her medical bills on the small OAA grant which is her only means of support. She would be most happy to receive any remembrance this holiday season.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #109**—Mr. Y, 73 years old, lived alone after the death of his wife. He had a stroke in 1965 which left him partially paralyzed. He then went to live in a small shack behind the home of his son, where he is most unwanted by his son's family. Mr. Y is very lonely and would warmly appreciate any remembrance this Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #110**—Mrs. P has lived alone since 1955. Her fingers are no longer steady enough for her to do sewing in her home, which was her only source of income. She has children in the El Paso area, who could easily help, but they all seem to have forgotten her. Let's show this lonely woman that someone does care by remembering her with a gift this Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #111 & #112**—Mr. H, 65, lives with his widowed mother, age 86, in a small adobe hut near El Paso. They manage as best they can on a little Social Security and OAA grant, so there will be no exchange of gifts at their house. Christmas will only be another day. This mother and son would be so happy to receive a few extra dollars this holiday season.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #113**—Mrs. G 68, supported herself as a nurse-maid to small children for many years. This brought much joy into her life. Now she is no longer able to work, and is very lonely, along with having to manage on a small amount of money which she receives each month from the Welfare Office. This is going to be quite a poor and lonely Christmas for Mrs. G. She would be happy to receive a gift this Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #114**—Mrs. J is somewhere between 92 and 112 years old, no one knows. She is quite hard of hearing but otherwise alert. The grandson with whom she lives, has a wife and six children to feed on a very meager income.

So Mrs. J would appreciate any extra remembrances you might be able to send her this Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #115**—Mr. C an 88-year-old widower, has been in the hospital for several months. His sunny disposition helps keep fellow patients happy. A married daughter provides a home and in return, he contributes his small Social Security check. Mr. C has so little and a gift at Christmas would add to his happiness.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #116**—Mrs. Y 74, is a widow. Her only income is from crocheting doilies which her friends buy. She is clothed in cast-offs as she cannot provide herself clothing. A cash donation at Christmas time would put a spark in this lady's life.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #117**—Mr. Q is 64 years old. His wife deserted him when he became ill. His income of \$38.00 a month from Social Security doesn't go far and he needs warm clothing. Alone and old, he needs someone to show they care. Wouldn't you like to help him?

**NEEDY OLDSTER #118**—Mrs. B 68, who receives regular medical care at Thomason General Hospital, is in need of a friend at Christmas time. Her only income is from domestic work, which because of her health and age, she finds difficult to get. Any gift would brighten this poor soul's Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #119**—Mr. J 81, has been a widower for many years. He has no family and no one to remember him on Christmas Day. His only income is a small check from Social Security. A cash gift or some warm clothing would be very well received.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #120**—Mrs. L is a 72-year-old widow. Her only income is \$65.30, most of which goes to pay rent. She has no family to remember her. A warm dress would make this Christmas time much brighter. A cash gift would make it possible.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #121 & #122**—Mr. and Mrs. D, both in their 70's, have an income of \$55.00 a month from Social Security. They are living with a married son who has several children of his own and is unable to help them. Mr. D is in need of a warm sweater and Mrs. D needs some warm slippers. Can you help this needy couple?

**NEEDY OLDSTER #123**—Mrs. B is 60 years old and unable to work because of ulcerated varicose veins. Her application for Social Security funds is pending. Relatives are helping out in the meantime but food and shelter is about all they can provide. Warm clothing is needed by Mrs. B. Could you make a donation to aid her?

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #124 & #125**—Mr. M is 80 years old and his wife is 75. They have an income of \$86.00 a month from Social Security. Their pride and joy is owning their own home. They are all alone and there is no one to remember them at Christmas. A cash donation to buy warm clothing would be a pleasant surprise for them.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #126**—Mrs. S is a lovely 82-year-old lady. She is fortunate in that she owns her small home. Her monthly income of \$52.00 is barely adequate, but she manages as well as she can. Mrs. S suffers from arthritis and progressing deafness. A gift at Christmas time would bring this lady a great deal of cheer.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #127, #128 & #129**—Miss P, a 77-year-old maiden lady, has long been confined to a wheelchair by an arthritic condition. Miss P lives with her 59-year-old sister and her 77-year-old husband. The brother-in-law has a small income from Social Security, but it barely supports all three persons. Christmas will be a pretty sad time for this family unless some kind person remembers them with a gift.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #130**—Mrs. R lives alone and has no family in this city. She does dress alterations to supplement her income of \$66.00 a month. This total barely supplies the essentials of life. A cash donation at Christmas would make her very happy.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #131 & #132**—Mr. C is a double amputee. He has a small income from Social Security. His wife is unable to take care of him as she, herself is ill. Their married daughter pays the rent for them, but this is all she can do. Life is not very cheerful for this couple and they would really appreciate being remembered at Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #133**—Mrs. G, 79, is a widow who has an income of only \$52.00 a month. She makes her home with a son who has nine children of his own. She is badly in need of a warm blanket. Bring a little cheer to one less fortunate; remember her this Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #134**—Mrs. T, 62, works as a domestic three days a week. She is being supplied bread and milk from a local agency. Her only son has ten children of his own to support and is therefore, unable to help her. A cash donation would lighten her load and brighten her life this Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #135 & #136**—Mr. and Mrs. I live in a pitiful little hut with only outdoor water. Mr. I is paralyzed from the waist down. They manage on only one small welfare grant, but somehow this couple remains cheerful. It is unlikely anyone will remember them in this holiday season, so a few dollars at Christmas would be especially appreciated.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #137**—Mrs. R was living with friends who were very kind to her, but recently, they left El Paso and Mrs. R was left alone and homeless. She is unable to work due to recent surgery. A local agency has been giving her food and a couple of blankets; she was recently referred to another agency to have the rent paid. She has no relatives and would be very grateful for any small gift.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #138 & #139**—Mr. P is 73 years old and Mrs. P is 64 years old. Mr. P has been doing odd jobs as a farm laborer to supplement their \$51.00 monthly Social Security check. He recently received a back injury and has been unable to work. Christmas will be a very lonely day for this couple, who have no one to remember them. Won't some kind hearted person take an interest?

**NEEDY OLDSTER #140**—Mr. S, 77, has only one leg. He retired in 1966. His small pension is barely enough to support his wife and two school-age sons. Something at Christmas would add a bit of happiness during the holiday season.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #141**—Mrs. S is 90 years old and lives alone. She receives a small check each month from Social Security. Sometimes she makes tortillas and sells them to help manage. She suffers from arthritis of the bone and walks only with the aid of a cane. A gift would be a real treat for Mrs. S at Christmas time.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #142**—Miss M, 71 years old, never married. She has unselfishly devoted her life to rearing five orphaned nieces and nephews. Her only aid is a state grant for two of the children. A gift at Christmas would bring so much pleasure to this most deserving lady.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #143 & #144**—This couple, aged 81 and 80, find it hard to make ends meet, as their small welfare grant doesn't go very far. They are both ailing, but they still manage to keep their modest home very neat. This couple will have no Christmas at all unless some kind person remembers them this holiday season.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #145**—Mr. D is 79 years old, and lives with two sisters who work as maids. Besides a heart condition, he has had a recent operation and is now bed-ridden. Mr. D has nothing to look forward to at Christmas. A gift would help bring a little cheer into his life.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #146**—Mrs. N, a 60-year-old lady, lives alone and has no relatives. She has an income of \$15.00 a week from working as a maid. Her only help is from Our Lady's Youth Center's poor line once a week. Paying \$20.00 a month rent, her money doesn't go very far. She is often bothered with chest pains but has to continue working. Let's give this lady a treat by remembering her with a gift this Christmas.

**NEEDY OLDSTERS #147 & #148**—Mr. & Mrs. J., both 61 years of age, have no income. They receive help from general assistance and Our Lady's Youth Center. Life is not very pleasant for this elderly couple as they are both in poor health. A cash gift at Christmas would mean so much to them.

**NEEDY OLDSTER #149**—Mrs. H. used to clean the presidio in return for her rent. Now she is suffering from diabetes and is no longer able to do this.

General assistance is helping her with rent but she has no income at all. Mrs. H has a daughter living in the city, but she doesn't offer any help to her mother. Let's remember her with a gift at Christmas and show her that she has not been forgotten by everyone.

NEEDY OLDSTER #150—Mr. O, 63 years old, is unable to find work. He walks the streets in the cold winter months, selling candy from a push-cart. This poor soul will have nothing for Christmas. Let's surprise him with a cash gift. It would be most appreciated.

ITEM 2: LETTER FROM MRS. H. L. CARLOCK, REGIONAL DIRECTOR,  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE, EL PASO, TEXAS

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH :

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In relation to Federal Housing, I should like to suggest that needy recipients of the Department of Public Welfare, and El Paso General Assistance Agency, be charged a rental rate compatible to their circumstances. This, of course, would mean that some individuals and families might be able to pay only \$10.00 or less, rather than the housing rental schedule. For example—if a family of 5 needs \$175.00 by the level of need used by this Agency, and receives only \$123.00 Public Assistance grant, with no other income, this family should not be charged the minimum housing schedule of \$40.00, since the grant of \$123.00 lacks \$52.00 meeting the minimum basic necessities of life.

Of course, we believe in the philosophy of individuals paying something for "the goods" received, but where income is not enough to meet food needs on a minimum scale, it seems unwise to take money for rent, which means a further cut into the food needs.

You will recall that Commissioner Richard Telles recommended that the Federal Government provide funds for a General Assistance program, since most counties are not financially able to adequately fund a County General Assistance program. As you know, some counties give no assistance to needy individuals.

I agree with Mr. Telles' recommendation. In fact, every State needs a General Assistance Program funded either by State and Federal, or purely Federal, because there are families and individuals who cannot qualify for categorical programs. There are many individuals under 65 who are unemployable or are Mexican nationals age 65 or over, who have resided in the United States for 25 years or more, but who cannot prove this period of residence, which is in lieu of the citizenship requirement for Old Age Assistance. They have no Agency to go to except the County Welfare Agency, which has extremely limited funds.

I believe that all, except 7 States, have a General Assistance program. It is my understanding that most of these programs are jointly financed by the State and Federal Governments, and are administered by the State Department of Public Welfare.

It seems to me that a change in Federal Housing regulations, as mentioned above, and an adequately financed General Assistance Agency to meet needs of those families and individuals who "fall between the cracks" because there is no Agency to adequately assist them, are the two major needs where change is imperative.

Many elderly and needy families complain that the purchase requirement for Food Stamps in El Paso needs to be reduced, so that more needy elderly and needy families will participate, as many feel they cannot purchase Food Stamps because the purchase requirement is more than they can afford to spend. Also needy people without income should be permitted to obtain free bonus Food Stamp coupons in order to more adequately combat poverty, whereas now, if they do not have income, they are not eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program, unless, of course, some Agency provides them with cash. Our County General Assistance Agency does assist such individuals, but as indicated above, their funds are inadequate.

Thank you for giving those of us in El Paso, an opportunity to discuss with you problems confronting the elderly Mexican-Americans. I should like to add that the Federal Government has been of tremendous help to States and communities in creating and expanding programs in an effort to combat poverty, and to assist in meeting needs of the elderly Mexican-Americans; without this help, needy people in our communities would be in a very serious situation.

If I can be of assistance to you at any time, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

(Miss) HETTIE L. CARLOCK,  
*Regional Director.*

ITEM 3: LETTER FROM DONALD J. HOPKINS, PROJECT DIRECTOR, NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS, EL PASO COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, PROJECT BRAVO, INC., EL PASO, TEX., DATED JANUARY 14, 1968

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Permit me to respond to your letter concerning the coordination of the Project Bravo C. A. P. Work-Training Program and the elderly Mexican-American.

Our objectives are simply to provide work-training experience for the unemployed and the under-employed poor. The program operations are those of an out-of-school Neighborhood Youth Corps Program with the age limit lifted.

An effort will be made to include elderly Mexican-Americans. Our guidelines specify that we will train, in our program, the same percentage of elderly as there is an incidence of elderly poor and unemployed in our community.

The Texas Employment Commission estimates this incidence to be between seven (7) and ten (10) percent. Our one hundred (100) slot program would provide training therefore for between seven (7) and ten (10) Mexican-American elderly.

We are conducting inquiries into means of serving the elderly by those being trained in the program. Specific replies will not be available until some time after your printer's deadline.

We are definitely interested in receiving any information on new programs which we might be able to implement in El Paso, especially vocationally oriented programs for the elderly.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. HOPKINS,  
*Project Director.*

ITEM 4: MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY MRS. TOM LEA, JR., CHAIRMAN, HOMEBOUND AGED SURVEY COMMITTEE, EL PASO, TEXAS

#### SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

It is the conclusion of this committee, based on the sample of 147 elderly homebound living in the city of El Paso, Texas, that—

1. There are unmet needs brought on by the real limitations resulting from economic, physical, social and psychological handicaps.
2. Protective and supportive services for the homebound aged must be provided on an individualized basis.
3. Outside the obvious financial needs of many of the homebound aged, one of their chief problems is loneliness.
4. Visiting nurse or home health aide, friendly visiting, home help and transportation service programs are needed and would be used by a sizeable number of elderly homebound if provided.
5. Existing agencies may be able to help provide some of these services, although new avenues of programming will undoubtedly be needed.
6. Such services would enable many elderly homebound to be meaningful citizens in the community and would retard or prevent much of the decline that takes place through inactivity.

7. The sample is adequate and the study justifies prompt attention to the elderly homebound.

8. The survey data and resources, including McBee cards, will also provide valuable information on other concerns of the elderly homebound in the future.

#### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. The El Paso Council on Aging accept the responsibility to develop and coordinate specific programs for the elderly homebound as part of their total commitment to the aging.

2. The Community Planning Division of the United Fund support and endorse the Council and reiterate its willingness to serve in the work on a consultive basis.

3. The United Fund assist in the wide distribution and interpretation of this report as being basic to the awareness and understanding in support of the problem in the community.

4. Sufficient funds are needed to provide the professional staff leadership necessary and to develop the recommended services.

