

STATEMENT OF SENATOR GEORGE A. SMATHERS
TO THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT
OF SENATE RESOLUTION 260, TO EXTEND THE
LIFE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
THROUGH JANUARY 31, 1965

The work of the Senate Special Committee on Aging is important not only to States, like mine, whose populations contain the largest percentages of senior citizens. It is important to every section and State in the Nation; the increase in percentage of senior citizens is nation-wide.

Furthermore, it is of importance not only to today's American senior citizens, but also to those of 20, 40, 60 and 100 years from now -- that is, to those of us who may consider ourselves young or middle-aged, to our children and grandchildren and to our descendants who are yet unborn. For, as we find ways to enrichen life and make it more meaningful and enjoyable for today's senior citizens, we are establishing patterns which will affect the lives of American senior citizens of the future.

It is the responsibility of this Special Committee to find solutions to the problems of the Aging which are not only best from their standpoint, but which are also least expensive and therefore best from the standpoint of the Nation and its taxpayers. Haphazard, poorly planned and thought-out programs in the field of aging give the least to the aging at the greatest cost to the American taxpayer. Therefore, the work of this special committee is important from the standpoint of the future fiscal strength of the Nation.

The expiration of the resolution under which the Special Committee is now operating catches us in the midst of much significant work on various concerns of the senior citizens of our Nation. This is fully detailed in our letter to the Committee. We feel that there is much useful work which can and should be done to complete the work already begun in those areas as well as in other areas to which the Committee has not yet been able to devote its attention.

We pledge our continued best efforts to improve the later years for all Americans at minimum cost to the Nation and its taxpayers. We shall make a strong effort to make any additional time the Senate may give us redound to the benefit of our Country and of all Americans.