

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY AWARENESS PROGRAM  
THE WORLD OF AGING: "BRIDGING THE GAP"  
BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
BELLEVILLE, KANSAS  
MAY 4, 1974

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE WITH ALL OF YOU HERE THIS AFTERNOON TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR "AWARENESS" SERIES. I ALWAYS ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO MY OLD DISTRICT, WHERE I SERVED AS YOUR CONGRESSMAN FOR 8 YEARS, AND AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO ADDRESS SUCH AN ACTIVE GROUP OF KANSAS SENIOR CITIZENS.

I THINK ALL OF YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR THE DEGREE OF SUCCESS ATTAINED IN YOUR PROGRAM, AND FEEL THAT PAT WALTER, ESPECIALLY, DESERVES RECOGNITION FOR HER INITIATIVES AS PROJECT DIRECTOR. I FIND IT VERY REASSURING THAT KANSAS COMMITTEE FOR THE HUMANITIES GRANTS ARE BEING UTILIZED IN SUCH A BENEFICIAL MANNER -- TO BRING THE NEEDS OF OUR ELDERLY TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, WHILE FOCUSING ON OVERALL "GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVENESS."

### IMPORTANCE OF AWARENESS

BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH AN EVALUATION OF WHAT THAT "GOVERNMENT RESPONSE" HAS BEEN SO FAR, I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE THE OVER-RIDING IMPORTANCE OF PURSUING YOUR PROGRAM'S GENERAL "AWARENESS" OBJECTIVE. FOR BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FORCES -- LEADERS IN NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTORS OF NATIONAL LIFE, AS WELL AS THOSE IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AT ALL LEVELS -- HAVE FAILED FOR TOO LONG TO RECOGNIZE THE INDIVIDUALITY OF THE NATION'S 21 MILLION CITIZENS PAST AGE 65.

IT IS IMPERATIVE, THEREFORE, THAT WE HAVE A FULL REVIEW OF THE QUESTIONS FACING OLDER AMERICANS TODAY. IT IS EQUALLY ESSENTIAL THAT WE COME UP WITH PROPER AND INTELLIGENT ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS, IN ORDER THAT TODAY'S YOUNG AND MIDDLE-AGED AMERICANS MIGHT AVOID FOR THEMSELVES THE TYPE OF SECOND CLASS CITIZENSHIP WHICH TOO OFTEN FACES THEIR SENIORS NOW.

BY THAT I MEAN THAT THE SITUATION IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN. AND THE UNDERSTANDING WHICH IS SO CRITICAL TO ANY POSITIVE IMPROVEMENT IS POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH CULTIVATION OF A MORE ENLIGHTENED COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION. PROGRAMS SUCH AS YOUR "WORLD OF AGING" SERIES, THEN, ARE THE MECHANISMS THROUGH WHICH TRUE PROGRESS FOR OUR ELDERLY WILL BE REALIZED.

SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE AGING

IN LOOKING OVER THE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF YOUR "AWARENESS" ACTIVITY, I NOTICED THAT YOU HAD GROUPED THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE AGING INTO FOUR GENERAL CATEGORIES; THAT IS, TRANSPORTATION, LOW INCOME, HEALTH(BOTH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL), AND ISOLATION. THESE COULD BE EXPANDED UPON, I THINK, BY FURTHER ENUMERATING INTERRELATED PROBLEMS WITH HOUSING AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES, AS WELL AS THE DIFFICULTY IN COPING WITH INFLATION.



ALL THESE PROBLEM AREAS MUST BE EXAMINED IN THE BROAD CONTEXT OF LIFE-QUALITY GOALS FOR ALL CITIZENS, AND RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT THE PRIMARY ISSUE WITH THE AGING IS THE RIGHT OF OLDER AMERICANS TO FULLY-EQUAL STATUS IN OUR NATIONAL COMMUNITY. WHILE THIS ISSUE HAS NOT YET BEEN SQUARELY FACED BY EITHER SOCIETY OR THE GOVERNMENT, VERY NOTEWORTHY FORWARD STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN DURING THE PAST YEAR.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT INCREASES

PERHAPS ONE OF THE MAJOR POSITIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING A GREAT MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY IS THE TWO-STEP, 11 PERCENT INCREASE IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS. AS A RESULT OF THIS LEGISLATION, YOU WILL ALREADY HAVE RECEIVED AN INTERIM SEVEN PERCENT BOOST FOR MARCH OF THIS YEAR, WITH THE FULL RAISE TO BE EFFECTIVE IN JUNE.

THIS ACTION -- TOGETHER WITH THREE OTHER ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASES SINCE 1969 -- MEANS THAT SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WILL HAVE GONE UP 67.5 PERCENT IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, AND MORE THAN 100 PERCENT DURING THE PAST 10. CONGRESS HAS IN THIS WAY RESPONDED AT LEAST IN PART, THEN, TO THE FIXED INCOME LIMITATIONS OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, A NEW SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) PROGRAM HAS BEEN INAUGURATED, OFFERING A FEDERALLY GUARANTEED MONTHLY INCOME OF \$140 PER INDIVIDUAL AND \$210 PER COUPLE PAST AGE 65 AS OF JANUARY 1974. FURTHER PROJECTED INCREASES THIS COMING JUNE WILL RAISE THOSE FIGURES TO \$146 and \$219, RESPECTIVELY.

FOR THE MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE ELDERLY WHO RECEIVE REGULAR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, MONTHLY INCOME GUARANTEES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND COUPLES ARE

CURRENTLY \$160 and \$230. AND BECAUSE \$65 OF MONTHLY EARNED INCOME (AS WELL AS ONE-HALF OF EARNINGS ABOVE \$65) IS DISREGARDED, THIS FEDERAL SUPPLEMENT CAN RAISE LEVELS OF INCOME SUBJECT TO SSI TO OVER \$225 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL AND \$295 FOR A COUPLE.

ALL THESE ATTRIBUTES OF THE SSI PROGRAM APPLY WITH PARTICIPANTS STILL RETAINING ELIGIBILITY FOR BOTH MEDICAID AND FOOD STAMPS. MOREOVER, THROUGH AMENDMENTS COMING INTO EFFECT AT THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, IN EXCESS OF 3 MILLION --MANY OF THEM AGED -- NATIONALLY WERE TAKEN FROM THE STATE WELFARE ROLLS AND TRANSFERRED TO THE FEDERAL SYSTEM.

OF THOSE, MORE THAN 14,000 ELDERLY CITIZENS ALONE HAVE BEEN AFFECTED IN KANSAS, AND ARE CURRENTLY RECEIVING THE SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS. AND HOPEFULLY, ANOTHER TWO TO THREE THOUSAND QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WILL BE LOCATED AS A RESULT OF A SPECIAL SEARCH PROJECT UNDERWAY NOW BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES. THE SSI PROGRAM HAS HAD OVERWHELMING



-7-

SUPPORT IN CONGRESS AND REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF THE AGED.

CONGREGATE NUTRITION

THE FEDERALLY-FINANCED HOT MEAL SERVICE -- IN CONGREGATE SETTINGS AND WITH DELIVERY TO HOME-BOUND INDIVIDUALS -- HAS BEEN EXPANDED NOW TO PROVIDE FIVE MEALS WEEKLY TO APPROXIMATELY 200,000 OLDER PERSONS. DURING FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM IN FISCAL YEAR 1973, 3,719 HAVE BEEN SERVED MEALS DAILY IN OUR STATE. I WAS A CO-SPONSOR OF THE OLDER AMERICANS BILL WHICH LAST YEAR AUTHORIZED MORE THAN \$2 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF KANSAS ELDERLY PROGRAMS, AND JUST THIS PAST WEEK, I WAS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A \$1,176,919 ALLOCATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE, FOR CONTINUATION OF THOSE OPERATIONS.

THE CONGREGATE NUTRITION IDEA HAS PROVEN GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND IS NOW UP FOR EXTENSION, WITH HEARINGS TAKING PLACE THIS MONTH BEFORE THE SENATE LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE AGING. HAVING ALREADY BEEN PASSED BY THE HOUSE, THE BILL (H.R. 11105) WILL

-8-

AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATIONS OF \$600 MILLION OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS FOR TITLE VII PLANS. I AM <sup>ALSO</sup> A CO-SPONSOR OF THE COMPANION SENATE BILL WHICH PROVIDES AN ADDITIONAL \$35 MILLION FOR SUPPORTIVE TRANSPORTATION, WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO AREAS HAVING NO PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM.

THESE NEW NUTRITION PROJECTS HAVE A SPECIAL NOTE OF OPTIMISM IN THEIR CONCEPT OF DEALING WITH THE "ISOLATION" PROBLEM WHICH WE HAVE MENTIONED. FOR IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING HOT MEALS FOR A VAST NUMBER OF CITIZENS -- UP TO 7,500 IN KANSAS WITH ADEQUATE FUNDING -- THEY BRING PERSONS AGED 60 AND OLDER TOGETHER IN A COMMUNITY CENTER SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE FOR THAT MUCH-NEEDED ASSOCIATION WITH OTHERS HAVING THEIR SAME INTERESTS AND SITUATIONS.

#### MEDICARE AND PENSION REFORM

H. R. 1353 -- NOW THE OBJECT OF CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES -- OFFERS FURTHER SOCIAL SECURITY ACT AMENDMENTS BEYOND THOSE WHICH I HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED. THESE INCLUDE IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENTS IN MEDICARE, WHICH I AM SURE AFFECTS MANY OF YOU HERE, AS WELL AS CHANGES IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM TO REFLECT A "REVENUE SHARING" PHILOSOPHY.



ON THE SUBJECT OF PRIVATE PENSION REFORM LEGISLATION, H.R. 2 -- WHICH LIKE THE SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENTS WAS CONSIDERED BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, ON WHICH I SERVE, AND IS IN CONFERENCE NOW -- PROMISES SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN NON-GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS TO PROVIDE RETIREMENT INCOME WITH SECURITY AND EQUITY. INCLUDED AMONG THESE IS A SPECIAL TAX INCENTIVE ON INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS FOR RETIREMENT, THAT IS, FOR PERSONS NOT COVERED BY GROUP PLANS.

RETIREMENT INCOME CREDIT

ANOTHER ITEM PROVIDING LONG OVERDUE TAX EQUITY ON BEHALF OF OUR RETIRED CITIZENS WAS FAVORABLY REPORTED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE JUST BEFORE THE EASTER RECESS. I AM SPEAKING OF A BILL NUMBERED H. R. 8217, WHICH CONTAINS AN EXPANSION OF THE RETIREMENT INCOME TAX CREDIT. UNDER IT, THE BASE AMOUNT OF CREDIT WOULD RISE FROM \$1524 TO \$2500 FOR SINGLE AGED PERSONS, AND FROM \$2286 TO \$3750 FOR ELDERLY COUPLES.

-10-

THIS MEASURE HOLDS GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS AND OTHERS WHOSE RETIREMENT BENEFITS DO NOT COME FROM TAX-EXEMPT PENSIONS SUCH AS SOCIAL SECURITY AND RAILROAD RETIREMENT. THE RETIREMENT INCOME CREDIT, WHICH WAS INTENDED TO COMPENSATE FOR THIS DIFFERENCE, HAS NOT BEEN UP-DATED IN 12 YEARS FOR THE SINGLE ELDERLY AND IN 10 YEARS FOR AGED COUPLES. SO IMMEDIATE RELIEF IS CERTAINLY EXPEDIENT, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE STRONG VOTE THE BILL RECEIVED ON THE SENATE FLOOR IN JANUARY, AND MY COMMITTEE'S RENEWED SUPPORT, WILL PROVIDE A MOST VALUABLE SOURCE OF MOMENTUM FOR ENACTMENT.

OTHER AREAS OF FEDERAL RESPONSE

THIS WILL GIVE YOU SOME IDEA OF THE COMPLETED EFFORTS AND STILL-PENDING INITIATIVES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO IMPROVE THE PLIGHT OF THE ELDERLY. THERE ARE MANY OTHERS, TO BE SURE, AND I FEEL VERY PRIVILEGED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, THROUGH MY POSITIONS ON THE FINANCE AND POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEES, TO CONTRIBUTE TO EVEN FURTHER PROGRESS IN SOLVING SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH EXIST.

-11-

BESIDES BILLS CONSIDERED BY THOSE COMMITTEES, I HAVE CO-SPONSORED MEASURES INVOLVING THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AND JUST THIS WEEK AGREED TO SPONSOR A BILL WHICH WOULD GIVE GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO RETIREES BY ALLOWING A 6-2/3 PERCENT ANNUAL INCREMENT IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR EACH YEAR A PERSON DEFERS HIS RETIREMENT BEYOND AGE 65.

IN ADDITION, I ANNOUNCED ONLY YESTERDAY THE AWARDING OF \$244,907 TO THE STATE OF KANSAS FOR THE OPERATION OF TRAINING AND MODEL PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY, AS WELL AS IMPROVE THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS.

FINALLY, WITH REGARD TO ACTION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION TWO EVERY NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENTS NOW TAKING PLACE IN THE SENATE'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING, AND IN THE LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE AGING. THE FIRST IS A SPECIAL AND EXTREMELY COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON A STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE AGED AND AGING. THE SECOND IS CONSIDERATION OF A BILL TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON THE AGING.



-12-

THE REASON THESE ACTIONS ARE SO SIGNIFICANT IS THAT THEY OFFER A TRULY THROUGH AND OBJECTIVE APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING AND, IN FACT, "BRIDGING" THE GAP WHICH NOW EXISTS WITH RESPECT TO OUR ELDERLY. THIS THEY DO BY RESEARCHING, FULLY ANALYZING, AND RECOMMENDING SOLUTIONS FOR THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH PERSIST. AND THE "NATIONAL INSTITUTE" IDEA WILL ADD GENERAL COHESIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY TO EFFORTS TO COPE WITH THESE AREAS OF CONCERN BY PLACING ALL THE PROGRAMS RELATIVE TO THE ELDERLY--NOW SPLIT UP AMONG SEVERAL DIFFERENT AGENCIES--UNDER "ONE ROOF."

STATE ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY

BECAUSE YOU ARE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FROM OUTLETS "CLOSER TO HOME," I MIGHT MENTION JUST A FEW THINGS ABOUT STATE AND LOCAL METHODS OF IMPLEMENTING AID PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY, ALTHOUGH I'M CERTAIN THAT DR. SEEBER WILL COVER THEM IN DETAIL.

AVAILABLE STATE FUNDS DERIVE PRIMARILY FROM TITLES III AND VII OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT, ALTHOUGH SOME ALSO FALL UNDER SEVERAL TITLES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT. TITLE III FUNDS ARE USED TO SUPPORT SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS SUCH AS YOUR "WORLD OF AGING" SERIES (WHICH HAS RECEIVED \$7,881), AND TITLE VII FUNDS ARE UTILIZED IN FINANCING THE CONGREGATE NUTRITION PROJECTS TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED EARLIER. (IN ADDITION, 20 PERCENT OF TITLE VII MONIES MAY BE USED TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES SUCH AS MINI-BUSSES.)

AS YOU MAY RECALL FROM MY ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY 1974 KANSAS GOVERNMENT JOURNAL , KANSAS LAST YEAR MADE USE OF LESS THAN 1/4 OF ITS \$27 MILLION FEDERAL SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS' ENTITLEMENT UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY LAWS. HOWEVER, ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO EXPAND THOSE PROGRAMS, AND THROUGH AMENDMENTS WHICH I WAS ABLE TO HAVE ADOPTED LAST FALL, OUR STATE ENTITLEMENT WILL BE INCREASED FOR 1974 BY AS MUCH AS \$17 MILLION.

### MUNICIPAL FUNDING

AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, CITIES MAY PROVIDE TAX FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY IF THEY SO ELECT, WITHOUT FURTHER AUTHORIZATION. AND AS A RESULT OF A BILL PASSED DURING THE LAST SESSION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE, KANSAS COUNTIES MAY NOW -- UPON APPROVAL OF A REFERENDUM INITIATED BY FIVE PERCENT OF THE VOTERS,-- LEVY UP TO ONE ~~MILL~~ FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR THE AGING.

OF COURSE, THERE ARE ALWAYS VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND I NOTICED IN LOOKING OVER A RECENT EDITION OF THE "TELESCOPE" THAT EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY IN BELLEVILLE NOW TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF PROVIDING RIDES FOR THE ELDERLY -- SIMILAR TO A PROJECT CONDUCTED BY STUDENTS IN CONCORDIA. THESE ARE VERY WORTHWHILE GESTURES, AND COME AS A ~~VERY~~ WELCOME SERVICE, I'M SURE.



### CONTROL OF INFLATION AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING

HAVING COVERED THE GENERAL PERSPECTIVE OF PROGRAMS DIRECTED TOWARD "BRIDGING" THE GAP IN THE WORLD OF AGING -- FROM THE FEDERAL TO THE LOCAL LEVELS -- I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE WITH A FEW REMARKS ABOUT A SUBJECT OF UTMOST CONCERN TO YOU AND MILLIONS OF OTHER OLDER AMERICANS. I AM REFERRING OF COURSE, TO THE PROBLEM OF INFLATION, WITH WHICH THE ELDERLY IN PARTICULAR HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN COPING, AS I SUGGESTED EARLIER.

INFLATION, OF COURSE, HITS EVERYONE. BUT THOSE WHO LIVE ON FIXED AND LOW INCOMES ARE ALWAYS THE ONES WHO SUFFER FIRST AND MOST SERIOUSLY. THEIR BUDGETS HAVE LESS FLEXIBILITY AND ROOM FOR ADJUSTMENT. SO WHEN THE PRICE OF FUEL OR FOOD OR CLOTHING GOES UP, THEY ARE HURT AND REALLY HAVE NO WAY TO ESCAPE THIS IMPACT. AND IN SPITE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT INCREASES WHICH HAVE COME ABOUT, AN ESTIMATED 29.7 PERCENT OF THE 21 MILLION OVER-65 RECIPIENTS HAVE BELOW POVERTY-LEVEL INCOMES BECAUSE OF INFLATION.

A HOUSING PROBLEM IS ONE OF THE MAJOR RESULTING OFFSHOOTS. THE DILEMMA IS NOT IN GETTING A PLACE TO LIVE, BUT IN KEEPING IT -- UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THESE RISING EXPENSES AND PROPERTY TAXES. SEVENTY PERCENT OF PEOPLE OVER 65 ARE HOMEOWNERS. FOR MANY OF THEM THEIR HOME IS THEIR ONLY SUBSTANTIAL ASSET -- THE PRODUCT OF A LIFETIME OF SAVINGS. FEDERAL POLICY HAS ENCOURAGED THEM TO LOOK UPON HOME OWNERSHIP AS A SAFE AND SECURE INVESTMENT. BUT THE REALITIES OF INFLATION SUDDENLY POSE WHAT MAY BECOME AN UNTENABLE SITUATION.

#### SENATE BUDGET REFORM BILL

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT CONTROLLING INFLATION, WE MUST FIRST CONCERN OURSELVES WITH CONTROLLING UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT SPENDING. FORTUNATELY, ONE IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARD CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS WAS TAKEN WHEN THE SENATE PASSED ITS BUDGET REFORM BILL THIS MARCH.

BY FORCING THE HELTER-SKELTER LEGISLATIVE PROCESS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH OVERALL SPENDING LIMITATIONS AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR MATCHING REVENUES AND OUTLAYS, I THINK WE ARE FINALLY ON THE ROAD NOW TO APPROACHING BUDGET MATTERS

-17-

IN A BUSINESSLIKE AND ORDERLY WAY. AND HOPEFULLY, THIS REFORM OF CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES WILL BE THE FIRST, BUT NOT THE LAST, STEP IN THIS DIRECTION. CERTAINLY, EVERY AMERICAN HAS A STAKE IN SEEING SUCCESS IN THIS EFFORT.

#### CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION, LET ME REITERATE THE VIEW THAT PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY, AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL POLICY CAPABLE OF MEETING THE CHALLENGES AHEAD, DEPENDS UPON AN INFORMED PUBLIC. ALL OF US, YOUNG AND OLD, NEED TO UNDERSTAND BETTER THE POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN AGING, FOR THEREIN LIES THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE AS WELL AS THE PRESENT.

THIS PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL AWARENESS IS THE RESULT OF A PROCESS WHICH BEGINS RIGHT HERE AT THE "GRASS ROOTS" LEVEL WITH THE "WORLD OF AGING" AND OTHER SIMILAR PROGRAMS. THEREFORE, THE ADVANCEMENTS WHICH YOU HAVE MADE THROUGH THIS SERIES OF MEETINGS IN BELLEVILLE WILL BE THE FOUNDATION FOR EVEN GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED. TO THAT END, I WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS.