

The **CHAIRMAN**. Thank you very much. There was a request made by Mr. Irwin that some of these gentlemen here with him be given the privilege to speak. Is Mr. Sinclair here?

STATEMENT OF S. MERWIN SINCLAIR, PRESIDENT OF EXECUTIVES OF STATE COMMISSIONS AND STATE AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND, AND PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

Mr. **SINCLAIR**. I appreciate very much the privilege which you are giving me here in extending the time of the committee, and I will be very brief.

As members of the State Commission we are interested not only in services for those who are blind but also tremendously interested in the services for the prevention of unnecessary blindness. So we are heartily in support of the three amendments suggested by Mr. Irwin and Mr. Carris, the one referring to the section of the bill on old-age assistance, making this assistance available to blind persons at the age of 50, because of the fact that the handicap of blindness on top of the handicap of age in a great majority of cases makes it a practical impossibility for even an employable blind person of 50 years and over to secure employment.

Secondly, we wish to add our support to what has been said favoring the incorporation of section 702 on crippled children in such a way that the child who is suffering under a serious vision impairment may be included in the services set up for crippled children, or by the addition of a phrase necessary to make this provision for crippled children available for those with seriously impaired vision.

The **CHAIRMAN**. I thank you very much, Mr. Sinclair. The committee will be very glad to consider the suggestions of your organizations, and these others, and Mr. Irwin.

Mr. **SINCLAIR**. May I submit a written statement?

The **CHAIRMAN**. You may, but get it in pretty soon, because we are having these printed very quickly.

Mr. L. L. Watts. Mr. Watts represents the American Association of Workers for the Blind and Virginia Commission for the Blind.

STATEMENT OF L. L. WATTS, RICHMOND, VA., VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS FOR THE BLIND

Mr. **WATTS**. Mr. Chairman, I will not take a minute of your time. I will file my brief with your clerk.

(Document referred to is as follows:)

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS FOR THE BLIND,
Richmond, Va., February 12, 1935.

Hon. **PAT HARRISON**,
Chairman United States Senate Finance Committee,
Washington, D. C.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am appearing before your committee in behalf of the membership of the American Association of Workers for the Blind respectfully requesting that certain amendments which are herewith attached be incorporated in S. 1130 known as the "Wagner economic security bill."

I think the records will show that this is the first time we have appeared, before any congressional committee requesting financial aid for the blind of this country.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, we are well aware that the Federal Government has given financial assistance to practically every group