

A constructive program for the blind includes medical care for the eyes, if sight can be restored or improved, vocational guidance and training, placement, sheltered employment, home instruction in Braille (the embossed type used by the blind) social service, and care of blind children of pre-school age. It is estimated that an adequate program of this sort requires an average annual expenditure of \$25 per year.

Aside from humanitarian reasons, such a program is in the long run an economy, for it will result in restoration of sight to hundreds of blind persons, with consequent restoration to economic independence, and will also enable thousands of others to become wholly or partially self-supporting and relieve the community of the burden of their dependency.

This map shows expenditures in 1934 for work for the blind, both publicly and privately supported, exclusive of education of the young blind and relief from public funds.

The six States shown in black spent in 1934 more than \$25 per blind person. Massachusetts heads the list with an expenditure of about \$70 per blind person.

The 19 States in the dark shading spent from \$5 to \$25 per blind person in 1934. The 13 States shown in light shading spent less than \$5 per blind person, an amount obviously inadequate for a constructive program; and the 10 States shown in white spent nothing at all for the economic rehabilitation and social adjustment of their blind people.

We are suggesting that under the Department of Labor-possibly under the Children's Bureau itself-there be created a Department for the Blind which will cooperate in establishing State work for the blind in every Commonwealth of the country. We are suggesting that \$1,500,000 be appropriated annually to be used in matching sums appropriated by the States for the conduct of well organized and well conceived State agencies for the blind.

After 12 years' experience in helping to organize work for the blind in all parts of the country, we at the American Foundation for the Blind have reached the conclusion that unless Federal aid can be secured for these States their blind citizens will be left in darkness and idleness for generations.

Gentlemen, I hope you will help us to eliminate those broad expanses of white on the map which indicate a shameful neglect of the blind.

EXPENDITURES FOR WORK FOR THE BLIND FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS,
BY STATES, 1934

(Excluding relief from public funds and education of the young blind)

More than \$25 per blind person.-Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York.

From \$5 to \$25 per blind person.-California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Less than \$5 per blind person.-Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia.

No expenditure.-Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota.

Senator **GEORGE**. The map may be left with the secretary of the committee. I do not know that it can be incorporated in the record, because there is some difficulty about incorporating these maps in the record, but we will have it for reference.

I understand you have another witness who you wish heard at this time?

Mr. **IRWIN**. Yes; if he can be heard, Mr. Lewis H. Carris.

STATEMENT OF LEWIS H. CARRIS, MANAGING DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS, INC.

Mr. **CARRIS**. I shall be very brief, Mr. Chairman. The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness approve the suggestions which Mr. Irwin has made. We of course are particularly interested

in the prevention of blindness. We are concerned with the amendment of section 702 (a) to the end that the term "crippled children" shall be construed to mean, or the words shall be added including children with seriously defective vision. That would enable the States to do the work for those who are partially blind, which would be very helpful in alleviating the condition of those children. That I shall leave as a suggestion for an amendment to section 702 (a).

The other is the amendment to the economic security act which will provide aid for the blind and which has been proposed by Mr. Irwin and his associates, which is acceptable to those interested in the prevention of blindness, since the Federal grant carries the provision that these funds may be used whenever sight may be restored by medical or surgical services.

I should like to file a suggested amendment to section 702 (a) of the economic security bill as follows:

The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness has always been concerned with that group of children having seriously defective vision from two points of view:

(1) That these children, who are not blind, but have too little sight to be educated in regular school classes, shall secure an education which shall fit them for life.

(2) That the eye condition of such children shall be helped whenever possible by medical or surgical attention to the end that they may not finally become blind.

The child with seriously defective vision deserves help equally with the child seriously crippled from any cause. Section 702 (a) of title VII of the economic security bill provides for Federal aid to cooperating States for crippled children. We pray that this bill may be amended by adding the words "including children with seriously defective vision", wherever the words "crippled children", appear in section 702 (a) of the economic security bill.

Senator **GEORGE**. The committee may be able to take the testimony of the other witnesses that you have before we conclude the morning hearing, although there are a number of witnesses and it looks rather doubtful. We will try if possible to do so.

Mr. **CARRIS**. The president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind and also the president of the Association of State Executives are the State commissions for the blind and would like to say just a few words if they may have the opportunity.

Senator **GEORGE**. We will try to have them heard this morning. I am not certain. I am sorry that we cannot work it into the hearings consecutively so that it all appears in one part of the record. Thank you very much.

The **CHAIRMAN**. The next witness is John W. Studebaker, Commissioner of Education, Interior Department.

STATEMENT OF **DR. JOHN W. STUDEBAKER**, COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. **STUDEBAKER**. I can pursue either 1 of 2 courses, Mr. Chairman, and I shall be glad to leave it with you to decide which of the two I should follow: I can expedite the hearings by providing without reading two statements which if I should read would require perhaps 10 minutes. I can make therefore a few preliminary explanations and then file these two statements if you should prefer that procedure, or I can read the two statements if you should care to discuss them with me.