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to the United States. Had I been present and voting at that time, Mr. President, I would have voted in favor of the resolution. I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent RECORD be changed to reflect my favorable position on that measure.

LET US WELCOME THE FUGITIVES

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. President, the distinguished editor of the Wyoming State Tribune, Mr. Jim Flinchum of Cheyenne, wrote an editorial entitled: "Let Us Welcome the Fugitives."

Mr. Flinchum, and a number of other newspapermen throughout the country, felt compelled to write similar articles. He wrote:

The cries that are now going up in this country against the admission of the South Vietnamese refugees are somewhat astounding considering that they come from otherwise charitable people.

Mr. President, I believe the vast majority of the American people were astounded to see some of the statements a few made against providing sanctuary for the Vietnamese, who believe—and with considerable cause, looking back on recent history—that they are fleeing for their lives from the Communist conquerors. I believe some who spoke against the refugees did so from shock—the shock of seeing a people the United States had supported for a long time fall before the ruthless aggression and single-minded determination of the Communist invaders. These Americans felt some sense of shame in the fall of South Vietnam and found the easiest way to put this burden out of mind was to not have the reminders, of what they considered a failure of this country, around as neighbors.

While all Americans are concerned about the economy, I do not for a moment believe that very many of those who made emotional outbursts against the refugees were equating possible slight economic hardship with the life or death of fellow human beings. And I am confident that after most of these Americans, after having some time to think matters through, will hold a calmer view more in keeping with the traditional humanitarian values that this country stands for in the eyes of the world, and that remain untarnished despite significant setbacks in Southeast Asia.

I would speculate that most of the Americans who spoke out against providing sanctuary for the refugees did so out of fear for their own economic future. Their words, to me, seemed to reflect the truth of the quotation attributed to the late President Franklin Roosevelt that there is naught to fear but fear itself. President Roosevelt was warning against hysteria, and this Nation is nowhere near giving way to hysteria.

But Americans are right to be concerned about their jobs and the feeding, clothing, and education of their families. Americans associate the Vietnam war with some of the economic problems of the Nation, because they know that the program backed by Congress of "guns and butter," as the late President Johnson termed it, brought about the rampant inflation that de-

valued the American dollar and their income. An expansion of Federal social welfare programs at a time when the war was expanding was more than even the great gross national product of the United States could sustain without some detrimental effects.

But even more than inflation, the recession that has cost jobs in this country and caused cutbacks in production and industrial expansion brought about the fear—the economic insecurity—that resulted in the antirefugee feeling some Americans made known. A principal cause of the business recession has been the sudden high cost of energy and the energy shortage. It is a stern warning that there are no longer any of the "ifs, and, or buts," that we have heard for the past decade—this Nation must take positive and aggressive steps to become energy self-reliant. And this must be accomplished in minimum time if we are to avoid the catastrophic damage to the national security that economic crash would mean.

Mr. Flinchum suggests that we "extend a welcome to the South Vietnamese and hope that they may soon adjust to their new homes." I urge that the Senate extend a warm welcome to the unfortunate people of South Vietnam—a resoundingly warm welcome that will show the world the early news reports about American opposition to the refugees were made newsworthy only because such opposition reflected the beat of a different drum—a curiosity.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Tribune editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LET US WELCOME THE FUGITIVES

President Ford's statement he ordered the evacuation of thousands of South Vietnamese simply to prevent their being murdered by the conquering communists—and that he is proud of his decision—is to his eternal credit.

The cries that are now going up in this country against the admission of the South Vietnamese refugees are somewhat astounding considering that they come from otherwise presumably charitable people.

For our part, it is to be regretted that more South Vietnamese could not be brought out. Have we forgotten that America is a haven for the world's oppressed, and historically has been so? Our earliest colonists, not just including the Mayflower Pilgrims who were fugitives from religious oppression in England where only the Crown's religion was tolerated, came here for largely that reason.

One objection that has been raised to the South Vietnamese is that there are among them prostitutes, bar girls, and other persons of questionable morals. But recall the earliest American settlers; Georgia was largely settled through the efforts of a pioneer colonizer, James Oglethorpe, with penal inmates. So was Australia; the English prisons were emptied to permit the colonization of that faraway Crown colony.

Are there any among us who can not say with certainty that among his forebears, especially those who emigrated to America, was not some individual who was fleeing the King's justice, who did not have a price on his head, or who had not been freed from a prison so that the English could get rid of his kind?

The colonization efforts of most European nations, especially England, was based on the

proposition of getting rid of "undesirable" elements, felons of various kinds whom the authorities felt could be best dealt with if they were far, far away.

They were tough, hardy, often violent, durable people because they had to be; they came from the slums of London and from the poverty-stricken little crofts of Scotland; from impoverished Ireland and from all over, desperately poor people who frequently stole so they and their families would not go hungry. It is precisely for this reason they persevered under the conditions they had to cope with; otherwise they would have "gone under," as the pioneers put it.

The spirit of American charity to those oppressed in other lands has always prevailed from the earliest beginnings of the settlements by Europeans along the Atlantic Seaboard; many an American family of today is descended from some illegal shipjumper who went overboard from a British or French merchantman in harbor in Baltimore, New York, Charleston, or Savannah. In most cases these people had nothing to lose in venturing into a new, raw and dangerous land with many privations; but they were welcome and in the spirit of those days no one who was polite or wise ventured to inquire of such a stranger's past. He merely welcomed him.

It is in our national past, and a part of our national past, and a part of our conscience, that we afford freedom to the world's persecuted including most recently as four decades ago the Jews who were being victimized by Hitler's Germany; and even today, the Jews who are being harassed by the agents of the latter day czars, the Politburo in the Kremlin. Do we say "no" to any of these people? Should we? For shame!

Let us extend a welcome to the South Vietnamese and hope that they may soon adjust to their new homes; they cannot go back, nor can we sleep easily at night thinking that they should, for to order them to return would be to order their slaughter at the hands of the murder squads of the communists.

As our forefathers did in similar situations, we shall, as we must, make room for them with the hope that most of them soon shall become productive citizens. Not all of them may; nor will all of them possibly be law-abiding citizens.

But they shall not be the first, nor probably the last, who do not make contributions. But among them there may be some, and even one or two or a handful, who are geniuses in a way, Lincolns, George Washington Carvers, Carnegies, whose talents will vastly enrich our present as well as our future.

If we have only one or two of these, it all will have been worth it; for that after all is the spirit of America, and the thing that has enriched our land. The people who have come here for over 300 years, from many lands, and under many conditions, most of them bad.

CHILD ABUSE

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, on January 31, 1974, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which I introduced in the Senate, was signed into law. This legislation, which emanated from my Subcommittee on Children and Youth, was the result of more than a year of study and extensive testimony by experts in the field.

The public response to this legislation has been extremely gratifying. Thousands of dedicated, concerned individuals have expressed their commitment to combating the tragic problem of child

abuse to the subcommittee. Many of them view the new law as an essential vehicle for dealing with child abuse, and have requested information on its purpose and scope. For that reason, I ask unanimous consent that the following questions and answers, analysis and text of the law be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

1. Why was Federal legislation on child abuse and neglect necessary?

During 1973, a wide variety of witnesses testified before the Subcommittee on Children and Youth on child abuse. They pointed out that an estimated 60,000 children are reported to have been abused each year in this country. Representatives of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare testified that, despite the size of the problem, not one person was assigned full-time in the Federal Government to work on child abuse. Witnesses also testified that limited funding of existing child welfare programs through the Social Security Act has resulted in a lack of focus on child abuse and neglect in these programs at the local and national level.

2. What is the purpose of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act?

The major thrust of the law is to provide funding for promising efforts to prevent, identify and treat child abuse and neglect. In its hearings in several cities, the Subcommittee found that many highly motivated, dedicated persons and agencies were willing to take action on child abuse and neglect, but lacked the funding to do so. Another major purpose of the law is to provide the technical assistance and other resources needed to increase and expand efforts to prevent, identify, and treat child abuse and neglect.

3. How much money will be available for implementing the Act?

The law authorizes \$15 million for fiscal year 1974; \$20 million for 1975; and \$25 million each for 1976 and 1977. The amount of funds actually available will be determined through the appropriations process in Congress.

4. How does the Act define child abuse and neglect?

These terms are defined as physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a person who is responsible for the child's welfare.

5. Who is eligible to apply for funding under the Act?

Programs may be supported through two different sections of the Act. One is the demonstration grant program. Under this section, a wide variety of individuals, institutions and state or local agencies—for example, hospitals, police or welfare departments, universities, parent organizations—may apply for funding.

In addition, some funds are specifically reserved for technical assistance to state governments.

6. How does the demonstration grant program work?

The Act requires that at least 50% of funds appropriated in any year be spent on the demonstration grant program. Under the program, HEW may award grants and contracts for the following purposes:

A. Training programs for professionals and paraprofessional personnel in fields relevant to dealing with child abuse and neglect.

B. Creation of regional centers to provide multidisciplinary services related to child abuse and neglect.

C. Provision of trained child abuse teams as consultants to rural and other areas which do not have resident experts.

D. Innovative programs and projects, including parent self-help programs.

7. How does the state technical assistance program work?

A minimum of 5% and maximum of 20% of the annual appropriation for this Act is reserved for grants to state governments. In order to qualify for these funds, a state must meet a series of requirements including having a child abuse reporting law, an investigation procedure, and procedures and resources for working with affected families.

8. Who will administer the Act at the Federal level?

The Act creates a new National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This Center, which has been located in the Office of Child Development, will administer the demonstration grant and state assistance programs. Inquiries concerning funding under the Act should be addressed to the Center.

9. What else will the Center do?

The Center will be responsible for publishing an annual summary of research on child abuse and neglect; conducting research; maintaining a clearinghouse on child abuse and neglect programs; conducting a study of the incidence of child abuse and neglect; and providing technical assistance.

10. How does this Act affect other Federal laws with respect to child abuse and neglect?

This Act requires that all programs related to child abuse and neglect and funded under Title IV-A or IV-B of the Social Security Act must:

A. Have in effect a child abuse reporting law

B. Have a procedure for investigation of reports of child abuse and neglect

C. Provide for immediate protection of a child, if necessary

D. Provide for confidentiality of records

E. Provide for cooperation among law enforcement, state agency and court officials

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Analysis of Public Law 93-247, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (S. 1191)

Sec. 2. National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect.—Provides for the establishment of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and outlines the functions of this Center. These include the development of an information clearinghouse; publication of an annual summary of research on child abuse and neglect; compilation of an annual summary of research on child abuse and neglect; compilation and publication of training materials for personnel in the field of child abuse prevention, identification and treatment; technical assistance (directly or through grants or contracts) to public and non-profit private agencies involved in this field; research into the causes of child abuse and neglect and methods of preventing, identifying and treating it; and a full study of National incidence of child abuse and neglect.

Sec. 3. Definition of child abuse and neglect.—Defines the term "child abuse and neglect" to be the physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child under the age of eighteen by a person who is responsible for the child's welfare.

Sec. 4. Demonstration program and projects.—(a) Authorizes the Secretary to make grants to and contracts with public or non-profit private agencies or organizations for demonstration projects designed to prevent, identify or treat child abuse and neglect. These grants or contracts may be for the following:

1. Development and establishment of training programs for professional and paraprofessional personnel in the fields of medicine, education, social work and other relevant fields, and training programs for children and persons responsible for the welfare of children in methods of protecting children from abuse and neglect.

2. Establishment and maintenance of centers, serving defined geographic areas, to provide services related to child abuse and neglect, including direct support and supervision of satellite centers and attention homes and advice and consultation to both individuals and agencies.

3. Furnishing services of teams of professional and paraprofessional personnel, on a consulting basis, to small communities where services for child abuse and neglect are not available.

4. Innovative programs and projects which show promise of successfully preventing, identifying or treating cases of child abuse and neglect.

No less than 50 percent of the funds appropriated under this act for any fiscal year may be used for carrying out the provisions of this subsection.

(b) Provides for grants to the States for the development, strengthening and carrying out of child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment programs. In order to qualify for this assistance the State must meet the following requirements:

1. Must have in effect a State child abuse and neglect law which includes immunity from prosecution for persons reporting instances of child abuse and neglect, arising out of such reporting.

2. Must provide for the reporting of suspected instances of child abuse and neglect.

3. Upon reporting of known or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect, the State must initiate an investigation to determine the accuracy of such a report and if it is accurate, take immediate steps to protect the health and welfare of the abused or neglected child, as well as any other child under the same care who may be in danger of abuse or neglect.

4. Must demonstrate that there are in effect, throughout the State, administrative procedures, personnel trained in child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment, training procedures, institutional and other facilities and other multidisciplinary programs and services necessary to assure that the State will deal effectively with child abuse and neglect cases.

5. Must provide for confidentiality of all records in order to protect the rights of the child, his parents or guardians.

6. Must provide for the cooperation of law enforcement officials, courts of competent jurisdiction and appropriate State agencies.

7. Must provide a guardian ad litem (for the purpose of litigation) to represent the child in a case involving child abuse or neglect which results in a judicial determination.

8. Must provide that the total amount of State funds for programs or projects related to child abuse and neglect are not reduced below the level provided during fiscal year 1973 and that federal funds made available under this Act will be used to supplement and, where practical, increase the level of current State funds available for such programs or projects.

9. Must provide for the dissemination of information to the general public on the problem of child abuse. Programs or projects related to child abuse and neglect assisted under part A or B of Title IV of the Social Security Act must comply with the requirements in Section 4(b) relating to reporting, investigation, immediately follow-up action to protect the child, confidentiality of all

records and co-operation of law enforcement officials.

Assistance under this section is not available for construction of facilities, but is available for the lease or rental of facilities when necessary and for repair or minor alterations or remodeling of existing structures.

Not less than 5 percent, and not more than 20 percent of the funds appropriated may be used for these grants made to the States.

Sec. 5. Authorizations.—This section provides authorization for appropriations of \$15,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974, \$20,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, and \$25,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976 and for the succeeding fiscal year.

Sec. 6. Advisory Board—Requires the Secretary to appoint, within 60 days, an Advisory Board on Child Abuse and neglect. This Board is to be composed of representatives from Federal agencies with responsibility for programs related to child abuse including the Office of Child Development, the Office of Education, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Social and Rehabilitation Service and the Health Service Administration.

The function of the Advisory Board will be to assist the Secretary in coordinating new programs relating to child abuse and neglect with those being administered by Federal agencies, and to assist the Secretary in the development of Federal standards for these programs and projects. Only one-half of one percent of the funds appropriated, or \$1,000,000 (whichever is less) may be used for the preparation and submittal (within eighteen months of enacted date) to Congress and the President of a report on programs assisted under this act and all related programs assisted by Federal agencies with membership on the Advisory Board. The report is to include also a study on the relationship between drug addiction and child abuse and neglect.

Sec. 7. Regulations. Requires the Secretary to issue regulations and make arrangements to ensure effective coordination between programs and projects under this act and other child abuse and neglect programs assisted by Federal funds.

PUBLIC LAW 93-247

An act to provide financial assistance for a demonstration program for the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect, to establish a National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act".

THE NATIONAL CENTER ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall establish an office to be known as the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the "Center").

(b) The Secretary, through the Center, shall—

(1) compile, analyze, and publish a summary annually of recently conducted and currently conducted research on child abuse and neglect;

(2) develop and maintain an information clearinghouse on all programs, including private programs, showing promise of success, for the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

(3) compile and publish training materials for personnel who are engaged or intend to engage in the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

(4) provide technical assistance (directly or through grant or contract) to public and nonprofit private agencies and organizations to assist them in planning, improving, developing, and carrying out programs and activities relating to the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

(5) conduct research into the causes of child abuse and neglect, and into the prevention, identification, and treatment thereof; and

(6) make a complete and full study and investigation of the national incidence of child abuse and neglect, including a determination of the extent to which incidents of child abuse and neglect are increasing in number or severity.

DEFINITION

SEC. 3. For purposes of this Act the term "child abuse and neglect" means the physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child under the age of eighteen by a person who is responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened thereby, as determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

SEC. 4. (a) The Secretary, through the Center, is authorized to make grants to, and enter into contracts with, public agencies or nonprofit private organizations (or combinations thereof) for demonstration programs and project designed to prevent, identify, and treat child abuse and neglect. Grants or contracts under this subsection may be—

(1) for the development and establishment of training programs for professional and paraprofessional personnel in the fields of medicine, law, education, social work, and other relevant fields who are engaged in, or intend to work in, the field of the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect; and training programs for children, and for persons responsible for the welfare of children, in methods of protecting children from child abuse and neglect;

(2) for the establishment and maintenance of centers, serving defined geographic areas, staffed by multidisciplinary teams of personnel trained in the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect cases, to provide a broad range of services related to child abuse and neglect, including direct support and supervision of satellite centers and attention homes, as well as providing advice and consultation to individuals, agencies, and organizations which request such services;

(3) for furnishing services of teams of professional and paraprofessional personnel who are trained in the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect cases, on a consulting basis to small communities where such services are not available; and

(4) for such other innovative programs and projects, including programs and projects for parent self-help, and for prevention and treatment of drug-related child abuse and neglect, that show promise of successfully preventing or treating cases of child abuse and neglect as the Secretary may approve.

Not less than 50 percent of the funds appropriated under this Act for any fiscal year shall be used only for carrying out the provisions of this subsection.

(b) (1) Of the sums appropriated under this Act for any fiscal year, not less than 5 percent and not more than 20 percent may be used by the Secretary for making grants to the States for the payment of reasonable and necessary expenses for the purpose of assisting the States in developing, strengthening, and carrying out child

abuse and neglect prevention and treatment programs.

(2) In order for a State to qualify for assistance under this subsection, such State shall—

(A) have in effect a State child abuse and neglect law which shall include provisions for immunity for persons reporting instances of child abuse and neglect from prosecution, under any State or local law, arising out of such reporting;

(B) provide for the reporting of known and suspected instances of child abuse and neglect;

(C) provide that upon receipt of a report of known or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect, immediate steps shall be initiated promptly to substantiate the accuracy of the report, and, upon a finding of abuse or neglect, immediate steps shall be taken to protect the health and welfare of the abused or neglected child, as well as that of any other child under the same care who may be in danger of abuse or neglect;

(D) demonstrate that there are in effect throughout the State, in connection with the enforcement of child abuse and neglect laws and with the reporting of suspected instances of child abuse and neglect, such administrative procedures, such personnel trained in child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment, such training procedures, such institutional and other facilities (public and private), and such related multidisciplinary programs and services as may be necessary or appropriate to assure that the State will deal effectively with child abuse and neglect cases in the State;

(E) provide for methods to preserve the confidentiality of all records in order to protect the rights of the child, his parents or guardians;

(F) provide for the cooperation of law enforcement officials, courts of competent jurisdiction, and appropriate State agencies providing human services;

(G) provide that in every case involving an abused or neglected child which results in a judicial proceeding a guardian ad litem shall be appointed to represent the child in such proceedings;

(H) provide that the aggregate of support for programs or projects related to child abuse and neglect assisted by State funds shall not be reduced below the level provided during fiscal year 1973, and set forth policies and procedures designed to assure that Federal funds made available under this Act for any fiscal year will be so used as to supplement and, to the extent practicable, increase the level of State funds which would, in the absence of Federal funds, be available for such programs and projects;

(I) provide for dissemination of information to the general public with respect to the problem of child abuse and neglect and the facilities and prevention and treatment methods available to combat instances of child abuse and neglect; and

(J) to the extent feasible, insure that parental organizations combating child abuse and neglect receive preferential treatment.

(3) Programs or projects related to child abuse and neglect assisted under part A or B of title IV of the Social Security Act shall comply with the requirements set forth in clauses (B), (C), (E), and (F) of paragraph (2).

(c) Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall not be available for construction of facilities; however, the Secretary is authorized to supply such assistance for the lease or rental of facilities where adequate facilities are not otherwise available, and for repair or minor remodeling or alteration of existing facilities.

(d) The Secretary shall establish criteria designed to achieve equitable distribution of assistance under this section among the States, among geographic areas of the Nation, and among rural and urban areas. To the

extent possible, citizens of each State shall receive assistance from at least one project under this section.

AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 5. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of this Act \$15,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974, \$20,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, and \$25,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976, and for the succeeding fiscal year.

ADVISORY BOARD ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SEC. 6. (a) The Secretary shall, within sixty days after the date of enactment of this Act, appoint an Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect (hereinafter referred to as the "Advisory Board"), which shall be composed of representatives from Federal agencies with responsibility for programs and activities related to child abuse and neglect, including the Office of Child Development, the Office of Education, the National Institute of Education, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Social and Rehabilitation Service, and the Health Services Administration. The Advisory Board shall assist the Secretary in coordinating programs and activities related to child abuse and neglect administered or assisted under this Act with such programs and activities administered or assisted by the Federal agencies whose representatives are members of the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board shall also assist the Secretary in the development of Federal standards for child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment programs and projects.

(b) The Advisory Board shall prepare and submit, within eighteen months after the date of enactment of this Act, to the President and to the Congress a report on the programs assisted under this Act and the programs, projects, and activities related to child abuse and neglect administered or assisted by the Federal agencies whose representatives are members of the Advisory Board. Such report shall include a study of the relationships between drug addiction and child abuse and neglect.

(c) Of the funds appropriated under section 5, one-half of 1 per centum, or \$1,000,000, whichever is the lesser, may be used by the Secretary only for purposes of the report under subsection (b).

COORDINATION

SEC. 7. The Secretary shall promulgate regulations and make such arrangements as may be necessary or appropriate to ensure that there is effective coordination between programs related to child abuse and neglect under this Act and other such programs which are assisted by Federal funds.

Approved January 31, 1974.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

House Report No. 93-685 (Comm. on Education and Labor).

Senate Report No. 93-308 (Comm. on Labor and Public Welfare).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 119 (1973): July 14, considered and passed Senate.

Dec. 3, considered and passed House, amended.

Dec. 20, Senate agreed to House amendments with amendments.

Dec. 21, House concurred in Senate amendments.

REFORM IN VOTER REGISTRATION IN MINNESOTA

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, I would like to call to the attention of the Senate the testimony of two very effective spokesmen on the subject of voter registration by mail. The Honorable Joan Anderson Growe, secretary of state,

from the State of Minnesota and Mr. Charles Le Febvre, county auditor from Anoka County, Minn., appeared before the Post Office and Civil Service Committee on May 8, 1975, and testified on their experiences with post card registration in the State of Minnesota.

As a cosponsor of S. 1177 and one of the original cosponsors of the first voter registration proposals introduced in the 92d Congress, I am pleased to point out that the State of Minnesota is in the forefront in adopting election and voter registration reforms. In 1973, Minnesota adopted a statewide voter registration reform which provided for registration by mail. Many of the provisions in the Minnesota law have been incorporated into S. 1177, the National Voter Registration by postcard bill which is currently being reviewed by the Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

The committee called upon a broad range of experts and experienced persons to testify in order to gain the best advice available concerning this legislation. I was pleased that these two Minnesotans were able to come to Washington in order to make a contribution to our national efforts to establish a voter registration program.

I am sure that as my colleagues will see from Mrs. Growe's and Mr. Le Febvre's testimony, Minnesota has had a very positive experience with its new voter registration program. Likewise, the suggestions they have made and the questions they have raised in their testimony will be very helpful to those of us who will have to vote on this legislation in the near future.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the written testimony of Mrs. Joan Anderson Growe and Mr. Charles Le Febvre be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the testimony was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TESTIMONY OF JOAN ANDERSON GROWE, MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee: I am Joan Growe, Minnesota Secretary of State.

First, I would like to thank you for asking me to discuss the Minnesota Post Card Registration System. I am pleased to note that Minnesota's Senators Mondale and Humphrey are co-sponsors of this legislation.

Minnesota has long maintained a tradition of fair election laws and healthy voter participation. As a result of this active concern for the quality of the electoral process, the 1973 Minnesota Legislature enacted a statewide voter registration for the first time.

Prior to 1973, voters were required to pre-register only in communities of 10,000 population or larger; voters in smaller communities were not required to register. This accounted for 52% of the qualified voters in the state. This disparate treatment in effect amounted to unequal treatment under the law, legislators ended this discrimination against voters in large communities by requiring that all voters be registered, and providing for election day registration.

Such a sweeping change in voting procedures was accompanied by similarly sweeping changes in registration procedures. Minnesota, by that same law, adopted registration by mail without notarization; provided for pre-registration before election day up to 20 days prior to election; and provided for registration at the polls on election day.

Many of the provisions already written into this voter registration law are incorporated in S. 1177 (measures proposed for Federal legislation). What has been the Minnesota experience—so far?

The first State elections held under this law were in the fall of 1974. In 1974, voter turnout across the entire Nation was down. However, Minnesota's pattern of good voter turnout continued: 49.85% of the qualified voters in Minnesota nationwide.

76.90% of the qualified voters in Minnesota are registered—which means that 2/3rds of the voters who are registered to vote, voted in this "off Presidential year". This percentage would increase dramatically during presidential election years. In 1972, 72% of the qualified voters in Minnesota voted—we anticipate that the percentage will near 80% in 1976.

We find that Minnesota election statistics show a strong indication that the more voters who are registered, the larger the turnout. It seems to follow that if we are aiming for greater participation among the Nation's voters, we should first expect to register more voters.

I welcome legislation that will ease the manner in which citizens may register and thereby increase their participation in the voting process. Federal elections cannot be fair until all citizens have the same opportunity to register and vote in all Federal elections.

Since the inception of our State's postcard registration system, Minnesota has become a model for other States to follow. Election administrations in California, New York, Michigan, Florida, and Iowa, to name a few, have indicated an interest in studying the Minnesota law as a possible guideline in their own States.

There have been no incidents of willful vote fraud as a result of the post card registration system. The local officials in Minnesota who administer the law have been informed about the provisions of the law by the Secretary of State's office.

The uniform postcard used in Minnesota is designed according to guidelines—established by the Secretary of State following public hearings. The postcard is distributed by the Secretary of State to the county auditors in all 87 counties.

Inspection of the proposed bill leads me to applaud the concept that States such as Minnesota may continue their progress toward further openness in registration and voting procedures. The bill provides for collection analysis, and distribution of information regarding elections as well as a similar gathering of specifics on postcard registration. This would be a very positive help to States seeking to keep currently informed about trends and facts in improving election procedures.

The financial assistance provided by the proposed bill will be welcomed by our State as a supplement to present budget allocations underwriting on-going registration procedures.

However, present wording in the bill needs clarification if State officials are to uniformly interpret the overall intent of the legislation.

The provision in the bill for "assistance to State officials concerning voter registration by mail and election problems generally" (403, (3), p. 4): Is this to include financial assistance to augment State funded elections budgets? Training made available to elections officials and their employees, both permanent and temporary? Would the assistance provided include a regional complement of field personnel available to State officials on call?

The matter of "election problems generally" may need definition to interpret whether these relate to other aspects of State elections officials duties such as certifying and canvassing election returns, designing reporting forms, and preparation of