

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN THE UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITIES: It would appear that the United States Government's principal focus on the problems for the aged is centred on "The White House Conference on Aging". This has now been organized into 14 subject sections, to which technical committees are appointed by the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. One of the sections is "Retirement Roles and Activities". A copy of the "Recommendations for Action" from the 1971 Conference by this section is included in "U.S. Government Publications" attached to the documents accompanying this report. Recommendation III is of particular interest:

Society should adopt a policy of preparation for retirement, leisure and education for life off the job. The private and public sectors should adopt and expand programs to prepare persons to understand and benefit from the changes produced by retirement....

While retirement is both an individual and total community responsibility for providing preparation-for-retirement programs during the working hours....

Pre-retirement education and counselling should be provided locally throughout the Nation by trained instructors, starting at least five years before normal retirement age.

Special courses for those nearing retirement are urgently needed.

According to a survey undertaken by the American Association of Retired People in 1967, 17 "units" of the Federal Government had group training sessions or had arrangements for providing specialized counselling services, 18 "units" had less formal group sessions on an ad hoc basis as need arose or else had general counselling services provided by persons trained on civil service retirement benefits. Significantly, no unit reported receiving help from the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, but did recognize help from the American Association of Retired Persons, the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan.