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Senate

SENATOR FRANK CHURCH: A DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR OLDER AMERICANS

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, the Senate Committee on Aging was created in 1961 to be a focal point and advocate in the Senate on behalf of the Nation's elderly.

Over the years the committee has provided valuable service to aged and aging Americans, as well as our Nation as a whole.

In large part, this is because of outstanding leadership during its 14 years of existence.

The present chairman—Senator FRANK CHURCH—exemplifies this quality.

During his 4 years as chairman, he has consistently been in the forefront on everyday issues of direct concern to the elderly.

Above all, he has been an extraordinarily effective advocate for older Americans, with numerous legislative accomplishments including:

Enactment of a 20-percent social security increase, the largest dollar raise by far in the history of the program;

Establishment of a cost-of-living adjustment mechanism to make social security benefits inflation-proof for the elderly;

Strengthening of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act to open the door to new job opportunities now denied older workers; and

Approval of last year's two-step, 11 percent social security increase.

Senator CHURCH has never lost a floor amendment on an issue affecting the elderly since being named committee chairman. And, most of his Senate-passed amendments have been enacted into law.

A few weeks ago he won the support of a clearcut majority for his proposal—Senate Concurrent Resolution 2—to express congressional opposition to any reduction in the July social security cost-of-living increase, such as the administration's proposed 5-percent ceiling. With such backing the Nation's elderly can be more confident that they will receive the full amount of the cost-of-living raise.

Now, he is also leading the way on other legislation of direct concern for the aged, including an independent, nonpolitical Social Security Administration; an Older Americans Tax Counseling Assistance Act; modernization of the retirement income credit; and extension of medicare coverage to include essential out-of-hospital prescription drugs.

All of these proposals have generated strong bipartisan support.

The Senate is, indeed, fortunate to have an individual with his capabilities and integrity.

And, I wish to pay special tribute to his effective leadership on behalf of older Americans.