

Initiative Measure No. 151

BALLOT TITLE

"AN ACT relating to old age assistance and public assistance; providing payment of \$40.00 minimum monthly grants to eligibles as defined herein; providing medical services, additional care and burial expenses for all recipients of public assistance and dependents, defined herein, and supplemental grants to dependents; providing increase of all public assistance proportionate to increased living costs; providing conformity with future federal requirements; defining terms and establishing procedure; prohibiting assignment or legal process respecting grants; regulating administrative plan and personnel; directing appropriations, beyond total federal matching funds secured; penalizing violators; repealing Chapter 1, Laws of 1941, and conflicting enactments."

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Title.

This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the "Senior Citizen Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Intent.

The passage of Initiative 141 by the overwhelming vote of 358,000 is proof of how strongly the people of the State of Washington are in agreement with the principles set forth in the Declaration of Intent in that measure:

"It is simple justice that our government, which owes its industrial construction, its farms, its factories, its entire capital wealth, in fact, to the labor of its pioneers, should provide as an obligation and not as charity, some measure of security to the pioneers.

"Although a uniform national pension of prosperity proportions, based on the principles embodied in the Townsend and General Welfare Bills, awarded as a matter of right, not need, is the only adequate and just kind of a pension, until such a pension is won it still remains the duty of the State of Washington at least to take full advantage of the maximum in matching funds that the Federal Government is willing to provide under the Federal Social Security Act, for those without resources and income."

Initiative 141 was passed at a time our nation was at peace. This act

is drawn with our nation at war—war against a system of government which wipes out all social security as it wipes out everything else American democracy stands for. An important line of defense in winning the war is a citizenry whose morale is high because it feels its government protects the underprivileged. The building of better citizens, which it is the intent of this initiative to do, is, therefore, an important part of the fight to win the war and end fascist dictatorship forever.

The building of better citizens must include medical and dental care, and it is further the purpose of this measure to extend this care to all persons receiving any grant, assistance, care, aid or benefits under the provisions of any act administered by the Department of Social Security.

It is further declared to be the purpose of this act to maintain grants on a uniform state-wide basis at not less than their present level by adjusting such grants to increases in the cost of living.

SEC. 3. Definitions.

(a) "Applicant" shall mean any person applying for a Grant under the provisions of this or any other act of the State of Washington.

(b) "Recipient" shall mean any person receiving a Grant.

(c) "Grant" shall mean an award by the Department to any person, of funds, aid, care, assistance, benefit, health services, or burial ex-

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penses; "Senior Citizen Grant" shall mean a grant paid to a senior citizen.

(d) "Senior Citizen" shall mean a person who has attained the age at which the Federal Government matches State funds for old age assistance, and shall not be construed as limiting eligibility for grants to citizens of the United States.

(e) "Department" shall mean the Department of Social Security or any other agency or department which may hereafter be designated to administer the provisions of this act.

(f) "Director" shall mean the administrative head of the Department, whether an individual or a board.

(g) "Income" shall mean regular or recurrent gains in cash or kind, excepting therefrom:

- (1) The value of the use, occupancy, or ownership of the place of residence of applicant or recipient except to the extent that consideration of such value may be required by the provisions of the Social Security Act for the granting of matching funds, and *Provided*, That in event consideration of the value of the use, occupancy or ownership of the place of residence of applicant or recipient is required, such value shall be directly proportional to the assessed value of such place or residence, less encumbrances, and in no event shall arbitrary evaluation be placed upon the same; and *Provided further*, That in computing the value of the use or occupancy of residence the Department shall deduct from such value an amount sufficient to permit the payment of current or delinquent taxes, assessments, repairs and necessary improvements and other cost of maintenance.
- (2) Foodstuffs, livestock, fuel, light, or water produced by or donated to applicant or applicant's family exclusively for the use of applicant or applicant's family.
- (3) Casual gifts in cash which do not exceed \$100 in any one year.
- (4) Casual gifts in kind which do not exceed \$100 in value in any one year.

(5) The proceeds from the sale of property which is not a resource, provided such proceeds are used for the purchase of property which is not a resource.

(h) The term "Resources" as used in this act shall have the meaning ordinarily given to such term, and the meaning given the word "resources" in the Federal Social Security Act: *Provided, however*, That solely for the purpose of determining the eligibility of a Senior Citizen for a grant the following shall not be considered a resource to the applicant:

- (1) The ability of relatives or friends of the applicant to contribute to the support of the applicant.
- (2) The homestead, home or place of residence of applicant or spouse of applicant.
- (3) Property not readily marketable, and property of the applicant sold under the terms of a conditional sales contract when the vendor's interest in such property does not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) in assessed valuation and cannot be sold for at least ninety (90%) per cent of the principal amount due under the terms of the contract.
- (4) Insurance policies the cash surrender value of which does not exceed \$500.
- (5) Intangible property or personal property the cash value of which does not exceed \$200.
- (6) The personal effects of the applicant, including clothing, furniture, household equipment and motor vehicle.
- (7) Foodstuffs, livestock, fuel, light or water produced by the applicant, applicant's spouse or family, exclusively for the use of applicant or applicant's family.
- (i) "Health Services" shall mean any grant, care, assistance, services or benefits provided for in Section 15 of this Act.
- (j) "Burial Expenses" shall mean any grant, aid or sum awarded to any person under the provisions of Section 13 of this Act.
- (k) "Social Security Act" shall mean the "Social Security Act as

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amended, being an act of Congress to provide for the general welfare by establishing a system of Federal old-age benefits, and by enabling the several States to make more adequate provision for aged persons, blind persons, dependent and crippled children, maternal and child welfare, public health, and the administration of their unemployment compensation laws; to establish a Social Security Board; to raise revenue; and for other purposes."

(1) "Social Security Board" shall mean the Social Security Board established under the provisions of the Social Security Act.

(m) A person shall be considered "in need" as defined in this act, if his income and resources are insufficient to provide him adequately with:

- (1) Food, as evaluated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics for moderate-income families;
- (2) Housing actually available at current rates.
- (3) Clothing as evaluated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics for moderate-income families.
- (4) Light and water sufficient for ordinary uses at standard utility rates.
- (5) Fuel, household replacements and incidentals sufficient to maintain at least the Minimum Standard of Health and Decency as shown by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics for moderate-income families.
- (6) Health services as provided in Sec. 15 of this Act: *Provided, however,* That each senior citizen whose income is less than Four Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$480) per year, or Forty Dollars (\$40) per month, or whose income is less than the maximum payable as provided under Section 5 (4) of this act and whose income and resources are insufficient to enable him to provide for himself the health and welfare services provided under the terms of this act, is hereby declared to be in need: *Provided,* That nothing herein shall be construed to

prevent the Department from determining that persons whose income is greater than \$40 per month and \$480 per year are in need.

Sec. 4. Eligibility.

Senior Citizen Grants shall be awarded to any person who is without resources and who:

- (1) Is a Senior Citizen.
- (2) Has a yearly income which is less than \$480 and a monthly income which is less than \$40, or whose income is less than the maximum payable as provided under Section 5 (4) of this act: *Provided,* That if Federal contributions to Senior Citizen Grants are made payable in excess of \$20 per month any applicant shall be eligible whose yearly income is less than twenty-four times the maximum monthly Federal contribution, or whose monthly income is less than twice the maximum monthly Federal contribution.
- (3) Has been a resident of the State of Washington for at least five years within the last ten.
- (4) Is not at the time of making application a permanent inmate of a public institution of a custodial, correctional or curative character.
- (5) Has not made a voluntary assignment or transfer of property or cash for the purpose of qualifying for a Senior Citizen Grant.

Sec. 5. How and When Grants Shall Be Paid.

(1) Grants shall be awarded:
(a) To each eligible applicant sixty-five (65) years of age or over in the sum of not less than Forty Dollars (\$40) per month on a uniform state-wide basis, minus the income of applicant from other sources: *Provided,* That in the event Federal matching funds shall be available in excess of twenty dollars (\$20) per month per person, then grants shall be increased to not less than twice that amount, less the income of applicant or recipient from other sources.

(b) To each person eligible to receive any funds, aid, care, assistance

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or benefit under the provisions of any act administered by the Department in the amount provided in such act.

- (2) If the Federal government lowers the age limit at which matching funds will be granted for old age grants, then and in that event the state shall award grants to Senior Citizens of at least twice the maximum Federal funds available per person per month to all eligible above the age as established by the Federal Government, such grants to be awarded on the terms and conditions as provided for in Section 5, subsection (1) (a)
- (3) Upon approval of an application, the grant shall be paid as of date of application.
- (4) If the cost of living, as shown by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, cost-of-living index for moderate-income families, increases after January 1st, 1942, by five per cent or more, grants shall be increased proportionately with each such 5% increase.
- (5) The Department shall not establish arbitrary values or a budgetary guide used to measure deductions from the grants of all applicants and recipients alike regardless their circumstances.
- (6) Combined living shall not be considered a resource. Supplemental grants shall be given to any person, any part of whose subsistence is furnished by a recipient, and who lives in a household one or more members of which receive a grant under any act administered by the Department. The amount of such grant shall be the same as if the person were living alone.
- (7) Recipients may receive their grant in any part of the state of Washington, and recipients who are Senior Citizens may upon notification in the form and manner prescribed by the Department receive grants while temporarily outside of the State of Washington for a period not to exceed ninety days.
- (8) If the need of an applicant or

recipient of a Senior Citizen Grant exceeds either \$40 or the maximum which the state is paying, no deduction shall be made from the grant of such applicant or recipient by reason of income received from any source except in the amount to which such income together with his grant shall exceed his need.

SEC. 6. Applications.

Applications for Grants shall be made to the Department, or an authorized agency of the Department. An applicant may apply in person or the application may be made by another in his behalf. Such application may be made in writing or reduced to writing upon standard forms prescribed and furnished by the Department and a copy of his application shall be furnished to each applicant at the time of application.

An inmate of an institution of curative, correctional, or custodial character may make application while in such institution and if found otherwise eligible shall be given one month's grant immediately preceding his departure from such institution.

SEC. 7. Investigation.

Whenever the Department or an authorized agency thereof receives an application for a grant an investigation and record shall be promptly made of the facts supporting the application. The Department shall be required to approve or deny the application within thirty (30) days after the filing thereof and shall immediately notify the applicant in writing of its decision. The failure of the Department to notify the applicant of its decision within thirty (30) days after the date of filing the application may, at the option of the applicant, be deemed a denial of said application.

SEC. 8. Fair Hearing on Grievances.

(a) Any applicant feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of the Department or an authorized agency of the Department shall have the right to a fair hearing to be conducted by the Director of the Department or by an examiner appointed by the Director for such purpose. The hearing

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shall be conducted in the county in which the appellant resides, and a transcript of the testimony shall be made and included in the record, the costs of which shall be borne by the Department. A copy of this transcript shall be given appellant within thirty days after the fair hearing.

Each monthly grant paid to the recipient shall for the purposes of this act be deemed a decision of the Department that said recipient is entitled to a grant in the amount actually received by such recipient.

Any appellant who desires a fair hearing shall file with the Director a notice of appeal from the decision. It shall be the duty of the Department upon receipt of such notice to set a date for the fair hearing, such date to be not more than thirty (30) days after receipt of notice. The Department shall notify the appellant of the time and place of said hearing at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date thereof either by registered mail or by personal service upon said appellant.

At any time after the filing of the notice of appeal with the Director, any appellant or attorney, or authorized agents of the appellant shall have the right of access to, and can examine any files and records in the possession of the Department pertaining to appellant or to the case on appeal.

It shall be the duty of the Department within thirty (30) days after the date of the hearing to serve upon the appellant by registered mail or personal service notification of the decision of the Director and the failure to so notify the appellant may at the option of the appellant be deemed an affirmation of the decision of the Department.

In the event that the decision of the Director on the fair hearing is in favor of the appellant, an attorney's fee of not less than \$10 shall be allowed to his legal representative.

(b) The provisions of this act relative to fair hearings and to the right of appeal to the Superior Court and to the Supreme Court shall be applicable to all persons applying for or receiving any funds, aid, assistance or benefits or health service under

the provisions of any act administered by the Department.

SEC. 9. Court Appeals.

In the event the applicant feels himself aggrieved by the decision rendered in the hearing provided for in the foregoing section, he shall have the right to appeal to the Superior Court of the county of his legal residence, which appeal shall be taken by a notice filed with the clerk of the court and served upon the director either by registered mail or by personal service within ninety (90) days after the decision of the Department has been served upon appellant as provided in the foregoing section. Upon receipt of the notice of appeal the Clerk of the Superior Court shall docket the case for trial.

Within ten (10) days after being served with a notice of appeal, the Director of the Social Security Department shall file with the clerk of the court the record of the case on appeal, and no further pleadings shall be necessary to bring the appeal to issue.

The applicant and the Director shall have the right to present any additional evidence which the court shall deem competent, relevant, or material to the case. The Superior Court shall decide the case on the record, and on any evidence introduced before it and may affirm, modify or reverse the decision of the Director. Either party may appeal from the decision of the Superior Court to the Supreme Court of the State, which appeal shall be taken and conducted in the manner provided by law or by the rules of court applicable to civil appeals: *Provided, however*, That no bond shall be required on any appeal under this act, and, *Provided further*, That no fees shall be collected of the appellant in the Superior Court or the Supreme Court. In the event that either the Superior Court or the Supreme Court renders a decision in favor of the applicant, said applicant shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs. If a decision of the Director or of the Court is made in favor of an applicant who has ap-

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pealed, assistance shall be paid from the date of application.

Sec. 10. Rules and Regulations.

The Department is hereby authorized to make rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of this act to the end that Senior Citizen Grants may be administered uniformly throughout the State, and that the spirit and purpose of this act may be complied with. Such rules and regulations shall be filed with the Secretary of State thirty (30) days before their effective date, and copies shall be available to the public upon request: *Provided*, That the Department, or duly authorized agency thereof, shall make funds for the administration of all the provisions of this act available as needed from quarter to quarter; and in no case shall the Department or other agency allocate or apportion such funds in a manner to obstruct or delay any applicant in receiving the grants, aid, care, assistance, benefits and health services provided for herein.

Sec. 11. Age and Length of Residence Verification.

Proof of age and length of residence in state of any applicant may be established as provided by the rules and regulations of the Department: *Provided*, That if an applicant is unable to establish proof of age or length of residence in state by any other method he may make a statement under oath of his age on the date of application or of the length of his residence in the state, before any judge of the Superior Court or any Justice of the Supreme Court or any Justice of the Peace or any officer authorized by law to administer oaths in the State of Washington, and such statement shall constitute sufficient proof of age of applicant or of the length of residence in the state: *Provided, however*, That any applicant who shall wilfully make a false statement as to his age or length of residence in the state under oath as provided above shall be guilty of a felony.

Sec. 12. Liens on Property Prohibited.

Grants given to an applicant shall not be recoverable as a debt due the

state, except where such funds have been received by the applicant contrary to the provisions of this act, or by fraud or deceit. Any claims which have accrued or which shall in the future accrue under the provisions of Chapters 25 and 216 of the Laws of 1939 are hereby renounced and declared to be null and void.

Sec. 13. Burial Expenses.

Upon the death of any recipient under this act, funeral expenses in the sum of One Hundred Dollars shall be paid by the Department to the Funeral Director or to the person who has paid such expenses. In addition to said payment, the friends or relatives of the deceased may make contributions toward his burial expenses.

Sec. 14. Copy of Law to Be Distributed.

A copy of all laws relating to the application and granting of Senior Citizen Grants shall be given to each applicant upon application.

Sec. 15. Additional Care.

(a) The Department shall provide for each person eligible to receive a senior citizen grant, blind aid grant, child welfare grant, public or general assistance grant, or any other form of public aid or assistance administered by or under the supervision of the Department, and to each person dependent upon such grant, aid or assistance, whether as a recipient of such grant, aid or assistance, or as a dependent of a recipient, or otherwise, medical, dental, and other services and care necessary for health.

(b) The services and care provided for in this section shall include:

- (1) Medical care by a doctor of applicant's choice.
- (2) Dental care and appliances by a dentist of applicant's choice.
- (3) Optical care of applicant's choice, nursing care in the applicant's home, hospitalization and ambulance service.
- (4) Provision for medicine, drugs, medical and pharmaceutical supplies, artificial limbs, hearing aids, and other needed appliances, without cost to applicant.

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- (5) Provision for special or supplemental diets as prescribed by applicant's doctor.
- (6) Such additional care and services as may be necessary to maintain or restore applicant's physical and mental health.

(c) The care and services provided for in this section shall in addition to, and not in lieu of, any grant, aid or other assistance to which applicant is entitled, and in no case shall deduction be made from any grant, aid or other assistance to which applicant is otherwise entitled by reason of any grant, services or care provided for in this section.

SEC. 16. *Grants Not Assignable Nor Subject to Execution.*

Grants awarded under this act shall not be transferable or assignable, at law or in equity, and none of the money paid or payable under this act shall be subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process, or to the operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law.

SEC. 17. *Violation or Attempted Violation a Felony.*

Any violation, or attempted violation or evasion of the provisions of this act by any official or employe of the Department or of its agencies shall constitute a felony and shall disqualify such official or employe from further employment in the Department or any of its agencies.

SEC. 18. *Appropriations.*

The legislature shall levy such taxes and appropriate from the general fund such sums as may be necessary to pay the grants provided under this act.

SEC. 19. *Administration.*

Sufficient administration staff shall be hired to carry out in an efficient manner, and under the merit system, the provisions of this act. All employes, including home visitors, shall be state employes, and as such shall be covered by the State minimum wage law: *Provided*, That there shall be established a system whereby annual evaluations of job performances on an individual basis shall be made

in writing by the immediate superiors of each and every employe, for the purpose of retaining and promoting those persons who have demonstrated their abilities to perform their duties satisfactorily, and of dismissing those persons who are not performing their duties satisfactorily.

SEC. 20. *Records Confidential.*

All applications and income records concerning any applicant shall be confidential and shall be open to inspection only by persons duly authorized by the state or the United States in connection with their official duties: *Provided*, That this shall not be construed as interfering with the right of applicant, or his attorney or authorized agent from examining such records when applicant's case is on appeal, as provided above.

SEC. 21. *Unconstitutionality of One Section Shall Not Affect Others.*

If any portion, section or clause of this act shall for any reason be declared unconstitutional, invalid or not in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Social Security Act, such determination shall not affect the remainder of the act.

SEC. 22. *Repealing Acts in Conflict.*

Chapter 1 of the Laws of 1941 and all acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed: *Provided, however*, That any rights which have accrued or exist under the provisions of Chapter 1 of the Laws of 1941 shall be saved to the applicants or recipients and this section shall not be construed to bar any proceeding, action or appeal which may have been instituted thereunder before the Department or in any court.

SEC. 23. *Plan of Administration.*

- (1) For the purpose of securing the maximum in matching funds which the Federal government will provide under the terms of the Social Security Act, it shall be the duty of the Department to prepare and submit to the Social Security Board a plan of administration of the provisions

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of this act, and other applicable provisions of the law of this state.

- (2) In the event that the Federal Social Security Board shall determine that any portion of the plan of administration referred to in this section is not in conformity with the provisions of the Social Security Act, the State Department shall obtain from the Social Security Board the specific basis for such determination, and shall bring such plan of administration into conformity with the Social Security Act in such manner as to secure the most liberal allowance of Federal matching funds possible to the State of Washington.
- (3) The Attorney General or any applicant, recipient or other interested person may institute appropriate proceedings in the Su-

perior Court to secure compliance with the terms of this section.

SEC. 24.

It is hereby declared to be the intention of this act that the state shall provide such additional funds as are necessary to carry out this act over and above the maximum in Federal matching funds that are secured.

SEC. 25.

This Act shall be liberally construed to the end that the purposes declared herein may be effectuated.

SEC. 26.

This Act is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, and the support of the state government and its existing institutions.

ARGUMENT FOR INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 151

"Re-Enacting 141, the Present \$40 a Month Old Age Pension Act."

Two years ago the voters of our state passed Initiative 141, the present \$40 a month pension act, with 358,000 votes.

Despite deductions the state administration is making from the \$40, great gains have nevertheless been won for Washington's Senior Citizens—and, directly or indirectly, for all other groups in our state. The average grant has risen from \$22 a month to \$33; the number receiving grants has been increased from under 40,000 to 65,000; choice of doctor and dentist, plus glasses, medicines, hearing aids, and other appliances as needed have been provided free to the pensioners. The vicious claim on the pensioner's home has been wiped out.

As a direct result of these gains Washington's Senior Citizens are today far more physically fit and their morale is far higher than before "141's" passage—in every way the elderly of our state are more able to participate in the main job of all Americans—HELPING TO DEFEAT THE AXIS AND WIN THE WAR.

Many other groups in our state, and especially communities that are not large defense centers, have greatly benefited through the additional purchasing power "141" has brought.

BUT—under our state constitution an Initiative measure may, at the end of two years, if not re-enacted, be amended or repealed outright by any regular or special session of the legislature. "141" must be re-enacted through "151" if we are to "take out insurance" on the gains made under "141."

Further, Initiative 151 contains additional Victory proposals designed to release far more fully the energies and devotion of the Senior Citizens for the war effort:

(1) "151" wipes out deductions for "combined living"; today the state administration penalizes \$6 each two or more pensioners who move together to make room for defense workers. "151" also modifies other deductions.

(2) "151" provides that pensioners may earn as much as they need over the \$40—thus permitting them to more fully aid in harvesting, and in doing other important community jobs, without losing or jeopardizing their grants.

(3) "151" extends the medical and dental care to widowed mothers and their children, to the blind, the crippled and the unemployed. Only the physically fit can work and fight.

It is charged that "151" will "bankrupt the state." This same ridiculous charge was leveled against 141—yet as this is written there is a \$35,000,000 balance in our state treasury, and the balance is growing! **No additional taxes will have to be levied to pay 151 in full!** Under the cost of living clause in 151 whenever the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows an increase of 5% in the cost of living grants must be increased proportionately. But when retail prices increase, then the sales tax and other business taxes automatically bring in more than enough to take care of the increased pension checks.

"151" has been endorsed by numberless labor, farm, pension, community, religious, school, public ownership, political and fraternal groups. Over three times as many people signed "151" as are necessary to get it on the ballot!

Vote for 151 and for Victory!

WASHINGTON OLD AGE
PENSION UNION

Sen. N. P. Atkinson, President
Rep. Wm. J. Pennock, Executive Secretary.

Co-sponsored in Eastern Washington by

SPOKANE OLD AGE PENSION LEAGUE
Mel Butler, President.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State, July 13, 1942, by William J. Pennock, Executive Secretary, Washington Old Age Pension Union, 469 Lyorr Building, Seattle, Washington.

BELLE REEVES,
Secretary of State.

ARGUMENT AGAINST INITIATIVE NO. 151

To the Voters of Our State:

This fall there will be on the ballot the so-called Old Age Pension Initiative No. 151. Each of you must decide whether you will vote for or against it. Most of you want to do the best you can for the old folks. Most of you have children to support and educate and dentist and doctor bills to pay. Many of you are going to war, leaving your families behind. What is going to happen in the next few years, you don't know. At the best, there is a big job to do, and it is going to take a lot of money, effort and sacrifice to do it.

What is our state doing now for the aged? We are spending about thirty million dollars a year for them, of which Federal taxes provide something less than half. Our state is about the most liberal of all the states. The Federal Government will not match under Initiative 151. That means either a much larger sales tax or much smaller payments to the aged. In fact, Initiative 151 provides so much for so many people who are not old, that it threatens everything already gained for the aged.

You will find some people urging you to vote for Initiative No. 151 who are not interested in pensions for themselves, but who do expect to profit by its passage. They may claim great concern for the old people but actually their interest is in their own profit. You might ask of such people, "What are you getting out of this?"

Then do you realize that No. 151 makes it possible for an alien to own his own home, drive a car, have payments coming in on a contract for a thousand dollars, have all his food-stuffs, livestock and fuel, and some insurance, and then have the state pay his doctor, dentist, nurse and hospital bills, buy his glasses and medicine and then pay him forty dollars a month or more, with as much more for his wife? In addition he can earn some money by working.

It is claimed that No. 151 must pass to save for the old people what they are getting now. That is not true. The present set-up will remain

unless No. 151 should pass. That, of course, would destroy it. After 141 passed, the legislature voted money to finance it and the present administration worked hard and succeeded in getting the Federal Government to match funds. After nearly two years of litigation and uncertainty, everybody knows where they now stand on old age pensions. There will be no change unless Initiative 151 wrecks the present state plan.

Further, Initiative 151 is a whole new scheme in many ways, adding so much expense for those not old that the whole program may break down from the over-load.

It is claimed that our state has a vast sum that can be spent meeting the provisions of Initiative 151. This is not true, either. The thirty-five million dollars referred to is largely made up of special funds such as teachers' retirement funds, which must be preserved. If you want the truth about state funds, write to Olympia and find out.

The promoters of Initiative No. 151 completely ignore our schools. Actually, the schools are receiving now only about one-half what is being spent for our old age program. If No. 151 were to pass, one can only expect the schools to suffer, because a dollar spent in one direction cannot be spent in another.

Well, you'll each have to make up your own mind about how to vote on this. You each have many hard problems to meet, providing for your family, buying defense bonds and trying to hold things together until this war is over. Many of you are not going to be able to keep things going even as well as they are now. It seems like a poor time to upset what the old folks have and leave them to guess about the future.

Yours very sincerely,

FREDERICK BENZ,
GEORGE McCROSKEY.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State, July 23, 1942, by Frederick Benz and George McCroskey, Seattle, Washington.

BELLE REEVES,
Secretary of State.