

By PHILIP SHABECOFF  
 Spécial to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 24 — President Ford disavowed today a report by a Presidential council that charged his Administration with "apparent lack of consideration for the economic plight of the elderly."

The President also rejected two specific recommendations made by the council, one calling for legislation to develop high health and safety standards in nursing homes, the other to provide adequate funding for Government programs for the elderly.

Mr. Ford transmitted the report of the Federal Council on The Aging to Congress today, but declared in his accompanying message, "The report does not reflect the Administration's policies, which must reflect a broader range of responsibilities and priorities."

**'Lack of Consideration'**

He also said that the report did not include the supporting data or analysis that would provide the basis for changes in his

This was the first annual report of the council, which was established in 1973 to "advise and assist the President on matters relating to the special needs of older Americans," among other duties.

In its report, the council urged that the President propose legislation to set high standards of safety and care in nursing homes and to provide assistance to nursing homes that care for the elderly poor and minorities.

But in his message to Congress, President Ford said that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare had already developed "high standards of nursing home care."

He added, "The enforcement of those standards is one of my Administration's highest priorities."

However, the department reportedly has prepared a study, scheduled to be released this fall, which indicates widespread deficiencies in nursing homes covered by Medicare. And last Friday, the Assistant Secretary of H.E.W. for Health, Dr. Theodore Cooper, said that the great problem with Federal regulations governing nursing homes was that they were failing to achieve their purpose.

The report said that the council "continues to be distressed about the apparent lack of consideration for the economic plight of the elderly as reflected in Administration proposals for the 1976 fiscal year budget."

It declared that the Ford Administration's cutbacks in Federal funds for social services for the elderly and ceilings on benefit programs financed from Social Security trust funds was a heavy burden on older people.

**National Prayer Day**

"We recommend that the President reconsider the serious effect of these fiscal proposals on the elderly of this nation with their urgent humanitarian needs," the report concluded.

Mr. Ford said he sympathized with concern about the level of funding for programs to help the elderly, but made it clear he would not respond as the council asked.

The President said he could best help ease the economic burden on older people by reducing the burden of inflation on the economy as a whole.

"Inflation," he said, "is one of the cruelest and most per-

vasive problems facing older Americans, so many of whom live on fixed incomes. A reduction of inflation, therefore, is in the best interest of all Americans and would be of particular benefit to the aging."

Nelson H. Cruikshank, a member of the council and President of the National Council of Senior Citizens, said, when told of the President's message, "We agree in principle but he [the President] is not controlling inflation. If he were we would modify our demands."

At midday today, Mr. Ford attended a special service at St. John's Episcopal Church in observance of National Prayer Day. Last month the President issued a proclamation declaring July 24 as National Prayer Day, and the White House pointed out today that 200 years ago the Continental Congress proclaimed a day of fasting and prayer in July.

Shortly afterward, the President was presented with the wheel of the merchant ship Mayaguez, which was captured by Cambodians in May and recaptured in a bloody assault by United States Marines. The presentation was made by the ship's captain, Charles Miller.

**Nominees for Housing Post**

WASHINGTON, July 23 (AP) — President Ford announced today plans to nominate Charles J. Orlebeke, dean of the College of Urban Sciences at the University of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Orlebeke, 40 years old, who comes from Mr. Ford's home town of Grand Rapids, Mich., succeeds Michael Morkow, who resigned.