

In his budget for 1960, the President reverted to his doubts on the trends in the social security program. He insisted that—

The Federal Government's responsibility for income maintenance should be mainly discharged through contributory, self-supporting social security.

He boasted of the fact that in 1946, 60 percent of the workers under OASI were covered; in 1960, 90 percent; and that total annual benefits had risen from \$321 million to \$10,510 million. He also revealed that the average monthly number of beneficiaries had risen from 1.3 to 13.7 million. Actually, this works out as an average payment to a beneficiary of \$767 a year, a figure that is from one-half to one-third the amount required for a minimum standard of living.

The President was also disturbed by the increased proportion of the public assistance grants that were financed by the Federal Government. In 1946, of total outlays of \$446 million, the Federal Government's share was 44 percent; by 1960 the Federal Government's share would be 57 percent of \$2,018 million. Legislation to raise the Federal maximum share extending the Federal participation to new groups, he complained, had been enacted five times in the last six Congresses.³¹

* * * I believe that this trend is inconsistent with the American system of government. If it continues the control of these programs will shift from our State and local governments to the Federal Government. We must keep the financing control of these programs as close as we possibly can to the people who pay the necessary taxes and see them in daily operation.³²

³¹ Budget, 1960, pp. M69-M70.

³² Ibid., p. M70.