

that these impoverished people consist of 106,000 Negro families, 69,000 families of Puerto Rican origin, and 214,000 white, non-Puerto Rican families. Of the total, 47.9 percent are Negroes and Puerto Ricans, while 52.1 percent are non-Puerto Rican whites. The study also disclosed that the largest single group of the poor whites are the aged.

Of course, the poor in our city, as elsewhere in the Nation, have a different set of characteristics than they did 50 or even 25 years ago, and the problems they are up against are different. For one thing, they have a greater experience of permanent poverty, lasting from generation to generation. For another, there is a much greater percentage of aged and aging people among the poor today; and it is precisely among this group that poverty is the most cruel in its effects.

New York City has initiated many programs for its aged, at a cost approximating \$100 million yearly.

Indeed, speaking generally, the array and extent of social services available in New York City for needy and disadvantaged people are, we think, greater than in any other city in the country. But here again I must candidly concede that even though the cost grows greater, the problem grows greater, too.

Let me tell you something now about the people whom we call the poor or the impoverished. I know them. I see them every day. They are white, black, Puerto Rican, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Cuban, Anglo-Saxon, Irish, German, Jewish, Polish, and Italian. In short, they are New Yorkers and Americans.

In the impoverished areas in New York City, which have been called pockets of poverty, you can knock on many doors and you will find heartbreak. But you will also find in those same neighborhoods an ample number of families and individuals exemplifying the highest qualities of honesty, integrity, diligence, industry, and sacrifice, and the highest moral principles, living next door to the most disorganized.

Some of the people are so psychologically bruised and frustrated by their attempts to climb the steep walls of the deep well in which they feel themselves to be immersed that they have resigned themselves to life at its bottom—as did their parents and, in some cases, their grandparents. Yet we know that some of these people, certainly many of them, and perhaps all of them, can become useful and productive members of their community at some level of usefulness. It is up to us to provide the help. It is not only up to us morally; it is also up to us, as I have already said, from a straight dollars and cents point of view.

I think I have spent more than enough time making the case for the need for this legislation. Now I want to talk about the legislation itself.

First of all, I want to emphasize that what is involved is not simply a matter of governmental expenditures and governmental effort. Even if the Congress were to increase the amount authorized far beyond that now authorized in this bill, and if all the cities and localities collectively were to increase their allocations for the war against poverty, it still would not have the impact that is necessary. What is needed—and this is emphasized in this legislation—is the involvement of the entire community and the mobilization of all community resources, including and especially the involvement of the people in