

You did make your message on poverty on January 14. You formed a task force on poverty. You marshaled all the city departments which are affected into one unified team on poverty. You are working in many areas to build up the table of assistance wherever it is needed for the aged and for the young, and so forth.

What I fear is that if we do not pass this bill, this is going to have sort of a siphoning effect on the rest of the country. People are going to find out very soon what New York is doing on poverty, what it is doing for the disadvantaged. It will bring into this problem area a great many migrants, because we are doing so much, unless the rest of the country does its share also.

That is why I think we in New York cannot stand alone on this. We have to get the help of the rest of the country, otherwise we will get greater in-migration for legitimate programs of assistance that people can get in New York City. I think it would increase that in-migration.

MAYOR WAGNER. I would agree. I think many people have come from the other parts of the country to New York for the opportunities they can get there. I don't mean that they come there just to get on relief. It is a very, very small percentage of those. Very few ever get on relief until they have been in the city for over 6 months and that is a very small percentage. They come there for opportunities.

We do know, as an example, Puerto Rico. When the best jobs are available in New York City and the economy in Puerto Rico has been on the march, there have been many who have left to go back to their own place.

MR. CAREY. In the last 5 years, more people have returned to the Commonwealth than have come into New York City.

MAYOR WAGNER. That is right. It is difficult to calculate because there is so much movement and being part of the United States there is no necessity for passports. It is just like taking a plane to Washington, Chicago, or anywhere else. But that is generally accepted as the figure.

MR. CAREY. By reason of our education and assistance, and so forth, they are returning in better shape than that in which they came. They are going back with some savings and better educational benefits than they had before, and they are making a contribution to the Commonwealth, which they gained in New York.

MAYOR WAGNER. Also, we have a great many men from New York who are pensioned and they return to the island there for the rest of their lives.

MR. CAREY. Yes, they make a great contribution there also. Is it not true that figures are deceiving that in New York we have a great deal of relative poverty even though we show a high average standard of living? In connection with the publication of the annual report of the Catholic Charities a statement was made that the number of people you pointed to here, roughly one in five, are living in about a 1939 standard of living in New York City based upon the comparison with our optimum standard or our good standard of living. For this reason it has generated, it has had a virile effect, it has generated a good many more problems. The frustrated family tends to break up, tends to lose the control and care of its children. It has thrust upon us a great many more expensive problems in the welfare and social work