

Mr. AYRES. My point, Mr. Attorney General, is this: We have had testimony from different people holding high office like you, who have pointed out that we must make certain that the low IQ person who is a dropout is taken care of. We have other testimony that the juvenile delinquent can be taken care of under the program. We had testimony from Mr. McNamara that this would be a great program for the rejectees from the service. Mr. Goodell pointed out the high percentage of rejectees that are Negroes. We are rejecting far more than what the program is going to take care of just in one department, you might say.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL. And I think that is a reflection on those of us who are white.

Mr. AYRES. Well, I do not want to get into that discussion.

Mrs. GREEN. Can I ask the gentleman from Ohio to limit himself to one more question?

Mr. AYRES. I do not mean it in that vein at all, Mr. Attorney General. On the other hand, if we are going to set up any set of standards with the limited number of people to be covered by this program, there won't be any white people in it.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL. I do not agree with you at all, Congressman. I think if you went into the chairman's State, if you go down into West Virginia and some of these other areas, you will find that there are many white people who have as difficult a time as Negroes do, who would be brought into this program.

Mr. LANDRUM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. AYRES. Yes.

Mr. LANDRUM. I regret to interrupt the distinguished Attorney General, but I would say for the record that Negroes are not the only poor people in the world. I have been associated with this condition of poverty for more than a half century, and I know many, many white people who have been associated with it.

To the extent that the Negro is involved as a direct subject of this disease of poverty, I want it clearly understood that I am going to do everything I can to help relieve that situation, because I think it is a blight on the American scene. Likewise, where the white person is involved, and there are many of them, I shall do everything I can to relieve them.

I think this bill is drafted so that it will assist in the relief of poverty wherever it occurs and in whatever color or condition it appears. That is the basis of my support.

Mr. AYRES. For the record, so that we are not involved in something that is not understood, I am not arguing that this bill should take care of just one group of people, regardless of race, creed, or color, but what I am saying is that with the problems that we have in our cities and in these ghettos, and we have them in Cleveland, in Chicago, in Los Angeles, all over, in every major city, if we have a limited number of people who are going to be in this program because of this low economic bracket that they fall in, because of the terrible conditions they have been raised in, they will be the ones who will qualify.

I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. GREEN. Mr. Thompson?

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Ayres, this line that you have taken is nothing less than incredible. In the first place, your basic premise is entirely wrong. I will be glad to provide you with a bibliography establishing beyond any question the equal native intelligence of all peoples.

Mr. AYRES. I am not arguing that point.

Mr. THOMPSON. That is as old as the protocols as the learned elders of Zion. The purpose is quite evident. In the first place, the statistic that you apparently base this on is Mr. Goodell's, which, as I recall, is that 40 percent of those who fail to pass the military tests are Negroes.

Mr. AYRES. Fifty-four percent.

Mr. THOMPSON. Fifty-four percent. Why don't you talk about the other 46 percent? I know why you do not. It is obvious. Of course you might conceivably in an area have all white or all Negro in one work camp, if there was not a shifting around arrangement. No one has suggested, however, that there be segregated camps under any circumstance. The fact is that the basic premise from which you proceed is utterly and completely fallacious.

Mr. AYRES. What is the premise that you are proceeding from? What is the premise that you think I am proceeding upon?

Mr. THOMPSON. On the basis that an overwhelming number of the disadvantaged with low intelligence quotients are going to be Negro.

Mr. AYRES. Not at all.