

In our low-income areas we find a clustering of the social problems producing delinquency and chronic dependency. Discrimination plays a major role in trapping many of our citizens, who could otherwise escape this dilemma.

Official records of local law enforcement agencies bear out our contention that Syracuse has a delinquency rate about three times that of the rest of Onondaga County with the highest rates occurring in the low-income sections of the city.

The 72 Syracuse juveniles finally committed to institutions last year alone cost the taxpayers \$400,700.

Chronic dependency is the second part of the dilemma and was one of the most serious problems toward which my attention as welfare commissioner was directed.

It was the problem of the "welfare child" who, upon reaching the age of physical maturity, took steps to reenact the events that initially produced the welfare family of which he was a part. I was, and still am, greatly troubled by the children of our welfare families who get married on Friday and appear at the welfare office on Monday to make application for themselves as a separate family unit. In simple and direct terms, this is the best example of a most serious breakdown in our social system.

Obviously, we cannot deny these physically mature individuals the means for survival. And while we do give them relief, the steps we take to help them toward a more self-sufficient and satisfying way of life have not been sufficiently effective. Thus, we are taking some long and deliberate strides toward the creation of a permanent welfare culture that is totally unacceptable to the majority of the people in my community and, I am sure, my State, and indeed, the country as a whole.

Discrimination is the third part of our dilemma. The in-migrant Negroes moving to northern communities from the South find their way to our cities and begin their life in our communities in crowded conditions. It is no coincidence that the question of integration of the Negro into the life of northern communities and our concern and attack upon areas of high incidence of social breakdown are intimately related. In our community the growth in Negro population on a percentage basis has been phenomenal. Since the end of World War II, the Negro population in Syracuse has increased approximately 400 percent. Here is a group of people who by reasons of their move have indicated their interest in taking drastic steps to improve their lot in this world. They are motivated toward a better way of life. It is our responsibility to take steps that will help insure a way for these in-migrant citizens to develop their potential to the fullest.

EXISTING SERVICES

In Syracuse and Onondaga County we have health, welfare, and character-building services that compare favorably with those found in any American community. As a matter of fact, in Onondaga County, through city, county, and private philanthropy, we will spend almost \$40 million a year on programs of health, welfare, and character building, or almost \$100 per person.