

I would also recommend legislation to provide for social service work with families displaced by urban renewal.

Urban renewal has pioneered among public displacement programs in its concern for the human beings displaced. In almost every respect, it is geared to checking and preventing the spread of blight which breeds new slums. However, one grave problem has not been faced—the problem of the small handful of “troubled families”—whose living standards are such that they jeopardize any area to which they are transplanted. They number only 7 or 8 percent of the total, but they give substance to the fallacy that all families moving out of slums are “carriers” of blight. This fallacy is unjust to the hundreds of people who have been forced to live in slums by economic or racial barriers.

Our local program must be not only an attack on poverty, it must be an attack on the seeds of poverty—the conditions, either existing or potential, that make poverty possible. This shift of emphasis, from not only eliminating existing poverty but also eliminating the present and potential conditions that create poverty, is an important one.

My community wants area redevelopment in its broadest, most human sense, combining physical and social planning and attacking such questions as housing, recreational facilities and programs, welfare policies and payments, improvement of neighborhood appearance and parent participation in education.

My community wants to deal with the interrelated causes of poverty such as alcoholism, chronic dependency, disease, emotional immaturity, mental breakdown, unmarried mothers and children born out of wedlock. My community wants to preserve family life.

My community wants to do away with second- and third-generation welfare families—economic misery is not a birthright—we want a heritage of hope, not a heritage of poverty in Syracuse.

The Syracuse program must not be just a war on poverty, it must be a crusade for opportunity. It is to these ends that I have addressed my remarks on this legislation.

I would like to indicate, briefly, the type of activities which we could sponsor in our crusade for opportunity. These activities would be coordinated with our existing programs.

A position of opportunity coordinator could be created as part of the office of the mayor, and necessary staff provided to coordinate existing and new programs under the crusade for opportunity.

A bipartisan opportunity council could be created, composed of informed citizens in the areas of housing, education and jobs. This council would advise the mayor and the community on the crusade.

A public works-education training program could be established to provide education and vocational training for young men. In turn, these youths would work and be paid for working on local public works or services in the public interest. Hopefully, this program could be carried out through the urban conservation corps.

Social and educational programs developed by our school system and by the mayor's commission for youth could be established in low-income areas.

An expanded vocational training program could be established through the public school system, using Federal funds in direct grants