

more on city projects if we had the money. We just don't have it. I am talking about city money now, not Federal money. If we had money we could do a much better job of some of the things we would like to be doing in the community. But your taxing structure won't stand it.

Mr. GOODELL. I also was intrigued by your reference to making it a Federal offense for husbands and fathers to leave their family. These are perennial bills that are introduced regularly. We call them runaway bills which make it a Federal offense. The Justice Department and the FBI always oppose these bills rather strenuously. They indicate that if you are going to push the Justice Department and the FBI into domestic relations they are going to have to use most of their personnel on these cases alone. As in the past these bills have been considered and rejected by the Congress on that ground. There is not any question that the difficulty in various State jurisdictions is a very serious one, trying to force upon the fathers the responsibility of supporting their children.

Mayor WALSH. I was interested in this when I was welfare commissioner. I made a suggestion that was later adopted, to a legislative committee holding hearings in New York State, that they set up a sort of central index on deserting fathers at the State level and this has been done where all the resources of the State, the unemployment insurance, the chauffeur's license, all of these records be made available to the central index so that you could go there and find out where a deserting father might be. This is working well. We find that a person might leave the family in Syracuse and go to Rochester and we would have difficulty catching him. But strangely enough they might keep that name on the driving license. Now we might pick him up this way. The question of desertion, I think, if you measured it in terms of the impact that it has on the economy of the country, has a far greater impact on the economy of this country than does bank robbery, which is a Federal offense—kidnaping. When you consider the millions and millions of dollars of Federal funds that are spent on the ADC program alone I think you could make a pretty good case for the Federal Government or FBI taking over the responsibility of at least helping people, helping men get back to their families. I think it is a travesty to allow a man to go out and raise a family and then walk out completely and not come back again and dump that responsibility. This is a situation that has always disturbed me. I know of no remedy for it but I do think that the problem is too big for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to overlook.

Mr. GOODELL. What progress are we making with uniform State procedures, State laws?

Mayor WALSH. These are excellent. The reciprocal agreements between the States are good. It is the problem of finding them. It is the problem of finding them, getting them to court in another State, and getting either an agreement for support or return to the place.

Now, some people say let them go, but I think with the type of program that we are talking about, with wise marriage counseling, if you could return some of these fathers—and remember, they walked out, some of them, just because they were so completely overcome with the responsibilities in trying to raise a family, that if they got some wise marriage counseling you might be able to rehabilitate them.