

Now we have always had the philosophy in this country that the family is a very important unit and the strength of the community which sets social morals, which keep people in line and build them up, and we see this breaking down. I agree with you in your statement that this needs to be done and any help that we could give to the community and to the family I think would be worth while. However, I have been engaged in conversation with a number of people who have been studying this who feel very strongly that we no longer can depend on the family especially the family of children in the center of the city, the ghettos that I am talking about, who cease to have an influence on the child after 6 years of age and some of 3 years of age. I would gather that some of the proponents of this legislation think that it is important that we get the child out of the family and out of the city for a period of time. The mayor of New York, Mayor Wagner, indicated the problem they have where they do this with certain individuals, that it is quite a task to adjust them back to their community again afterward. I just gather from this conversation that it can be a difficult thing to take them out in the first place.

Do you think there are some individuals where there is no possibility of assisting the family and community and we must be thinking of taking them out?

MAYOR WALSH. Let me put it this way: If you do have to substitute for a family situation for a mother and a father, you have to substitute a mother and a father. This is the only way that I know of unless you want to institutionalize every child. I think any type of family situation, any good family situation, even if it is a foster home, it is much preferable to institutional care. I don't think this will be any substitute for family life. I certainly hope not. We have to find ways of building up family life in this country. The problems that we are faced with today are the problems of the breakdown of family life and when you take a look at your delinquency records and your dependency records you will find that these people are there simply because one of the contributing causes is a breakdown of family life. And unless this program can find ways of strengthening family life I don't think the program is worth while. I think this should be one of the greatest points of this total program on poverty and that is that it should be directed to find ways of strengthening family life in this country so that we can develop a more cohesive family unit than we now have.

If you substitute anything for a family you have to substitute a family. I don't think you can substitute institutional care at all. You certainly can't substitute a Job Corps for it.

MR. QUIN. Some individuals are so emotionally disturbed, or perhaps we might say morally deprived, that they may have to be institutionalized.

MAYOR WALSH. That is right.

MR. QUIN. We are not talking about that individual?

MAYOR WALSH. No. And there are families—the family that I mentioned a little earlier, there is no family unit there, it is gone. So that the only thing you can do with this family is to institutionalize the children. This is expensive.

MR. QUIN. Now we are talking about young men from 16 to 21 years of age. The younger the person the more important the family is.