

I feel that a lot of people have low incomes simply because they don't use their resources as efficiently as they could. This means that if they change the use of their resources, they could have higher incomes.

The kind of things that are appropriate here, of course, are to improve knowledge of income opportunities through better information services and things of this sort. Secondly, I believe that a lot of people in our society simply have low incomes by choice.

That is, they do not choose to use their resources in ways that would give them high income because they simply enjoy doing other things. So that there is a category where we would say that people by virtue of choosing to do one thing rather than another, have lower incomes.

I personally feel that once we decide what we are going to do in the way of work or how we are going to use our resources that we pretty largely decide what income we will have.

I do not believe that society has a responsibility to provide people with minimum income levels if these people are not motivated to do work or if they are not motivated to use their resources in income-producing endeavors.

But, the third category, I think, is of much greater concern. I have reference here to this term "poverty." We all ought to recognize that poverty is a relative concept. It is most meaningful, I think, when it is defined in terms of some community form, particularly a form of ability to purchase goods and services.

What I have chosen to call "poverty," I think of as the situation where people own so little in the way of resources, that they are unable to get a reasonable income even though they made the best use they can of the resources that they have.

So, here I think we are dealing with a situation which describes real poverty where people have so few assets that even though they made the best possible use of them, they could not generate an income high enough to sustain a level of living that we might consider minimum in our society.

This is what I consider to be real poverty. I would like to emphasize that I am talking about people who really are not poor by choice and they are not poor because they make a poor use of their resources.

They are poor simply because they own or control so few resources. Now, there is another point that I would like to make here and this is that unless some way is found to break into that kind of situation through resource development, that when a family gets trapped with low incomes because of ownership of few resources, that this situation is likely to be perpetuated through time.

So, that the failure to develop our resources can lead to a perpetuation of real poverty.

Now, quite frequently we are inclined to look upon poverty or low incomes as if this were something that characterized individuals or families.

I have a somewhat different view here. It seems to me as though we ought to recognize that in our society, changes take place which give rise to the hope of overcoming poverty for some individuals and in turn generate poverty for other individuals.

In like manner, these changes can have profound effects upon communities because we find whole communities being bypassed by eco-