

North Carolina. I think we have run into what we have run into nationally. I think some of the problems that we have faced—and we hope we have gotten around most of them by now—are the same problems that will be faced in any kind of national program.

One of the first problems is that a great many people are simply unaware of the fact that there is any poverty problem in this affluent society. As the citizens ride to work on new bypasses and thruways, they fail to see just what is involved. In the Christmas of 1962 I was at my mother's home in Laurinburg preparing to write a document telling the people what a great job I had done during the past 2 years as a kind of New Year's statement. I changed my mind while I was there. The tenor of my New Year's statement was that we had not nearly begun to fulfill the responsibilities of government. Because I happened to make it a point to see some people and visit some places that I had not been to for a long time and I reported to them a little girl who stopped by my mother's house, a little girl of about 10 or 11, to say that they were moving. Her father had recently been out of prison. He had not been able to get and keep a job; they could not pay the rent on the house. They were moving, but they did not know where they were moving to.

Also, a little bit later that day I saw a little boy whose father had been somewhat of an alcoholic, had dropped out of school when he was in the second or third grade, who stopped by the house as he was going downtown to affairs that the Jaycees were holding for Christmas gifts, and he was hoping to get a pair of shoes, because on that freezing Christmas Eve day he was walking with shoes that left the soles of his feet on the ground.

A little bit later that week, I had an opportunity to talk to a half dozen young men on the streets of Raleigh who had not finished school, and somehow in our school system—which is about the same as school systems across the country—had failed to get any kind of spark of ambition or any kind of insight on what life could be, and had failed to grasp the opportunity and in fact, I thought, had failed to even understand from anybody why training, why education, why skills were important.

I also attended the Christmas party at the women's prison, and I saw so many people who had strayed from the proper paths. I wondered why, and what things we might have done that would have prevented that, and I wondered what we might do to prevent their ever returning again.

So I wrote to our State employees and our people a message that we had not begun to fulfill the compassionate side of government responsibility and that there were many, many things that needed to be done.

Then I had an opportunity to visit and speak at most all of the schools in the State, because I promised to visit them all and talk to the children. I remembered seeing a little girl who was typical of a lot of little girls and little boys. Usually when a Governor goes to the school, the children flock around like he is a two-headed bear or some kind of freak; they are anxious to see. But this little girl was hanging back and timid and didn't seem to quite fit. After I left, I had one of my friends in that section of the State look into the matter, and here was a little girl who had come from a home where she had been a bright, singing, happy little girl, but from a home that had