

also be used in domestic service by those who may not be willing or able to serve abroad.

In emphasizing the need for social action, we must at the same time pay deserved tribute to the many voluntary agencies, including especially our own Catholic charities, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and others which have devoted so much to the service of the unfortunate in our society. Their workers know from firsthand experience the tragic problems caused by destitution and demoralization. Their wisdom and guidance will be invaluable in any campaign against poverty. New programs must supplement, not replace, what is being done so well by these dedicated groups.

America has been hailed throughout the world for its generosity, its willingness to come to the aid of those in need. When there is famine or natural disaster, we rush to help, using both governmental and private agencies. Without narrowing our worldwide vision of generosity and sympathy, let us also turn our eyes to the problems here at home. Of the early Christians it was said: "See how these Christians love one another." Can we think of a more fitting expression of the Christian renewal being worked out in Vatican Council II than a torrent of concern on our part for the poor in our midst? "As long as you have done it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me."

(Mt. XXV, 40.)

Monsignor HIGGINS. To make sure that work is available for all those who are able and willing to work is obviously a big challenge. Even today, 30 years after the great depression, our national rate of unemployment is still dangerously high—considerably higher, by the way, than that of almost any other major industrial country in the world.

This is our No. 1 economic problem, at the present time, and unless and until it is faced up to realistically, there can be no real hope of our solving the problem of poverty, no matter what we do for the poor in terms of remedial services and no matter how hard we try to retrain the unemployed or to help them, in other ways, to help themselves.

In summary, then, it is the position of the social action department that, as stated in its recent statement on poverty, in developing a comprehensive antipoverty program, we ought to put major emphasis on basic economic reforms, not to the neglect or the exclusion of social reform and additional remedial services for the poor, but as the necessary prerequisites for their long-range effectiveness.

Turning now to the question of education, we regret that H.R. 10440 does not provide for the full utilization of all of the educational resources of this Nation in the war against poverty. It specifically provides, for example:

Any elementary or secondary school education program assisted under this section shall be administered by the public educational agency or agencies principally responsible for providing elementary and secondary education in the area involved.

This is of the utmost concern to us, because religious schools enroll hundreds of thousands of children who come from economically deprived homes and who are in need of special educational assistance. A spot check of some metropolitan cities produced the following statistics on parochial schoolchildren in economically depressed areas: Washington, 17,000; Baltimore, 11,000; New Orleans, 11,000; Detroit, 10,000; New York, 21,000.

I would add, parenthetically, in my judgment those figures are conservative.

The parochial schools in these cities, as well as in other parts of the country, are already providing special educational programs for some of these children. They could provide much more assistance to