

I personally realize that we cannot overlook this group of retired people who are living on a very meager income. An increase is long overdue especially in view of the inadequacy of previous increases and when we consider that the cost of living has risen substantially since the retirees have received any increase at all. I think your recommendation is excellent in that respect. I agree with you that because too many of our people are the elderly that we should eliminate this residence requirement in determining eligibility for public assistance.

I do not know why we have not done that before, but it certainly should be done. It may be that we have left it up to the States to more or less make policy in that area. I feel that your recommendations are excellent.

Mrs. Green, do you have any questions this morning?

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is good to see you back again, Dr. Schottland.

Dr. SCHOTTLAND. It is good to be here.

Mrs. GREEN. On the residency requirement, since there is a matching fund, do you think it is politically feasible? I presume you are referring to a Federal requirement.

Dr. SCHOTTLAND. Yes.

Mrs. GREEN. Do you think this is politically feasible?

Dr. SCHOTTLAND. Well, there are some requirements that are in the Social Security Act that probably when they were enacted, were more revised by the States. I think more and more the States are coming around to it. I think there would be opposition from many States.

It is quite interesting, you know, the article that people would come into the high-income States just is not borne out. New York has very liberal public assistance grants. They don't have a residency requirement. People are not coming into New York to take advantage of relief. I do not think people move for those reasons and I think they move for other reasons. I think the States are beginning to realize it. Even my old State of California, I think there is a considerable change in attitude.

The Kerr-Mills legislation on medical care has done away with residence as a Federal requirement. They have made it a Federal requirement that the States cannot have residence under the Kerr-Mills medical legislation. No one has really objected to it.

Mrs. GREEN. The Kerr-Mills Act has not worked out very well, as yet. I'd have to admit those two matters are unrelated, however.

Dr. SCHOTTLAND. I think they are. I agree with you that it has not worked out as well it should.

Mrs. GREEN. But the residency requirement has no bearing on it. Does New York have any residency requirements for mental health care, for hospitalization?

Dr. SCHOTTLAND. I do not know about that. I do not think so, but I am not sure.

Mrs. GREEN. I was under the impression they did not.

Dr. SCHOTTLAND. I am not sure.

Mrs. GREEN. On pages 9 and 10 of your statement you refer to the lack of personnel. Would you or your organization be able to provide any more detailed statistics on the shortage, especially in the area where you are particularly competent to speak?