

We commend the section of the bill (title I) which stresses vocational training and work experience. One of the rabbis of the Talmud declared, "Whoever does not teach his son an occupation, teaches him to become a robber." This legislation would enable our society to provide its sons with the skills necessary to become productive citizens. It would enable persons who have been enmeshed by generations of poverty to break out of the pattern of inherited deprivation. It would restore a sense of self-respect and dignity, reflected in the dictum of our tradition: "A man prefers 1 measure of his own to 10 measures of his friends."

We support those programs (title IV) geared to offering incentives for employment and investment, in consonance with the spirit of the medieval Jewish philosopher Maimonides who declared that the highest degree of charity is "to give assistance to a fellow man"—by procuring work for him, thereby enabling him to become self-supporting.

We endorse the section of the legislation (title II) which would enable the Federal Government to encourage and aid financially, State, local, and other "community action programs." Federal initiative and finances are indispensable, but the primary responsibility still rests within each community and it is most appropriate that emphasis should be placed on stimulating local action. We note with approval the provision that all funds for educational programs will be administered by public educational agencies and we trust that the principle of separation of church and state will be adhered to throughout the legislation.

The legislation before this committee is only a beginning, but it is a vital beginning in the direction of fulfilling the American dream of assuring every person equal opportunity for dignity, security, education, and maximum development of his human potentialities. We look to you, our elected representatives, to assume leadership in the struggle for justice. "Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and the needy." (Proverbs 31: 9.)

Rabbi HIRSCH. I realize we are somewhat in the position of an Egyptian mummy pressed for time. Therefore, I would like to read excerpts of my remarks.

Mr. PERKINS. Any way you prefer.

May I say we had hoped to get to you before this time. In fact, I looked around for you as the first witness this morning.

Rabbi HIRSCH. We were called by your office and notified that we were going to be number three and that it wasn't necessary for us to be here until 10:15.

Mr. PERKINS. We kind of reversed the trend this morning. If we had been here we would have gotten to you sooner.

Rabbi HIRSCH. That is perfectly all right.

Unfortunately, too many Americans have grown haughty and have forgotten that their personal wealth is not only the fruit of their own labors, but represents the accumulated wealth derived from the labors of countless generations of men. A recent Gallup poll—March 21, 1964—revealed that 54 percent of the American people believe that when a person is poor, it is because of "lack of effort on his own part." The concept that poverty is the result of indolence or lack of ability is deeply ingrained in the American psyche and is reflected throughout our history from Puritanism to Horatio Algerism.

The fundamental task confronting us today, therefore, is to reorient our own people to a recognition that poverty cannot be solved by individual action alone. We cannot vaccinate people against poverty by lining them up, as we did this week in Washington for the polio vaccine, and dropping a sugar-coated pill marked "incentive" into their mouths. Until Americans realize that most poor people are poor not so much because of their own deficiencies as because of basic deficiencies in society at large, we shall never win the war on poverty. Until that