

ployment history of the individual seeking assistance. The local legal services offices tend to reach more individuals than other kinds of programs which apply a flat gross or net income eligibility standard. Programs with rigid eligibility standards tend to exclude persons who, in fact, are unable to obtain similar services. The flexible standards applied by legal services programs reflect a policy developed over the past 40 years by legal aid societies and sanctioned by local bar associations.

Second, the legal aid and legal services offices in the majority of locations work very closely with institutions known as lawyer referral services established by local bar associations. The lawyer referral service provides for the marginally indigent and the middle class persons the names of participating private practitioners who have agreed to give one-half hour consultation for a fixed fee. The fee is usually sufficiently low so that all persons who do not qualify for free legal assistance can afford to obtain initial guidance from the private practitioner.

Third, the publicity and community education programs undertaken by the legal services offices have had an impact on middle and lower middle class individuals making them more aware of the advisability of seeking legal help. These persons often come to the legal services offices and are then referred to the lawyer referral service. Because of the legal services program, greater numbers of persons are receiving legal assistance who had previously never consulted a lawyer either because they did not know a lawyer or feared that they could not afford to seek legal advice.

The second question does not lend itself to a facile answer. The problem raised is extremely complex and there is little data available from which to make a determination of the quality of legal advice given the middle and lower middle classes. It has been suggested by some researchers that the best talent in the profession is drawn either to the large law firm or very recently to the legal services program. Two gentlemen, Jerome Carlin and Jan Howard, did a sociological study in 1965 of the qualifications of those attorneys who handled cases for clients whose income fell below \$5,000 per annum. (See: Jerome E. Carlin and Jan Howard, "Legal Representation and Class Justice," 12 UCLA Law Review 381; Jerome E. Carlin, *Lawyers' Ethics: A Survey of the New York City Bar*, 1966.) Their study showed that these practitioners for the most part did not have outstanding academic credentials either at college or at law school and that they spent less time per case than did their colleagues who were employed by large firms. While this data does indicate some disparity in the initial qualifications of lawyers who represent both groups, it is not conclusive proof that the attorneys serving the middle and lower middle classes are not perfectly qualified and competent to handle the kinds of problems brought to their attention. Most attorneys, even those in very small partnerships develop specializations and the time factor may be attributable to their expertise and the comparatively uncomplicated nature of the problems presented.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Meeds?

Mr. MEEDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Sargent Shriver, Mr. Johnson, I would first like to extend to you and to this entire program my commendations and compliments. I think it is one of the finest, one of the most far-reaching, and successful programs that has been launched by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

I would particularly like to compliment you on your efforts to acquire the support and the commendation and cooperation of local bar associations and in acquiring the support of the American Bar Association and other bar associations and legal associations in the United States.

I think that in meeting the problem or attempting to meet the problem presented by the lack of legal services to the poor people of this Nation, you are reaching one of the very, very deep sores to be treated by the war against poverty.

Too often the poor people of this country regard the law as an enemy and not an aid, and I am particularly impressed with your statement