

Mr. CARTER. I will be glad to let Mrs. Coughlan talk to that, but the Children's Bureau is not solely just for the poor, for example. This is certainly an important part of the Welfare Administration.

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead, Mrs. Coughlan.

Mrs. COUGHLAN. Certainly child welfare services are available without regard to any financial eligibility. I think that is perhaps the major function that we carry.

Mr. QUIE. You mean that is the only program for the nonpoor?

Mrs. COUGHLAN. No. There are a number of other services in the area of community organization, community planning, neighborhood service centers that we are involved in now, where we feel that public welfare takes the leadership in developing new resources and services in the community to meet needs beyond those of the actual poor.

There is a preventive role actually in the Welfare Administration's program.

Chairman PERKINS. Does Public Health Service want to address itself to this point?

Mr. QUIE. I know that the Public Health Service has a role outside of poverty, but it is surely news to me that the welfare department operates not primarily for the help of the poor but for the rest of the people.

As I understand, at least if there is any agency in the Federal Government, other than OEO, who has primary responsibility for the poor, it is being helped by the welfare agency; their purpose is to help the poor, I understand.

Mr. CARTER. Let me say, I was trying to be responsive when you asked did they have any other responsibility. There is no question that the primary role of the welfare program is to help the poor, but this is overwhelmingly in the income maintenance field. The bulk of the money, as you know, a very large Federal contribution, goes to income maintenance. That is, goes to the public assistance programs in the categories in which we support health.

Of course, we have additional funds that go to the medical assistance to the medically indigent, as well, who are not always—depending on the way the State determines it—those people are not necessarily poor, by the way, the medically indigent are not necessarily poor.

Mr. QUIE. The medically indigent are not necessarily poor? They are not necessarily poor based on old-age assistance?

Mr. CARTER. They are poor based on the base line we are talking of roughly \$3,000 for a family of four. They are not necessarily indigent. I am only trying to point out.

Chairman PERKINS. I think at that point you ought to make clear that the indigent receive medical assistance. They are certainly in a different category from the social security retired, regardless of their income, who are eligible for medical assistance.

Mr. CARTER. That is true. I was only talking about the programs run by the Welfare Administration. I agree with you.

Mr. QUIE. The word "indigent" is synonymous with poverty. Let us get on to another question.

Since the primary responsibility of both OEO and the welfare agency is to people in poverty, why is it that you need OEO to look over your shoulder to see that you do an adequate job? As I understand your plea here, it is to continue OEO.