

My point can be made very briefly.

I believe there is presently a need for change of focus in the direction of the war on poverty and it can be summarized by saying, I think, the change should be away from the cluster of welfare and social services, as important as they are to true economic development programs and projects, economic opportunities in the areas of jobs, and the very vital and important development of the ghettoized areas in many of our cities.

I think there has been an unnecessarily large focus on individual pathology and individualistic approach to the problems of the poor and not a sufficiently broad approach to the communities in which the poor persons are residing.

The kinds of programs that I am advocating would be those that go more to the large-scale development of the communities less emphasis on individualized services but a byproduct, I believe, of the kinds of programs that should be stressed.

A byproduct would be individual advancement. I think one of the mistakes we have made is that when we come to dealing with the poor that we are too prone to seek to treat with them almost in a clinical manner.

I say that the same way we subsidize and affect the affluent of our society, there are programs that could be in a sense a kind of a way of subsidizing the poor of our society without stigmatizing them in welfare services.

Even though I myself am a social worker and benefit directly from administering services of these kinds, I think many of them, first, are extremely difficult to evaluate. They are very dubious in their content and their effect and very often the only beneficiaries or the major beneficiaries are those persons who are fortunate enough to obtain jobs.

There is nothing particularly wrong with this. However, if these are the only opportunities around, naturally, there is a kind of distortion because very often on the community level persons who should not be employed for one reason or another in these kinds of situations are employed because it is making jobs.

Now what I am saying is that if we do not address ourselves to some of the more fundamental issues, and I think you have probably heard a great deal about the unemployment rate in our slum districts, particularly in our nonwhite ghettoized district.

We know the unemployment rate among youth is as high as 27 to 33 percent. It strikes me as being rather futile to be involved in a number of job training and retraining programs if in effect certain fundamental decisions as to the employment rate of this economy have already been made.

We see the utter futility of putting youth through these procedures and then really at the end-of-the-line job.

What I am advocating—and I can get quickly to the end of my statement since the rest of it will go into the record—

Chairman PERKINS. Without objection, your statement will go into the record.

(Statement follows:)