

**STATEMENT OF HON. WILBUR J. COHEN, UNDER SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE; ACCOMPANIED BY ROBERT J. MYERS, CHIEF ACTUARY, OFFICE OF THE ACTUARY, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION; AND MRS. IDA C. MERRIAM, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. COHEN. Thank you, Senator. I am also accompanied by Mrs. Ida Merriam, who is the Assistant Commissioner for Research of the Social Security Administration.

I would like to add that in the difficulties yesterday of getting the statement prepared, I inadvertently left off one table, which I would like to have included in the record. It includes the monthly social security cash benefits under the present law and under the President's proposal, which supplements the tables I have in the testimony.

Chairman PROXMIRE. That will be done. Do you have duplicates of that table?

Mr. COHEN. No; I don't. I will be glad to give you that one copy.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Why don't you keep it with you for now, since you may need it for reference during questioning?

Mr. COHEN. All right.

(Table 8, referred to, appears on p. 333.)

Chairman PROXMIRE. In other words, you have given us the bad news here in the presentation, but not what we get for it.

Mr. COHEN. That is correct; and I don't know whether that was inadvertent or intentional, but when I looked at it this morning, I saw that it should have been the last table, which was left off.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Joint Economic Committee, it is a pleasure to participate in your consideration of the Economic Report of the President.

The health, education, and welfare of the American people are the Nation's greatest resources. Investment in these resources yields benefits to the individual and to the society. They are essential to individual fulfillment and to the economic growth and stability of the society. In turn, economic development also contributes to the development of these resources. Thus, the Department that I represent shares with you a deep interest in a healthy economy, with its resulting full employment and economic growth.

The singular objective of all the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's programs is the development of the individual's capacities to their fullest extent. Programs are designed to prevent disease and improve health, to support and encourage education, to provide a strong social insurance system, and to seek ways through welfare programs to reduce dependency as well as reduce the causes and meet demonstrated need. Legislation enacted by the last several Congresses has reinforced the Department's efforts in carrying out its objectives.