

commission of leading Americans to examine the many proposals that have been put forward, reviewing their merits and disadvantages, and reporting in 2 years to me and the American people.

1. State standards of need are miserably low. It is time to raise payments toward more acceptable levels. As a first step, I ask the Congress to require that each State's payments at least meet its own definition of need; and that its definition should be kept up to date annually as conditions change.

2. With minor exceptions, payments under public assistance are reduced dollar for dollar of earnings by the recipient. It is time to put an end to this 100 percent tax on the earnings of those on public assistance. I shall therefore ask Congress to enact payment formulas which will permit those on assistance to keep some part of what they may earn, without loss of payments.

3. Many recipients of public assistance are capable of receiving training which would ultimately make them self-supporting. I therefore urge the Congress to make permanent the Unemployed Parent and Community Work and Training programs and to require all States receiving Federal support under AFDC to (make this) available for the unemployed parents of dependent children.

One further indication of overall federal planning in the welfare field merits reference here. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has reprinted a summary of the report and recommendations of the Advisory Council on Public Welfare called "National Blueprint for Public Welfare". The Council's full report was entitled, "Having the Power, We Have the Duty". HEW's cover letter distributing the reprint says.

The Council's National Blueprint for public Welfare provides a workable solution for dealing with many of the Nation's unresolved social problems. The Council's major recommendations are:

A national minimum standard for public assistance payments below which no State may fall

A nationwide comprehensive program of public assistance based upon a single criterion: Need

A uniform, simple plan for Federal-State sharing in costs of all public welfare programs which provides for equitable and reasonable fiscal effort among States, and recognizes the relative fiscal effort among States, and recognizes the relative fiscal capacity of the Federal and State Governments

Comprehensive social services readily accessible, as a right, at all times to all who need them

All welfare programs receiving Federal funds administered consistent with the principle of public welfare as a right.

The Council's proposal for comprehensive social services envisions "provision of essential services to all individuals and families *without regard to income*" (emphasis added) Provision would be through public welfare agencies.⁴ HEW staff and resources would be enlarged to implement the entire program, including resources "to strengthen (HEW's) role in international social welfare programs."

It is becoming apparent that a massive public framework for social and economic opportunity is being centered in Washington. The 1968 budget would strengthen much of it without pause for essential review, consolidations or spin-offs.

It is to this area of the Great Society programs that Congress should direct especially searching examination—to achieve substantial reductions in and deferrals of financing.

CONCLUSIONS

The President's budget for 1968 involves hard-made decisions for increasing support of both military and non-defense programs, on which he has asked for the searching examination and evaluation of the Congress. The Congress should accept this as a literal challenge and act upon it promptly. The purpose of such action should be to reduce the spending authority now sought by amounts sufficient to void any reason for additional taxes.

⁴ The implications of this for the support and continuance of the private agencies in the country are profound.