

tions and charitable expenditures made in 1963 as distributions made in respect of 1962, as would be permitted under the recommendation discussed above. Of those who would not have met the requirement, many would have had to increase their charitable expenditures only by relatively small amounts. While this recommendation, therefore, would not affect the vast majority of foundations, its adoption would prevent extreme accumulation situations (unless they involved the exceptions noted above) such as those described earlier in this section.

(b) *Income equivalent*.—The ability of foundation directors to withhold current charitable benefits from the public merely to build a larger fund of capital—even though the purpose of the accumulation is to increase the amount of income which the foundation will receive and distribute to charity) at some date in the future—constitutes an abuse. The recommendation described above is designed to eliminate this abuse when it takes the form of a direct accumulation—the building up of corpus out of retained interest, rents, dividends, and so forth. However, that recommendation in itself will not prevent foundation officials from engaging in indirect accumulations—the building up of a foundation's capital by investing in or retaining assets such as unimproved real estate, growth stocks and other assets which may not generate substantial amounts of current income but which often compensate for the forbearance of current income in the form of future capital appreciation.⁸ The ability to increase the size of a nonoperating foundation's corpus by withholding a current benefit from the public is as much an abuse when it takes the form of an indirect accumulation as when it takes the form of a direct accumulation. In order to eliminate the problems in this area, therefore, it is also necessary to prevent indirect accumulations.

To insure that all private nonoperating foundations provide at least a minimum current benefit to charity it is recommended that there be established a "floor" below which the current benefits provided by the foundation to the public would not be permitted to drop. Such an approach could provide that if a private nonoperating foundation's income, and therefore its required payment to charity under the direct-accumulation proposal, falls below a specified percentage of the value of its holdings, the foundation would have to pay to charity, from its corpus, an amount which would approximate the income which it would have received had it invested its funds in the type of assets held by comparable organizations. If the foundation's current income (and therefore the amount required to be distributed to charity) exceeded this income equivalent, no distributions out of corpus would be required. Thus, the combination of the direct accumulation and the indirect-accumulation proposals would generally require a private nonoperating foundation to currently distribute its actual ordinary income or the foundation's "income equivalent," whichever is higher.

The minimum level of charitable expenditures—i.e., the income equivalent—should be comparable to the yield on investment funds held by comparable organizations—such as universities. To provide

⁸ It has been suggested that assets such as growth stocks increase in value faster than income securities and therefore will, in the long run, produce more income for charity than income securities. Recent stock market history, however, has indicated that all growth stocks do not necessarily increase in value faster than blue-chip income securities. Moreover, even if growth stocks do increase in value faster than income securities, the proceeds which the foundation would receive upon the disposition of growth stocks would usually represent long-term capital gains which could be retained by the foundation under the direct-accumulation proposal. Finally, even if growth stocks do increase in value faster than income securities and the trustees of the foundation distribute the proceeds from the sale of the growth stocks to charity, the benefit to charity could be delayed until some indefinite date in the future when the trustees decided to sell the appreciated growth stock. This indefinite postponement of benefit to charity is inconsistent with the principle that charity should receive some current benefit from gifts made to private nonoperating foundations.