

citizens. In addition to the dialog, there is a large need for further research and study to give us the facts necessary to more clearly define the alternatives before us.

Our present approach to economic security is pluralistic. We have a mixed system of social, employer, and individual efforts and programs. One of the major issues is: How will responsibility for the economic security of the individual be shared by Government, employer, and the individual himself? This and similar issues have serious social, economic, and political implications. The issues must be considered in the light of our national goals of economic growth, full employment, and price stability. Since economic security provisions involve all Americans from the newest baby to the oldest citizen, we must take into account the economic changes that will occur over long periods of time. We need to continue public policy that encourages economic security programs that help in the formation of much needed capital. The manner in which inflation and increased taxes destroy economic security achievements needs to be reviewed. Support is needed for the appropriate use of fiscal and monetary policy that will control inflation which is so destructive of the values of the retirement income received by the elderly.

We need to critically reexamine all of our social insurance and welfare programs to determine whether they can continue to operate efficiently as methods of income redistribution in our new affluent economic environment. Of major importance is the degree of priority we should give to new or enlarged social insurance programs. The share of national income that should be allocated for public assistance and social insurance, and whether to increase or decrease the amount, poses a serious question. We need to list the inadequacies of social insurance in providing for highly individualistic needs; the limitations of private security mechanisms to fulfill the social needs of low income or nonincome groups; and what the public interest requires as a reasonable mix of both public and private approaches. Since these issues are so vital, there is need for restraint on the part of all those who join in the dialog.

Thus far, with our pluralistic approach we have achieved the highest levels of economic security the individual and the family have ever known. Some believe that what has succeeded so well is being threatened. The threat to our uniquely American system comes from the exponents of total security for the individual provided by Government through social insurance based on pay-as-you-go tax redistribution. This Great Welfare Society would offer one layer of protection. There would be no employer provided layer and no individually provided layer. The Government would provide for all the economic hazards faced by the individual. In doing this, taxes on corporations could be so heavy that little in the way of fringe benefits could be offered. Furthermore, withholding taxes would be so heavy on the individual he would tend to consume all take-home pay and have little if anything left for savings.

More social insurance programs and more Federal control of corporate and individual efforts to provide economic security could deprive us of the economic growth we need and undermine our capacity to sustain and improve our present corporate and individual economic