

The other jobs ranged from bank tellers and motor vehicle operators to beauticians, school aides and watchmen.

Earned salaries went as high as \$126 a week, but 80 percent of the jobs were in the \$50 to \$90 a week range. Eighty-five percent of the jobs were full time, 25 percent of the workers had had no previous work experience, and 15 percent had been unemployed for five years or more; one client for 20 years.

Our experience with this program shows several things: (1) that with proper incentives, persons will seek and hold employment without being forced to do so by such punitive instruments as the WINS program in the 1967 Social Security Amendments; (2) that recipients of public assistance are, indeed, available for employment if conscientious provisions for the day care of children and the training of employees are made.

We are now entering negotiations with the State and Federal governments to continue this program as an exception to the 1967 amendment provisions, and will make every effort to preserve it with its present level of incentive.

Because of the scarcity of research funds—a chronic illness of the welfare program—we are only now receiving funds to conduct the kind of long-term evaluation of the incentive program that is so needed for guidance in moving the program in new directions. The research will follow incentive-budgeted families for a period of years, to measure the effect of employment on their lives and to identify the kinds of families that can most benefit from such a program. Only with this information can we design future programs to aid specifically at those persons who can best be helped.

A fourth important change in the public assistance system—and I am ranking these points not necessarily in order of importance—would be the radical simplification of the application process and the determination of eligibility, leading to the use of certified applications without investigation and to the complete separation of income maintenance functions and the provision of social services.

In this area, we have made some progress with the institution of a "Declaration Demonstration" in two of New York City's 37 welfare centers on an experimental basis. In line with the trend expressed in the Medicaid and Food Stamp legislation—and in instructions to states from HEW—the statements of the applicant are treated as the primary source of information. Instead of subjecting each applicant to a lengthy, cumbersome investigation of every statement he makes about his current need and past history, we ask each applicant to fill out a Declaration of Need himself.

If this Declaration shows him to be eligible for public assistance, his case is opened immediately and service begins. A 10 percent random sample was taken of the 11,947 new cases and the 18,155 recertified cases in the two centers during the first year of the experiment (April 3, 1967 through April 27, 1968). These sample cases were subjected to the traditional investigation to determine whether there was any variation in eligibility.¹

Preliminary results suggest that a valid decision about eligibility can be made at the time of intake, without a home visit or further verification.

I am sure that Commissioner Jack R. Goldberg, who is now directly responsible for the City's welfare program, will be happy to make the final research results available to the committee when they are published next month. The preliminary review, which includes an analysis of 885 randomly selected new cases and 1,450 recertifications, shows the following:

2.7 percent of the sampled new cases (24 cases) and .7 percent of the recertifications (10 cases) were found to be ineligible by the traditional investigation of the sample. A combination of these two categories of cases shows an overall 1.45 percent rate of ineligibility.

The only figure that can be used for comparison, although not strictly comparable, is the 1.7 percent ineligibility rate found by the State in its most recent quality control study of New York City's entire new caseload and recertifications. The State does not calculate these figures separately.

The nation-wide rate of ineligibility is estimated at between 3 and 4 percent. The rate of ineligibility found in an early analysis of the City's declaration experiment, therefore, is .25 percent lower than that found by the State in a City-wide study covering the 9 months prior to the beginning of the experiment, and 1.5 to 2.5 percent lower than the nationwide average.

¹ The research is being conducted by contract with the City University of New York.