

First, abolish the present Federal categorical assistance programs, and replace them with one public assistance program, with need as the sole eligibility requirement.

This would simplify the job of the caseworker who now struggles with a variety of categorical eligibility requirements. It would eliminate the general assistance program, in which there is no Federal participation, and which includes all of those needy people who do not fit one of the categories. These general assistance programs are notoriously restrictive and underfinanced, and compel their recipients to exist at a level considerably below that of the categorical recipient.

Second, abolish all residence requirements. This should be done on a nationwide basis, and should be made a requirement in every State as a condition to receiving Federal aid. Residence requirements are antiquated and totally unrealistic in the light of the present mobility of our population. Arguments about which State or county or municipality is responsible for a particular applicant for assistance have consumed millions of hours of casework time, and have resulted in deprivation and hardship for many needy families who have been the victims of their own mobility.

It should be noted that there is no residence requirement in the medicaid program—title XIX—and this is rapidly becoming the largest category of all. It should also be noted that several Federal courts have held that residence requirements are unconstitutional; and there is every reason to expect that these rulings will be upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in the near future.

Third, have the Federal agency establish for each State a minimum standard of public assistance payments. This standard may vary as between States. This has been suggested by the preceding speakers. I would subscribe to the same arguments they gave as to the reason for this.

No State would be permitted to provide assistance below that standard, either in the form of a total grant or as a supplement to the income of the particular recipient when his income is below that level.

Fourth, instead of sharing with the States in the payment of assistance grants, the Federal Government should pay the grants in full.

If the Federal Government is setting the standard in each State, and meeting the total cost, there would be no excuse for any State to pay less than the minimum standard.

I do not know what the total cost in Federal dollars would be under such a plan, but certainly it should be less than the cost of financing a guaranteed minimum-income plan, whether through a negative income tax or some other means. And whatever the cost, I feel that in good conscience the people of this country can no longer countenance a system that compels millions of their fellow citizens to exist at a substandard level.

While I am suggesting that the assistance grants be paid entirely from Federal funds, I would recommend that the cost of administering the public assistance program continue to be shared between the Federal Government and the States. This would include not only the administration of the aid payments, but also the provision of social services.

The fifth and last suggestion along this line is one that Mr. Ginsberg dwelt on at some length. That is making the application for, and