

The systems approach to poverty and public welfare should be explored, and there should be more solid research, more family planning information, more day-care facilities, and better incentives to work.

In May 1968 the committee on economic development met in New York City and, with many of these same delegates to Arden House present and many other national leaders, discussed the committee's recommendations.

Following the Arden House conference, the State board of social welfare conducted seven regional hearings throughout the State to seek grassroots opinions on poverty and welfare problems. Hundreds of citizens attended these conferences, and many of them testified.

It has been repeatedly suggested that the public welfare system in the United States is inadequate. Such criticisms are valid only if the system is to be judged by whether it has eradicated all the root causes of welfare and dependency. It has not done so. We still have poverty in America. We still have poor education, poor housing, poor health, racial discrimination, unemployment, underemployment, technological displacement, and all the other causes of dependency.

But the welfare system was not intended to solve these problems. It was intended to alleviate the gross effects of poverty—to prevent people from going hungry, from being ill-clothed, from being without shelter. In New York State the system has done this and more—it has provided, to a certain extent, the social services which have helped many of the poor achieve self-support and self-care and have strengthened family life.

I would like to make sure that you understand that in New York State we do have aid for the unemployed parent, and that it is not necessary for a person to desert his family in our State in order to get help. Further, we do not have a residence requirement. We are one of the few States that do not have such a requirement, and we are pleased to see that the courts are taking action to correct this inequity around the country.

In New York State the basic standard of public assistance—which is, in very real terms, a guaranteed income, because again, if a person does not earn sufficient to support himself by full-time employment in our State, we will supplement those earnings to bring them up to the welfare standards. In this case, it is \$3,650 a year for a family of four. That is assuming an average rental payment of \$80 per month for such a family. As Commissioner Ginsberg has pointed out, this will vary on an "as paid" basis, not only in the city of New York but in the State of New York. This exceeds the commonly accepted national level of poverty, and this State pays the highest grant in the Nation for aid to dependent children—over \$60 per month per child.

Having said this, the State board of social welfare recognizes that a number of improvements should be made promptly in the conduct of the present welfare system.

Here is a summary of measures which the New York State Board of Social Welfare has recommended to Governor Rockefeller.

(See volume II; apps. 2 and 3.)

Large-scale experimentation should be launched to determine whether it is possible to eliminate most of the investigation process now required in public assistance programs, and to replace the present system with a certified application form, subject to spot checks, as in the income tax procedure.