

As I mentioned before, under title V, we had people that the employment service would not deal with at all. These people had no work records or had terrible work records and they did not feel that this was the sort of person that they should handle and bother employers with. But during this whole process, I would say their attitude has changed remarkably in the last 4 years.

Representative GRIFFITHS. I regret to tell you, Mr. Hursh, that the testimony before the Ways and Means Committee is that it has not changed at all. We not only had an Under Secretary in, we brought in the men running these offices in State after State. The answer to the question I asked you was that they give it to the man who is not drawing welfare because the other one is drawing welfare.

Now, if this is going to work in State after State, we are never going to solve this problem. And it is working in State after State. That is the testimony we had before Ways and Means on this exact question.

Mr. HURSH. Madam Chairman, I agree with you. As I said, at the time MDTA started, I recall a conference I had with our employment commissioner. That was his whole point, that people on welfare normally had poor employment records, and they had a poor chance of meeting the employer's expectations; therefore, why should he refer them? I pointed out that I thought it was the whole purpose of this program to take care of these people. If it did not reduce the relief rolls, what was welfare all about?

Representative GRIFFITHS. One of the real answers is that they are on relief rolls because they had a poorer chance, period.

Mr. Rumsfeld?

Representative RUMSFELD. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I certainly want to thank you gentlemen for your contribution, and I agree with the chairwoman's comment at the beginning of the session that certainly it is one of the important functions of Congress, specifically of this committee, to initiate discussion and dialog on what is one of the important questions before our country today. It is our hope that we can, through our discussions with gentlemen such as you, analyze the problem and, to the extent we are able, determine how the existing system is working, the ways it is working well, and the ways it is not working so well, and then help to shape some recommendations for improvements. Certainly, there is no question but that we cannot continue to permit the waste of human resources with the inevitable results that are now so obvious to all of us as far as the effects on our society are concerned.

I want to congratulate Mr. Carter for the comment he made, where he suggests that there needs to be full and open debate. With all respect to our chairman, I must say that I am not a member of the Ways and Means Committee, and I strongly disapprove of the procedure in the Congress of the United States by which the Ways and Means Committee functions generally under a closed rule on the floor of the House of Representatives, with the result that the Members of the Congress do not have an opportunity to amend, but simply face a take-it-or-leave-it proposition, with respect to the bills of that committee. As a result, of the 435 Members, there are only a handful who have really any voice at all in the shaping of legislative solutions to a very important and difficult area.