

Mr. GINSBERG. That is right, and some of them just to see another urban community. You would not change that completely.

But I think it is equally true, Madam Chairman, that some people come because they simply cannot survive on the present economic or financial help that they get under the public welfare system in certain States. On them it would have some effect, but I think we would kid ourselves to think that any one step is going to change that pattern completely. It will not.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Would anyone else like to comment?

Mr. WYMAN. I concur 100 percent.

Representative GRIFFITHS. May I ask you, if you are to give money from social security to the blind, I believe, and other groups, do you propose that those payments be financed as social security is financed, via a payroll tax?

Mr. GINSBERG. I would add to that revenue from general taxes. I think that would be required for this system. I think as time goes on, and as we are reaching where we apparently are now, that everybody comes under social security, the need for that would be less and less. I think it would be dishonest to say we could do that simply for them. There would have to be supplementation under general taxes; that precedent has been established and I have never found anything wrong with it.

Representative GRIFFITHS. The truth is if you are going to finance it out of the payroll tax, you are taxing the poor to pay the poor.

Mr. HURSH. I would agree with Mr. Ginsberg except on the point I mentioned earlier of the compulsory health insurance. I think this should be a payroll tax. You can see what is happening in title 19—the medicaid bill. This is going to be an astronomical figure eventually, and I cannot see the logic of paying this out of tax revenues.

Representative GRIFFITHS. May I ask, if you are going to finance it out of the payroll tax, suppose you just release the top level on the payroll; you tax the total payroll, no matter what the man makes; you tax him a high percentage against what he makes.

Would you do that?

Mr. HURSH. I do not think so.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Why not?

Mr. HURSH. I do not feel competent to get into that discussion. I do not know the actuarial situation. How this is determined I am not competent to say. But whatever is required—I do not care what the percentage is—the tax should be whatever is needed to finance the program for adequate social security after retirement age, plus adequate health insurance at any age.

Representative GRIFFITHS. In the beginning, when \$3,000 was selected as the base of the amount that would be taxed, that covered 97 percent of the people. In the training program so far, what percentage of the people who have been retrained have been from the welfare rolls as opposed to other people?

Mr. GINSBERG. We would have some figures on New York City. We have established as a city policy—quite clearly, the mayor has enunciated, and the rest of us—that the welfare clients get the first priority. We have found that an easier principle to express than to carry out. It has varied with us from some programs where there are 95 to 98 percent of the people on welfare. But I think it would