

MDTA

During calendar year 1966, 1,595 public assistance recipients were enrolled in MDTA institutional training courses.

From January 1, 1964 through February 28, 1967, there were 39,072 MDTA trainees of which only 10.8% or 4,219 were public assistance recipients.

Data for calendar year 1967 is not yet available. It was expected that public assistance recipients would occupy 14% of the slots.

Community Action Program (Title II of EOA)

It is estimated that during early 1968, 600 upstate and 3,000 New York City public assistance recipients were receiving training.

I hope this information will be of assistance to you and the Committee.

Representative GRIFFITHS. But the whole problem in the whole re-training program, it seems to me, is that in some instances we are training people who could well afford to pay for the training themselves and leaving out the people who need it most.

I would like to say a few kind words on behalf of the Ways and Means Committee.

The truth is that the Ways and Means Committee discovered that the States were not doing much of anything to help people on welfare. That is really why the freeze was put on for ADC mothers. At last, they said, you either have to do something or we are not going to participate. This is really what this says.

Now that freeze is going to be delayed. Nevertheless, either the States—and I am not talking of your two States; maybe your two States have done a good job—but the States have the administration of these programs. They must perform. They must help the people who need the help the most. In my opinion, they just have not helped those people effectively; they have not reached down to reach those people and to assist them in getting better jobs and in helping them in other fashions. After all, I think that is the intent of the program.

I would like to thank each of you for appearing here today. I think you have indeed helped us. In my judgment, and I have looked at the welfare system pretty closely—I sit on a committee that does something about it—I think almost anything we can do is going to be an improvement of the welfare system. It simply could not be worse. I do not see how you people who have had the responsibility for doing the job have been able to do as well as you have with the tools we have given you.

Without objection we will include a statement by Representative Bennett of Florida at this point in the record.

STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES E. BENNETT, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Mr. BENNETT. Madam Chairman, I deeply appreciate this opportunity to make this statement to the committee hearing testimony on proposed income-maintenance programs. I congratulate the committee on holding these hearings into a very important problem facing our domestic life today.

Much study and research needs to be made into the various proposals for new forms of income maintenance such as the negative income tax, social dividends, and family allowances. The present welfare system in many aspects needs a drastic overhaul.

I believe a tax reduction to a bare minimum to individuals with low incomes as a substitute for Federal doles and subsidies is a needed