

INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1968

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISCAL POLICY
OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,
Washington, D.C.

The Subcommittee on Fiscal Policy met, pursuant to call, at 10:05 a.m., in room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Martha W. Griffiths (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Griffiths, Bolling, and Rumsfeld.

Also present: John R. Stark, executive director; James W. Knowles, director of research; and Nelson D. McClung, economic consultant.

Representative GRIFFITHS. The subcommittee will come to order.

Professor Cloward, we certainly appreciate your being here this morning. We find that the other witnesses are having trouble reaching here. We would like you to begin.

STATEMENT OF PROF. RICHARD A. CLOWARD, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Mr. CLOWARD. Madam Chairman, I have come to make what I think is a somewhat different criticism of the public welfare system in America than is usually heard.

Most critics of public welfare focus on the low levels of benefits, as well they might. The average family of four under the aid to dependent children category receives approximately \$1,800 per annum in this Nation, ranging from a low of about \$400 in Mississippi to a high of about \$2,700 in northern States such as New York and New Jersey.

Critics also point to the myriad statutes and policies which legally keep hundreds of thousands of the poorest families in America from receiving any benefits at all. A prime example is the durational residence law—on the books in 40 States—though I am happy to say that these laws are being successfully challenged in the Federal courts. These laws prevent aid from being given to such categories as migratory workers who are periodically stranded without funds in a State far from home, or to the masses of southern sharecroppers and tenant farmers who are being driven into northern States by the inexorable march of agricultural mechanization.

There are many other examples of statutes which have the consequence of excluding from any aid whatsoever substantial portions of our population. In addition to the residence laws, one thinks of various relative responsibility provisions, man-in-the-house rules, and substitute-father laws.