

Representative GRIFFITHS. People in the audience are customarily given it afterward.

Mr. WILEY. We did not plan to read this into the record. We planned to submit it along with the supporting documents.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Without objection, the testimony will be printed in the record.

Mr. WILEY. The supporting documents that are with it, we feel, are quite important and basic to the factual case that we wanted to present.

(See volume II; app. 6 for documents mentioned.)

The National Welfare Rights Organization is an organization of welfare recipients and other poor people that has been developing over the last couple of years. It now has a membership which encompasses more than 30 States and 60 cities. Our national representatives appreciate the opportunity to bring the views that have been developed through this people's organization to the attention of this committee, and we appreciate the fact that the committee has been willing to hear from welfare recipients and from their organization.

Representative GRIFFITHS. You are more than welcome.

Mr. WILEY. Let me say simply that the basic issue for welfare recipients and the overriding issue for welfare recipients and poor people is for money, for income, and for income at an adequate level. There has been no significant demand or no significant interest in our organization, as the goals have developed from the recipients, for services. The interest in services is very, very secondary. The basic issue for welfare recipients is getting enough money to support their families. The present system simply does not allow enough money to support their families. Furthermore, it has investigative procedures and harassment, violation of constitutional rights, violation of their own laws and regulations which make it very difficult for recipients and other poor people to get the benefits that are afforded even by this system, which is inadequate.

We estimate, in support of the information presented by Professor Cloward, that there are probably at least as many people who are eligible for assistance and receive no assistance at all in the cities and in the North, South, East, West, everywhere we have looked into this problem, we have found the same pattern, that people are arbitrarily illegally denied even this meager benefit that welfare affords. The benefits that are afforded are totally inadequate. We find that people consistently do not get all of the things they are entitled to under the regulations. They cannot find out what they are entitled to. In most places, the practices and the policies that govern are arbitrary, are capricious. There is no fixed set of regulations that are easily accessible. In fact, no State, to my knowledge, has presented a simplified set of regulations that is widely distributed to recipients or potential recipients so that people can know what their rights are.

There can be no justice in a system that does not even tell people what they are entitled to or what avenues there are for redress of grievances. Fundamentally, unless the country comes to grips with the basic issue that they are prepared to give at least a minimum decent income to every citizen who is in need, we are always going to have a system that is plagued with these kinds of problems.

Again, as Professor Cloward has pointed out, there are different attitudes toward subsidies for the rich or for the middle class or for the