

Representative GRIFFITHS. To your knowledge, do you know anybody that the welfare department ever got a job for?

Mrs. SANDERS. I do not know anybody.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Do you know anybody on welfare who was ever contacted by the Labor Department?

Mrs. SANDERS. No.

Mr. WILEY. Mrs. Griffiths, may I turn that around a minute?

Representative GRIFFITHS. Yes.

Mr. WILEY. I have some figures from Miss Orshansky's study of poverty which show that of the female-headed family, 69 percent in 1966 were not in the labor force. Our feeling is that a good number, in fact the vast majority, of the welfare recipients and many of the other people who need income support legitimately should not be in the labor force because they have other important responsibilities at home, to take care of their families. And in some cases, they are disabled or aged, and what not.

It is an important question for many people, that they find jobs. But the important thing is that the men, that the people who are able to be heads of households or ought to be legitimate heads of households be the ones that get those jobs.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Let me ask you one other question. In the State of New York a family can draw ADC with the father at home?

Mr. WILEY. Yes.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Now, I regret to say, Mr. Wiley, you are speaking to the most dedicated feminist we have in Congress. I want to point out to you what I think the welfare program does.

In the first place, we discovered in Ways and Means that the welfare department and the Labor Department were not really attempting to find jobs for people on welfare at all, that if they had their choice between a person who was on welfare and a person who was just out of a job and both were equally qualified, they would simply put on the people who were just out of a job. If you are going to do it this way, you are going to have forever in this country a group of people who are on welfare. Maybe that is all right for the country, but it is not all right for the people on welfare. Those people have a right to participate in the economy of this country. They have just as much right to have a job as anybody else has.

You say that this work incentive program be used to force mothers to work. Well, they will have a choice as to which mothers work and which do not. But if you do not say anything about mothers working, then they are going to see to it that none work. They are not going to be given any chance to work. And in my opinion, this is wrong.

After we went through all of this in the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Cohen called me and told me that they were quite surprised. They had run a survey in New York City and they had discovered that 70 percent of the women drawing welfare in New York City who had families, 70 percent of them wanted to work if they had a place to put their children.

And I said to him, well, Mr. Cohen, the other 30 percent did not understand the question or they would have wanted to work, too. Who would not prefer to have a job?