

gap more rapidly than we have been, but which would also improve real opportunities confronting the young people in our poverty population.

Thank you.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Thank you very much.

Mr. Levine?

STATEMENT OF ROBERT A. LEVINE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH, PLANS, PROGRAMS, AND EVALUATION, OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Mr. LEVINE. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I also have supplied the committee with a written statement I should like to have in the record.

Representative GRIFFITHS. It will be placed in the record following your oral presentation.

Mr. LEVINE. First, I would like to make clear these are my personal views and do not represent the views of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

I would like to start, Madam Chairman, by discussing the role of income maintenance in the OEO program planning structure because the OEO is charged with seeking solutions to problems in this area, whether or not these solutions be within the OEO program as such.

In looking at the problem of the war on poverty, we divide our programs into four major categories. The first of these is manpower and job training programs. The second is individual improvement programs, primarily education; third are community change programs such as those in the community action area. Fourth is income maintenance.

I bring this up now because there frequently are heard statements by academic or other people that the strategy of the war on poverty should be an income maintenance strategy *or* a jobs strategy *or* a community institution-changing strategy. To my mind, this is an incorrect approach.

The strategy of the war on poverty has to draw from all of these sorts of programs. Each of the categories of programs supports the other categories.

For example, the OEO program as such is an economic opportunity program, and economic opportunity in our economy is opportunity to get and hold a gainful or meaningful job. But one reason why so many of the poor do not have such jobs is the poor education they have been subjected to and thus the education programs support the job programs. Similarly, the job programs support the education programs in supplying motivation for better education.

The community action sort of programs, by trying to change environment and adjust institutions, support the rest.

In this set of categories, income maintenance, I think, plays a crucial role for two reasons. Somewhere between one-third and one-half of the poor are in families where economic opportunity has no great meaning for this current generation. These include families headed by aged persons, some of the families headed by women—there is no