

Kerner Commission in its report urged the title term "income supplements." It is in connection with that term that I would talk about a special program for the working poor and that it should be thought of as income supplementary, with a very minimum amount of disincentive for people to continue work and increase their productivity via retraining and skill improvement.

I agree that the words "negative income tax" is not a happy term.

Representative GRIFFITHS. I would like to say that I think almost anything we can do will be an improvement on the present welfare system—almost anything. The thing that the general public does not really realize is that we have built into this system real disincentives for work and that we are treating very unfairly a large group of people in this country, that we are not really giving them an opportunity. So I hope that we do come up with a program which gives them that opportunity and gives them a chance without, I trust, consigning to a permanent status some people on welfare.

Now, I feel that when you design a program that leaves out of it the women with children, you are aiding in making a permanent group of people who are going to draw welfare. And I think they have just as much right as anybody else to have a chance to work. I think you would probably discover that, in many cases, they are much more willing to work and would respond much better.

Once again, I want to thank you very much, all of you, for being here. You have been most cooperative and most kind. This meeting is adjourned until tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

(Whereupon, at 11:50, the committee recessed until 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 19, in room S-407, the Capitol.)