

INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1968

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

The subcommittee met, pursuant to recess, at 10 a.m., in room S-407, the Capitol, Hon. Martha W. Griffiths (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Griffiths, Rumsfeld, and Senator Proxmire.

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. Despite the fact that Mr. Rossi has not yet arrived, we will begin.

I want to thank each of you for being here. Would you care to start, Mr. Miller?

STATEMENT OF S. M. MILLER, PROGRAM ADVISER IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, FORD FOUNDATION; PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AND SOCIOLOGY, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Mr. MILLER. Thank you.

I want to start by saying I speak for myself and not for any of the organizations with which I have been connected.

There has been a good deal of technical discussion about the variety of ways of reforming income maintenance in the United States. I am not a technician, and there seem to be some important and obvious truths which do not often get the focus of attention that they should. I do not want to focus on the question of which reform is preferable to another. I think that the discussions before the committee will eventually help us in that direction. But I think we should look at this in the perspective of what has been happening in the 1960's, when this Nation has been moving toward reforms to help the poor, no longer counting on the general economic expansion of the economy to solve the problems of poverty in the United States, recognizing that general economic expansion is important but not enough by itself to reduce poverty at a very rapid rate. As a consequence of this effort, we have developed the war on poverty.

But the enabling legislation was deficient in two crucial respects. In one respect, it lacked a strong job component, in another respect, it lacked an income program. I think in the late 1960's, we are beginning to rectify the limitations of the original war on poverty. We are now talking about job programs in more practical ways than before,