pass on this program, we instituted a series of regional seminars at which this proposal was outlined and discussed.

This program for income assurance which was adopted at our 1967 Delegate Assembly is as follows:

(1) Expansion of the general economy and of public service employment is required since work will continue to constitute the major source of income for most American families in the foreseeable future. Adequate minimum wage legislation should provide a floor for all earnings.

COMMENT

We supported in 1967 extension and improvements in the Fair Labor Standards Act and are now supporting the Clark Emergency and Training Act of 1968 and the O'Hara Guaranteed Employment Act.

(2) Improvement and expansion of the social insurances—old age, survivors', disability and health insurance and unemployment and workmen's compensation—in order to help make the fullest possible contribution to filling the gap that now exists between income from work and decent income for all citizens. Such expansion should include more complete coverage, a substantial increase in benefits, extension of medical care to all, and, with respect to unemployment compensation, in addition the application of Federal standards and the lengthening of the period in which payments are made.

COMMENT

We support increasing social security benefits by 50%, to be financed by raising the wage base substantially and from the general revenues to cover the cost of prior service credits. Further, we support extension of contributory health insurance to the total population.

(3) An expanded and improved system for raising to an adequate income level those persons not in the labor force or those whose work experience is so insubstantial as not to enable them to qualify for adequate social insurance benefits. The two most promising approaches to this objective are the following:

(a) A federally administered universal benefit system, possibly using the income tax mechanism, under which all persons would receive payments designed to lift the income of all those below the poverty line to an adequate level.

(b) Children's or family allowances and allowances for the aged to an adequate level of income and based solely on such criteria as age, family status, and the like.

COMMENT

There is a substantial difference of opinion in our membership with respect to the negative income tax or family allowance approach. The Association, however, reserves its position as to the choice of programs which seem to have the best chance of being adopted in the reasonably near future, in order to make contribution toward the objective of a guaranteed minimum income for all.

(4) A reformed and reorganized public assistance program that would provide a Federal guarantee so that no person's income would fall below a minimum standard of adequacy and be based on financial needs as the only criterion for eligibility. Such criterion would eliminate, among other matters, residence, relatives' responsibility, except spouse for spouse and parent for dependent child, and the categories of assistance. Administered under considerations that would protect the individual's dignity, privacy, and constitutional rights, this program would serve as a significant interim measure until other programs could be developed and also as the ultimate guarantor that no one because of socioeconomic reasons or the lacks and deficiencies in other income provision arrangements shall be without a decent level of income.

COMMENT

The 1967 Public Welfare Amendments, particularly the AFDC freeze and the discriminatory requirement for work and training for mothers, demonstrated to us again that the means test approach in public assistance "does violence to basic human values."

In our judgment, current efforts to separate services from the determination of income eligibility, substituting declarations for case by case investigation are forward steps, which we want incorporated in the assistance program of the future. However, we would see such a program as much diminished in size,