

The last point I would like to make is the summary statement of the policy of the National Council of Churches. We read the literature for about 2 years and we discover that no ethical criteria had been established in the literature for adjudging income maintenance programs, and so these six were developed by the research committee:

First, such transfer programs should be available as a matter of right, with need as the sole criterion of eligibility; (2) it should be adequate to maintain health and human decency; (3) it should be administered so as to adjust benefits to changes in cost of living; (4) it should be developed in a manner which will respect the freedom of persons to manage their own lives, increase their power to choose their own careers, and enable them to participate in meeting personal and community needs; (5) it should be designed to afford incentive to productive activity, and should be designed (6) in such a way that existing socially desirable programs and values are conserved and enhanced.

Thank you very much.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Tyson follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LUTHER TYSON

GUARANTEED INCOME

The National Council of Churches is grateful for the interest of this committee in the subject of guaranteed income, and wishes to congratulate the committee on its forward looking approach to one of the fundamental aspects of the problem of poverty in our nation—the issue of income maintenance.

We note with interest that no less than four presidential commissions dealing with related subjects during the past two years have presented recommendations looking in the direction of some form of guaranteed income.

The Commission on Technology, Automation and Economic Progress, reporting in February, 1966, said:

"We feel strongly, however, that a better integrated and more comprehensive system of social insurance and income maintenance is both necessary and feasible at this stage of our history . . . The Commission recommends also that Congress go beyond a reform of the present (welfare) system and examine wholly new approaches to the problem of income maintenance. In particular, we suggest that Congress give serious study to a 'minimum income allowance' or 'negative income tax' program. Such a program, if found feasible, should be designed to approach by stages the goal of eliminating the need for means test public assistance programs by providing a floor of adequate minimum income."

In June of 1966, the Advisory Council on Public Welfare stated:

"For the nation as a whole, a floor under income constitutes a clear declaration of conscience and of practical intention to eliminate poverty . . . the greatest potential for strengthening income maintenance for the poor is through immediate improvement of the social insurance and public assistance program."

The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended in February, 1967, that:

"Efforts, both public and private, should be intensified to reduce unemployment and devise methods of providing minimum family income."

Most recently, in March, 1968, the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders asserted that:

"Our longer range strategy . . . is the development of a national system of income supplementation to provide a basic floor of economic and social security for all Americans."

The views of the National Council of Churches on this subject are contained in a basic policy statement on "Guaranteed Income" adopted by its General Board on February 22, 1968. That policy statement forms the basis for this statement. A full text of the policy statement together with a staff paper is attached.

The key sentence in the policy statement affirms that "*the National Council of Churches endorses the concept and desirability of a guaranteed income.*" We