INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 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 and Rumsfeld, and Senators Proxmire and Percy.

Also present: John R. Stark, executive director; James W. Knowles, director of research, and Nelson D. McClung, economic consultant.

Representative GRIFFITHS. In view of the fact that the House convenes this morning at 11, and I understand Dr. Burns, that you are obliged to leave early, may I ask you to begin with your statement?

STATEMENT OF EVELINE BURNS, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Mrs. BURNS. Thank you Mrs. Griffiths. Perhaps I should begin by identifying myself for the record.

My name is Eveline Burns, I am professor emeritus at the School of Social Work at Columbia University, but I am appearing today in behalf of the Citizens' Committee For Children of New York, of which I am a member and which I think you know, Madam Chairman, is very much concerned about the welfare of children.

I must also apologize for the fact I do not have a written statement, because the appearances were arranged rather too late.

The citizens' committee, as you might know, is interested in children. We started off by being interested in all kinds of services for children, and the further we went in our efforts, the more devastating to childhood did we realize that poverty can be. Therefore we have been increasingly concerned about childhood poverty.

We note, for example, that in 1965, one-sixth of all the Nation's children under 18 fell below the current accepted poverty level. This means a total of 12.5 million children in all. And you will recall this poverty level is one which roughly can be described as saying it allows for an expenditure of about 75 cents a day per head for food.

Another 6.6 million children are barely above that line. We noted, as we looked at the different programs and their impact on children, that children are at a disadvantage in our income maintenance programs. They are at a disadvantage in a number of social insurance programs; more particularly, for example, the child in even a moderate