

we want to do something about poverty, but we are not prepared to spend any money on it.

I would like, if I may, Madam Chairman, to rest the general analysis this way, and you probably will want to ask me something about bits of it later on.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Thank you very much, Mrs. Burns. Mr. Dumpson?

STATEMENT OF JAMES R. DUMPSON, DEAN, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Mr. DUMPSON. Madam Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am James R. Dumpson, dean of the School of Social Service of Fordham University and former commissioner of welfare of the city of New York. While I intend to be brief, let me thank you and the committee for this opportunity to share with you our views on this one aspect of economic security. In my judgment, there is no issue of domestic social policy more urgent at this time than the reform of income transfer programs. Dr. Burns and I appear before you jointly on behalf of the Citizens' Committee for Children of New York and my statement should be read together with hers. Representing a group of active and interested citizens, lay and professional, who are dedicated to the welfare of all children, we have seriously considered the question of strategies for income maintenance.

We are convinced that programs in health, education, housing, and social services generally cannot succeed unless we attend to the problem of family and child poverty that grips millions of Americans. We also feel very strongly that children's allowances are a much undervalued option for dealing with this problem and not sufficiently considered in the United States. We are determined that people understand this alternative. We are convinced that given such understanding children's allowances will rank high among the programs to be enacted once we are prepared as a nation to implement our oft-stated national commitment to the importance of the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all of our children.

You have heard earlier in these hearings from former Assistant Secretary Lisle Carter who has spelled out a rationale for children's allowances. Professor Morgan of the University of Michigan has told you of Dr. Brazer's approach to a recoupment scheme which Dr. Burns just referred to which could make children's allowances economically viable.

I should like to speak from my special vantage point of a former commissioner of welfare for the city of New York. For 7 years, as head of the largest welfare department in the country, I carried responsibility for the welfare of thousands of children living in temporary care arrangements, or in permanent arrangements which were never meant to be permanent, as well as for thousands of other children living with one or two parents on inadequate incomes, I have developed considerable conviction about what must be done and I should like to share my views with you very briefly.

Very simply, something must be done to break the cycle of dependency, deprivation and poverty. We will never achieve this aim with