

troubles is that now we have defined the kind of families for whom we accept responsibility and we begin to discover to our horror that the broken family is indeed a major cause of poverty which we have hitherto rather neglected.

The children's allowance is indeed one way of helping to meet this problem. It does not entirely resolve it, because after all, the children's allowance does not give a payment to the mother; it gives a payment to the child, in respect of the children.

So I think this disturbing state of affairs—we will put it this way—the apparent growth of this type of family is something that goes way beyond whether or not you have children's allowances or whether or not you have aid to families with dependent children, except for the fact that once you have these programs, for the first time, society realizes how many cases of this kind there are.

Representative GRIFFITHS. I would like to ask both you and Mr. Dumpson to respond to the question. In one of the columns this morning, there were suggestions that the best way to handle this problem of welfare would be to send the money back to the States and let them handle the projects. Would you agree that this is the way to do it or not?

Mr. DUMPSON. Certainly, Madam Chairman, I would not. I would be violently opposed to that. I think, as Congressman Ryan has pointed out, dependency in this country is a national problem. The States are not equipped to think in terms of national problems. Rather, they think in terms, understanding, of needs, conditions, and priorities for the State. One need only look at the great variance in public assistance benefits in the States that are not attributed to variations in cost of living. I could identify for you certain rather disturbing incidents that have happened in individual States based on State policies that do not recognize the mobility of the American population, which is a requirement of our economy, or national goals and priorities insofar as human need and human resources are concerned. If we think in terms of national interests and the rights that accrue from national citizenship we had better not leave to the States the definition of welfare standards or the monitoring of those standards.

Representative GRIFFITHS. As a matter of fact, we are holding these hearings because, for all practical purposes, the States have broken down. They are the administrators of welfare, and they have done a very poor job.

Mr. DUMPSON. I could not agree with you more, Madam Chairman. That is why I am interested, as far as children are concerned, in looking at a national program that centers responsibility at the Federal Government level and that looks at children as children of the American society rather than children of the individual 50 States.

Representative GRIFFITHS. We have had one complaint that the poor are never told what they are entitled to, and since you ran the welfare department in New York City, why do you not tell them. I think they are entitled to know.

Mr. DUMPSON. I think they are entitled to know, Madam Chairman, and I think if there is anything that the Welfare Rights Groups have contributed to the administration of public welfare, I think they have taught us as public welfare administrators, that we have not done our job properly, that we have not informed them of their