

Senator PROXMIRE. I do not think they have, either, but I wonder if you want to divorce them?

Representative RYAN. I think Commissioner Dumpson's statement sort of hit at that. I would say the income maintenance benefits ought to be provided on a criterion of need as a matter of right. Clearly, in our society, we can going to provide more and more social services, and we should, whether they are health services such as we are developing on a community basis, or whether they are social services that are provided through housing programs. But once a social worker becomes involved in the question of income, what allowances are going to be paid, for instance, under the present system, whether or not there are going to be allowances for clothing for school or Easter outfits, or whatever the issue may be, then that is an invasion of the personal privacy of the individual and reflects on his dignity. So I would think it is an advantage to keep them separate.

Senator PROXMIRE. But I wonder if you want a divorce or a marriage counselor. What I am saying is here perhaps you want to find some way in which you can harmonize what the social workers can do in a constructive and positive way to offer advice and help to people who may or may not want to take it.

Representative RYAN. I think you can.

Senator PROXMIRE. At least it will be available to them. If you had been elected mayor of New York when you ran in the last election—

Representative RYAN. Perhaps I am fortunate.

Senator PROXMIRE. Perhaps so. You are a good Democrat and they elected a good Republican, so it is unfortunate. But supposing at that time, or shortly after you had been elected, we had enacted something of this sort on a more substantial basis. And supposing under these circumstances, you, being faced with a problem of holding down your budget, were challenged by your city council, who would tell you, well, your social workers, how important are they now? We have an income supplement system, these people have an income; we have to keep our budget down as stringently as possible, we will just have to economize here if we are going to keep our taxes within reason. Would you not feel a vulnerable position if you are going to preserve the constructive operation by social workers?

Representative RYAN. I do not really think so. I think in the first place, under this program, the city of New York would save half a billion dollars which would be available for other needed services.

Secondly, I would advocate a real extension of neighborhood social services in terms of health services, mental health clinics, and services and counseling available through our public housing, urban renewal, and neighborhood conservation programs.

Senator PROXMIRE. I am sure you would advocate that. I just wonder how powerful that would be, how strong it would be to continue that program.

Representative RYAN. I have no doubt that this could be put into effect and continued. One of the problems with the current welfare program is that so much of the time of the trained social worker is not really spent at all in counseling or in helping the families, but is spent in the redtape of administering the program.

Commissioner Dumpson can go into that from a great deal more experience than I can. But my experience with so many social workers in