

You get the impression from some people that large numbers of people are poor because they just do not want to work, they are lazy. Now, by your standards, how would you divide up this 25 million people?

Mr. HICKS. I have no way of saying, sir, and for this reason we did not approach this whole question from a statistical point of view, simply because we did not have the kind of statistics available to us on which to do it, No. 1, and No. 2, we do not feel that that is necessarily significant.

We have, in fact, even accepted the proposed cost figures of the proponents of guaranteed annual income as being valid. We have not attempted to say that these are wrong or right or anything else. We have just accepted them for that reason.

Senator PERCY. Would you have a feeling that a very large number of people are impoverished because of their own laziness or disinclination to work, wanting to ride on the back of someone else if they can get a free ride?

Mr. HICKS. Yes, sir; I would.

Senator PERCY. Would you say it constitutes half or 25 percent of the impoverished in this country? Is it significant or is it insignificant?

Mr. HICKS. I would say of the impoverished people I know, it constitutes better than one-half.

Senator PERCY. Do you know many poor people?

Mr. HICKS. Yes, sir; I do.

Senator PERCY. Do you think they would be representative?

Mr. HICKS. I am not sure. That, I have no way of knowing.

Senator PERCY. Mr. Dumpson, you have spent your life in this field. What proportion of the poor that you have worked with—and you have worked with a vast cross section—do you feel are impoverished because they are lazy?

Mr. DUMPSON. Mr. Senator, I would hate to put a percentage to it. But I would say it would be less than 1 percent. Let me give you the warrant for even that estimate. If one takes the public-assistance population of the United States, that represents only one-third of the poor people within this 30 or 35 million that I have talked about; the figures verified by public welfare departments throughout the country indicate that roughly 94 percent of those receiving public assistance are children under the age of 18, the adults caring for those children, the blind, the crippled, and the aged.

Now, if I translate that same formula to what I know most intimately, New York City's public welfare system, that 94 percent in the categories holds. Then one asks, What about the 6 percent? Are those willing to work, the lazy and so forth?

My answer is "No" because half of that, 3 percent, are working full time and receiving supplementation to low income. That brings us to 3 percent.

Of that 3 percent, in a study that we did in my own department back in the early 1960's, we found that that 3 percent so-called employable, able bodied if you will, had more than two disabilities to employment. They were functional illiterates or had been in prison and were rejected because of a prison record or they had been involved with alcoholism or narcotic addiction, or one or more of the other social disabilities that rule them out of the potential labor market. So I come back to less than 1 percent of those who are poor who I think Mr. Hicks