

Senator PERCY. Well, more children?

Mr. HICKS. More children; yes, sir. I do think there is a great political danger in such a program in that there are many, many people who are very concerned about population explosion in this world who might wonder if it is the proper thing to do to put a premium on childbearing. I do not know, but, as I say, our board has not expressed itself.

Senator PERCY. I might have misunderstood you, then. I thought you had said that one of your objections to ADC is that it gives an incentive to illegitimacy rather than discourages it.

Mr. HICKS. Yes, sir, ADC does. But I am saying that the child support program as proposed here this morning, as far as I can see, would not encourage illegitimacy any more than it would encourage the having of legitimate children, in other words.

Senator PERCY. Mr. Dumpson, I think you and I would agree that there are many things wrong with ADC. I think it has much area of improvement that needs to be worked on. But I wonder if you could comment from your own vast experience whether or not illegitimacy is really created as a result of our welfare system. Do women really have more babies in order to get more money? Do they really feel this incentive system that is presumed to have been established in welfare is adequate incentive to have families of 8, 9, 10, 11 children?

Mr. DUMPSON. Senator Percy, when I wanted to be very flippant in dealing with this canard as Commissioner of Welfare, I used to say it seemed to me people had forgotten some very basic lessons in biology when they equate the conception of a child with a desire for additional income under the dehumanizing conditions that the policies and administration of public assistance require in many localities. I do not believe that there is any relationship between our ADC program and the increase in out-of-wedlock births.

I would like to point out that by count four-fifths of all of the children born out of wedlock are not on the ADC program. The increase in out-of-wedlock births parallels the increase in out-of-wedlock birth for those not on ADC. But when one looks at the public assistance levels, the payment levels, just out of sheer commonsense, it seems ludicrous to me to think that a woman would be willing to conceive a child for something like \$2 or \$3 more a month and to go through the kind of intrusion into her privacy for the rest of the minority of that child just because she wanted to get \$2 or \$3 more a month by the addition of a child.

I am convinced out my own experience, to say nothing of statistics, that there is no relationship between the ADC program and the increase in out-of-wedlock births. That is not to say that I do not deplore the increase in out-of-wedlock births, whether it is on ADC or off ADC.

Mr. HICKS. May I comment on that?

Senator PERCY. Yes, sir.

Mr. HICKS. There may be a misunderstanding of what I understand to be the basic conception of ADC in this area. It is not that I would contend that a person would purposely have an illegitimate child as an income-producing mechanism. This, as you point out, is ridiculous. It is just that the having of children, to a person who has no income, should be discouraged. Now, if a person feels that a child can be sup-