

We favor the ardent pursuit of an equitable guaranteed income program. We favor the abolition of the kind of power over other human beings which our present welfare system requires. We recognize that this will lead to profound changes but we believe that these changes are essential if we are to live in the world we are creating for ourselves. We need to examine our present systems, applying the above criteria, and develop a plan for eliminating the terrible scandal of poverty.

Let us not, therefore, allow the debate on the guaranteed income to bog down in technicalities. Let us try to help the society gain an understanding that new methods of distributing resources are the precondition for the new social structure which we so urgently need.

Let us reaffirm the policy of the United States, as stated in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, and "* * * eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty, by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to live in decency and dignity."

Thank you.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Thank you very much, Mr. Hayes.

Senator PROXMIRE, would you care to inquire?

Senator PROXMIRE. Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman.

Mr. Hayes, you take a position that a guaranteed income should be provided for all Americans who are unable to work or unable to find work, I think is the way you put it. Have you made any estimate of the cost of this program?

Mr. HAYES. No; I really have not.

Senator PROXMIRE. The net cost. Obviously, if the benefit actually paid under this program were a billion, you would perhaps be able to eliminate some programs which we have now which would be unnecessary if people received this basic payment. But you have made no estimate of your own?

Mr. HAYES. I really have not. I have read a number of statements and I have to rely on the economists.

Senator PROXMIRE. Well, of the estimates you have read about, do you have any notion—any "ballpark" estimate—of what this cost might be?

Mr. HAYES. No; I do not.

Would you, Monsignor Corcoran?

Monsignor CORCORAN. No; I suppose it would depend upon the type of plan. As I recall, they vary anywhere from about a net of \$8 billion to a net of \$38 billion. Depending on which plan you would undertake.

Senator PROXMIRE. The Tobin proposal went from about \$7 billion to \$49 billion. But even the \$49 billion program was not a program that would cover everything. It would cover the kind of necessary payments to people who are poor that we would probably have to have. It would not eliminate, for example, social security, although all of us feel it should not be eliminated; it is something people paid for and they are getting.

Although the cost is \$50 billion or more, you would agree, would you not, you and Monsignor Corcoran, that if you have a program for as little as \$7 or \$8 billion, obviously, you would have to be paying people, say, \$400 a year, which is what one Tobin proposal started