

even minimum needs established by the states themselves. On other instances, states continue payments after the specific needs have actually disappeared or are within the ability of the individual to make them disappear. Rehabilitative social services are the essence of good welfare programs. The purpose of welfare is to provide income during the period a person is getting onto his own feet again, or getting onto his feet in the first instance.

Our public assistance programs also bypass many of the poor. The federal government today shares the cost of aid to the blind, aged, permanently disabled, and families with dependent children. Persons not fitting neatly into one of these categories are dependent on state and local general assistance. In 1968, such general assistance provided an average of \$10 per week in support of about 795,000 persons with payments ranging as low as \$.90 per week in Arkansas. These figures are from the Voluntary Report to the Assistance Payment Administration of Social and Rehabilitation Service, Department of HEW, March, 1968).

In 1964, such general assistance provided an average of \$7 per week in support for about 800,000 persons. I can see no justification either for providing assistance by categories or for the federal government participating in one group over another. The problems of determining eligibility for a particular category of assistance is costly in terms of funds and precious professional time which could be better spent in improving social services. I would favor abolishing all categories of assistance and providing aid on the basis of demonstrated and specific need to the unemployed or underemployed poor whose income falls below the minimum standards established by the state itself, geared to programs designed wherever possible to getting them onto or back onto their own feet.

Rehabilitation—our second goal—involves making an all-out effort to make productive and self-sustaining citizens out of all those unable to find or keep a job. This means that everyone of labor force age who is on public welfare—a money income to which our laws give them a right—should have a responsibility under these same laws in return for this right. This responsibility is to take any necessary training or basic education needed to equip themselves to be self-supporting. In order to provide a positive incentive to train or work, I would reduce public assistance benefits substantially less than the added income arising from wages or the training allowance.

The importance of education is illustrated with respect to the aid to dependent children program. The higher the educational attainment of the mother, the less the period of dependence on public assistance. I think this points to another area where rehabilitative services could be critical in getting families off the relief rolls and into the ranks of job holders.

Mothers on aid to dependent children should be encouraged to take basic education and training in job skills. This requires that they receive training allowances and access to day-care facilities for the children. Not only would such centers free the mothers for education and training, but they could provide a creative and enriching experience for the children themselves.

The gloomy predictions about the job-destroying effects of cybernation are unjustifiable. Much of the work of society is not being done today. I think our rehabilitative programs should strive to get these jobs done through working with the job-creation process of private enterprise, even to the extent of providing incentives if this proves to be necessary.

Reforestation, stream clearance, urban beautification, slum cleanups, various educational work-study jobs and even simple maintenance jobs in public buildings are examples of the kind of interim work that could be usefully done by the unskilled and poorly trained. These tasks could be undertaken by private firms under contract to the government with a guarantee that at least the minimum wage would be paid. Not only would this get needed work done, but it would give the former welfare recipient personal satisfaction plus skills and work attitudes that would stand him in good stead in his future employment.

Obviously this covers only a part of the rehabilitative action that is needed. A wide range of social services is needed, and to a large degree is presently available, to advise the poor on legal problems, family budgeting, simple health care, and the like. We should also remember the physically and mentally handicapped and their potentials. After all, a human brain with an IQ of 60 is still a much more versatile and usable thinking apparatus than the computer. Although the handicapped pose special problems, rehabilitation is possible in most cases and, in some ways, simpler than for those who suffer serious cultural and educational handicaps. They pose special problems but in most cases rehabilitation is possible and, in some ways, simpler than for those who suffer serious cultural