

Senator PROXMIRE. I am talking about the fact that there is an imposition of moral determination, one way or another, by the person who administers our welfare program or provides charity.

Representative CURTIS. You say power. Let me say this: If welfare is used properly to get people on their economic feet, and I would argue our private charities largely have that approach, you will find in their files letters of thanks and appreciation that will go on for 20 and 30 years, because they have helped people in need to get on their economic feet. You do not have this kind of "Lady Bountiful" picture, which I think is a rotten concept of charity in the first place. You do not have this business of power over people, as you do in public housing in St. Louis, Mo., where the ward boss ran the public housing unit, and people had to vote a certain way—yes, you can get that kind of power tied in with charity to the political structure pretty easily.

Maybe it has existed in certain private charities. It probably does, and I want to see this kind of criticism. Let us have a study of this. Let us not make assumptions about these kinds of things.

Yes, we do need to study private charity, but I would overall give a pretty good upcheck to our private charitable organizations, the ones I have seen. I have worked with many. I was on the board of a number in St. Louis for many, many years.

Senator PROXMIRE. I would like to ask Monsignor Corcoran and Mr. Hayes to comment, in view of your statement.

Monsignor CORCORAN. I have understood your question a little differently. In our statement, the power we were speaking of was not that—we were not applying that to the private sector of social service agencies. It was primarily to the public sector, where there is a tremendous, either real or imagined, effect on the client, a fear that they have. This would be the primary thought.

I do not think that this idea of a guaranteed minimum income would harm private philanthropy. I think that it would release it for many other areas of need. I think that there is another factor in here, which we touched upon in the paper which is important. I refer to providing in the social service area, to a person the ability to determine where he is going to get the service, as well as the kind and the quality of service. Mr. Rumsfeld was referring to this.

I think that there would be the use, for instance, of private social service agencies by people who needed social services if they had the money, some guarantee, even, which would enable them to do so.

This is just a very thumbnail sketch of a very broad idea.

But I think there are several relationships to the whole private sector that are interwoven in this total picture.

Representative GRIFFITHS. I regret I have to leave now and without objection, I would like to include the statement of the National Association of Manufacturers in our appendix along with the other fine papers we have received for inclusion in the record.

(See volume II, appendix 12.)

Representative GRIFFITHS. Do you have other questions?

Senator PROXMIRE. I would like to follow it up just very briefly.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Please do. If I may, I would like to be excused now.

I want to thank each of you for being here. Thank you very much for your contribution.