

So I am not influenced any more by those who put up the argument of the pitiful position of a lot of these people, because God knows—I know it—I am more concerned about sitting down and doing the homework necessary to be sure that, when we arrive at solutions, we come out with the right ones. And I do not think this kind of business of running to the Federal Government on the assumption that you want to do good and pass another law with a label—we have programs falling all over each other—is going to do it.

I just plead, if I may do so—get the demagoguery out of this area and maybe we can restructure these programs with more intelligence. Even with the best thoughts in the world, we are not going to come out with correct solutions without proper study. We are not going to solve it in your and my lifetime, but we could move it forward.

Senator PROXMIRE. Moving it forward is what we want to do.

Representative CURTIS. But we are moving these things backward.

Senator PROXMIRE. Here we are at close to the end of this session. We know perfectly well we are not going to get anything out this year. So it is not a matter of acting in haste.

Representative CURTIS. We sure have acted in haste.

Senator PROXMIRE. We are not going to now. We are not going to pass any guaranteed income plan this session.

Representative CURTIS. If you build up enough PR out there in the public, you can force this through.

Senator PROXMIRE. I think it is significant that the people favor the Government as an employer of last resort. Overwhelmingly, the people are for this.

Representative CURTIS. I do not think the people know the facts of life, because Congress has not done its homework.

Senator PROXMIRE. I am not sure Tom Curtis does not favor such a program—not a guaranteed income plan but an opportunity for people to work.

What I get out of your paper is that you favor opportunity, you say that over and over again.

Representative CURTIS. That is a label. I have to back my label up to be sure the product is sound. I am not one to say that just because I have a fancy label that my product is sound. I only ask others to have their product match up with their label. We have not been doing this.

Senator PROXMIRE. In 1933, the administration came to power and within about 30 or 60 days, they tremendously revolutionized governmental operations and governmental attitudes and wrote a tremendous series of laws. That was impulsive, they made a lot of mistakes, but many people felt that the Nation moved forward. We are not asking anything like that. We are not going to act this month, next month, or the month after; we are not going to act in 1968, and we know it. We cannot.

However, we do have time, it seems to me, to take these hearings and have other hearings and sometime next year, hopefully, develop a program that will provide the kind of opportunity that you say you want, that will go a long way toward meeting what I think Monsignor Corcoran and Mr. Hayes have asked for, and offer an opportunity to really make inroads on poverty.

We are in a position to do it now.