

The Conference was held at Arden House on November 2-3, 1967. All costs relating to it were met by contributions from private foundations. No public funds were, or have been, used for either pre- or post-Conference activities. After 24 hours of plenary sessions and workshops, during which discussion was lively, informative, and the proposals made impressively varied, it became obvious that it would be difficult to arrive at any valid consensus without much further analysis of the comments made and the points of view expressed.

The Governor, therefore, asked 12 of the participants to serve as an ad hoc steering committee to review the data emanating from the Conference, as well as the information which preceded the meeting, and to make, if possible, some specific recommendations which could be conveyed to the group as a whole.

Initially, no firm time limit was set for the activities of the Committee, although the Governor asked its members to agree to serve for at least three and possibly up to four months.

Two subsequent developments have helped set a limit upon the Committee's activities:

1. President Johnson, on January 3, 1968, appointed a Commission on Income Maintenance with a specific charge to examine all possible forms of income maintenance proposals as one possible approach to the public welfare problem. The Ad Hoc Steering Committee welcomed this appointment because its own thinking was tending to move in the direction of recommending further study of income maintenance proposals, and it could turn over to the new Committee, headed by Ben W. Heineman of Chicago, its own findings and recommendations.
2. The Committee for Economic Development planned to devote its Public Policy Forum in May, 1968, to a discussion of public welfare, with the report of this Steering Committee as its agenda. It proposed the entire group which met at Arden House be reconvened and be joined by a large group of CED trustees and other business leaders. This would enable the Arden House discussion to continue under the auspices of a respected, viable organization whose membership comprised substantially the same kind of business leadership as was represented at Arden House.

In accepting the CED proposal, therefore, the responsibility of the Steering Committee will officially end with the submission of its report to that combined Arden House/CED meeting.

This report essentially reflects the views of the Steering Committee and is not binding upon anyone else. An effort has been made, however, to reflect the thinking of the Arden House conferees, and the Committee believes this report is an accurate reflection, noting, of course, that individual conferees may not fully subscribe to all of its conclusion and recommendations.

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