

highlights

1. The present system of public assistance does not work well. It covers only 8-million of the 30-million Americans living in poverty. It is demeaning, inefficient, inadequate, and has so many disincentives built into it that it encourages continued dependency.
2. It should be replaced with an income maintenance system, possibly a negative income tax, which would bring all 30-million Americans up to at least the official Federal poverty line. Such a system should contain strong incentives to work, try to contain regional cost of living differentials, and be administered by the Internal Revenue Service to provide greater administrative efficiency and effectiveness than now exists.
3. A system of uniform national standards for public welfare should be established to provide a Federal floor below which no state would be permitted to fall and no person would be expected to live.
4. Much more effective and intensive family planning information should be made available to all families on public assistance.
5. A systems approach to poverty and public welfare is worth exploring to see if it might yield some data or show some relationships which are not now known.
6. Solid research is virtually unknown in public welfare. Less than 1/10 of 1% of welfare funds are spent for that purpose. Rarely has so costly a program operated with so little knowledge. More research is urged in all aspects of the public assistance and public welfare programs.
7. Until a new system of income maintenance, after thorough study, is adopted, the present welfare system needs drastic and immediate reform. Among the major changes urged are:
 - a) The aged, blind and disabled, who constitute one-third the public assistance roll, should be transferred to Social Security.
 - b) The "man in the house" rule, still in effect in 28 States and the district of Columbia, should be abolished because it destroys family stability, encourages deceit and deception, costs more money to enforce than it is worth.
 - c) Incentives to work should be liberalized, and all possible steps, including "transition" allowances, should be taken to encourage the move from welfare to work.
 - d) A large expansion of day care facilities is vital to enable welfare mothers with pre-school aged children to work, if they can. These programs should be educational, as well as custodial.