

Regardless of tested knowledge, the future course of welfare programs will be influenced by some of the following values:

- The extent to which people with jobs will be willing to sacrifice income—either through higher taxes or lower pay increments—so that assistance payments may be higher.
- The extent to which people with jobs will be willing to grant equal rights to people on welfare.
- The prevailing views as to the responsibilities which the community could demand from those who are supported by public funds.
- Society's tolerance of abuse and incentive.
- The strength of the feeling of national unity both geographically and among ethnic groups.
- The extent to which social and economic developments create a need for social services.
- The extent to which the public develops an intelligent and informed interest in policy formation.

Brief summaries of some of the other material sent in advance of the Conference follow:

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PUBLIC WELFARE

—The Council, a twelve-man group, appointed under a Congressional directive to review the administration of Federal public assistance and child welfare programs, after hearing testimony from experts representing the views of welfare, health, civic, education, labor and business organizations, recommended sweeping reforms in public and child welfare, including a “revolutionary reversal of roles” in the pattern of Federal and State financing of such projects.

After setting forth the major problems existing under present welfare programs, the Advisory Council recommended the following:

- That the Federal Government set a minimum standard for welfare payments below which no state may fall and below which no family would be required to live. The Federal Government would assume the full financial responsibility between the state's share and the total cost of the program.
- A nationwide comprehensive program of public assistance based upon a single criterion: need.
- Extension of coverage and liberalization of benefits under the social insurance program.
- Strengthening and extension of social services.
- Legal representation for all who wish it, including payment of necessary costs and an independent appeal system.
- A positive program for informing recipients and applicants of their rights.
- Expansion by the Welfare Administration of recruitment, education and training for welfare personnel, including pre-professional, professional and advanced social work and education.