(2) Trained totally unskilled people, more quickly and more successfully than has been done through standard vocational training programs, and provided these people with the exact know-how needed to take over and handle a job the very first day of employment;

(3) Motivated the aimless and the hopeless by helping them to become somebody with a sense of purpose and achievement, a feeling of responsibility, a new, important status in the family—by teaching them how to earn a paycheck;

(4) Demonstrated how even individuals with police records could be put to work, with their employers experiencing less pilferage than employers of workers without criminal records; and

(5) Trained and placed Negroes and other minority group members in jobs in various industries and businesses.

Individuals with health-disabilities would, of course, receive whatever medical care and other services might be required to restore their health and employability or otherwise benefit them.

Other individuals and families—those without income because of age, chronic illness, or other conditions that clearly preclude employment—would be given income maintenance grants and whatever social or other services they might require.

All persons over 65 years of age, all totally and permanently disabled persons, and all blind individuals now on the public welfare rolls would be transferred to the social security rolls—some 3 million needy citizens who surely should be in that program and not on public relief.

The tired, old cliche objections to such a transfer no longer obtain. Here's why:

(1) The Federal Government now pays almost two-thirds of all welfare costs for these 3 million individuals. Why not provide those funds through the social insurance system instead of a second system and a second overhead—welfare—especially in hundreds of thousands of cases in which too-low insurance benefits must be supplemented by welfare payments? And even a third system and a third overhead where such cases involve hundreds of local welfare departments as well?

(2) Another fiction that helps to block needed simplification and improvement in the insurance-welfare systems is the notion that the social insurance program is founded upon an inflexible inviolable actuarial system and that contributors must get only the exact benefits that their contributions make actuarially possible. To give them any more, regardless of their actual need, would introduce a welfare concept into the insurance system, and this must not be done, according to this reasoning. Everybody knows, however, that social insurance policies and benefits have been changed several times to help meet more of the financial needs of various groups of insurance beneficiaries—without regard to their contributions or the duration of their coverage in the system. Indeed, social security has become something of a welfare program for 23 million citizens, all of whom are subject to a means test through the earned-income limitations and earnings test.

(3) Furthermore, the myth that benefits can only be wage related and that beneficiaries must have been prior contributors to the system was exploded by the Congress, itself, when it authorized general tax revenues to be used to pay certain benefits and to match premium payments for Supplemental Medical Insurance benefits. These changes were made in 1965 and the Social Security system has been improved thereby.

(4) Another alternative would be for states to pay the Social Security system the amounts the aged, blind, the disabled now receive in welfare payments. These sums could be added to their individual Social Security benefit checks and be sent as a single combined amount to the needy persons. The advantages of this proposal are simplification, a single benefit payment, and elimination of duplication.

(5) Finally, a social insurance system that cannot provide benefits for over 9 million certified destitute men, women, and children in the world's richest society needs some overhauling to bring it into line with United States 1968.

Surely the American people would support transfer of these unfortunate citizens to the social insurance rolls as the soundest, most practical, and most indicated start for an income maintenance, or guaranteed annual income, plan.