

adequacy of public assistance as a mass income maintenance program. Despite the centrality of this issue, many of the proposals suggested for replacing public assistance, negative income tax and children's allowances, for example, will not, in the form presently proposed, abolish and in some cases not substantially diminish the need for public assistance programs. Yet, few defenders of public assistance would argue that it would serve as an adequate mass income maintenance program in its present form.

Declaration offers a possible productive route out of this impasse. The necessity for large scale service programs will continue. Mixing those programs with financial assistance in a punitive social control framework aborts the promise of services and makes income maintenance a socially divisive function. Therefore, separation of services from assistance and introduction of Declaration is of value whether public assistance is continued or some alternative is adopted. In all of these proposals, Declaration stands as a central technique for removing the most abusive aspects of the means test.

It is possible to see two versions of a future public welfare program. Separation of services from assistance and the introduction of more objective eligibility determination and grant provision allow the continuation of a public assistance income maintenance program of the type envisioned by the Advisory Council. In that system there would be a federally supported universal floor of public assistance under the auspices of the currently existing state agencies. Conversely, if this role or some substantial portion of it is picked up by a negative income tax or large grant, children's allowance program, it would still be possible to maintain the current public assistance structure as a nationwide service provision mechanism.

So, experiments with self-declaration and separation of services offer us in addition to their immediate benefits, a glimpse into a possible social service world of the future.