

AFDC welfare line, Washington, D.C.

The basic welfare grant levels for Aid to Families with Dependent Children for food, clothing, shelter, and personal and household items during 1966 in Washington, D.C.

(Based on the first child being an infant, and each additional child 2 years older than the previous child.) In 1966, Washington, D.C. AFDC welfare grants were typical of the national average.

[1] Social Security Administration poverty indexes for families of 7, 8, 9 and 10 are not available. Calculations for these points based on additions of \$400 per additional person for the Economy Poverty Line and \$450 for the Low Income Poverty Line (both figures smaller than differences between figures for families of 5 and 6).

[2] All figures in monthly graph rounded to the nearest \$5.

[3] All figures in yearly graph rounded to nearest \$100.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE "ECONOMY POVERTY LINE"

When the Federal Government and most people talk about the "poverty line", they usually mean the "Economy Poverty Line".

When the Federal Government and most people talk about "eliminating poverty" they usually mean bringing poor people above the "Economy Poverty Line".

In America today there are 34 million people below the "Economy Poverty Line".

Almost all welfare recipients (over 8 million Americans) are far below the "Economy Poverty Line". The average AFDC family receives about 40% less than their government's own standard for minimum human health and decency. Welfare provides only GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED POVERTY.

MOST IMPORTANT, YOU SHOULD KNOW, EVEN THE "ECONOMY POVERTY LINE" DOES NOT REALLY PROVIDE ENOUGH MONEY FOR HEALTH AND DECENCY

(1) The Economy Poverty Line is based on the U.S. Agriculture Department's ECONOMY FOOD BUDGET—a food budget which does NOT allow people enough food for continued health.

The Agriculture Department itself says that this food budget provides enough food for "ONLY TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY USE".

The Economy Poverty Line does NOT allow for enough food (nutrition) day-in-and-day-out, month-after-month, for people to stay healthy.

(2) The Economy Poverty Line does NOT even allow enough food money for most poor people to buy all of the food in the Economy Food Budget.

In figuring out how much money it would cost for people to buy the food in the Economy Food Budget, the government used conditions that do not apply to most poor people.

In order for someone to stretch their food dollars to get all the food in the Economy Food Budget with the money allowed, they must—

(a) Be able to shop around at several good stores.

(b) Be a very good shopper, and always get the lowest possible prices.

(c) Always buy the very cheapest foods, whether the family likes them or not.

(d) Not buy canned or frozen fruits or vegetables if there are any fresh fruits or vegetables in season.

(f) Buy no "prepared foods (including baked goods)—make everything from "scratch".

(f) Be a very good cook—so the family will eat all of the above food.

(g) Allow no member of the family to eat any meals out, or buy any food besides what is fixed for meal time.

Very few poor people can meet all of these requirements. So they will not have enough money to even buy the inadequate amount of food in the Economy Food Budget.

"SHORT-CHANGING" THE POOR

The FACTS show that the Economy Food Budget allows an Economy Poverty Line family neither enough food nor enough food money to sustain adequate health.

Furthermore, the Economy Poverty Line bases all of its other allowances, for clothing, shelter, etc., on the amount of money it allows for food. Thus an Economy Poverty Line family is equally short-changed on all other items.