constructive occupation to all those who can and should work. We are confident that none of the Federally-created jobs need be make-up jobs because our unmet needs in the public and private sectors are vast enough to absorb beneficially this Federal effort. We have also urged that training programs be synchronized with job creation to insure proper motivation for participation in such training programs and guarantee constructive utilization of the skills so developed. We also urge the enactment of increased unemployment and social security benefits, higher and more inclusive, Federal minimum wage laws to eradicate sub-standard living conditions among the employed, an all-out effort to wipe out city ghettoes and rural slums, and expanded outlays for health services, hospital and school construction, and vocational and other types of education service. We support more vigorous enforcement of present antidiscrimination laws, strengthening of the existing Federal law dealing with employment discrimination, and passage of additional legislation in this area by states and municipalities. It is our firm conviction that these measures will contribue to sustained full employment and reduce the number of persons in need of an income guarantee.

CRITERIA FOR INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

In considering an income maintenance plan for all those who, despite the enactment of the programs urged above, are still in need, the American Jewish Congress urges that such a plan meet the following criteria:

1. Payments should be available to all in need throughout the nation as a matter of right. Need should be objectively and uniformly measured throughout the country in terms of the size and composition of the family unit, its income and other economic resources. Simplified declarations of income or lack thereof should be all that is required, with spot checking used to prevent fraud as is now done under the Federal income tax laws.
2. The plan should be adequate to maintain health and human dignity.
3. The plan should be responsive to cost of living differentials throughout the country and permit adjustments to changes in living costs.
4. The plan should be developed and administered in a manner which will encourage healthy family life, respect privacy and the needs and rights of individuals to manage their own lives so long as they do not infringe upon the rights of others, increase the independence and the individuality of recipients, and enable recipients to participate in community life.
5. The plan should be designed to encourage productive activity on the part of recipients, providing incentives to beneficiaries to take vocational training and accept employment where it is appropriate.
6. Individuals should have a clear right to administrative and judicial review of agency actions withholding assistance.

We are aware that such a system of income guarantees would involve substantially increased Federal expenses. However, we agree wholeheartedly with the conclusion of the Kerner Commission on this subject. ". . . if the deepening cycle of poverty and dependence on welfare can be broken, if the children of the poor can be given the opportunity to scale the wall that now separates them from the rest of the society, the return on this investment will be great indeed" (Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (1968), p. 25).

Adopting some form of guaranteed annual income will not only rescue from poverty those who are not reached by existing programs but also free our present caseworkers from the burdensome case-by-case investigations of eligibility. These investigations are not only onerous, confusing and demeaning for the applicants—the calculation of budget allowances has been known to reach down to the number of razor blades to which a male on welfare is entitled—but interfere with the provision of adequate social services and guidance that people may need almost as much as money. Similarly, the assumption of full Federal financial responsibility to assure a minimum decent standard of subsistence for all Americans based on need will free state funds to finance other necessary programs. Such state funds could be used for improved basic literary and remedial education services, for legal services, adequate day care services for children of poor working mothers or for special care and training at home or in foster homes, or in institutions for the physically and mentally handicapped.

We are convinced that the goal of a guaranteed annual income is worthy of the support and sacrifice of all of us. We are also convinced that it is well within this nation's grasp. We hope the deliberations of this Committee will produce a viable plan for making this goal a reality.