

WORK IS NOT REPLACED

We begin with a set of assumptions that is, in a narrow sense, not income maintenance at all. One assumes that work will constitute the major source of income for American families in the foreseeable future. It has, of course, been argued fluently that computers and automatic equipment are rapidly making man's work obsolete. The evidence does not seem compelling; most recently the National Commission on Technology, Automation, and Economic Progress came to the following conclusion:

There has been some increase in the pace of technological change . . . but there has not been and there is no evidence that

there will be in the decade ahead an acceleration in technological change more rapid than the growth of demand can offset, given adequate public policies.²

Side by side with the economic factor is a psychological one. Americans are greatly devoted to work or at least to a belief in its virtue for one's character and for feelings of personal worth. Because such values have force, it is likely that while work diminishes modestly we shall methodically be inventing an outlook that denies the change and that clothes leisure with the semblance of work. One may take a year off to travel but it will be called a reward for outstanding work or a training period for work that is to come. One may dally in the most pleasant cities of the world but it will certainly be to confer with one's peers or otherwise to improve oneself. One may start work older and retire younger, but patently because the demands of modern work require more education and justify earlier retirement.

For these reasons—both economic and psychological—the writer does not visualize a set of income maintenance programs that widely replace work. We recognize the significance of ready availability of work for those for whom it is appropriate, given the attitudes of the time. Any man struggles with resentment and self-doubt against his neighbors' or his own feeling that he should be working. We cannot provide him with a less-than-adequate income, but a job would be better.³

² *Technology and the American Economy*, report of the National Commission on Technology, Automation, and Economic Progress, Vol. 1 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, February 1966), p. 109. See also Alvin L. Schorr, "The New Radicals: The Triple Revolution," *Book Reviews, Social Work*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (January 1965), pp. 112-114.

³ Here one could discuss the significance of the minimum wage and of publicly provided employment opportunities. They are of course important but for the purposes of this discussion are not regarded as income maintenance.

1937), pp. 3-25; Lord William Beveridge, *Social Insurance and Allied Services* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1942); Eveline M. Burns, *Social Security and Public Policy* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1956); Burns, "Social Security in Evolution: Toward What?" *Social Service Review*, Vol. 39, No. 2 (June 1965), pp. 129-140; Committee on Economic Security, *Report to the President of the Committee on Economic Security* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1935); Paul H. Douglas, *Wages and the Family* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1927); Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962); Christopher Green, "Transfer by Taxation: An Approach to Income Maintenance," unpublished dissertation, Brookings Institution, 1966; Robert J. Lampman, "Negative Rates Income Taxation," paper prepared for the Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D.C., August 1965 (mimeographed); Tony Lynes, "A Policy for Family Incomes," *The Listener*, Vol. 73, No. 1878 (March 25, 1965), pp. 436-437; Alva Myrdal, *Nation and Family* (New York: Harper & Bros., 1941); Lady Juliet Rhys-Williams, *Family Allowances and Social Security, Lady Rhys-Williams' Scheme* (London: Liberal Publications Department, 1944); Alvin L. Schorr, "The Family Cycle and Income Development," *Social Security Bulletin*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (February 1966), pp. 14-25; Schorr, "Program for the Social Orphans," *New York Times Magazine* (March 13, 1966), pp. 32-33, 101-105; James Tobin, "On Improving the Economic Status of the Negro," *Daedalus*, Vol. 94, No. 4 (Fall 1965), pp. 878-898; James C. Vadakin, *Family Allowances* (Oxford, Ohio: University of Miami Press, 1958).