

the ideal, a fair measure of average price stability has been maintained. Established programs, devoted to the well-being of the people, have been greatly expended. Many innovative social programs have been initiated, some of them successfully. The conscience of America has been aroused to the problem of poverty, even though the measures forged to deal with it have thus far been inadequate and disappointing. The responsibility of national fiscal and monetary policies to contribute to economic stability and growth has fortunately become increasingly recognized, even though the equal or even greater responsibility of these and other national policies to improve income distribution and enlarge social justice has been grievously neglected. The level of economic literacy and interest has been greatly elevated, largely through national leadership, and an enlarged consensus on many important matters has been achieved, perhaps enduringly.

But many problems have remained unsolved, some vital problems have been seriously neglected, and economic analysis and policy-making have been guilty of many serious errors of commission and omission.

Minus marks for the "New Economics"

The above critical comments would not seem excessive. Despite policies put forward to achieve stable and optimum economic growth, the real growth rate for the 8-year period as a whole has been somewhat on the low side, the 2-year period 1966-68 averaged a palpably and seriously deficient real rate of economic growth, and the short-term outlook can hardly be called favorable. Meanwhile, instead of seeking to reverse this low-growth-rate trend, policies and exhortations seem directed toward carrying it further. Despite programs and policies put forth to curb inflation and improve the balance-of-payments situation, the 2 most recent years, and especially the past year, have evidenced the highest rate of price inflation since one short period during the Korean war, and the end is not yet. The international financial situation remains parlous, and fundamental remedies have been avoided. Despite the long-avowed promise to get unemployment down to levels consistent with maximum employment, the rate of unemployment among some vulnerable groups remains tragically high, and is contributory to political, civil, and social unrest, notoriously in our urban areas. Despite the promise to move toward a Great Society, which in proper context clearly means a good society, some of the greatest and most pressing priorities of our domestic public needs remain sorely neglected. And there have not thus far emerged, either in the pronouncements of the "new economists" or in the declared intentions of the new administration, any substantial and specific programs and policies offering reasonable prospects of overcoming these manifold difficulties.

Significance of my earlier studies

I approach the task of specifying my reasons for the foregoing conclusions with mixed feelings. On the one hand, I regret that more and better have not been done, and this is my primary sentiment. On the other hand, I feel justified, rather than prideful, in calling to the attention of the Joint Economic Committee and others that, year by year for many years, my presentation of matters to the Joint Economic Committee and to the public at large have identified fairly consistently