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FACTS ABOUT POVERTY and Its Elimination

WHO ARE THE POOR? 30 million Americans whose income is below the poverty index--$3600 annually for an urban family of four.

Children	43%	Adults	27%	Aged	20%	Disabled	10%

20 million whites 10 million people with skin color

15% of whites are poor 50% of non-whites are poor.
(implication: one cause of poverty is racism)

What about the so-called poverty index? The poverty index was developed by the war on poverty program to insure that the poorest of the poor would get its benefits. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has determined that the minimum need for an urban family of four is at least $5500 annually. The BLS figure for San Diego is $6600. These determinations would suggest the number of real poor in America may exceed 60 million.

WHO ARE ON WELFARE? 9.6 million Americans (HEW statistics for March 1969)

children	4.8 million	mothers with preschoolers	1.5 million
disabled	.8 million	mothers of school children	.4 million
aged	2.0 million	employable men	80,000

WHO ARE WORKING POOR? 18.6 million Americans in families where head is non-aged and non-disabled.

45% were in families where head worked fulltime yet still poor
35% were in families where head worked parttime yet still poor

15 million Americans are in families where head works full or part time yet still poor. Implication: Another cause of poverty is our economic system.

WHAT CAN BE DONE? Enact national legislation to provide income supplementation to bring all individuals and families up to poverty index--$3600 per year for family of four.

WHAT WOULD THIS COST? In order to eliminate absolute poverty $27 billion would have to be transferred to those below the so-called poverty line through an income supplement program. This money would be poured back into the economy as the poor would buy goods and services. The economy would be stimulated, employment would increase and business would pay more taxes.

WHAT WILL IT COST IF WE DON'T ELIMINATE POVERTY? Billions for increased feeding, housing and health services for the indigent. Billions for increased welfare and its related bureaucracies. Millions to fight increased crime. A welfare mother gets $40 per month to care for her teenager. If he gets caught stealing something he needs and she cannot afford, it costs taxpayers $23 for each day he is in Juvenile Hall and $10,000 annually if he ends up in California Youth Authority. It is not possible to estimate the cost in loss of human resources among the 30-60 million Americans kept at subsistence levels.

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WHAT ABOUT THE WELFARE SYSTEM? The present dehumanizing welfare system would be eliminated along with many other bureaucracies which deal with poverty in bits and pieces such as rent supplements, food stamps, commodity food distribution, child feeding, leased housing, social services thus saving millions of dollars.

WHAT ABOUT STATE AND LOCAL FUNDS FOR WELFARE? Funds now being used by state and local governments to support the welfare system and other poverty related programs would be available for other uses.

WHERE WILL THE MONEY COME FROM? From the same federal sources that fund the present welfare system and other inadequate and wasteful programs that fail to deal with poverty. From the same federal sources that subsidize Senator Eastland who got $117,000 for not raising cotton and other "poor" farmers like the two in the San Joachin Valley of California who each got $3,000,000.00 last year in farm subsidies.
--from the same source that grants the richest people in the country (mineral and oil interests) 27½% depletion allowances (tax ememptions), making it possible for Atlantic Refining to escape paying federal taxes last year.
--from the same source that subsidizes the airlines.
--from the same source that funded a torpedo contract for $680 million but will have to pay $4 billion---and funded 38 weapon systems for $40 billion but will now cost $63 billion (an overage almost equal to the amount required to eliminate poverty).
--from the same source that has committed us to build an ABM system at a cost of $4 million...$10 million...$40 million, who knows?
--from the same source that spends $30 billion fighting an undeclared war on our brothers in Southeast Asia.

Eliminating poverty is not a matter of increased taxes, but rather a matter of shifting our national priorities from destruction to caring for humanity as proposed by those who wrote our national constitution.

ARE WE READY? A recent Harris poll reported that 51% of those asked favored a guaranteed income for a family of four at $3000. YES WE ARE READY.

What Can Be Done? Write members of the Senate Finance Committee. Urge them to Mark-up the Harris bill S 3433 and reject the Nixon Welfare proposal HR 16311. Members include: Russell Long, Herman Talmadge, Eugene McCarthy, Albert Gore, Clinton Anderson, Vance Hartke, J.W. Fulbright, Abraham Ribicoff, Harry Byrd jr., John Williams, Wallace Bennett, Carl Curtis, Jack Miller, Len jordan, Paul Fannin, Clifford Hansen. Address: Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510.

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