

varying types of assistance. Frequently the amount of money allotted to dependent children is proportionately much less than that for other programs. General relief is certainly much less adequately provided for than the special forms of assistance. In Maryland, I am glad to say, we have state funds available for aid to dependent children equal in amount to that which we provide for the aged. I do not believe we can allow our sympathies for one special group to lead us into the error of providing adequately for one at the expense of another. It is one of the most difficult things for the citizens of this Country to understand—especially when they see a concrete instance where living side by side is one aged individual who received \$20 per month, whereas in the same block lives a family with four or five children, where the grant is no more than that and often times even less.

And this leads me directly to the second part of my discussion today—that having to do with unmet needs. I regard as one of the outstanding needs today the inadequate provision made for general relief. For some reason the public still thinks of the individuals who are receiving general relief as a large body of able-bodied unemployed who are living on the so-called “dole”. In Maryland we find this is not true. A recent study of the general relief rolls revealed the fact that by far the greatest proportion of recipients of general relief are individuals who are incapacitated, or families who have no able-bodied wage-earner. We found a great preponderance of persons in middle age who were bed-ridden, or if not actually bed-ridden, at least too handicapped to be employed. We found that general relief was an essential supplement to a work program for the unemployed, chiefly to take care of cases of temporary illness, and periods of waiting for assignment.

Furthermore, it must be emphasized at this point, that in addition to the unemployables on relief, there are also many able-bodied persons receiving assistance through local and state funds. The Federal Government established the WPA presumably on the theory that it would take care of *all* needy employables. Actually the WPA has never taken care of all the needy able-bodied unemployed, and the states have been compelled to assume this additional burden. Due in large measure to this WPA deficiency in many states, the relief problem both of the needy employables and the unemployables, has become so great that Federal funds are badly needed to avoid genuine and wide-spread suffering.

Many feel that until the Federal Government shares in the cost of general relief we shall continue to have this uncovered area. They argue that there is no less reason why the Federal Government should share in this type of public assistance than in others. As has been pointed out frequently, one reason for Federal participation in assistance is to make available its greater taxing powers. Another is that the causes of unemployment are nationwide in their origin and often the poorest areas are least able to bear the cost. Moreover, the Federal Government has placed itself on record as taking care of the needs of the unemployed. This responsibility should extend to the needs of those awaiting assignment, those too far from projects to be assigned, those who lose wages through illness. There is a widespread feeling that the states should assume an active role in urging such Federal grants-in-aid.

Another aspect of this general situation, the existence of which indicates that the present program is not adequate and effective, is that presented by