March 2, 1955

Comments on H.R. 3293—A Bill to Amend the Public Assistance Provisions of the Social Security Act

In general, I think this bill would make possible a great advance in the administration of public assistance, particularly through providing funds for medical care on a better basis than heretofore and for services to families and children including rehabilitation service. The most serious problem presented by the bill is in relation to the self care and self support provisions of the section on aid to dependent children.

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12 Insert after "well-being" the words "of individuals and". The purpose of this amendment is to make it clear that the primary concern is individual well-being. The phrase "well-being of the Nation" by itself seems too much like the concept of a nation as held by totalitarian states.

14 Insert a comma after "independence" and insert "and fulfillment of home responsibilities". The purpose of this phrase is to emphasize the home making responsibilities of adults in A.D.C. cases.

7 Why is the formula of 50 percent matching introduced here and in other parts of the bill? The variable grant formula is preferable. This comment applies to many other sections of the bill.

9 The phrase "or any other type of remedial care," is very broad and may need to be considered from the point of view of the possible limitations or definitions that should be introduced.

25 How are the figures of $3.00 and $6.00 arrived at?

15 The phrase "maximum utilization of other agencies providing similar or related services," which appears here and in the other sections of the bill including the A.D.C. section, would leave the way wide open to the purchase of casework service from voluntary agencies. This presents a very serious question of public policy which needs to be considered in relation to policies regarding federal aid to education, health and other purposes. We suggest omission of "maximum," and substitution of "appropriate," and insertion of "public" before ". . . agencies providing . . . ."

11 Strike out the comma after "assistance" and insert the words "and promote individual well-being." This is in harmony with the projected amendment to the A.D.C. sections of the bill.

25 Insert the same clause after the words "old-age assistance".
After "self-care" insert the phrase "taking into consideration home responsibilities and the needs of the children for parental care and supervision,". This is the most important amendment and is absolutely necessary to safeguard mothers being forced into the labor market when they are needed for the care of their children at home.

Omit phrase "and by helping the children develop their future capacity for self-support or self-care," and substitute "by helping children overcome handicaps or disabilities."

Insert after "children" the words "and promote individual well-being."

Insert after "self-care" the words "taking into consideration home responsibilities and the needs of the children for parental care and supervision,"

See comment on "maximum utilization" made in relation to another section.

Strike out the comma after "children" and insert "and promote the maintenance of family life and individual well-being,"

The same amendments suggested for the Old-Age Assistance provisions are also suggested for the Aid to the Blind and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled sections.