

**(SHRIVER, from page 11)**

equipping them to get jobs in regular lines of work, not just new lines.

If there is a substantial recession—or depression—this affects a lot more than the success or failure of the war against poverty. As a consequence I'd say that the war against poverty, like everything else, is dependent upon a healthy American economy.

**Improving the Minimum Wage**

Q. At \$1.25 to \$1.75 an hour nobody really moves out of poverty. How does this go to the question as to whether we should raise the minimum wage?

A. Let me say this: People in the group we are dealing with have a median income of \$1,800 a year. And if we are able to take all those fellows and put them on a \$1.25 wage five days a week for 52 weeks, they would be so substantially improved that it would be a great boost for them, irrespective of whether they technically be deemed to have emerged from poverty.

Q. There is a long range question which concerns a great many: How do the poor go about acquiring the social and economic mobility, regardless of race, religion or national origin, which is apparently going to be necessary if they are going to move into the mainstream of American life?

A. Well, my own belief is that these problems have got to be solved by American society if we are going to have "the Great Society." Economic and social mobility, I think, are the most characteristic aspects of American democracy. If there is anything that has made this country a success . . . it is because we have devised for the great mass of Americans exactly those two things.

Q. What are we doing about it is the next question. First of all, we have to start at Position One, which is to get people equipped intellectually and socially so they can have the fundamentals necessary for mobility. What does that mean? It means education. It means housing. It means medical care. It means a lot of other things—and that is what we are doing.

Q. One of the things that turned up in connection with Head Start, the pre-school training program for poor children, aged 4-6, especially in Chicago, is that a number of the children—maybe as high as 20 per cent—had diseases or other troubles—ringworm, anemia, malnutrition, lung ailments. When Chicago examined adults for a job training program, they found a surprising number of physical ailments. Now it is one thing to examine these people and discover they need

help, another to do something about it. Where are the doctors to come from, the hospital beds and who is going to pay the bills?

A. You have asked a question about one of the toughest

problems facing American life.

I am extremely pleased that President Johnson's administration finally got through the Congress in the last session a big bill to provide federal money to enlarge medical education in the United States. We are producing too few doctors.

However, that is only part of the problem. In our program we are producing health aides. They are people who can go out and lead people to clinics as a method of bringing health services to people . . . I think the question of how this is to be financed is one of the biggest problems facing America, but medicare has shown that certain types of assistance can be given to older people without disrupting either our economy or our philosophy of government.

Let me say this: I think one of the benefits of the war against poverty is that we have uncovered some of these conditions.

**Justice for the Poor**

Q. Another question which has arisen is whether it is a legitimate function of the federal government to foot bills for legal aid in areas involving tenant-landlord relations, purchase agreements and civil rights. What are your thoughts?

A. Well, it seems to me that one of the greatest functions of government is justice.

The purpose of the Department of Justice is to make sure that society does justice to the people who are members of society. Now what has been found out with increasing accuracy and detail is that there is a huge number of Americans who don't get justice under existing law.

Now, not to get justice . . . is just as bad as not being able to get health aid, not to be able to get housing, not to be able to get education. In some respects, not being able to get justice alienates people from our society because they figure it is an unjust society. Therefore all citizens have to address ourselves to the question: How do we get justice?

This is not to say that we will start off on the assumption that we will give free legal advice or free something else. But the question is the simple but profound question: How do we get justice to these people, for today they are not getting justice. What we are trying to do is experiment in a number of different ways to find out how we can get justice to these people.

Q. The sentence in the law which requires involving the "maximum, feasible" number of the poor in planning the poverty program has raised a number of questions about what is maximum and what is feasible. In most cities the answer to the question seems to be: We establish our own ground rules and then ask OEO to approve it. If a city feels its poor are adequately represented . . . and somebody disagrees, what happens? Who makes the final decision?

A. I make the final decision. It has been on an ad hoc basis. Let me draw an analogy: Just recently, Yale Univer-

(See SHRIVER, page 14)

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