

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

PAT MOYNIHAN

The President's weekly news analysis indicated that last week's hearings on the Family Assistance Program should serve as a warning. The television networks, in their evening news program, showed film of welfare recipients for whom the President's welfare program would mean little or nothing. And, of course, Secretary Finch got a rough reception on the Hill. The implication here is that steam is building to force initial payments, the floor under the poor, up a good many notches.

The President wanted this called to your attention and asked that you get working on the answers.


KEN COLE

cc: John Ehrlichman
Ed Morgan

October 22, 1969

FOR EDWARD L. MORGAN

You have a copy of Ken Cole's note concerning the first week of Congressional hearings on the Family Assistance Plan. The President is absolutely right. I was discouraged by the inability of our side to generate any seeming enthusiasm, despite the overwhelming support the program has had in most quarters.

Thus, television will show welfare recipients in New York City who will not benefit, but to my knowledge no one has interviewed an Arkansas farmer or any of the 12 million people who will begin to receive assistance now who never have in the past.

These are simple things to do, but I had the feeling that our overworked people at the top of the various departments involved can't manage it. I think we need two things: (1) a citizen's committee, and (2) serious involvement from OEO.

Does not the mind bogletⁿ at the thought of what OEO would be doing if a member of Party X had been elected, and had proposed the Family Assistance Plan?

Incidentally, I had lunch with David Morse last week (Director of the ILO) who told me that the Family Assistance Plan was the single most subject of conversation among the stream of foreign cabinet officers who come through his office in Geneva.

Daniel P. Moynihan

DPM/crm