

PLAN AHEAD?

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From conversations, we have learned lately that there is a vast amount of “federal money” available for medical projects in this area. There are funds for mental health, mental retardation, prenatal care and child welfare just waiting to be used. As with all federally financed projects, bureaucracy must have its day, and careful planning and organization in the interests of efficiency and economy are the watchwords. Although the government is generous with the taxpayers’ money, it always insists that more of it be spent initially in committee work and thorough surveys to make sure none is wasted. On several of the project’s preliminary studies, surveys and plans have been underway for over a year. Apart from the Public Healthers, most of the planners are from fields outside of medicine, and while these are earnest and public-spirited citizens, they are handicapped by a lack of specific medical knowledge and by unfamiliarity and scant experience in dealing with the type of patient they hope to help. According to our information, despite the cautious approach, many of the proposed plans of action are either slightly altered reduplications of previous efforts or are poorly directed and idealistically impractical new ones.

It is a philosophy of our nation to want to help the underprivileged, the handicapped and the unfortunate. Our government planners are well aware that if a program cannot be pushed in the name of socialism, it can proceed easily in the name of humanitarianism. After all, who wants to be known as an anti-humanitarian? Even our national leader has discovered that he can generate much political mileage in a “Total War against Poverty.” How can anybody be against the eradication of poverty, suffering and misery? Naturally, the way to eradicate any and all problems of health and welfare is to pour in more funds and organize more programs for each problem. Of course, we have been doing this for over thirty years already. After thirty years of determined effort, and after thirty years of ever-increasing spending, the problems have become more instead of fewer, larger instead of smaller. It would seem that the more programs we institute, the more problems we create, and the more tax money is needed to implement new solutions.

It has been suggested that a basic reason for our difficulty is the inability to profit from the mistakes of our efforts in the past. Another is that instead of adjusting and modifying our present efforts to compensate for our previous failures, we pin our faith on new organizers, new planners and new reformers who try to interpret and predict the future for us, new visionaries who plan ahead. The result is a confusion of effort and a top-heavy disorganization of brilliant planners. Technical wizards are forward-moving intellectuals

who constantly siphon off great gobs of the nation's tax-paid monies into bigger and better utopian rat holes.

Along these lines of thought we would like to pass on to you more fragments of the intellectual writings of our farmer friend, Ed White. These excerpts have been culled from some of his *Down to Earth* columns that appeared in the Charleston (W.Va.) and Roanoke papers during the past year.

Within the animal kingdom there is a peculiar balance of forces, even pacifism. On the farm here . . . among the squirrels . . . skunks . . . groundhogs . . . birds . . . rats . . . snakes . . . mice . . . rabbits . . . possums . . . , there is a successful world in which the comprehensible present is more important than a future adrift.

Most of the disturbances in the animal kingdom are precipitated by mankind. The durability of animals has evolved as a result of timely adjustments in the present to offset failures in the past. Nature does not try to be a prognosticator or planner.”

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