New Jersey State Archives Collection Guide

Record Group: Governor Cahill's Welfare Study Commission/Welfare Advisory Council
Series: Records, 1968-1972
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Institutional History

In November 1970, Governor Cahill created the Welfare Study Commission to research and provide advice on methods to control the state's rapidly rising welfare costs. In the previous four years, the state's annual public assistance budget had risen from $59 million to $216 million, with an additional $75 million increase projected for Fiscal Year 1972. The commission consisted of thirteen men, representing various cities and counties throughout the state. The governor appointed Martin L. Haines as chairman, Richard Van Plaat as vice-chairman, and Thomas E. Hitselberger as executive secretary.

Pressed for time, the committee researched and produced a report for the governor by mid-January so he could incorporate the recommendations into his budget report to the legislature which was due in early 1971. The report consisted of the commission's philosophy and recommendations for correcting welfare programs, such as the Work Incentive Program (WIN) and the Assistance to Dependent Children Program (ADC), in order to prevent abuse and reduce expenditures, without jeopardizing the poor.

Several members of the commission continued to serve the governor after this report, as the Welfare Advisory Council. The council held its first meeting sometime in early 1971. It was apparently phased out in 1972.

Content Note

The records of the commission and council, kept by Thomas Hitselberger, consist of correspondence, reports of the commission, minutes of meetings, public assistance statistics, and reports of studies done by accounting firms hired by the commission. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Box 1

Cahill, William T. -- Speeches, Letters, and Drafts re: the Welfare Study Commission

County Correspondences and Statistics re: Welfare, 1971

County Welfare Papers - Records of Places of Birth, and Birth Dates:

- Camden County
- Essex County
- Hudson County

Dependent Children, Assistance to (ADC), and Assistance to Families of Dependent Children (AFDC):

- 1968 - 1970
- 1971
- Surveys, Programs, and Statistics

Emergency Employment Act, 1971

Food Stamp Program, 1968

Fraud Investigation Reports

Box 2

Medicaid Audits -- Proposals and Agreements

Medicare/Medicaid Reports, Statistics, Expenditures, Eligibility, and Reimbursements

Minutes of the Governor's Welfare Study Commission, 1 December 1970 - 1 February 1971

Minutes of the Governor's Welfare Advisory Council, 2 June 1971 - 9 December 1971

Newspaper and Magazine Articles re: Welfare

Out-of-State Welfare Information

Public Welfare Statistics, August 1970 - May 1971

Religious Organization Correspondence with Commission

Reports of County Welfare Boards by Accounting Firms:

- Arthur Anderson and Co. Report on Bergen County Welfare Board
- Lybrand, Ross Bros. and Montgomery Report on Hudson County Welfare Board
- Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. Report on Camden County Welfare Board
- Touche Ross and Co. Report on Essex County Welfare Board
- Touche Ross & Co. Report on Bergen County Welfare Board

Report and Recommendation of the Governor's Welfare Study Commission

Box 3

Reports, Recommendations, and Comments of and to the Governor's Welfare Study Commission, 1971-1972

Ribicoff Welfare Amendment (H.R.16311), 1972

Urban Aid

Welfare Costs and Statistics, 1970-1972

Welfare Recipients and Landlord Rent Disputes

Welfare Study Commission Drafts, 1971

Work Incentive Program (WIN):

- 1969-1970
- 1971-1972

Statistics, 1968-1972

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