

November 10, 1969

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESS

FROM JOHN W. GARDNER

CHAIRMAN

THE URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

I wanted you to have an advance copy of my testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee on the pending welfare reform legislation. A long-standing commitment will prevent my personal appearance at the hearing on the date made available by the Committee; but the testimony will be presented by one of my associates.

It is of the highest importance that we get sound legislation in this field. We are faced with an extraordinary opportunity to replace our ineffective, even destructive, public assistance programs with a national system of income maintenance that will help people help themselves and give hope and dignity to those left behind by society.

The Urban Coalition and the Urban Coalition Action Council will give the issue top priority for the months ahead.