The full opportunity and social accounting act

Mr. Nelson. Mr. President, the full opportunity and social accounting act, introduced in the senate last year by Senator Mondale, is a landmark proposal. This legislation provides for the creation of a council of social advisors to the president, comparable to the president's council of economic advisors. It would also authorize the president to submit an annual social report.

In government departments, a new kind of administrator is emerging. For example, Daniel P. Moynihan, former assistant secretary of labor, is one of a new breed of public servants. The council would also create a joint committee in congress to scrutinize the president's social report.

It should be noted that the domestic crisis confronting our nation today requires many imaginative approaches and programs in order to resolve this problem. While the search for the solutions should be nationwide, senator mondale's proposal will give direction to the many efforts initiated by sociologists, historians, criminologists, psychologists, and other scholars and politicians. Senator Mondale wisely points out:

At present, our social goals are vague and ill defined. The legislative requirement that the administration deliver a public social accounting should sharpen the administration's goals and social planning. This could promote setting long range goals in, for example, education, health care, and the fight against crime. The same process is now appropriate and age definite periodic progress toward their achievement.

Reporting on the "social state of the union," the full opportunity and social accounting act reaffirms that "It is the continuing policy and responsibility of the government and the private sector to promote and encourage such conditions as will tend to achieve the maximum number of citizens living in decency and security, and to provide a clear and precise picture of whether such conditions are promoted and encouraged in support of the national interest and for the furtherance of social rehabilitation, housing, educational opportunities, the arts and humanities, and special assistance for the deprived, the abandoned, and the criminal."

To accomplish this, the legislation would:

- Declare social accounting a national goal.
- Establish the president's council of social advisors, comparable in the social sphere to the council of economic advisors in the economic area.

Require the president to submit an annual social report to congress, the social counterpart to his economic report; and call upon congress to examine the substance of the social report.

The three-member council of social advisors, supported by a staff of experts in the social sciences, would be concerned with man and his environment, would be empowered to "gather timely and authoritative information and statistical data and analyze and interpret them."

The council would also appraise the various programs and activities of the federal government and develop priorities for the programs, recommending to the president the most efficient and effective way to allocate federal resources.

The model for this act is the Employment Act of 1946, which has had an indubitably favorable effect on the nation's economy. This economic progress—owing in large part to closely refined economic analysis and measurement—necessitates a similar instrument for using social analysis and measurement.

The council of economic advisors recommends measures to maintain a stable, prosperous, and expanding economy. It operates on four assumptions:

- That welfare (the ultimate objective) is dependent upon the level and health of national economic conditions.

- That economic factors can be quantified;

- That action by government can cause specific changes in the national economic conditions;

- That from analysis of economic data it is feasible to recommend specific action to achieve national economic goals.

To do its job, the C.E.A. had to develop a system of economic criteria to measure the present and prospective conditions of the economy. It had to develop tools of analysis and a community of economists for contributions. It had to proceed with caution so as to command the respect and acceptance of decision-makers. The council must attend to both domestic and international conditions, and find ways to prepare its reports.

The same process is now appropriate and necessary in the social endeavors of the federal government. We should not mislead ourselves by laying the honor of the change of this day a laudable beginning.

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The儿女, as you can see, are very well behaved," he was saying. "Although the school is now on fire, the boys who put the torch to it did not really seem to care. They were just carried away by the excitement. That car you see being overturned belongs to a fourth-grade teacher who has had his house burned out. I am just not sure of his way of seeking redress of grievances. I think we must all agree that this younger generation has definite ideas and isn't afraid to express them."

"I know," she said. "It's at least nice to know that our children are really getting ready for college."

Edwin A. Roberts, Jr.

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ill defined. The legislative requirement that the Administration deliver a public social accounting should sharpen the Administration’s sense of responsibility for planning. This could promote setting long-range goals. For example, education, health care, and the fight against environmental pollution, and encourage a definite periodic progress toward their achievement.

Some argue that this system of progress reports will curb innovation and experimentation. But we have little to fear if we use the reports. The General Accounting Office, in fact, is developing a wealth of information about social programs. If the General Accounting Office and the Office of Legislative Evaluation, which is to be set up under the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, have a chance to probe the results of social programs, we may then have a better idea of where the Government is and is not spending money effectively. The general public will have a wealth of information about social programs. If the General Accounting Office and the Office of Legislative Evaluation, which is to be set up under the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, have a chance to probe the results of social programs, we may then have a better idea of where the Government is and is not spending money effectively. The general public will have a wealth of information about social programs. If the General Accounting Office and the Office of Legislative Evaluation, which is to be set up under the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, have a chance to probe the results of social programs, we may then have a better idea of where the Government is and is not spending money effectively.

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