*Special Note : College (Sociology) article by author 1971*

 **Who are the Poor - - -
 What are the Causes**

**Who Are the Poor** - - The economically poor are:

1. Those who cannot work to support themselves and do not have reserve finances.

2. Older persons on social security benefits, only, which do not bring them above subsistence level.

3. Unser-privileged persons who neither have the education, or had the opportunity for an education, to get jobs which would enable them to earn for a subsistence or better standard of living.

 This item is complicated because you don’t need an education to be a laborer. Past persecuted groups who came to tis country worked as laborers for their employer who in turn was teaching them skills ( carpentry, masons, electricians etc. ) . Some stayed laborers. In either case, in time they could join unions and become quite well to do. These skilled workers enjoy a better standard of living, including some laborers, than many educated persons who spend years of their lives along with financial difficulties, to become white collar workers.
 There are many examples of contractors hiring and training people who cannot even speak our language to be skilled in these fields, with them then leaving to join unions at quite large salaries. Note: Unions do have stricter training requirements that may on the surface look restrictive, but are based upon personal pride. Therefore, one or more of the items below must influence these under-privileged persons. Granted, they may do a laborers work, but their children then have better opportunities. But, there is no morally acceptable scheme to take these persons and place them in a job replacing someone who spent years in education, as has been suggested.

4. Person who, because of prejudice directed toward them because of race or color, are overly sensitive and critical of other races and color.; therefore insuring themselves the inability to attain employment worthy of their talents. This also insures their inability to sustain a living.

5. Those on welfare? This is a question because it does not seem that all on welfare want to “go it on their own” . Consider a “poor” person ( even if he is a bowery bum ) , if he is physically able to work but uses his race, color, “just cant find a job to fit my talents “ excuses to get on welfare. Another excuse – “ Why work for substandard pay when I can stay home and collect welfare. “ You can admit race and color are factors, but some of the “horrors” associated with these “stereo-types” are well founded.

6. Those on welfare ? Abandoned women with children? Yes. If they have many children, young pre-school age children and cannot afford a babysitter or day care center’s. NO – if while receiving support, bears another child;; No, if a family cannot afford more children and have more.

7. Radical Changes in types of employment :: Example – If Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp. were to close in the next five years, many people would become poor. The grocer, department store clerk, gas station owners etc. – all of these persons being neither poor or rich now, do not have an understanding to leave and will go on welfare.
 *Editors comment - today year 2000, you may judge for yourself the result when it did happen.*

8. Living in a depressed area.

9. Destroying an area, even though bad, or not having personal pride in keeping the area clean and safe. This inhibits anyone who could employ persons in the area from doing so.

10. Sub-Standard schooling doesn’t help.

11. Over-Indulgence in credit buying leading to financial ruin, which in turn brings a stigma of a bad risk and prevents further employment or loans.

Summary -- We do not contend welfare is bad. It is a necessary pert of our lives and it is every person duty to help those who cannot help themselves. These are important words. It is an effort to associate with someone whose personal habits are downright distasteful. Understanding why someone who will throw garbage anywhere ( Northern State Parkway, Home Lawns and property ) , or those who make no effort to quell disorder among themselves. In these cases, as in most of the above, Race and Color are not factors. Why should I help those who do not help themselves, especially when such help is viewed negatively.

 Corruption exists with those, whose greed or false claims under the title of good causes, are allowed to exist by our votes -- our own shortsightedness - our “will not get involved “ attitude.

 *“” Side note – The author rcvd an “A” from NYU, and an “A-“ from our instructor at Hofstra. “”
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