

Welcome by Attorney General Robert Morgan
Conference - Welfare Attorneys
Raleigh, North Carolina
September 14, 1971

Fellow members of the Bar, distinguished guests, ladies
and gentlemen:

It's good to have you here in Raleigh. We extend to
you a cordial and heartfelt welcome and it is our sincere wish
that you will return whenever you can. I hope you will let us
know if there is anything we can do to make your stay more
pleasant or profitable. That, ladies and gentlemen, is primarily
what I came here to say this morning.

However, I do want to offer my commendation to those who
had the foresight and the energy to begin sponsoring these meet-
ings to begin with and to those who somehow find time to plan for
these meetings. I also offer my commendation to the entire
group present, for you have taken time out from busy schedules
indeed to be here, and I am very much aware that you--or rather,
we--are faced with an increasing multitude, variety, and complexity
of problems generated by the delivery of financial aid and social
services on a vast scale.

Most of the recent publicity has been about H.R. 1 and about a number of federal court decisions, including, of course, Goldberg v. Kelly. However, I am well aware that among you lawyers present there are those who deal daily with a variety of less widely publicized matters such as uniform support cases, adoptions, lien recoveries, a variety of State and federal regulations, and a host of other matters, the complexities of which are not and cannot be fully appreciated by anyone other than you who are handling them.

And you who are handling these problems are really the only ones who are acutely aware of how many possibilities or attempted solutions often must be considered and rejected before a solution to a problem--or a small part of a single problem--is found. And to add to the pressures and difficulties involved, you are expected to be right, without exception. Incidentally, I surmise that most of you will agree that you probably will still have plenty to do even if and when the contemplated federal takeover of a large segment of public assistance becomes a reality.

In looking over the list of speakers and subjects on the agenda, I certainly think there is no doubt that this will be a very worthwhile meeting. I hope every one of you will find it so, that you will enjoy your stay, that you will have a safe return, and that you will feel welcome when you come again. Thank you very much.

- Note:
1. H.R. 1 - a congressional bill consisting of several hundred pages providing for federal administration and financing of practically all financial public assistance (welfare) other than Medical Assistance.
 2. Goldberg v. Kelly - U.S. Supreme Court decision requiring a hearing before terminating public assistance. Hearing must comply with rudimentary due process.
 3. This is a conference of State and federal (mostly State) attorneys for welfare matters. These attorneys will be from several southeastern states. There will be some other persons present, for example Commissioner Clifton Craig of the North Carolina Department of Social Services who follows the Attorney General on the program. It is possible that there will be some OEO type lawyers, in other words a few lawyers who regularly represent welfare recipients in individual or class action against State agencies. Also there may be persons present who are simply social workers of one type or another.

This is a Conference of Assistant Attorneys General and Attorneys for Welfare Departments meeting in conjunction with Southeastern Conference, American Public Welfare Association.

September 14-16, 1971

Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, North Carolina, Manteo Room