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# **The Reagan Record on Aid to the Poor**

**White House Office of Public Affairs**



# The Reagan Record

September 23, 1988

## The Reagan Record

on

### AID TO THE POOR

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AID TO THE POOR

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Reagan Administration has used innovative, far-reaching programs to assist Americans living near or below the poverty line. In addition, thanks to a growing economy, millions of Americans have escaped poverty through employment. Over 17.8 million jobs have been generated by the longest peacetime economic expansion on record.

The Reagan Administration is attacking the root causes of poverty, cutting the thread which binds one generation after another to a subculture of unnecessary dependency, wasted opportunities and unfulfilled dreams.

Administration efforts, grounded in a belief that government is rarely the solution, have fostered the only real hope for an end to poverty -- economic opportunity, an abundance of jobs and assistance for those who truly need it.

HIGHLIGHTS

More Americans on the Job -- Since the expansion began in late 1982, an improved economy has generated over 17.8 million new jobs. By August 1988, a record high percentage of working age Americans are on the job.

Poverty Rate is Decreasing -- The percentage of Americans below the poverty line has declined for the fourth year in a row.

Tax Reform is Helping the Poor -- Changes in the Federal tax laws mean that more than an estimated four million low-income Americans no longer owe Federal income taxes.

Millions Fed Daily -- Food assistance programs, such as Food Stamps and School Lunch programs provide approximately 95 million meals every day. Since 1980, the Federal Government has spent more than \$150 billion on food assistance programs. In 1987 alone, \$56 million was spent each day by the Federal Government to feed those in need.

Assistance to the Homeless -- In FY 1987 and FY 1988, the Reagan Administration has provided more than \$900 million in aid to the homeless, helping states, localities and nonprofit organizations better address this complex problem.

Assistance Programs In Place -- Total spending for basic low-income assistance programs, including both cash and in-kind payments, has increased by over \$23 billion since FY 1981, a 12.5 percent increase in real terms.

Housing Vouchers Help More Needy -- The Administration's use of housing vouchers has stretched resources farther. Since 1980, the total number of households receiving housing assistance has risen by 1.5 million, an increase of 36 percent. Vouchers provide low-income households with more choice in housing and cost half as much as housing programs that involve additional kinds of subsidies.

### THE RECORD

#### A Growing Economy Aids All Americans\*

- o President Reagan came into office determined to improve the lives of all Americans. The economic expansion created by his policies of lower taxes for everyone, elimination of unnecessary Federal regulations and restraint of Federal spending is the single best antipoverty act ever written.
- o By August 1988, the longest peacetime expansion in American history had created more than 17.8 million new jobs. More Americans, and a higher percentage of working-age Americans, have been at work during this expansion than at any time in our history.
- o According to the Labor Department, more than 90 percent of the jobs created during the expansion are full-time jobs, and most of those who work part-time do so by choice.
- o The expansion is helping all Americans. According to the most recent Census Bureau data released on August 31, real per capita and median family incomes rose for the fifth year in a row in 1987.
- o Between 1981 and 1987, the percentage of households making under \$10,000 and the percentage of households making between \$10,000 and \$25,000 fell, while the percentage making over \$25,000 rose. A strong economy is moving more and more people up the income ladder.

#### Percentage Distribution of Households By Income in 1987 Dollars

	Under \$10,000	\$10,000-\$24,999	Over \$25,000
1981	20.0	32.2	47.8
1987	18.4	29.8	51.8

\* Note: For a more thorough study of the economic expansion, please see The Reagan Record research paper on "Economic Growth" in this series.

- o Women: Over half the jobs created have gone to women. In 1980, a woman earned only 64.4 cents for every dollar a man made. By 1987, a woman earned 70 percent of a man's wage; the highest in history. Between 1982 and 1987, real earnings of year-round, full-time working women increased 10.4 percent, while those of their male counterparts grew 4.8 percent. Also, median income for families headed by a female increased 3.4 percent after inflation between 1986 and 1987. Since the Reagan recovery began in November 1982, the unemployment rate for women fell 4.6 percentage points as the number of women who are employed increased by 8.5 million, a 19.6 percent jump. In August 1988, 53.5 percent of the working age female population held jobs.
- o Blacks: Black Americans have achieved dramatic gains during the Reagan Administration. Real per capita cash income increased 16 percent between 1981 and 1987. Between the beginning of the recovery in November 1982 and August 1988, 2.6 million more blacks found jobs, a 28 percent increase.
  - Since the recovery began, black workers have been finding jobs at a rate almost twice as fast as other Americans. The black unemployment rate declined by 8.9 percentage points to its lowest level since 1974. The unemployment rate for blacks fell from 20.2 percent in November 1982 to 11.3 percent in August 1988.
  - Black teenagers (age 16 to 19) have seen their unemployment rate drop by 17.1 percentage points during this recovery.
- o Hispanics: Hispanics have also benefited from increased economic opportunity. Real per capita cash income grew 13.9 percent between 1981 and 1987. Jobs for Hispanics are also increasing. Employment has jumped nearly 2.4 million since the expansion began, with more Hispanics at work during this expansion than at any time since record keeping began in 1973. The unemployment rate for Hispanics was 8.4 percent in August 1988.

#### Poverty Declines

- o Economic growth has made it possible for 2.8 million people to climb out of poverty between 1983 and 1987.
  - Poverty, as defined by the Census Bureau, is an urban family of four living on a cash income of \$11,611 or less.
- o The Census Bureau reported on August 31 that the poverty rate had declined in 1987 to 13.5 percent, based on cash income. This was a drop of 1.7 percentage points since the 1983 post-recession high. The poverty rate has fallen each year over the past four years.

- o There has been a dramatic improvement in living standards for almost all Americans since the economic expansion began in November 1982. However, the poverty rate increased during the early years of this Administration because of the continuing effects of record high inflation and economic stagnation, the results of the previous Administration's economic failures.
- In 1980, the poverty rate grew by 1.3 percentage points, the largest one-year change since 1959, the first year for which statistics are available.
- o President Reagan's economic programs did not begin taking hold until November 1982, and it was not until 1984 that those hurt most by the policies of the previous Administration benefited from the Reagan recovery and the economic expansion that followed.
- o When the definition of poverty is based on cash income, 32.5 million Americans, (13.5 percent of the population) lived below the poverty line in 1987.

#### Percentage of Americans Below the Poverty Level

	<u>Poverty Rate</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
1976	11.8	---
1977	11.6	-1.7
1978	11.4	-1.7
1979	11.7	2.6
1980	13.0	11.1
1981	14.0	7.7
1982	15.0	7.1
1983	15.2	1.3
1984	14.4	-5.3
1985	14.0	-2.8
1986	13.6	-2.9
1987	13.5	-0.7

- o Those who are poor do not live on cash income alone. They receive a variety of entitlements and subsidies from the Government, including food stamps and housing benefits. When these noncash benefits are counted, the number of Americans living in poverty declines by as much as 12 million to a rate of 8.5 percent, by one census measure.

#### Taxes and the Poor

- o Cutting taxes for all Americans is the fuel that drives the great American jobs machine.

- o Early in the Administration, Congress enacted President Reagan's Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 (ERTA) so all Americans would benefit from across-the-board cuts in marginal tax rates. Every income group received the same percentage reduction.
- o ERTA also eliminated bracket creep so a cost-of-living increase in wages would not push a taxpayer into a higher tax bracket. This approach, called "indexing", helps those with low and middle incomes the most.
- o From 1981 through 1987, the average American family of four saved nearly \$6,000 in Federal income taxes from what it would have paid under the 1980 tax code.
- o A family of four reporting a yearly taxable income of \$22,000 saved \$1,033 in taxes they would have paid without the President's tax cut. That savings amounted to 27 percent of what their total tax bill would have been.
- o With the 1981 tax cut in place, the percentage of taxes collected from those at lower income levels started to fall over time.
  - The Treasury Department has reported that the share of income taxes paid by taxpayers in the bottom half of the income distribution fell to 6.4 percent of all the individual income taxes paid in 1986.
  - In 1980, those taxpayers supplied 7.1 percent of the individual income taxes paid.
- o Tax reform for all Americans was the President's major domestic priority for 1986. Under tax reform, the poor are benefiting from dramatic tax reductions.

Percentage Change in Income Tax Liability  
by income class in 1986 dollars

Income	Percentage Change in Liability Since 1981	
	1987	1988 (Est.)
Less than \$10,000	-57.2	-65.1
\$10,000 to \$20,000	-16.7	-22.3

Note: Table does not account for certain provisions affecting individuals.

- o Changes in the personal exemption, the standard deduction and the Earned Income Tax Credit mean that more than an estimated four million low-income taxpayers no longer owe Federal income taxes.

- o Because taxes are lower, people have more incentive to work and invest. The result: a growing economy that will create an estimated two million additional jobs.

#### Welfare Reform

- o President Reagan has a long-standing commitment to making welfare work for those who need help so they, too, can share in the opportunities created by the longest peacetime expansion in the nation's history.
- o The President believes that it is time to learn from the mistakes of our centralized welfare system by implementing a new national strategy that stresses grassroots participation and creative state and local initiatives. These types of actions would reduce dependency and strengthen economically self-reliant families.
- o As Governor of California, he put a welfare reform program in place in 1971 that increased aid to two-thirds of the welfare population with no outside income and eliminated costly abuses through stricter eligibility standards.
  - Before the Reagan reforms, California was adding 50,000 new cases a month to its welfare caseload.
  - After three years' operation, there were 330,000 fewer people on welfare.
- o One of the California reforms was an experiment in which able-bodied recipients performed useful community work projects in return for welfare grants. In 1973 and 1974, 76,000 people were placed in private sector jobs.
- o Now President Reagan is working to reform the nation's welfare system. In late 1981 and in 1982, the Administration gained passage of legislation that gave states greater flexibility to engage welfare recipients in employment and training activities. Careful tests of state innovations show that these activities can reduce welfare dependency and be cost effective.
- o In 1987, the President asked Congress to approve a major new welfare strategy because he believes the nation can and must do better for those who need help.

- o The cornerstone of the President's welfare reform initiative is to give states more flexibility to tailor the welfare system to meet their needs. One way of doing this is to test innovative ideas by allowing states to receive waivers of existing rules for receipt of Federal funds. The Federal Government will approve any state proposal which continues to meet individual needs, reduce dependency, maintain the current level of Federal financing and can be successfully evaluated. As we learn from these experiments, successful reforms can be incorporated into the national welfare system.
- o To promote this strategy, the President created the Interagency Low-Income Opportunity Advisory Board. Twenty state governors have already accepted the President's call for state reform by applying to the Board for greater state approval.
- o The most interesting aspect of these projects is the wide diversity of approaches among the states in addressing the problems of welfare dependency and the promotion of self-sufficiency. Several of the proposals being tested by states include:
  - Mandatory work requirements to speed the transition of individuals into the world of work;
  - Increasing the support that absent parents provide for their children;
  - Looking at new ways of providing child care services to welfare mothers as they begin the employment process;
  - Testing alternative ways to provide assistance to unemployed, two-parent families by combining an emphasis on work with a time limit on benefits; and
  - Providing cash in lieu of coupons under the Food Stamp Program. Even when the states target the same problem, individual approaches tend to be very different.
- o By early September of 1988, the House and Senate produced separate welfare reform bills. Currently, both Houses are trying to resolve the differences in the two bills. Of interest: for the first time in national legislative history, the Senate bill included the President's goal of a mandatory work requirement in which one member of a two-parent family on AFDC would have to work for at least 16 hours a week at a job or perform community service.

## Programs for Children and Youth

- o The Reagan Administration is meeting the needs of low-income children and their families. That commitment extends to child health issues, nutrition, social services, income maintenance and education.
- o Child Health Issues:
  - Child Immunization is a major priority, on which the Federal Government has spent over \$400 million since 1980. That amount was enough to buy 120 million doses of childhood vaccines.
  - Federal immunization funding has risen from an annual sum of \$30.7 million in FY 1980 to the current record high of \$98.2 million in FY 1988.
  - During the 1986-1987 school year, the immunization levels of the approximately 3.8 million children entering school hit the highest level in history. At least 97 percent of American children are now immunized against major childhood diseases such as measles, rubella, mumps, diphtheria, polio, whooping cough and tetanus.
- o Nutrition -- The Federal Government subsidizes approximately 95 million meals every day, including 25 million meals for children. Federally subsidized meals account for almost 15 percent of all meals served daily in the U.S. In FY 1987, the Federal Government spent about \$20 billion on food assistance programs, up 44 percent since FY 1980. That is more than \$55 million a day every day of the year.
  - Food Stamps were distributed to about 19.1 million needy people monthly in FY 1987. Over 80 percent of Food Stamps' dollars go to households with children. The \$11.6 billion spent in FY 1987 was up 40 percent since FY 1980.
  - The National School Lunch Program serves children from elementary school through high school in schools and residential institutions. The program is available to almost all public school children. Children from families below 130 percent of the poverty level (\$15,143 per year for a family of four as of July 1, 1988) receive free meals, and children from families between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty level receive reduced-price meals. In FY 1988, more than 24 million children are eligible to participate in this program daily. Over 10 million will receive free school lunches. Federal subsidies for the School Lunch Program reached \$3.7 billion in FY 1987, up 16 percent since FY 1980.

- The School Breakfast Program is used most frequently in schools serving high proportions of lower-income students. It provides meals every school day to 3.6 million children from low-income families. Benefits vary according to family income; almost 90 percent of the meals are served free to participants with family incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty line. Federal funding in 1987 was \$458 million.
- The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to school children in needy areas during summer vacations. The program serves an average of 1.6 million children each day at a cost of \$124 million per year.
- The Child Care Food Program serves meals to children up to age 12 in nonresidential institutions such as day care centers, Head Start centers and family day care centers. In FY 1987, the Federal Government spent \$548 million to feed about 1.2 million children, up from \$236 million in 1980. Funding for the program has increased 132 percent under the Reagan Administration.
- Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides supplemental food packages to 3.4 million low-income pregnant women, infants and children who are at nutritional risk. Spending has increased from \$728 million in FY 1980 to \$1.7 billion in 1987. Participation during that time has risen from 1.9 million to 3.4 million.

o Social Services

- The Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Programs provide funds to states to generate proper care for children who need placement in a strong and loving family environment. In FY 1987, \$862 million was allocated. The 1989 budget, including \$749 million for prior year claims, asks for \$1.7 billion. This would help more than 115,000 children a month in the Foster Care Program and 44,000 children a year in the Adoption Assistance Program.
- Head Start provides comprehensive child development services to over 453,000 children from low-income families annually. Federal outlays increased from \$766 million in FY 1981 to \$1.1 billion in FY 1988. Federal spending since 1981 totals over \$8 billion.

o Income Maintenance

- Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) helps families with dependent children to meet immediate financial needs and parents in these families to become self-sufficient. The program has made over \$60 billion in payments to state welfare departments since 1981, supporting approximately 11 million participants in nearly four million families a year.
- Child Support Enforcement helps children collect financial assistance from absent parents. Amendments in 1984 increased the effectiveness of this program, collecting \$2 billion more in 1987 than before the amendments were signed. In FY 1981, the program collected about \$1.6 billion. In FY 1987, the program collected almost \$4 billion.

o Education

- Federal support for educational programs available for the poor -- Pell Grants, College Work Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, State Student Incentive Grants, Upward Bound, Student Support Services and Talent Search -- has increased from \$3.7 billion in FY 1981 to a proposed \$6.2 billion for FY 1989.

Food Assistance

- o The Reagan Administration has sought to maintain and improve current food programs for those in need, while at the same time providing an avenue of opportunity and independence through a growing economy.
- o Federal funds subsidize approximately 95 million meals every single day. Since 1980, the Federal Government has spent more than \$150 billion on food assistance programs. Spending on these programs has increased 44 percent from \$14 billion in FY 1980 to \$20 billion in FY 1987.
- o In 1987 alone, total spending was over \$56 million a day. More than 90 percent of this money was spent on direct benefits to program participants, while less than 10 percent was spent administering these programs.
- o The President initiated the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to distribute surplus commodities (primarily cheese and butter). Since its inception in 1981, TEFAP has distributed more than \$5 billion worth of food and served roughly 15 million persons annually.

- o Food Stamps and elderly food programs are two of the Federal efforts to feed the hungry.
  - Food Stamps provide monthly benefits to low-income households. The Food Stamp Program will assist about 33 million Americans this year. FY 1988 outlays totaled over \$12.5 billion.
  - Elderly food programs give nutritional assistance to the elderly and disabled. The programs supplement Federal programs for the elderly with cash and commodities for meals. Meals are served in senior citizen centers, adult day care centers and similar settings which also provide social and rehabilitative services. Meals in some areas also are delivered to the homebound.
- o Under the Reagan Administration, these programs are better administered. Benefits are now targeted more carefully to those in need.
  - Food Stamp overpayments have fallen by 18 percent between 1981 and 1986, saving about \$700 million. This improvement has taken place without decreasing benefits for those eligible for assistance.

#### Low-Income Housing

- o Under this Administration housing assistance has been extended to more than 5.7 million households in FY 1988. That is 1.5 million more households than were helped in FY 1980.
- o One important change has been the use of housing vouchers. These vouchers, targeted to low-income households, provide tenants with more choice in housing, including the opportunity to live in better neighborhoods with access to available jobs, essential services and higher quality schools.
- o Vouchers make better sense from a policy standpoint. The primary housing deficiency in both metropolitan and rural areas is not a physical shortage of adequate units. Rather, it is income deficiency among poor families.
- o Under the President's FY 1989 budget proposal, outlays for subsidized housing would rise to \$13.8 billion, an increase of \$2.8 billion, or 25 percent, since FY 1980.
- o Funding for modernization of existing public housing has risen sharply -- up 217 percent from FY 1980 to FY 1988. Since the President assumed office, more than \$8.5 billion has been allocated to modernize public housing.

- o The shift in emphasis to existing structures is more consistent with current needs and has stretched limited resources. Rental subsidies, such as vouchers, cost the Federal Government about 50 percent less per family than new construction subsidies, while providing families a choice in the housing market.

#### Home Energy Assistance

- o The Reagan Administration has provided vital assistance to help millions of low-income Americans pay their fuel bills.
- o Under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Federal Government provides funds to four types of programs:
  - Home heating and cooling assistance, which will help over 6 million low-income households this year to pay for home heating and cooling costs;
  - Crisis assistance will help approximately one million households with weather-related and supply shortage emergencies and other household-related emergencies; and
  - Weatherization assistance to help over 200,000 households with low-cost residential weatherization and assistance for other energy-related emergencies.
- o Federal appropriations for FY 1988 were over \$1.5 billion. The average benefit nationwide for heating assistance was \$191 in FY 1988.
- o States have flexibility in the use of these funds. Broad requirements were established in the legislation. However, the Administration, knowing that states are in the best position to meet individual needs, has not prescribed any application requirements beyond those established in the authorizing legislation.
- o The incentives for innovation produced additional revenues from many states. In FY 1988, 27 states supplemented their Federal LIHEAP appropriations with \$143 million in funds reimbursed to the state from oil overcharges by oil companies stemming from the Emergency Petroleum Act of 1973. These funds are distributed to the states by the Secretary of Energy.

- o The Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program is a state grant effort to install energy-conserving materials in the homes of people with low-incomes. From FY 1981 through FY 1988, approximately \$1.4 million low income residences were weatherized.

#### Helping the Homeless

- o Homelessness is a complex and longstanding problem. In 1983, a National Governors Association task force traced homelessness back 50 years in this country.
- o While assertions of millions of homeless are made with great frequency, the actual number is significantly smaller.
  - In 1984, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimated that there were 250,000 to 350,000 homeless individuals nationwide on any given night.
  - In 1986, a Harvard University study confirmed the HUD figure, estimating the number of homeless between 343,000 and 363,000.
- o Even one homeless person would be too many. The homeless need our compassion and concern, but there are no easy answers. Each homeless individual has a unique story of hardship and loss. As a result, individuals have different needs, and the combination of disparate needs defies simplistic or easy solutions.
- o The task is to focus a wide variety of programs and services to meet the range of demands. Many of the homeless need health counseling, medical attention, job training, or alcohol and drug treatment.
- o The Administration has attempted to meet these many needs with a wide range of responses from several different departments and agencies:
  - The Department of Housing and Urban Development provides emergency shelters, transitional housing, and long-term or permanent housing;
  - The Department of Labor provides employment and training services to homeless veterans with funds provided by the McKinney Act;
  - The Department of Health and Human Services allocates funds for mental health, alcohol and drug abuse services, and income support through the Public Health Service, SSI and AFDC;

- The Department of Agriculture provides assistance through its Food Stamp Program and has donated over 1.1 billion pounds of surplus food to soup kitchens and shelters;
  - The Veterans Administration makes available medical services and income support to homeless veterans;
  - The Department of Defense distributes cots and bedding to shelters, and opens available buildings for housing the homeless; and
  - The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides funds for food and shelter operations, a total of \$370 million from FY 1983 to FY 1987.
- o When all block grants and other programs are included, the Federal response totals more than \$900 million for FY 1987 and FY 1988.
  - o The President's proposed FY 1989 budget asks for \$390 million in aid, a 4.3 percent increase over the FY 1988 level of \$374 million.
  - o Helping the homeless, with Federal funding, is by and large the work of local governments. According to HUD, 94 percent of shelters are operated by nonprofit private sector organizations. The rest are run by city or county governments.
  - o The President's Interagency Council on the Homeless, established under authority of the McKinney Act of 1987, helps to coordinate the Federal programs. The Council functions as a clearinghouse for information and technical assistance on issues affecting the homeless. It also assists in the development of public/private partnerships.
  - o It is important to remember that many homeless individuals and families are only temporarily without shelter, and many obtain housing. Many are re-housed in permanent living arrangements once they have an income, usually from income support programs such as AFDC and Food Stamps.

#### Medicaid

- o The Medicaid program uses Federal and state funds to pay the health care of approximately 25 million Americans with low incomes. Combined Federal and state outlays rose from \$25 billion in FY 1980 to \$56 billion in FY 1988, an increase of 125 percent.

- o Under current law, the Federal Government picks up approximately 56 percent of the cost. In FY 1989, the Federal share is projected to be \$32.7 billion, with the states and localities paying about \$25.7 billion.

Federal Funding for Medicaid  
by fiscal year, in outlays

1980	\$ 16.8 billion
1988	\$ 33.6 billion

- o Within broad Federal guidelines, legislative changes supported by the President in FY 1981 gave states wide discretion in structuring their Medicaid programs to meet local needs, including the determination of health care provider reimbursement levels for services.
- o The Administration also has established the Maternal and Child Health Technical Assistance Group to promote more effective use of Medicare and Medicaid resources in meeting the needs of women and children.
- o In addition, the Administration took quick action to eliminate an institutional bias inherent in Medicaid eligibility rules which forced children with disabilities out of the home setting and into institutions in order to qualify for assistance.
  - A temporary exemption process was developed (known as "Katie Beckett", after the first child to benefit from the exemption) to permit Medicaid eligibility for children who live with their families and want to receive necessary medical care in the home.
  - This exemption program served as a model for statutory changes which put in place permanent programs to serve individuals who were previously eligible only by living in an institutional setting.

## SELECTED PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS

Welfare Reform

"Perhaps the greatest test of Federalism is how we meet the urgent need for welfare reform -- how successful we are in fashioning local and community solutions to problems that would destroy families, or worse, keep families from forming in the first place. With a variety of innovative programs, the states are moving forward to meet this challenge, and I think we have reason to be optimistic that in the diversity of these approaches, we may find new answers."

--- President Reagan  
February 22, 1988

"AFDC work program reforms that emphasize early intervention to prevent welfare dependency, child support enforcement improvements to provide children the help that they need, and demonstration projects that give us the information necessary to make changes in the national welfare system: that is my welfare reform strategy. . . ."

--- President Reagan  
August 1, 1988

Helping the Poor

"We're helping the poor as never before. There is, for example, no crueler burden on the poverty-stricken and the elderly than inflation; and by bringing inflation to a virtual standstill, we substantially increased the buying power of the poor families of America. So, too, our recent reform of the tax code will take millions of working poor people off the tax rolls entirely. Above all, we've built an economy that is creating millions of new jobs every year, providing growth and opportunity the poor need more than anyone."

--- President Reagan  
February 9, 1987

## SELECTED STATEMENTS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

Compassion

"Opportunity is what our country's all about. I get sick and tired of hearing the liberals on the other side bash the Republicans about not having compassion. . . . Let me tell you, they promise compassion. . . but they deliver hardship."

"The way I see it, maintaining a strong economy that enables the private sector to create jobs is one of the most compassionate things the Government can do. The best answer to poverty is a job, with dignity, in the private sector."

--- Vice President Bush

March 11, 1988

Poverty

"We must do better. We must help those who are trapped in poverty break out and break free."

"The answer to these problems involves the Government, but not just the Government. The answer also lies in the values that are passed on from generation to generation -- values like family, faith, education, the importance of work."

--- Vice President Bush

July 12, 1988