Ripon tax proposal to aid poor

(Continued from Page 1) Tax programs would be discon-
tinued and replaced by this on-
central source of assistance. 

Advantages cited 
The Ripon Society cites many
advantages the Negative Income
Tax has over current programs.
Among the most important of
these, says Professor Foley, is the
way in which "the Negative In-
come Tax does not reduce the in-
centive to seek work of those re-
ceiving assistance." If, for ex-
ample, the government pays half
the difference between an indi-
vidual's income and his standard
income, his net income will in-
crease by half of any extra money
he earns rather than not at all as
under current programs.

Further advantages Many other advantages are
claimed for the proposed system.
Currently, case workers carefully
check on how each welfare family
spends its check; the family feels
continually uneasy because of the
probability that the case worker
may cut off assistance should the
family make a "mistake." Case work-
ers also dislike the cur-
rent situation because they feel
that they are being paid to help
people, not check up on them. Un-
der Negative Income Tax, counsel-
ing and financial assistance would
be separated.

Prospects for adoption In commenting on the proposal's
political future, Professor Foley
said that the Republicans "have
a good chance of getting a jump
on this issue" since the Democrats
are tied to current programs and
treat poor people as another in-
terest group." He added that al-
though he expects opposition to the
plan from the existing welfare
bureaucracy, the Ripon Society
plans to follow through in support-
ning the proposal and is currently
preparing testimony to be pre-
sented before the Senate Subcom-
mittee on Manpower and Poverty.

Tuesday, April 18
7:30 Room 26-100

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