Welfare restrictive

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1) The “socialization” of people, so that they don’t apply for welfare. Piven pointed out that “Americans have always believed that poverty was a sign of failure,” adding that “self-reliance and work” have always been seen as high American ideals.

2) Setting up maximum earning levels, and depriving welfare recipients who exceed them of their payments.

3) Tolerating high levels of unemployment and underemployment.

4) Requiring welfare recipients to forfeit some of their basic rights in order to be eligible for aid. Piven says these forfeited rights included “the right to parenthood,” fatherless families are much more likely to be welfare recipients to forfeit some of their payments.

5) Withholding information on welfare eligibility requirements from the public.

6) Involving welfare applicants in bureaucratic red tape: lengthening application forms, and making applicants stand in line day after day. Piven pointed out that the welfare lines at some New York offices begin forming at 3 am.

7) The imposition of restrictive laws such as “the infamous residence laws.” Piven sees these practices, in one form or another, being re-implemented throughout much of the country.

"Basically," she concluded, "I see the American welfare system moving away from something vaguely designed to help people, and toward a system based on a design in deterrence."

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