

The original documents are located in Box G05, folder “Reagan's Welfare Reform - Press Release” of the President Ford Committee Campaign Records at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

IMMEDIATELY, APRIL 23, 1976



One of Ronald Reagan's vaunted welfare reforms "failed to achieve any of its objectives," a California Employment Development Department report disclosed.

The report, released in April, was sharply critical of Reagan's Community Work Experience Program.

It pointed out that during its peak year, 1974, only 2.6% of the 182,735 available welfare recipients were provided job assignments. During that year, there were 2 3/4 million welfare recipients in the state.

In his recent nationally televised speech, Reagan called particular attention to the CWEP program, saying:

"We also carried out a successful experiment which I believe is an answer to much of the welfare problem in the nation. We put able-bodied welfare recipients to work at useful community projects in return for their welfare grants."

In measuring the impact of CWEP, the report said in summary:

1. The program failed to come close to even the minimum participation level.
2. More people applied for welfare payments in counties with CWEP than in those that did not put the program into effect.
3. There was no significant differences in people going off the welfare rolls or in the amount of welfare grants between counties that had the program and those who didn't.
4. HEW statistics indicated CWEP achieved none of its objectives.

California's Legislature acted to abolish the program in 1974, but Reagan vetoed the bill. The three-year program expired June 30.

The program provided that welfare recipients had to work up to 80 hours a month to remain eligible for aid. One reason it failed, the report stated, was because it did not attract the full participation of counties despite a legislative mandate.

For release:

IMMEDIATELY, APRIL 23, 1976
Contact: Peter Kaye (202) 457-6430



One of Ronald Reagan's vaunted welfare reforms "failed to achieve any of its objectives," a California Employment Development Department report disclosed.

The report, released in April, was sharply critical of Reagan's Community Work Experience Program.

It pointed out that during its peak year, 1974, only 2.6% of the 182,735 available welfare recipients were provided job assignments. During that year, there were 2 3/4 million welfare recipients in the state.

In his recent nationally televised speech, Reagan called particular attention to the CWEP program, saying:

"We also carried out a successful experiment which I believe is an answer to much of the welfare problem in the nation. We put able-bodied welfare recipients to work at useful community projects in return for their welfare grants."

In measuring the impact of CWEP, the report said in summary:

1. The program failed to come close to even the minimum participation level.
2. More people applied for welfare payments in counties with CWEP than in those that did not put the program into effect.
3. There was no significant differences in people going off the welfare rolls or in the amount of welfare grants between counties that had the program and those who didn't.
4. HEW statistics indicated CWEP achieved none of its objectives. California's Legislature acted to abolish the program in 1974, but Reagan vetoed the bill. The three-year program expired June 30.

The program provided that welfare recipients had to work up to 80 hours a month to remain eligible for aid. One reason it failed, the report stated, The President Ford Committee, Rogers C. B. Morton, Chairman, Robert C. Moot, Treasurer. A copy of your Report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available for purchase from the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C. 20463. was that only 90 counties despite a legislative mandate.

For release:

IMMEDIATELY APRIL 23, 1976
Contact: Peter Kaye (202) 457-6430



One of Ronald Reagan's vaunted welfare reforms "failed to achieve any of its objectives," a California Employment Development Department report disclosed.

The report, released in April, was sharply critical of Reagan's Community Work Experience Program.

It pointed out that during its peak year, 1974, only 2.6% of the 182,735 available welfare recipients were provided job assignments. During that year, there were 2 3/4 million welfare recipients in the state.

In his recent nationally televised speech, Reagan called particular attention to the CWEP program, saying:

"We also carried out a successful experiment which I believe is an answer to much of the welfare problem in the nation. We put able-bodied welfare recipients to work at useful community projects in return for their welfare grants."

In measuring the impact of CWEP, the report said in summary:

1. The program failed to come close to even the minimum participation level.
2. More people applied for welfare payments in counties with CWEP than in those that did not put the program into effect.
3. There was no significant differences in people going off the welfare rolls or in the amount of welfare grants between counties that had the program and those who didn't.
4. HEW statistics indicated CWEP achieved none of its objectives.

California's Legislature acted to abolish the program in 1974, but Reagan vetoed the bill. The three-year program expired June 30.

The program provided that welfare recipients had to work up to 80 hours a month to remain eligible for aid. One reason it failed, the report stated, was because the program was not implemented in all counties despite a legislative mandate.

The President Ford Committee, Rogers C. B. Morton, Chairman, Robert C. Moot, Treasurer. A copy of our Report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available for public inspection in the Gerald R. Ford Library, Washington, D.C. 20036.