

January 20, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

HONORABLE DONALD RUMSFELD  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Following up on our conversation on our way back from Andrews, may I suggest that it might really be of use to your new top hands to read, all or in part, the two volumes of Perspectives on Poverty. (You could all simply divide it up.) If this produced enough interest, I would be delighted to arrange for the Academy seminar (i. e., those authors that interest you most) to meet with you all to discuss what was written, and their reactions to it.

I am quite serious about this. As you know, I have felt the quality of thinking and writing on the subject of poverty has left a lot to be desired, and that this has been part of the problem at OEO. We worked hard for more than two years to produce a summary statement of what we know, don't know, might find out, etc. I really would hope this statement might get a hearing.

Again, may I propose that you read Walter Miller on "The Elimination of the American Lower Class as National Policy: A Critique of the Ideology of the Poverty Movement of the 1960's." As I said, I don't agree with Miller. But I challenge you to read him and then deny that maybe this is a more complicated subject than some might have suggested!

Daniel P. Moynihan  
Counsellor to the President

DPM/crm