

To The Publisher:

As a resident of Osterville, I receive the VILLAGE ADVERTISER regularly, and read and enjoy it very much.

As a social worker, I feel that the inaccuracies in Andrea Leonard's 'Village View' of Sept. 11 should be corrected immediately.

First: I have never heard of any welfare recipient receiving any kind of television set, much less color TV, through the Department of Public Welfare. Some recipients may own television when they come on assistance.

Second: The entire statement regarding a working welfare mother is incorrect. Taking the example Ms. Leonard uses of a mother of one child working 20 hrs. wkly at \$2.10 an hour, let me clarify as follows:

Basic ADC budget for mother with one child under 7 yrs. of age	\$203.00 monthly
No 'rent exception' (rent is under \$100)	00.00
No life or health insurance declared	00.00
Total monthly ADC	203.00

Method of computing net earnings for ADC purposes:

Gross (monthly)	\$182.00
First \$30.00 exempt	-30.00
	152.00
One third remainder exempt	-50.67
	101.33

Withholding (two dependents exemptions)

Federal	\$1.73
State	0.00
Soc. Sec.	-10.66
union??	6.00
	<u>\$18.39</u>

Work-related expense, 20 hrs.

<u>18.39</u>
82.94
<u>14.00</u>
\$68.94

Other Benefits: 1. Child care costs are either deducted from applicable net wage, or are paid for directly under welfare guidelines. 2. Mileage to and from work at 12 cents a mile is also deducted from net wage.

In above illustration, the net monthly earnings of \$68.90, deducted from recipient's monthly budget of \$203.00, gives her an ADC grant of \$134 and her net wages (after withholding taxes) are \$164.00. Her total monthly income is therefore \$298.00. She also receives a quarterly 'flat grant' (for seasonal clothing and other expenses) of \$85.60. Her medical care, for self and child, is free.

Welfare mothers in general find it very worthwhile to work.

MHE, social worker

Response to MHE

To the Publisher:

In response to social worker MHE, I appreciate learning the formula used to determine how much of her earnings a working AFDC mother with one child may retain and I apologize for not having more accurate information. My sources indicate there are many different ways of arriving at the figure, and seldom do two families' situations result in the same total.

Further, I believe I did NOT say welfare recipients received television sets through welfare; rather I indicated we had heard about such things, whether true or not.

I would like to emphasize that the working welfare mother who earns, according to MHE's example, \$95 a month for 86 hours work IN EFFECT receives only \$1.10 an hour while the minimum wage is \$2.10. This seems to discriminate against working welfare recipients -- people who most need the additional income and who most need, for the good of all, to be encouraged to become self-sufficient.

Similarly, it seems to me, people between age 65 and 72 years who are eligible for Social Security payments should be allowed to earn and keep the money for which they work. Penalizing financially those in the lowest income brackets seems an extremely shortsighted practice which can only foster greater dependence upon public support -- the source of which, ultimately, is the taxpayers.

The present system appears to generate dependence and encourage sloth by rewarding least those most in need of motivation to exert themselves and stimulation to help themselves.

Sincerely yours,
Andrea Leonard

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