Chapter 17
Domestic Policy: The Economy and Social Welfare

**Historical Perspective-- FDR**

- How much of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal programs are permanent or temporary crisis actions?
- Monthly support for families.
- Food stamps
- Unemployment support
- Education support and remediation.

**LBJ’s “War on Poverty”**

- expanded upon New Deal measures.
- Support for families became permanent welfare
- Programs to allow almost everyone to go to college.
- Training.
- Public service employment.

**Guns and Butter**

- Training programs either underfunded, ill-conceived or both.
- Some poor have never worked, do not know what it entails.
- Compromises in Congress leave the programs in disarray.
- Programs become “pork barrels”
- Shortfalls in funding leave programs inadequate.

**LBJ and FDR**

- Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) worshiped President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR)
- Roosevelt was president when Johnson first entered Texas politics.
- Johnson had been very poor and had experienced first-hand how FDR helped the poor.
- Johnson was a master politician who made it his life goal to be viewed like FDR
Welfare Reform and the 104th Congress

- There are true reforms needed.
- Needed reforms could become means to employ Social Darwinist agenda.
- Are the poor part of a socio-economic pattern? Informed research vs. opinion.
- Are the poor responsible for their plight?
- If the poor are responsible, are their children also obliged to be punished?

Pork Barrel Programs

- Real reforms undercut by “Pork Barrel” programs.
- “Pork Barrel” means programs directed at only the constituency of a powerful member of congress— not where the problem really exists.
- Is it cheaper to try to break the cycle of poverty or allow for the “underclass” to muddle on?

Informed Research vs. Opinion

- What do we know now that we didn’t know then?
- We know that “Head Start” worked.
- The earlier the intervention the better for the child.
- Anti-social behaviors are instilled early
- We know that somehow education contributes to the reproduction of poverty.

Reproduction of Social Ills

- Neglect by parents
- Abuse by parents
- Malnourishment
- Pregnancy
- Lack of skills
- Inferior education
- Poor medical care

Potential Solutions

- We know that training programs must accompany financial support.
- Simply providing support with no means to break the cycle creates dependency.
- We know that single mothers will succeed in jobs if they have adequate child care for children.
• We know that financial support without any incentive or means for improvement fails.

**Education**

• We know that a good education improves the social and economic standing of the children of poor.
• What is a good education?
• More Testing? Tougher testing?
• More rigorous programs?
• What part of education policy is based on learning theory?

**What does the future hold?**

• Bush’s Programs.
• Will lowering the taxes fuel inflation?
• What are “Faith Based Charities”?
• Will enduring proselytizing become the price of social support?

**Educational Vouchers**

• Are vouchers the answer to public school’s woes?
• Will diverting money from public schools offer a solution.
• In the South are vouchers merely a stealth means of re-instituting segregation?
• Are vouchers a means of creating a publicly funded Protestant school system?

**Democrats’ Programs**

• Will maintaining the status quo continue to work?
• Do the Democrats have the courage to be truly innovative?
• Reforms based on learning theory.
• Too willing to compromise.
• Perpetuating power makes one too cautious.

**What is needed in Education**

• All federally-mandated programs must be federally funded.
• Schools must be supported by state-wide financing.
• The local school district cannot be the tax collecting institution.
• A combined day care/Head Start program should extend school to younger populations.
College Reforms

- Open-admissions to all community colleges; create more community colleges
- Some 4 year colleges create community college-like branches where there are none
- Establish loan program where community service can pay off some or all of the college loan indebtedness.
- Re-institute a full G.I. Bill support for the education of veterans.