

TALKING POINTS: POVERTY

1. The question of why the U.S. does not address the reality of persistent poverty in our midst is at heart a political question. It is an unresolved political debate among the citizens, their representatives and between the two major parties concerning the role of government relative to assisting people to move out of poverty.
2. Poverty in the U.S. is a "moral and social wound in the soul."
3. Society as a whole, acting through public and private institutions, has the moral responsibility to enhance human dignity and protect human rights. Government has an essential responsibility in this area.
4. The government should assume a positive role in generating employment and establishing fair labor practice, in guaranteeing the provision and maintenance of the economy's infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, harbors, public means of communication and transport.