



Letters From The People

To The Editor Of The Bee

Welfare Funds

This is in response to Mr. Kidd's letter ("Welfare Vs. Defense," Oct. 9) regarding that "a third of the county's children may be on welfare":

Mr. Kidd believes that the huge amounts of money spent on needy children may cause the downfall of this nation just like the Roman Empire fell. This reveals his unawareness of the facts of the U.S. budget: Although social spending is about \$250 billion and defense spending exceeds \$100 billion, over \$225 billion of the social spending goes directly toward Social Security payments, which has nothing to do with the children on welfare. In fact, many of the people receiving Social Security may not be poor, but are entitled to those payments.

There may be some other facts that Mr. Kidd should know: The average stay on AFDC is two years; less than 10 percent of AFDC families own a car; and most AFDC children do not eat during the last week of the month for all practical purposes.

The average family of three receives about \$500 a month and about \$75 in food stamps. They have to pay rent, utilities, buy food and meet other expenses that families with children have. In many parts of California, the housing cost alone exceeds \$500 a month.

The real abuse of tax dollars could be found in the tax system, which was reformed in 1981 and resulted in giving the rich an additional \$130 billion welfare benefits each year to allegedly ignite the economy. We are concerned about the immediate and long-range results of this kind of bleeding-heart aid for the rich by taking it from the needy children of our nation.

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