

Nickel *and* Dimed

BARBARA
EHRENREICH

THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Nancy Spann, Chair
Betsy Beaulieu
Janet Beck
Unal Boya
Rennie Brantz
Eleanor Cook
Sion Harrington
Edelma Huntley
Claire Mamola
Alice Mitchell
Jane Nicholson
Marianne Suggs
Joan Woodworth

MATERIALS AND WORKSHOP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Janet Beck, Chair
Rennie Brantz
Allie Funk
Tina Groover
Eva Hyatt
Ken Muir

www.summerreading.appstate.edu

SOCIAL WELFARE LEGISLATION IN AMERICA (Twentieth-Century Timeline)

19th Century

Poverty was widespread and was dealt with at the local level. States, local communities, some churches, and individuals ran poor houses for the indigent. The federal government did nothing to alleviate poverty.

Great Depression

The economic crisis beginning in 1929 changed America's approach to poverty and welfare. The New Deal launched by President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed social welfare in America.

1935

Social Security Act created a safety net for the elderly, unemployed, and indigent. Legislation introduced retirement pensions, survivors insurance, and disability support paid for by employees and employers. **Aid to Dependent Children (ADC)** supported widows, orphans, and divorced or deserted mothers and children.

1937

Housing Assistance to Low Income Families

1938

Fair Labor Standards Act established the first national minimum wage of 25 cents an hour.

1946

School Lunch Program introduced.

1949

Housing Act, Title I created urban renewal designed to improve housing opportunities. Benefited developers more than workers.

1961

Food Stamp Act provided food coupons for the needy.

Great Society

President Lyndon B. Johnson launched a "war on poverty" in 1964 in hopes of ending poverty in America.

1965

Medicare and Medicaid programs offered federal health insurance for the elderly, poor, and children.

1996

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act Working with the Republican majority in Congress, President Clinton ended the welfare system created by the New Deal. This act ended welfare entitlements and required work for relief benefits. The maximum length of time a person can receive benefits is now five years.