

ments could be paid into and received from Family Courts.

There is no doubt that problems can be created when the populace is faced with legislation that it cannot understand or for which the structures of society have not been prepared. Therefore we recommend that legislation should not proceed the public's readiness for it.

If we accept the statement in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights that: "The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state." It is therefore our responsibility to ensure that each member of a family is enabled to carry out his responsibilities to and derive his rights from that unit. We must also ensure the total well being of those who are members of broken or poorly functioning family groups. To this end we recommend that Day Care Centres be set up so that children who need supervision for part or all the day will receive it from qualified staff and in suitable surroundings. Cost of such services should be based upon the parents' ability to pay. Such centres would service one-parent families, working mothers, the well-to-do and poor homes alike.

We recommend that provision be made to provide children who are not receiving proper nourishment at home, at least one well balanced meal a day while at school. A programme of parent re-education should be considered part of the same effort.

We recommend that visiting home-makers be made available to families in situations where emergency arises and one or both parents are removed from home environment. Again payment of such fees should be scaled according to ability to pay.

The "poverty" which has most impressed us lies in the realm of attitudes where people who have a greater measure of material wealth than those living at or below the poverty line do not recognize that there is a "problem". These are the people who feel that the government or someone else should do something about "it", while they have no responsibility for alleviating the causes of poverty.

We feel the responsibility for coming to terms with the problem and seeking a solution cannot rest wholly on the shoulders of the various levels of government. Although we believe the task of preparing a suitable

climate for change to take place can be accomplished by governments, attitudes cannot be legislated. It will only be on the basis of individual people assuming their responsibilities as members of a society that the problem can begin to be solved. Therefore the greatest return on investment of time and energy will be realized when those to be helped (the poor) and those trying to help work together in small unwieldy groups. All the work that needs to be done cannot be accomplished by paid workers and it is doubtful whether it should. Rather professional associations, community groups; backed by just legislation and a government striving to maintain economic stability which does not penalize any segment of society; must offer their talents to the poor.

To government too must go to task of informing people of the attitudes and opinions of their well-to-do and poorer neighbours. The advances in communication (especially television) have been credited with being responsible for the setting up of material goals for society. The fact that all people do not have the means of achieving these goals has compounded the poverty problem.

We would recommend that churches, service clubs, and professional organizations—rather than further their own interests—voluntarily undertake those programmes NOW which they would like to see eventually become the responsibility of various levels of government.

We would also recommend that citizens' groups give overt moral support to policemen, social workers, and community workers in their areas so that a climate conducive to progress and co-operation can be formed.

We feel that if citizens with governments act now social disorder will be prevented. We recommend that the problem of poverty not be studied to death while its victims continue to suffer. Although people are not awaiting miracles they do want to see a steady progression of events leading to concrete confrontation and elimination of the problem.

Respectfully submitted,  
South End Improvement Association  
South End Tenants' Association

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