

Normally if the minimum wage is raised, prices would go up but we would like to see a prices control board established. With this in mind, I think we could bring more people above this poverty level. I shouldn't say poverty level; perhaps I should say a bare subsistence level and the government would still have the same number—amount of money for welfare.

However, there would be less people so that money could be given out in greater proportions. I think maybe Wayne MacVicker would have more ideas on this.

Mr. Wayne MacVicker: I think we could establish the co-op and I think that is the best way we could do this. This way it would take in the money instead of the government because this would be publicly owned and run by the public and the government wouldn't have to pay any money except to set it up.

This would also be a good way for a decrease in taxation for the elderly people who are working. They wouldn't have to be on welfare either so this could be the case.

Mr. Greg O'Neill: The first step should be to unionize these part-time workers who aren't even getting the minimum wage or Workmen's Compensation up until just recently. Recently legislation has been passed for Workmen's Compensation so if you can unionize both the C.P.E. and the G.W. which is presently organizing the public employees—into unionizing part-time workers then the workers could have more to say in the wages that they received. They are not even getting the minimum wage now.

Now, you could have some sort of legislation and by doing this you would have the existing unions implementing industrial democracy so that they could put more stress on to the management getting less, so that you get increased benefits.

While all this is going on you should have a prices control board, so that prices won't go up, and as I said before, the co-ops with four employee families subsidizing one family, either on welfare or making less than the subsistence level, this would give five families buying power instead of the four that now have it.

It would enable people to buy more products plus giving more money to the management of the institution that is employing industrial democracy.

Thus, the economic system would remain stable.

Senator Hastings: We were told this morning that the minimum wage is a dollar and a quarter in Nova Scotia for males and one dollar for females. You say in your brief it is regional disparity?

Mr. O'Neill: Well, in legislation that was passed it allows for different minimum wages to be paid in specified areas.

The Chairman: It is \$1.05 in rural areas for men and 90 cents for women, isn't that right?

Speaking of the minimum wages, take your pencils out and mark this down. This will tell you what we are talking about when we talk about the poverty line. These are the economic figures that we get from the Economic Council of Canada, and which we accept.

For one person, \$1800; two persons \$3,000; three persons \$3600; four persons \$4200 and five persons \$4800. Anyone who is less than that for the size of the family, any place in Canada, is considered to be below the poverty line. That is what we have been talking about.

Miss Monroe: Widows in Canada, in Nova Scotia—the maximum paid to widows is \$175 and there could be three children or ten children and they get \$175 a month.

Now, the government is giving this and they are under the poverty level. The government is the cause of that, and if they get a little bit more money they would be cut off.

I was born in the United States and my father died and my mother and all the family—we had to move down, but if she stayed there she would get monthly as much as my father made a year in dividing it into twelve times plus \$90 a week for child care.

There is a lot of difference from \$175.

The Chairman: Well, did I understand you to say in effect that the families you had in mind were receiving less than the amount that I have specified?

Miss Monroe: Yes.

The Chairman: That is what you are saying?

Miss Monroe: Yes.

The Chairman: Well, what I don't quite understand from some of your dissenters and