

experience of United Co-operatives of Ontario in using this legislation to provide apartment-type accommodation at cost for senior citizens in the rural districts of Ontario is outlined in the submission in some detail.

12. Drawing from its experience to date, U.C.O. is concerned that the future success in providing the kind of accommodation for elderly people in which it has become engaged is dependent upon better promotional information on the Limited Dividend Section of the National Housing Act, and the necessity for keeping rents as low as possible in the face of rising costs. To this end, the organization recommends the following:

First, that a much more extensive public information program be conducted on the provisions of the National Housing Act in providing loans for the construction of accommodation for the aging.

Second, that the subsidized interest rate of $5\frac{1}{8}\%$, and the amortization period of 50 years be maintained for loans under Section 16 of the National Housing Act.

Third, that the Federal Government reconsider the advisability of exempting non-profit Limited Dividend housing projects for the aging from the recent and planned increases in the sales tax on building materials. (The general CFA position on sales tax on building materials, it may be noted, is that the exemption provided for so many years should be re-instated.)

Fourth, that the provincial government also exempt such projects from the provincial sales tax, and give consideration to increasing its grants to such projects from 5% to 8% of the capital costs.

13. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture looks upon the approach being taken by the United Co-operatives of Ontario in providing modern apartment accommodation for aging rural citizens in Ontario as a promising and valuable development which might well be duplicated in other provinces.

14. Our farm people believe that it is the right of every citizen to have the best of medical care, and not to be deprived of it, or placed in financial jeopardy, because of lack of financial means. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture strongly recommends the establishment of a National Health Insurance Plan under provincial and Federal Government sponsorship and control, to give full medical and surgical care at a premium the lowest income group in our society can reasonably afford. We have recommended as a basic principle that the particular circumstances of long distances and scattered population of farm and rural communities be fully taken into account in the improvement of the organization of health services. Certainly we would insist that in the development of a National Health Plan, and the improvement of health services generally, the circumstances of the aged population should be taken fully into account. Such a Plan is, we believe, even more necessary for senior citizens than it is for the rest of the population.

15. County co-operative medical services have been developed throughout Ontario because of the lack of a universal medical care plan to meet the needs of rural and small town people. They are providing a valuable service to senior citizens in that they have no age limits and no medical examination requirements for entry. In addition, they offer a very comprehensive program of pre-paid medical care at cost, and at premiums that compare favourably to those of other medical plans.

16. The cost of drugs is of vital concern in connection with health services. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture recommends that the Canadian Government abolish drug patents in this country in order to reduce the prices of drugs which have been shown to be excessive.