

HOUSING

The supply of auxiliary data prepared in the course of the Social Research Programme has already made it possible for the University to aid in a material way in the preparation of two housing reports: a report on Housing and Slum Clearance, sponsored jointly by the Montreal Board of Trade and the City Improvement League, much of which after submission to the recent special Housing Committee of the Federal House of Commons was embodied in this Committee's report; and a report on Incomes, Rents, Housing Standards, etc., sponsored by the Montreal Council of Social Agencies, which is to be submitted to both the Provincial and Federal Governments.

The subject of Housing stands particularly in need of careful and integrated study, because it may be viewed from at least three divergent angles : (a) Slums and inadequate housing as related to the growth of the city, regional change and deterioration, industrial localization, the need for town planning, etc.; (b) Housing in relation to income and employment, assisted housing as one of the most direct ways of raising living standards, etc.; (c) Housing projects as one of the most desirable and effective types of works programmes, as an employment measure and a field for government "recovery" expenditures, etc. Not only are these approaches often confused, but each is easily open to treatment in too narrow a way.

At the present moment when housing is the subject of a new wave of public attention, the University could render a most valuable service by adding at least one study in each of the three fields outlined above to its programme, placing the research assistants in each project