

A. INTRODUCTION

1. This brief is presented by the Canadian Teachers' Federation on behalf of its Member organizations in each of the provinces and territories -- representing a combined membership of approximately 200,000 teachers. The brief is the result of careful consideration of the White Paper entitled "Unemployment Insurance in the 70's", and represents the views of teachers as expressed through direct consultation with their elected spokesmen across Canada. We appreciate this opportunity of presenting these views.

2. We wish to make it clear, from the outset, from what standpoint we approach the study of the White Paper.

Since its establishment fifty years ago, the Canadian Teachers' Federation has shown deep concern for the problems of disadvantage and deprivation in Canadian society, particularly in relation to their educational consequences. Our most recent studies -- including those which supported our brief to the Senate Special Committee on Poverty -- have convinced us of the pressing need for a coordinated program of development aimed at securing for every Canadian, regardless of the causes of his particular needs, the promise of a satisfactory living standard through an assured income and equal access to essential social services. We believe the pursuit of this goal to be a proper function of government, and we submit that any legislative proposal in the social welfare field must be judged by the progress it appears to make towards that end.

3. Our approach, then, is based on the conviction that there is urgent need for new and comprehensive legislation, brought about through close consultation among the governments involved,