

the Attorneys-General and the members of the legal profession.

In keeping with our belief that prevention of future deprivation rests principally with our treatment of the coming generations we have recommended that laws be consistently enforced for all levels of society, and that those laws which are irrelevant be either rewritten or abolished.

We recommend that:

Juvenile Court Judges be chosen as carefully for their compassion and consistency as for their legal capabilities.

That juvenile offenders be removed from complete contact with society as a last resort and that a mid-way course between probation and confinement be sought.

We recommend the establishment of half-way houses for adult offenders to assist them in re-establishing themselves as members of the community.

We recommend that family heads who desert their children be forced to contribute to the maintenance of those children.

We recommend also that legislation should not precede the public's readiness for it. Unless the structures of society have been readied for the enactment of enlightened legislation unforeseen problems may in turn present themselves.

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 our responsibility to ensure that each member of such a unit is enabled to carry out his responsibilities to and derive his rights from that unit. We have therefore recommended:

That Day Care Centres be established so that children who need supervision and care for all or part of the day may receive it from qualified people in suitable surroundings.

That provision be made to provide children who are not receiving proper nourishment at home, at least one balanced meal a day at school.

That visiting homemakers be made available to families in situations where emergency takes one or more of the parents from the home environment.

The "poverty" which 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 level do not recognize that there is a problem. There are also many in this group whom we encountered with the concept that all people on welfare are lazy, that the poor are poor because they have "messed-up" their own lives.

We feel that the responsibility for coming to terms with the problem and seeking a solution cannot rest solely on the shoulders of government. Although we believe that government must assume the task of preparing a suitable climate for change to take place, attitudes cannot be legislated. It will only be on the basis of individual people assuming their responsibilities as members of society that the problem can be solved. Therefore the greatest return on time and energy invested 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 accomplished cannot be done by paid workers and it is doubtful whether it should. However, social and community workers must be given small enough case loads to free them to spend more time with those who come to them for help. At the same time professional organizations, and community groups backed by supportive government aid must offer their talents to the poor so that through the concept of self-help they will eventually become self-sufficient.

To government and public agencies must go the task of informing the poor of their rights and of the avenues by which they may improve their lot.

We recommend finally that the problem of poverty not be studied to death while its victims continue to suffer. Although none of the people to whom we spoke were awaiting miracles, they do want to see a steady progression of events leading to concrete solutions NOW.

As part of the preparation for our brief we video taped the opinions of residents of the South End—we would like now to present approximately 20 minutes.

—Video tape presentation shown.

The Chairman: The film you have just seen, which portrayed conditions and interviews for information, was made by Miss Maxwell, Miss McGrath and Mr. Owen and Mr. Smith, who are sitting over here. They tell me they are sheer amateurs. It was not going to suggest that we recommend them for an Academy