

CANADA DECLARES WAR ON POVERTY AT HOME
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designed to renew blighted and congested areas in our cities. If left, these slums can breed only despair and human decay among those who need a revival of hope and ambition if rehabilitation training is to mean anything to them.

As you can see, the programme calls for close co-operation between several federal agencies. It also calls for co-ordination of federal and provincial efforts. Fortunately the provinces and the Federal Government have a long experience of co-operation. Many of the activities I have mentioned have been carried on under federal-provincial agreements for many years.

Because co-operation is so necessary, the Prime Minister has announced that he will call a federal-provincial conference to discuss our proposals and to plan our joint activities.

I have been talking up to now about areas of poverty - or islands if you like.

But naturally all the poor don't live in such areas. We have poor in our most affluent cities and their suburbs.

INDIVIDUAL POVERTY

The poverty that effects these people has been called case poverty - the poverty of the individual who cannot cope with his environment.... He might be called the hard-core individual poor. His personal problems sometimes seem almost insoluble. Without specialized individual help, he will probably remain the hard-core unemployed or under-employed man, even in any economy enjoying the fullest employment.

Studies conducted in the past by the National Employment Service have clearly demonstrated that there is a distinct relation between levels of education and unemployment, and I think no one with an awareness of the increasing complexity of our labour market and the distinct shift from the unskilled segment of the labour force to semi-skilled, skilled and

technical workers, as well as professional and managerial workers, will question the value to the individual Canadian of a high level of education.

PROBLEM OF EDUCATION

I should feel foolish making this obvious point if I did not stand today in the middle of a situation in which I see emerging shortages of people to fill certain kinds of jobs, while at the same time the rate at which youngsters are dropping prematurely out of school continues to alarm all of us.

The last census figures show that, of the 11 million people in Canada 15 years of age and over and not in school, more than a million have only Grade 4 education or less. Not all these people are in the labour force. This does not make the figures any less shocking or the wastage in terms of human resources any less deplorable.

For this is one of the things we must always be concerned about - the wastage of resources of all kinds, but most particularly the wastage of human resources. The charitable case for helping the poor is understood by every man of goodwill, but the economic case is sometimes overlooked.

We are living in an increasingly competitive world, in which we must continue to improve our efficiency and our productivity. This will come about in part through technological change, but we are going to have to rely also on a labour force which must become better and better educated, better and better trained and more and more flexible.

It should be recognized that the need for a concerted and comprehensive plan to eliminate poverty extends beyond benefits for an individual or his family, as worthy as this fundamental objective may be. As Prime Minister Pearson said in his speech to the House of Commons a few days ago: "To enlarge opportunities, to improve the ability of people to take advantage of these opportunities, is not only to attack poverty; it is to strengthen our whole economy, to increase the prosperity and raise the standards of the whole community."...

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