

Now, on my right I have the spokesman for the Academy, Miss Patricia Graham.

Miss Patricia Graham, Class 11-A Sydney Academy: Mr. Chairman, Honourable senators, ladies and gentlemen, while speaking to a group of young people shortly before he died, Senator Robert Kennedy made substantial reference to the complexities and problems of the revolutionary world in which we live.

He decided that this generation had thrust upon it a greater responsibility than any other generation that has ever lived. He said that each time a man stands up for a principle or an idea or asked to improve the lot of others or start out against injustice he starts forth a tiny ripple of hope.

In effect that is why we are here today. When we accepted the challenge of assisting the organization, the organization of the Canadian politician, little did we know what we were getting into, but it wasn't long before we found out. It didn't seem feasible that we were coming here on common ground at the end of two weeks; but we were divided into seven committees each dealing with a vital link of poverty.

A representative of each one of the coordinating committee had a job to do—had to add and subtract and combine the material which we relied upon.

At the first meeting of the finishing committee an uproar slightly resembling pandemonium shook a number of students both to ways and ideas of their committee, and the way it had been represented in the brief. And naturally at this time total revision was impossible so that overnight a separate dissenting opinion along with 31 recommendations and other items were compiled.

It introduced a drawn-out meeting, the general half and sweat of it all was really worth it. It was really worth the effort to be here today to try and tell it like it really is.

The war on poverty should be a hot and furious war. The actions ultimately multiply to each and every corner of the nation. Our war with the generation gap should never have been allowed to grow in the first place which would create a large new neglect of which we should take our share of the blame.

The uniform set policy to rid poverty on a national scale could not be effectively carried out in each region with characteristics and

problems which must be treated individually. In Cape Breton for example you don't have to look far in any direction to find poverty in its varying degrees. The truth is it has been taken for granted for too long.

Poor people are finding themselves in a profound disadvantage in that they are surrounded with the evidence of the so-called affluent society. The constant struggle to keep up with the Joneses and even to make ends meet ends in frustration and despair. What is definitely needed is a program some of which would even be included in the school curriculum which would provide knowledge of money management to those with a limited income.

Failure to agree in a family where money should go can easily result in overspending and there is a vast difference between the situation where the husband drinks and gambles compared to when he does not.

An increase in publicity and publication of all readily available management programs is needed. We have also recommended that a committee be set up to investigate the part played by finance and loan companies in their treatment and admonition of poverty.

Lower class citizens must be involved in the curriculum to the core of the community. Nothing will do more for them and have the lasting effect—until they are a functioning part of it. The same applies to the rural core even though they are outside society generally.

The society which we Canadians take pride in can never be complete until equal culture facilities are extended to every level and corner of our society. As it stands, many people cannot even afford money for anything as basic as swimming lessons. Such things are not luxuries but necessity in order to develop a rich and full society as a whole.

But the key to any successful war on poverty is individual participation. The government is not as effective as the individual citizen in getting local community action underway.

By the same token the individual citizen cannot organize national insurance programs and old age pension programs or national booster campaigns. That is the present situation. We need total cooperation if we are to win the war for after all the end objective is to ensure that adequate compensation is