

C. CONCLUSION

20. It is not in the interests of Canadians that social and economic reform be approached through piecemeal and partial legislation. Such efforts create serious problems of jurisdiction, of financing, and of practical implementation. As an inevitable result, workable expedients are then sought through ingenious evasion of these problems rather than through their solution, and we are led into a complex tangle of legislation that is costly to administer, ineffectual in its operation, and almost impossible to amend.
21. With its insistence on acquired eligibility, rather than natural right, its strong elements of reward and punishment, and its adherence to outmoded definitions of the "labour force", the White Paper remains faithful to the concepts of forty years ago. Essentially, it is an attempt to restore solvency to an existing program which has increasingly demonstrated its inadequacies as an answer to the real problems. The new benefits proposed as an added attraction could be conferred by other means, more direct and more efficacious, upon those who need them; the new services proposed in an attempt to secure integration of programs (as a substitute for coordinated design) represent a laudable ambition, but one which, in the light of experience to date and of a sober assessment of practical possibilities, cannot claim to be realistic; the essential features continue to reflect an uneasy compromise between insurance and welfare; and the means proposed to secure a safe increase in income for the fund, based on a questionable claim to universality, introduce serious inequities.