

That granting of Old Age Security and Family Allowance Benefits be reassessed on a basis of need.

Many of those with whom we spoke considered inadequate wages as one of the prime contributors to the creation of poverty. We have therefore recommended that a national guaranteed income be established either through an increase in basic wages or through supplementation of income earned—whichever is the more economically feasible. The ever widening gap between the rich and the poor must be closed and this is one measure which would help to bring this about.

With approximately 1.5 million people in Canada over sixty-five we have recommended that a study be undertaken to ascertain their needs. With the present emphasis on the young, many of our senior citizens who often live alone and in old neighbourhoods, constitute our "hidden poor". We have also recommended:

That efforts be made to locate and urge those older members of the community to avail themselves of frequent medical examinations to maintain their physical and mental health.

That private organizations and governments when sponsoring senior citizen housing locate them within the mainstream of the community.

That this segment of the community be looked to as an untapped resource for working with deprived youth.

That businesses, industry, and communities set up pre-retirement programmes to prepare and enable people to cope with retirement years.

That families be given help from government in carrying out their responsibilities towards aged members of the family group.

We have also recommended that in areas of high unemployment Manpower Centres be set up using the resources of those in the area whenever possible; and that the psychological problems of the unemployed be further explored. Victor Frankl says:

Remarkably enough the most prominent symptom of the unemployment neurosis is not depression, but apathy. The unemployed become increasingly indifferent and their initiative more and more trickles away. This apathy is not without grave dangers. It makes such people incapable of grasping the helping hand which may be extended to them.

Keeping this in mind it would be advisable that Manpower employees and community workers go to the unemployed rather than wait for the unemployed to go to them. It is not surprising that this condition of apathy and helplessness can be found among the poor no matter what the cause of their problem.

We suggest that company pension plans which exclude men who although young are too old to fit into the plan be examined.

The need for an increase in adequate low cost housing was a recurrent theme in our discussions with people in preparing this brief. That human beings are allowed to live in buildings that are unfit for animals is a poor commentary on our society. The effects of rat-infested, fire-prone, poorly-serviced buildings on those who occupy them cannot be measured. People who live in such houses cannot help but wonder whether living in such an environment does not also indicate a devaluation of their human worth. The psychological and sociological effects on a family of six or seven being brought up in two or three rooms in a slum neighbourhood contribute greatly to the problem of poverty. To help alleviate this aspect of the problem we have recommended:

That care be taken in community renewal programmes so that adequate housing is provided before existing housing is destroyed.

That the Federal Government make money available at lower rates of interest to individuals and still lower rates of interest to Provincial Governments to build low-cost housing.

That rent ceilings be established based upon housing market, services offered, and condition of apartment being offered.

That municipalities enforce existing health and building by-laws regarding housing.

That Provincial Governments re-examine their legislation pertaining to landlord-tenant rights.

That Provincial boards of appeal be established to arbitrate contentious issues between landlords and tenants.

Recognizing that all men deserve equality before the law, and that lack of economic resources may contribute to a person's not being able to obtain adequate representation, we recommend a national system of legal aid to be established through the co-operation of