

There are some organizations, but not many, that teach people how to budget, but they are not advertised enough. If they could get across to all the people what could happen to them, how they could improve themselves, things would be much better.

To give you an example, you have a teacher advertisement where you have the average "Mr. Jones" who makes so much a year but he finds himself dropping in his economic position and he sees the advertising about the organization where he could learn how to budget his money and a year later the same "Mr. Jones" would be getting along much better and he can stretch his pay cheque and still have enough money left for luxuries.

The Chairman: Miss Smith, I must say to you that the Department of Consumer Affairs came before us as a witness and it said exactly what you said, in more elaborate terms.

They said they were going to do something about it from the Consumers Department, and they were going to try to get the message across in the schools and high schools and even in the public school level. So you are on the right track, young lady.

Mr. Tom Collins: Sir, on this advertising, if you were wondering where the money could come from—well, the government pays a substantial per cent now, but we could subsidize racing, horse racing in Sydney, and you could get money from there.

Another thing I would like to talk on is financing loans. In New York, there is a civic union set up to help students, people who are poor and who have no money. They give them loans interest free and there is no extra charge.

I was wondering if it was possible for different groups in Canada to set up something like this. This of course would be for poor people specifically.

The thing about this is, most of the money would be turned back.

Another thing, I would like to quote from the Royal Commission investigating finance and loan companies. Nova Scotia has done this through their Royal Commission of costs of borrowing money and related matters across Nova Scotia.

In this report...

The Chairman: What was the name?

Mr. Collins: It is a Royal Commission.

The Chairman: Who heads the Royal Commission?

Mr. Collins: This is for the Province of Nova Scotia.

The Chairman: The reason I am asking, there was a Royal Commission investigation here and they co-operated with us and I just forget his name, but they were the first to make a study on consumer credit. This was in all of Canada, even before we did in Ottawa. I am trying to think of the man's name, and I just can't at the moment. I have read the report, and it's a very good one.

Mr. Collins: Another thing, I would like to mention consumer education in schools. There are courses that can be put into the schools such as this one here "Money Spending." This one is elementary but it can be put in the schools to help to show people what they are getting into when they make loans.

Another reason I would like to investigate the finance companies is an example which I received. There was a youth who owed several banks and finance companies \$10,000. This man was sued and had no resources. I was wondering how a person could get a loan if he didn't have any resources.

The Chairman: So am I, but go ahead.

Mr. Collins: The finance companies, on making the first payment, ask you if you want to borrow more money. Now, this is a ridiculous thing to do. Why would you need more money? Why would you need more money when you are trying to pay off your debts?

There was a man who visited disabled people who were in debt and the man would threaten to go around and tell all his neighbours about this man being in debt. This could ruin his reputation with all these psychological threats.

There are only two inspectors for consumer affairs in Halifax, and this is not enough. There are over 200,000 people concerned, and if there is only two people they can't get that much done.

On the topic of poverty—a person who makes \$22,000 a year and he had very little furniture in his house, and he didn't even have enough to attend a show, so poverty is not only for the poor.