

policy matters. There are such councils, for example, in Windsor and Toronto, and we have also set up a province-wide council in Ontario. In those areas where other international unions have an interest or a problem in serving retired workers member, we have urged our local unions to combine forces with them in area-wide committees representative of the entire labor movement and to seek support from the United Fund and Health and Welfare Councils, and from state or provincial or local governments which finance and coordinate services to senior citizens. While the UAW is willing to initiate programs for its own retired members, the Union recognizes the need for community-wide action to meet the community-wide needs of all senior citizens.

In Windsor we have an outstanding example of what can be done by community effort with UAW assistance and leadership to provide space and staff for a Retired Workers Activity and Drop-In Center. We are greatly interested in this program because it represents the first instance in Canada in which the provincial government has offered financial assistance in support of an organized education and recreation program for retired workers. In most other places, these types of programs have been initially organized and housed in local union halls and then have been partially supported and staffed by the Community Chest or Community Services Organization. Since some questions have been raised about the central purpose and value of these Drop-In or Activity Centers, I would like to say that we find them of great value not only because they meet a direct need for organized recreational and educational services, but also because they provide a central place where older and retired persons can go for assistance with individual problems requiring information, counseling and referral services. In this latter sense, the centers serve as a means of bringing into focus the wide variety of services that older persons need in meeting their individual problems in such fields as income maintenance, employment, housing, health, family relations and so forth.

To digress for a minute, I should point out several examples of what I am talking about. In one instance in our four centre programs in Detroit in the early inception of these programs we made a survey to try to find out why people came twice and did not come back.

As a result of that experience we found two basic reasons. One reason was their sense of health insecurity from the point of view of mobility. The other had to do with the cost of daily transport to participate in this kind of program.

As a result of the transportation problem, which to us seemed to be quite a serious one, as we talked to our retired membership, we asked the city council to provide some help in the reduction of fares on city-owned transportation so that it would be easier for older people to participate in our programs.

There was great resistance to this at the beginning. It was finally approved and now we have a half fare plan in operation, which makes it possible for people over 65, who present a bona fide credential, to ride on the buses between the hours of nine in the morning and three in the afternoon at half the regular fare.

I should say that among the great resistors to this idea were the downtown businessmen's association in Detroit, which was concerned that this might in some way jeopardize the public transportation system. Today they are the strongest supporters of this program, because it has brought many older people back down into the downtown areas to shop, who otherwise would not come into that area. So there are benefits even for private enterprise, for a proposal which is motivated by humanitarian and eleemosynary interests.

Own funds and time and interest in such problems.

For these reasons, I feel very strongly that state and provincial legislation and appropriations should be passed that will encourage communities to