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PURCHASE MORE GOODS AND SERVICES
FROM SHELTERED WORK SETTINGS

RECOMMENDATION: That the Federal Government give priority in its purchasing policy in order to ensure that a significant amount of goods and services required by Federal Departments, Agencies and Crown Corporations will be provided by firms and organizations established specially to provide employment opportunities to disabled persons. This policy should include such measures as:

- Ways and means to expand the industrial capacity and competitiveness of these special suppliers, such as long-term contracts and low-interest loans.
- "Set Aside" products and services which are exclusive purchasing contracts that will provide an element of security and continuity to this type of organization.

- A review process to protect against exploitation of workers within these special organizations and to ensure that the working conditions and environments are adequate.

**NOT
IMPLEMENTED**

Major Impact: The Department of Supply and Services, along with Treasury Board and Health and Welfare are currently sponsoring a major study, BIDS, which stands for Business and Industrial Development Strategies. The three-year study, also sponsored by the Canadian Council of Rehabilitation Workshops, is intended to identify potential production

capabilities of sheltered workshops. The Minister of Supply and Services anticipates that it will have a major impact on the volume of government business with workshops, but that it is too early to state the exact nature of that impact.

Move Quickly: Although the existence of sheltered workshops has come under criticism, sheltered employment is important to a number of disabled persons. The Federal Government can encourage the employment of disabled persons in this type of work through an aggressive purchasing policy. The Committee recommends that, as soon as the results of the BIDS study are available, the Government should move quickly to implement this recommendation.

"It must be recognized that conditions in some workshops are deplorable. Too often they have become charitable institutions rather than business enterprises."