

Miss Stewart: They are seen anyway.

Senator Fergusson: Is there any feeling amongst the doctors in that locality that this is interfering with their regular way of making their living?

Mr. Wilson: The doctors in the community were approached before the setting up of this clinic, and I have heard that they were rather thankful that they were taking some of the patient load off their hands.

Senator Fergusson: Do you feel that sickness is one of the great underlying causes of poverty in this country.

Mr. Wilson: I think it is the other way around.

Senator Fergusson: It is that poverty causes sickness?

Mr. Wilson: Perhaps.

Senator Fergusson: Well, I have heard arguments the other way, that because of poverty we have a great deal of sickness.

The Chairman: Let us exhaust this for a moment. The question asked by Senator Fergusson was whether illness contributes to poverty. You gave the impression from your answer that it did not contribute. Certainly the medical services at the present time are available on the scale to the poor that is unprecedented in our own history in this country. Do you go with that?

Mr. Wilson: What kind of medical services?

The Chairman: Every kind of medical services.

Mr. Wilson: In hospitals?

The Chairman: Yes, I have to cover every kind of medical service available. As far as I know, hospitals are included.

Miss Stewart: I do not agree with you.

The Chairman: That is fine. Let us hear from you. That is what we are here for.

Madame St. Aubin: You know that blue card that poor people have—they have to be out of work completely . . .

The Chairman: I started on the wrong province because I assumed that you had the same services everybody else in the country had. You will not get it until July 1st. You haven't quite got it yet.

In the provinces where we have medical services that we refer to as Medicare, I do not think you could very much improve on the medical facilities available to the poor in those provinces. British Columbia is one of them.

Mr. Rosenfeld: I think basically a good parallel is in education where there isn't anyone in Pointe St. Charles that doesn't have accessibility to schools yet the percentage of people that graduate from high schools from Pointe St. Charles is .09 graduate fifth year high school and .01 go on to university.

I think there is an interesting parallel. Although there may be medical services available to the people, from a theoretical point of view, I do not think anyone who really has to see a doctor in this country could not see one—although I am starting to wonder about that when I try to see a physician.

The Chairman: You mean, he will not visit you. You can visit him.

Mr. Rosenfeld: It is difficult even to visit him. The point is, even though the service is available, is it really reaching the people in the way that it is being comprehensive and offering a reasonable service so there is an effect. Schools reach those children, but they are obviously not having an effect.

Senator Sullivan: Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment on these remarks if you don't mind. I would like to substantiate exactly what you have said.

As a practitioner for 35 or 40 years and serving in the out-patient department of a large teaching hospital for that length of time, and a faculty member for the University of Toronto, professorial rank, I disagree completely with what the witness has said. The poor are receiving services today that they never received before. I am taking care of them, and you are talking theory, not practicality.

That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Wilson: How many people are you not reaching? How many people do not come to out-patient departments?

Senator Sullivan: I know we don't go out on the street to bring them in.