

The Chairman: Do they need programming at times of difficulty? Do they need the help of a social worker?

Miss McGrath: I would think that depending upon what their disability was they would need different services. A blind person might need entirely different services than possibly someone who had been injured or was out of work and therefore found himself psychologically cut off from everything that he or she had done before and there would be a need for counselling.

The Chairman: Then assuming for the moment that the disadvantaged—that is, those out of the labour force—receive the basic income and services and opportunities, would that be enough? Would that give them a decent life?

Miss McGrath: Probably not.

The Chairman: Why not?

Miss McGrath: I cannot think right now but there is something missing.

The Chairman: There is nothing supposed to be missing from that or else we have been missing a lot of things.

Miss McGrath: No. I think that as long as you take care of a person's material well being and we give them the opportunity to take part in life as it is around them, that is not going to be the kind of solution but at least it is going to be a way of achieving a kind of solution.

The Chairman: Give us a more adequate solution? What is the final solution? I do not like to use the word "final," because you do not mean final.

Miss McGrath: No, I do not.

The Chairman: What is a more appropriate or adequate or suitable solution?

Miss McGrath: I don't really know.

The Chairman: That is all right. I am not sure we know either. I think we have some ideas on it.

Senator Fournier: I understood that you would be in favour of consumer training?

Miss McGrath: Some types of consumer training, yes.

Senator Fournier: We have discussed also the problem of involvement in your organization and you are gaining ground. You are

getting ahead. There are some people becoming involved.

Miss McGrath: Yes.

Senator Fournier: Now, are there any children that do not attend school in Saint John on account of poverty?

Miss McGrath: I would not say there are children who are not attending school on account of poverty but there are children who are attending school and not getting the full benefits of school because of poverty. They go to school under-nourished. They come to school from homes where four and five people live in the same room. They come to school from homes where there is one light in the house and therefore you just cannot study in the evening. There is no table to put your books on.

There are children in the City who are coming to school but they are not coming to school...

Senator Fournier: You would say the number is rather small?

Miss McGrath: No, I would not say it was small. Just speaking about the areas that I really know which is the inner-City area, I would say they comprise approximately one-sixth or one-eighth of the school population.

Senator Fournier: Now, changing the subject a little bit; in this South End Tenants' Association, about which you were talking and which had the film we saw a while ago, do they have any alcoholic problems?

Miss McGrath: Yes. We have a great number of alcoholic problems. The Provincial Government has just passed a law by which it is no longer a criminal offence to be found drunk in public. The law in itself is very good.

At the same time we are not equipped yet to face the consequences of such a law.

As part of our preparation for this brief we did four hours taping for filming. We filmed the drunks of the area in which we live. We thought it was not fair to them to show it, but these men are on the street. There was nowhere to go. There is nowhere they can get a free meal, a good square meal every once in a while.

When winter comes they will be driven to criminal acts so they can get a nice warm bed for the winter, so we have a great problem with alcoholism at the present time.