

The Chairman: There is one more thing I would like to ask you. Before the doctors appeared before us there appeared a group from Montreal who were called the "Store Front Group." Do you know what I mean by that?

Dr. Parlee: Yes.

The Chairman: There were young doctors and some students, just out or just about to be out, and they were carrying these sorts of services to the poor. Our schedule was not fixed in that way—it just so happened—and my own feeling was that the Medical Association totally approved of what they were doing.

Dr. Parlee: This is the group in Point Clair?

The Chairman: That is right. What is your view?

From the Floor: Point St. Charles.

The Chairman: Yes. What is your view on taking the service to the poor and to the needy? That is what they were doing, actually.

Dr. Parlee: I think that is fine if you can, but with the facilities that we have we just cannot do it.

The Chairman: Can you not, doctor? Saint John is a small city and we have been told time and again for the last two days you have an area at which you can point a finger—it is not so easy in other places—and have services available there on the store-front basis? Would it not be easier there than it is in other cities?

Dr. Parlee: Well, in a small way we have tried to do this because we have medical clinics set up throughout the City. There is a medical clinic in West Saint John. There is another one in the north end. This is comprised of anywhere from four to six doctors working in clinics. There is another clinic in East Saint John. These people are in private practice, of course, but the clinics are seeing private patients as well as welfare patients. They are not seeing indigent patients or the patients that attend the clinics.

The Chairman: No.

Dr. Parlee: They are divided out through the city.

The Chairman: How do you get paid at the moment for welfare patients?

Dr. Parlee: We have an agreement with the government whereby we accept a 30 per cent cut in our schedule of fees. We are paid 70 per cent of the schedule.

The Chairman: You are hoping for the full 100 per cent or 90 per cent?

Dr. Parlee: Well, we would like something better than that.

The Chairman: Are there any other questions?

Senator Fergusson: Dr. Parlee, I certainly agree with what you say about housing changing the attitude of people because I have seen it very recently myself. If people have a decent place to live in they respond to it. In the course of what you were saying I think you said that the government will probably have to supply more public housing.

Dr. Parlee: Yes.

Senator Fergusson: That is probably right but we have seen a great deal of this throughout Canada and one of the complaints from people who live in some of the public housing is, even though they are well housed, of the stigma that attaches to being in public housing. Even if you do have the physical conditions, if you have something like this that is irritating and bothering these people then this is another kind of poverty. It may not be financial poverty.

Can you think of any way by which the government could provide public housing which would eliminate that stigma? You see, the children have told us when they go to school it is thrown up at them that they are in public housing, and they are looked down upon.

Dr. Parlee: Really, I do not know, They should be required to pay a certain amount of rent according to their ability to pay.

Senator Fergusson: But the very fact that there is public assistance for their housing is often thrown up to them, and they consider it a stigma. We have found this in other places where we have visited public housing.

Dr. Parlee: I do not know if it would help to change the name. They used to call it the poor house. My own father spoke of that many times. I know of one where they changed the name and called it Sunset