

*Kathy:* I've done just as well on welfare as I do out working, because there is no such thing as a Day-Care Centre, or a supplement for anyone working.

*Mr. S.* Let's talk about that for a moment. How do you think the system could be changed to give your incentive back, and still make sure you've got enough to live on?

*Answer:* I think this talk about the guaranteed income is a good thing. I think that welfare could do a lot more in rehabilitation of families that have one parent, either mother or father alone, and re-education, and make it worth their while to go back to school. When you go back to school, your income is so low, that you really don't have the clothes to go with—your children aren't always looked after properly because you can't afford better help, and there is no Day Care Centre. You will still receive your medicine free, except for a nominal fee of \$1 for children's prescriptions and \$2 for adults. Other than that, it's about the only help you get.

*Mr. S.* By the guaranteed annual income, you'd also be removed from all these impositions that are put on you by the system. You could spend your money as you saw fit. Do you feel that this would be the means of making you feel like a person again?

*Answer:* It would give you back your self-respect, and it would give you a reason to try, and a reason to go on and do something with your life. But more important than that, it would give your children a reason to work and an incentive. As it is right now, if you're on welfare, if your children go to work, it can be deducted from the "breadwinner" as Dot calls it. The welfare goes down according to the income of the family. I was on part welfare because I received an army pension. If you work and earn \$20 per month casual labour, your welfare is not affected; but if you make \$20.01, they take \$20.01 off your welfare. If your children went out and got a paper route, they'd make \$20 per month. If they made 1¢ more, it would come off their mother's cheque. So there's no future. I have four teenagers. Two of them are senior teenagers and in high school, and one of the reasons I went off welfare and went on my own is so that they would be allowed to work and make their own way in life without somebody holding them back.

*Mr. S.* Would you feel that the system almost makes you cheat?

*Mary Jean:* It certainly makes a grand cheater out of you, I'll tell you that, and a

great liar—with straight face; because if you get the chance to go out and scrub floors, you'll do, but you can't do anything that you have to pay unemployment insurance. You have to beat the system—you have to do this. It's an honest day's work, and it's a hard day's work, but if your children need shoes or if some furniture is gone and you have to get it repaired or replaced, you have to find the money yourself.

*Mr. S.* So you become very devious. Not only do you become devious, you become a liar. You become a cheat, and over and above that, the community seems to think of you as a second class citizen.

*Answer:* You're treated as second class citizens. There's a stigma attached to welfare. There's a stigma attached to public housing which is now called Family Housing by the CMHC. I think the system is ready for a change. Welfare has come up. It is still a long way to go. There is a rehabilitation program in the "welfare" by which the adult of the family could go to school or go out and learn a trade. But it really isn't implemented. It's just there doing nothing.

*Mr. S.* No one puts any effort into getting the people to go on these programs, do they? It's only when a person like you takes advantage of it.

*Kathy:* Can I just say something about the welfare, and my going to school at the same time? The second year, I took a practical nursing course while I said it wasn't for me anyway. The first five months, this was in-school training, I got \$65 per week by Manpower. When I went into the hospital, my allowance was cut to \$30 per week. I went to the welfare, and by the time they decided to help me, I was so far behind in debt that I couldn't have gone on even if I wanted to.

*Mr. S.* In other words, the thing didn't work fast enough to keep you from going back into debt again.

*Answer:* It could have if my worker had wanted to push it. I could have had it right away.

*Mr. S.* Do you feel the worker does this with an indifferent attitude? How do you feel about the workers?

*Theresa:* I don't have much respect for one particular worker. I've been separated for 15 months now and when I left my husband, I left furniture and all, and just took the children and came over to the Boulevard and lived with my parents. I went to the social