

indicate that the implication of the table on page 13 of your brief which refers only to welfare expenditures, should not be taken to indicate that Canada cannot do as well as other countries in respect to looking after the aged.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sharpe, have you something to say?

Mr. SHARPE: I will be very brief, sir. In closing we would like to say that there has been no thorough scientific study of what groups are the most in need of government help in Canada. This Association and others have for some time called for such a study before any welfare programs are set up or expanded. In short, we like the approach of your Special Committee on Aging—to examine and define the needs first.

Our own examination of the needs leads us to think Canada should avoid the “upside down welfare” approach of the proposed Canada Pension Plan, and instead extend the existing Old Age Security program to younger ages than 70, and possibly supplement it at older ages. This would provide help where help is needed, and do it now for every one of the aged.

We thank you for the opportunity of appearing before you today, and we hope we have made a constructive contribution to your studies.

The CHAIRMAN: First of all, I wish to thank the senators who came here today despite the fact that the Senate is not sitting in order to keep our appointment with you who are interested in the problem of aging.

On behalf of the committee I want to indicate that we are very appreciative of your most useful and comprehensive brief. We could have gone on for a very long time, but I do not know that we would have settled very many problems. This has been a new and fresh approach, and it will be very helpful. On behalf of the committee, I thank you.

The committee adjourned.