

APPENDIX "D"

BRIEF

to

SPECIAL SENATE COMMITTEE

on

POVERTY

by

THE NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF

LABOUR

(C.L.C.)

August, 1970

Saint John, N.B.

Honourable David A. Croll, Q.C., Chairman and Members of the Special Senate Committee on Poverty:

The New Brunswick Federation of Labour was most pleased to receive an invitation from your Research Consultant, Mr. Richard L. M. Lord, to appear before your Special Senate Committee on Poverty and make known to you our views on those people that are not able to provide for their material, social and cultural well-being.

Background on the New Brunswick Federation of Labour

The New Brunswick Federation of Labour has been in existence since February 25, 1914. when it obtained a charter from the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. In 1956, the Canadian Labour Congress came into being with the merger of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labour. The C.L.C. granted the New Brunswick Federation of Labour its new charter on August 27, 1957.

Our Federation is composed of forty-one different unions with 163 locals and 25,000 members. Also affiliated are seven Labour Councils representing major communities in our province. It is estimated we represent 112,500 union members and their families out of an estimated N.B. population of 625,000.

Statement by the Canadian Welfare Council.

In January, 1969, the Canadian Welfare Council issued a statement entitled "Social Policies for Canada, Part I".

We would like to quote from the statement, some of their comments:

"Continuing poverty in rich urban and industrialized countries means exclusion

from the expanding comforts, opportunities, and self-respect accorded to the majority. Physical hardship is not poverty's only characteristic. A person is poverty stricken when he is full of a deep sense of inequality and feels chronic exclusion and alienation from the wider society in which he lives."

The Council noted different causes of poverty by categorizing them but added further that "in real life different types of poverty and their causes intermingle, sometimes in an inextricable manner."

Life-Cycle Poverty—is liable to press in on people during predictable periods in their lives; in childhood, later when they have children of their own to support and again in old age.

Depressed Area Poverty—At any point in time some regions will depend more heavily than others on declining forms of production.

Crisis Poverty—Some people suffer from sharp but temporary set-backs to their living standards arising from unemployment, illness, injury, desertion or death of the breadwinner.

Poverty Due to Long-term Dependency—Many people are physically or mentally handicapped from birth, and have never earned a living.

Inner-city Poverty—There tends to be some segregation of richer and poorer households in every town or city. In larger towns the concentration of poor people in particular areas may impose an accumulation of mutually reinforcing social handicaps upon all who live in these neighbourhoods.