

SUMMARY

The Committee feels that these "poverty lines" meet the criteria stipulated at the beginning of this section.

First, this method represents a considerable improvement, both technically and conceptually, over those poverty standards currently in use in Canada.

Second, a basic part of these poverty lines is the specification of a level of adequacy (the basic guarantee level) which is higher than the levels specified by most provincial welfare budgets and by the Statistics Canada/E.C.C. poverty line.

Third, these lines, because they are to be adjusted annually in relation to a measure of the average standard of living in Canada, incorporate a more enlightened view of poverty. Furthermore, these lines will not become obsolete as do others.

Fourth, these lines contain all the information necessary for the smooth operation of the Committee's G.A.I. proposal. These lines lend themselves readily to *doing something* about the problem of poverty.

Finally, the method of calculating these lines is easily understandable; they provide a more equitable "definition" of poverty; and they lend themselves readily to a program of action in the form of a Guaranteed Annual Income. The method also is capable of further modification and refinement.

REFERENCES

1. Much of the historical material in this section is derived from the Department of National Health and Welfare publication, *The Measurement of Poverty*, Memorandum 19, Social Security Series, Research and Statistics Directorate, Department of National Health and Welfare, Information Canada.
2. *Ibid.*, cited p. 3.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 4.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 5.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 6.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 11.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 12.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 16.
9. *Ibid.*, p. 13.
10. J. K. Galbraith, *The Affluent Society* (New York: The New American Library Inc., 1958), p. 251.
11. Department of National Health and Welfare, *The Measurement of Poverty*, *op. cit.*, p. 13.
12. *Ibid.*, p. 18.
13. Victor R. Fuchs, "Toward a Theory of Poverty," Task Force on Economic Growth and Opportunity, *The Concept of Poverty* (Washington: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1965), p. 75.
14. Mollie Orshansky, "The Shape of Poverty in 1966," p. 6.