

The way we would like to make our verbal presentation to you is as follows. I will speak for a few minutes on the background of the Brief and on the role of voluntary agencies. This outline will be followed by Mr. Gitterman who will speak for a few minutes on planning. Miss Townshend will then speak for a few minutes on public housing and one or two other matters. And, finally, Mr. Palef will join us in trying to answer such questions as you may have to ask.

First of all, the nature and scope of the Brief: Our committee had the advantage of being able to read through many of the previous briefs which had been submitted. We noted that the problems of aging had been very well outlined, and saw no reason why we should seek further to elaborate on these problems.

It was noted the committee were asking the question: Why is it the legislation which is now in effect is not being fully utilized? So we decided that rather than burden you with further details about the problems of the aging, we would take a more direct approach and make some suggestions as to what might be done about it from the point of view of voluntary organizations such as our own. The decision was made to limit our presentation to housing because it was felt that this was one of the principal problems, and one we could deal with in a little more depth, if we didn't try to touch on any other problem. Even this problem we considered to be rather large, and we narrowed it down to the provision of housing for able-bodied people.

The brief deals with some of the needs to be met if this Government is to meet the challenge of providing appropriate housing for the elderly. These needs include the following:

A clear understanding of the role of voluntary agencies; a co-ordinated approach by the three levels of Government and voluntary agencies; planning on a city-wide basis; better technical and informational services; pilot studies; more public housing; improved educational facilities for people engaging in this type of work; consideration of urban renewal schemes; a ministry of housing; the development of a national program; provincial legislation to complement national legislation; and local housing commissions.

A couple of days ago someone said something to me which set me thinking. They said "Have you got a good brief?" And I had to admit that I didn't think it was a particularly good one. I asked myself why I didn't think it was a good one, because I thought this was a reasonable question to ask. These are some of the thoughts I came up with: how can one be satisfied with a brief which deals with the highly complex sociological, financial and realistic problems, not to mention the problems occasioned by dealing with the three levels of Government, when everyone you talk to is either a volunteer or a part-time worker in the provision of housing for the aged? Now, I further thought of my own dealings in the last two years on this subject, and I discovered that I had never in the two years I have been engaged in this work met one single person whose whole time and energy was devoted to this problem of housing for senior citizens.

We have a real problem facing us, with 10 per cent of our population going on into this age group. This is an age of specialization, and this is one area where we do not yet seem to have achieved this specialization.

This, then, is a submission prepared by a group of volunteers who wish to let you see some of the problems of providing housing for the elderly from the point of view of the voluntary organization. So much for the background to the brief.

Now our presentation is going to be in three parts, and mine is to talk to you for two or three minutes on the role of the voluntary organization.