

The thing that particularly struck me, and that I would like to ask about, is on page 3 where you refer to defining poverty "as the lack of resources to provide the basic necessities", and among these lack of resources you list under (c) "Lack of mental initiative".

Then in the next paragraph you say there are lots of programs, "but the forms do not always create sufficient incentives to induce the mental initiative for persons to take advantage of training opportunities". Then in your recommendations you say:

Personal assistance schemes should recognize human nature and provide positive incentives for personal betterment.

Can you tell us something more definite? That is generalizing. Just how would you provide these incentives? What would they be? They are not in existence now. People want to help their families.

Mr. McNamara: That is quite true. A specific circumstance, I think, is the present situation where a family breadwinner is on welfare assistance, and if he is able to attain some casual income—whether it be by shovelling snow in winter for a day, or what have you—the tendency is for that to reduce the assistances available to him. That, we contend, is a direct negative incentive. In other words, he is told he must not work—not directly, but in effect.

Senator Fergusson: That is a disincentive to work.

Mr. McNamara: That is, in effect. He is told he must not work. That is a no, no; if he wants to get welfare. This, we suggest, is a negative incentive. Instead we would rather see an assistance scheme whereby we say "If you can earn \$10, we will match it."

Now, I realize that is an over-simplification and it is not quite that simple but something to that effect. We have not done a study and obviously are not qualified to hold up a scheme by which this can be carried through but something along that line is what we mean by providing a positive mental incentive.

In other words, the person who has some reason to want to assist in this in fact he can, just the same as if a person who is getting a certain amount of money by earning a wage, if he did casual labour he improves his position. The present situation, it seems to us, is that a person on welfare gets locked into that thing and unless he can somehow get a big

wage that brings him above that, it just is not worthwhile. Why bother?

Senator Fergusson: If he could make a living you would encourage him by giving him a bonus?

Mr. McNamara: Yes, within some reasonable limits. This principle, we feel, could be applied.

Senator Fergusson: There was just one other question I would like to ask. On page 3, Section 3.5 you say:

...Government participation in the training and care of mentally and physically handicapped persons seems to have been callously minimal to date.

Does that apply only to New Brunswick or do you feel that is all over Canada?

Mr. McNamara: Well, I am probably not qualified to comment for all over Canada. As far as I am aware a few provinces have, what might be considered, really adequate training and care facilities, government finance, for training of either physically or mentally handicapped persons.

There are institutions, government assisted, but as far as I am aware they are not locked into the education system.

Senator Fergusson: What I meant was: Was it a general statement, or did your brief apply to our province?

Mr. McNamara: We are most familiar with our province.

Senator Inman: I was very interested in this brief also and I find on page 2 you speak at (c):

Advice on the content of technical training programs to best serve prospective industries.

Has any effort been made in this Province?

Mr. McNamara: Yes, I would say there has been. The Association of Professional Engineers has been active in setting up an association for Certified Technicians and Technologists. We have had a committee assist in the setting up of that organization and we also have an Education Committee directly involved at that end and in the educational content of training schools, trade schools and technical schools.

That is in a general way. As far as I am aware, we have not been approached regarding specific industries for a specific area.