

*Answer:* At one time, there was a neighbour down our way that caused me a lot of trouble—told a lot of lies.

*Mr. S.* And they never asked you what the stories were, they just took names?

*Answer:* They'd ask but...

*Mr. S.* How long ago was this?

*Answer:* Some while back.

*Mr. S.* Has it never happened again? You sort of learned your lesson early.

*Answer:* No. I became acquainted with some of the neighbours who carried a little bit more weight.

*Mr. S.* Have you ever gone to the welfare people, and said this malicious gossip is not true?

*Answer:* Yes.

*Mr. S.* Let's put it another way. Is the welfare supervising your moral life? Is that what you feel?

*Answer:* Yes.

*Mr. S.* Do you think they have a right to do this?

*Answer:* No, although in some cases it would depend on the individual.

*Mr. S.* But in your instance, it would not be legal, or right or proper?

*Answer:* I don't have anything to hide.

*Mr. S.* Let's go back to the issue about the welfare worker telling you to "mind your P's and Q's." Remember we said the suspicious people or the money people in the neighborhood said they saw someone visiting you whom they thought shouldn't be there? They reported it to the welfare office, and you would hear about it or get a call from the welfare office.

*Answer:* I'd be told about it when I went in.

*Mr. S.* Do you have to go in to pick up your cheque?

*Answer:* I don't now, they send it to me.

*Mr. S.* You mentioned something too, about medication, and you felt that it would be helpful if mothers on welfare would be able to get the Pill as a prescription.

*Answer:* They can get the Pill as a prescription, free.

*Mr. S.* But they have to pay a deterrent charge?

*Answer:* No.

*Mr. Gallant:* This was Dot's comment, that she, as a mother, has to pay a participation fee in getting a prescription filled for her or her child.

*Miss Gale:* Kathy was asking if Dot had ever been told that she was eligible for sheets and blankets and this kind of thing.

*Answer:* No I hand't.

*Mr. S.* Let me ask you this straight-forward. Had you worker ever told you all the benefits that you're legally entitled to?

*Answer:* No.

*Mr. S.* Has he or she ever sat down and said, "Dot this is what you're allowed to get."

*Answer:* No.

*Mr. S.* Do you know what you're allowed to get?

*Answer:* Not really.

*Mr. S.* Would you like to know?

*Answer:* Yes.

*Mr. S.* You should know.

*Answer:* Yes, I'm running the household, I'm the "breadwinner in the family". I should know.

*Mr. S.* Do you know that this is a legal right that you have?

*Answer:* No, I don't. As far as I'm concerned, I have no legal rights.

*Mr. S.* Why do you say that?

*Answer:* I'm a second-class citizen. I'm put down because of welfare. You're paying my way. Any working person is paying my way.

*Mr. S.* Has this been told to you directly?

*Answer:* No. This is the way I feel. This is the feeling. The ordinary working man feels this way.

*Mary Jean:* I've been told that many times, especially by the working class, 'cheating on income tax'. They were paying my way when I was on welfare for eight years with six children, and I was paying my own way just as much as they were, because although I was separated from my husband, he was out working and paying pretty high income tax, and every time I paid 6 percent and then 8 percent on the dollar, I'm paying for my own welfare.

*Dorothy:* Yes, but the other taxpayers don't stop to think that we have to pay sales tax.