The National Industrial Conference Board in the United
States has considered the problem for some years and in 1964
prepared a well documented survey of the "Preparation for
Retirement Programs in the Private Sector of the U.S.". While
this survey is somewhat out of date, the findings are interesting
and today, it may be safely assumed that the trend has accel-
erated.

The study then, covered 974 companies and it was found that
65% had some sort of counselling programme. However, this
percentage is misleading in the context of what our enquiry is
about, since about half of these companies limited their
counselling to an explanation of the company pension plan,
Social Security and other post-retirement benefits - in other
words, limited to the financial facet of retirement.

In any event, one is impressed by the vast amount of
literature on the subject of aging or of retiring; by the
considerable number of conferences, committees that have
studied the problems, by the number of organizations that have
been set up to deal with these problems by such conferences,
etc., and finally by the fact that, for all their brave words,
relatively little progress has been made despite the estimate
that by the end of this century the numbers of people over 65
will exceed 10% of the population. It is true that financial
resources available to retired people have been greatly improved,
particularly in Canada by better pension plans, old age security,
Canada Pension Plan, registered retirement savings plans,
unemployment insurance, hospital and medical coverage, reduced
travel costs and other benefits available to the "Over 65's",
but people still wrestle with the intangible. How to make it
possible for retired people to be and, what is perhaps even
more important, to feel needed, useful and wanted?

Surely the problem is not one of more investigation, more
commissions, for the problems are recognized and documented.
Even solutions for dealing with the end result of the "system"
are legion. What we must try to do here is to set up some sort