

can lead a life 'consistent with health, decency and self-respect'. On the other hand a very large proportion of the aging have no income other than Old Age Pension, and 107 of the aging depleted their savings by an average of \$331 in the year. Moreover, all the figures are distorted by calculating the home aging as a third and equal group; in the census, for example, they constitute parts of other groups. All of which indicates a hazard in using averages and a disaster in stereotyping the aging."

18. As Mr. Stevens suggests, it would be misleading to draw conclusions from these average figures, and moreover, it would be misleading to suggest that the economic status of the aging in Wellington County is typical of all other areas of the country.

19. However, the study, limited as it was, does seem to substantiate what might be expected, i.e. that on the average the rural aging have lower incomes than the urban aging, and, in particular, pension or annuity provisions are practically non-existent among rural folk. (In the Stevens' survey, 96 per cent of the rural aging received no pension benefits, and 98 per cent received no annuity payments or military pensions.) It also suggests that income from investments of the rural aging are, in fact, less than those for urban aging, and are nowhere near to making up for the lack of pensions. For the rural group, the major source of investment income tends to be from the sale or rental of their farms.

20. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture was among the citizen groups in this country that called for a federally-sponsored old age contributory pension plan which would include farmers and other self-employed people, and which would be in addition to the flat-rate Old Age Pension. The Federation passed a resolution at its 1959 annual meeting recognizing the need for higher incomes for Canada's senior citizens, and advocating the establishment of a federally-sponsored contributory pension plan to meet this need.

21. The present Governments' recent actions to establish such a plan were welcomed by the Federation. However, our organization was disappointed when the original proposals placed participation for the self-employed on a voluntary basis. Following a mandate from our annual meeting in January of this year, the Federation petitioned the Government to make the proposed plan mandatory for farmers, if not for all self-employed people. The Federation takes the position that the voluntary basis of inclusion would result in a failure to achieve, as far as farmers are concerned, the central objective of the plan: that is, to ensure a minimum pension security for everyone. It would be precisely those who will most need a pension who would most likely fail to take advantage of a merely voluntary opportunity.

22. Since our representations were made in February, the Government announced further changes in the proposed Canada Pension Plan, including one to make coverage compulsory for the self-employed who earn more than \$1,000 a year. The Federation believes this to be a step in the right direction.

23. Before leaving this section of the submission we should like to raise two additional and relative subjects which we deem to be important and worth emphasis.

24. One of the most important problems in farming today, and which very much involves the older as well as the younger people in the industry, is that of the difficulty of transferring farm enterprises from one generation to the next. The value of farms is getting larger and rising with the substitution of