

Mrs. Whipple: Crescent Valley is the oldest public housing in Saint John, 20 to 25 years old.

Senator Fournier: How do you find the buildings?

Mrs. Whipple: Cold and drafty. We have wood and coal furnaces, and mine blows up occasionally.

Senator Fournier: I was interested in the new buildings. Would they meet the requirements?

Mrs. Whipple: Each unit that has been built, each development becomes better than the one before, and the newer public housing buildings in the City of Saint John are very nice.

Senator Fournier: You are using a wood furnace?

Mrs. Whipple: Wood and coal.

Senator Fournier: Do you have janitors looking after it?

Mrs. Whipple: Not unless you want to call me a janitor. Each one looks after his own.

Senator Fournier: Is there only one family in each home?

Mrs. Whipple: One family to each apartment, four families to each building.

Senator Fournier: One furnace for the four?

Mrs. Whipple: Four furnaces. Each apartment. Three hundred and eighty-eight apartments and each of those apartments has its own furnace.

Senator Inman: On page 2, item 2, you recommend: "Improved income support allowances for cultural activities and recreation." What sort of cultural activities do you mean? I can understand recreation.

Mrs. Whipple: I would think that would be music appreciation, appreciation of the arts. I think it would be up to the individual. The opportunity should be there to develop the interest of the children. I think our children are our hope for the future. This should be developed in them at an early age to be able to find relaxation in good literature and the arts.

Senator Inman: Would that be done in the school?

Mrs. Whipple: It could start there. It should go on.

Senator Inman: Do you mean centres should be available to them?

Mrs. Whipple: Yes.

Senator Inman: Facilities should be made available that they could visit the art centres, and things. That is what you mean by that?

Mrs. Whipple: Yes.

Senator Fergusson: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Saunders one or two questions as he is the president of the Crescent Valley Tenants Association, and I have a brief from them here.

On page 2 they refer to some of the things wrong with the housing. They say:

There is no insulation under the floors, making heating difficult in the lower flats.

There is no soundproofing in the apartment, and thus absolutely no privacy.

House-wiring does not seem to be heavy enough to carry modern appliances. Fuses blow if more than one appliance is plugged.

Do you agree with these things?

Mr. Saunders: This is absolutely true. In the Crescent Valley area they tell us we in the south end are living in mansions. We have never told the south end this but there is no insulation between the floors. If the woman upstairs is going to the bathroom I know she is going there. It is a bottom floor and an upstairs floor and no insulation whatsoever. If the children get upstairs and fight we hear every word. Also if they turn the radio up.

This is the first development they made in Saint John and this is why we are in it. Today we are building ivory towers, but the ordinary poor people don't want ivory towers. They want an ordinary home where the children can be upstairs and the livingroom is downstairs.

Senator Fergusson: Would you be satisfied with this kind of place, for instance, if you had insulation?

Mr. Saunders: Insulation... I don't know how we are going to do it out there. What we have suggested in the brief is that you could build row houses with the livingroom and kitchen downstairs and the bedroom will be