

Answer: Twelve, ten, nine (3 girls) and the boys—six, five and four.

Mr. S. Let's finish the shopping tour. What treats do you buy, if any?

Answer: I buy a couple of bottles of pop a week, and get that two for 45¢. I can get a ½ gallon of ice cream for 89¢ at Levines.

Mr. S. All the way across town—four miles away.

Answer: I have to go there for potatoes. You get from the paper beforehand which stores have certain things, and mark them down. Well, then you know what you're going for.

Mr. S. How long does this take you?

Answer: About two or three hours.

Mr. S. With your husband chauffeuring you in the truck. Does he help you shop? Who keeps the money?

Answer: He hangs on to that till we are ready to go to the store, and then he passes it over. When you have a family, and mine is eight, you've got to shop around.

Mr. S. May I ask you what your husband does?

Answer: He drives taxi.

Mr. S. How much would he earn?

Answer: If he's lucky, between \$50 and \$60 a week. This is about averaged out. Some weeks he makes more than others.

Mr. S. And you don't go to work at all.

Answer: No, I couldn't afford to. If one could possibly get by on what he makes, one is better off doing that, because if I were to go to work, pay a baby-sitter, and then pay more rent, I'd be behind. I wouldn't make a thing, really.

Mr. S. Let's talk about welfare. Are you on welfare now?

Dot: I have been for four years.

Mr. S. Are you married?

Answer: I have been married.

Mr. S. Any children?

Answer: Five.

Mr. S. You're a single parent? How old are the children?

Answer: Fifteen, fourteen, twelve, eight and five.

Mr. S. How long have you been separated from your husband?

Answer: Four years.

Mr. S. How have you managed in that time?

Answer: Welfare.

Mr. S. What does welfare grant you or do for you? Let's be direct and say, what social assistance in terms of money do you get?

Answer: \$218.

Mr. S. That's for a family of six. How many children go to school?

Answer: Four.

Mr. S. This \$218 is for what?

Answer: Food, clothing, rent, fuel, light.

Mr. S. How do you manage on that?

Answer: If I had to live on just welfare—clothes and all—couldn't do it.

Mr. S. How do you supplement that income—what other money do you get?

Answer: There is a society that has more or less adopted the children.

Mr. S. Is this a fraternal organization—they've been doing this for four years?

Answer: Three years, but without their help, we couldn't have managed.

Mr. S. How do you feel about the whole system?

Answer: I feel imprisoned. I can't get out to work. I have to be careful where I go, what I do, who visits, who doesn't, in case I get cut off.

Mr. S. Tell me more about that. Why would you get cut off?

Answer: Malicious gossip, for one.

Mr. S. By whom? Your neighbours? Why would you feel so keenly, so badly, about this? Did they report you?

Answer: They reported me.

Mr. S. How did they do that?

Answer: They called the welfare office.

Mr. S. Is it any of their business?

Miss Gale: Why is it any of their business?

Answer: They make it their business (both the welfare and the neighbours.)

Mr. S. And they actually would bring you to task if they thought that you were doing something that wasn't according.