

this problem and are absolutely unable to cope with it. We must offer extensive counselling services to both the youth and parents in an attempt to bridge this gap and maintain a reasonable standard of family living. For those who are unable to adjust to family living we must attempt to provide adequate housing facilities to meet their needs.

Due to a lack of employment we are finding an increasing number of transient youths wandering aimlessly throughout the country. We must provide adequate housing for them. We must initiate programs of training for future employment of those individuals as a means to help alleviate potential poverty cases in the future.

The magnitudes of the problems of our youth are demonstrated in the use of drugs, protests, and in the attempts of our young people to alienate themselves from society which seemingly ignores their needs. Unless we act immediately to their obvious request for help we will find the situation completely beyond our control.

(4) We are also of the opinion that greater consideration should be given to the elderly citizens of our community. Greater emphasis should be placed on the provision of low cost housing for these persons. The old age pension programs should be and must be reviewed and if necessary revised periodically to insure that at least a reasonable existence can be maintained on the amounts allotted. A government sponsored agency should be formed to promote the social aspects of the senior citizen's life and encourage membership to such activities. We should attempt to lessen the stigma of old age activities and promote the use of voluntary agencies to assist our elderly citizens to continue a productive role within the community setting.

In dealing with the problem of delivery of service we must keep utmost in our thinking that these services are a universal right of every citizen and in no way should take away from his dignity.

We feel that there must be co-ordination of efforts of all persons in an attempt to eliminate duplication of services among the various community agencies.

We would suggest that the concept of a team approach would be most beneficial to the clientele and enable us to provide a more comprehensive service with an emphasis on prevention.

We must co-ordinate the services offered by government agencies and community services

to provide the maximum service to those in need. To accomplish this we must develop a feeling of partnership and above all respect among the various professions.

To provide more equality in the cost sharing program we feel that if the government were to introduce a cost sharing program based upon the unemployment average for specific regions or zones, that all Canadians would benefit, particularly, the more economically deprived areas. We would suggest that in those areas where unemployment is greater than the national average that assistance be allotted in the same ratio. Likewise in areas where unemployment is less than the national average the assistance should correspond. We realize this suggestion fails to take into consideration those individuals in our Society who are employed, but in need of subsidized assistance, and suggest that these individuals be included in the fixed differential scale.

In summarizing; as a group concerned with the betterment and development of the whole community we feel we cannot tolerate the continuance of the present situation. We would ask that the recommendations of this report be given serious consideration by this Committee. We realize that the implementation of these changes and reforms cannot come overnight. However, we feel these changes cannot come too soon; but to ignore them further will only create more serious problems for the future. It is our desire to see that every individual in our Canadian society is insured of his rights of equality.

Thank you.

Senator Fournier: This brief has certainly a lot of material for discussion here. There is one point. You used some very strong words, it seems to me, in various places where you say that "you cannot tolerate". It seems to me that you are going to the extreme, and then you say "to ignore". Again this seems to be extreme.

Mr. Smith: In between that there is a compromise somewhere, a happy medium, yes.

Senator Fournier: Then you speak about the professional attitude in two or three different places. Does that professional attitude really exist, as you put in your brief?

Mr. Smith: I believe it does, yes. I think we have our own agencies and we are not willing to let go of any of our domain. We do not want to share the problem with other agen-