

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN OTHER COUNTRIES

It is impossible, without a great deal of research, to give in this report much information concerning what other countries are doing. At a Seminar held by the Conference Board in New York, with the Consuls General of Britain, Italy, Sweden, Japan, Switzerland, the Netherlands and New Zealand, not very much information on pre-retirement training or programmes was available. Most of the "delegates" spoke more about the trends in their countries concerning the handling of the problems of the aged. Similarly, in Ottawa, the Embassy of France had little information to give except concerning their pension plan, and the High Commission of Australia had little information about what was being done there - probably very little.

ITALY: Presumably there is some interest in the subject since Italian television did a feature story on pre-retirement training in Britain but the delegate to the Conference Board Seminar reported that, so far, very little is being done by way of preparation. Grandparents are still given traditional respect within the family, though this is gradually being diffused with the migration from the villages and farms to the cities. There are many villages where old people are in the majority - the problem of retirement is going to be more important in the future when social security, better and wider use of pension schemes, paid hospital expenses further lessen the traditional dependence of older people on the family.

SWEDEN: As a result of emigration and the population explosion of the 19th century, the population pyramid is rapidly becoming top heavy. The result is that the agricultural north is being drained to meet the need of the industrial south, and Sweden is now a net