

IV. URBAN POVERTY<sup>1</sup>

## A. HALIFAX CITY

47. The picture of Halifax City, Nova Scotia's principal urban centre, that emerges from the recent Nulife Study reinforces general findings based on the 1961 census. Relative to a middle-income group used for comparison, the low-income group has significantly more female heads of households, more broken homes, a lower level of education, and is composed primarily of bluecollar workers or labourers.
48. Many of the urban poor, over 67 per cent of those surveyed, are employed persons. The low-income group indicates considerably greater instability in work patterns than does the comparison group. Only 57.2 per cent of the low-income group are working full time, compared with 85.4 per cent of the comparison group. It is significant that 38.2 per cent of the low-income group do not know whether they work full or part time. While 54.5 per cent of the comparison group have held only one job since the age of 20 and over 91 per cent have held only four jobs or less, only 16.2 per cent of the low-income group have held one job and 16.4 per cent have held five or more jobs.
49. In general, the heads of low-income families left school early for financial reasons. Over 93 per cent of them held their first permanent job before they were 20 years old, in contrast with 40.4 per cent of the comparison group.

<sup>1</sup>This section is based substantially on findings in Halifax, set forth in Nulife Study, 1967, by Paul N. Geisel, under the direction of the Canadian Welfare Council.