

for we are called to see people in the very poorest of surroundings where the resulting depression, apathy and loss of human dignity are as much a part of the medical picture as the patient's illness.

People in poor housing feel lost, with nowhere to go but down. Recently I have seen families moved to new housing developments and can bear personal witness to the change in their appearance, attitude and self-determination. This has been remarkable. Their incentive to break the poverty cycle has been restored, and the re-establishment of their human dignity has reclaimed the individual as an integral part of his community.

All of the things listed in the first paragraph play a part, but the single factor which stands out over all others is that a change in environment—if only better housing—at least will restore their self-respect and their faith that they can cope with their lot. I believe the Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone is entitled to live his life with dignity. Give them this chance, and you have wiped out the worst aspect of poverty anywhere in the World.

The Chairman: Senator Fergusson, you are our latest housing expert, so will you take the witness?

Senator Fergusson: I am sorry. I think I had better wait and ask my questions later.

Senator Fournier: I will take a crack at him.

The Chairman: Go ahead.

Senator Fournier: There is not much in the brief itself, so I imagine it is wide open for questioning.

The Chairman: Yes, surely.

Senator Fournier: I agree with you, doctor in your remarks on housing and changing the environment. I think it is a good point. I suppose you do not believe that progress is fast enough. We are too slow in changing the environment and that includes housing and so on, in the City of Saint John and everywhere else in Canada?

Dr. Parlee: Yes, I would like to see things move much faster.

Senator Fournier: How would you do it? Is it a question of money? Who is going to pay for all the expenses?

Dr. Parlee: I think it is a question of money. I think the government has got to come forward and subsidize housing, and provide more low cost housing.

I think we are building, at least as I see it, some of these high-rise apartments that cost a great deal whereas they could perhaps put in component homes and things that are much cheaper. We have lots of room. There is a lot of territory around Saint John. There is land everywhere.

Senator Fournier: Even in the rocky hills?

Dr. Parlee: I used the term "in the rocky hills". I think they could expand out even into the smaller communities.

Senator Fournier: Trying to provide a decent home for every family?

Dr. Parlee: Yes, I think so. What we see, in making our calls to patients that live in very poor surroundings, is that there is no incentive for them to better themselves. The housing we have in developments is very good because they built in areas where there are lawns. There are wide streets. There are areas for children to get out. These people see something in front of them. Well, with their neighbours, they are going to keep up with the Jones's. They are going to keep their apartment looking nice.

Senator Fournier: It makes a difference to somebody when a family owns a home?

Dr. Parlee: Owns a home?

Senator Fournier: As against paying rent?

Dr. Parlee: No, I do not think it is necessary to own a home, as long as they have some place, or at least they have a room with windows in it.

Senator Fournier: I do not think you got my question. If we provide a home do you not think they have an incentive to keep it clean and paint it and it would be better than if they were just paying rent and it is up to the landlord to look after the home. The tenant says "I don't care if the window is broken or if the steps are rotten", and so on.

Dr. Parlee: No, I think you will paint it and keep it better if you own it.

The Chairman: Doctor, take a minute and speak to us about the environment, will you? When you started out you sort of said "I am not going to talk about education, guidance,