

Senator McGrand: This thing came up time and time again before the Committee on Aging. I can remember Senator Fergusson and Senator Quart bringing up this question of houses with the grannie quarters, or a place for the grandfather and grandmother—the grannie flat. At that time we had heard a good deal of evidence that the reason why these families did not keep their aging parents with them was the objection of their children to the grandparents being around.

I quite agree with Senator Quart that the grandparents are the best referrees—or, the grandmother, I would say.

Senator Quart: I would say the grandfather too.

Senator McGrand: At about that time Arnold Toynbee—and we all recognize his ability—wrote an article on the decline of a different civilization throughout the history of the world. He said that the western civilization of today was the only civilization in history that put the old people out of their homes. He predicted dire consequences for society in the long run.

What is going to be the future of designing homes for old people? Is it going to be to further exclude and separate the old people from their immediate families and grandchildren, or will there be an attempt to put up something that will accommodate three generations?

Some of these old houses in Saint John, built a good many years ago, and which are now in the area of blight, were built to look after three generations. Should you restore them or should you build this type of housing that physically separates the families?

Mr. Smith: I definitely do not believe—and I do not think anybody here does—in segregation. I cannot understand why anybody would not want their parents in a home. This would be my own personal view. I can see if it was their mother-in-law, or something like that. This, I think, is part of the problem. You have two sets of families there. Who is coming in, who is going, and who is staying?

The Chairman: What Senator McGrand is saying is that nobody is staying. That is his point.

Mr. Smith: You cannot go from one extreme to the other. You cannot have the whole community in the home. You would have two sets of in-laws, his and hers, and a mother and father.

Senator McGrand: That very seldom happens. In North America's largest Chinatown, which is the most densely populated area of the United States, there is the least crime of any part of the United States. And that is in New York's Chinatown. It is the oldest person in the generation that makes the final decision when it comes to family problems.

Mr. Smith: With age goes wisdom.

Senator McGrand: That is right, but, you see, we have got away from that and all these social planners and this fantastic modernization does not seem to bring about any solution.

Mr. Smith: Has anybody told them? We tried to tell them about these planning problems, and the importance of the family unit.

Senator McGrand: The construction of homes is done by the real estate people and the construction industry.

Senator Fournier: The next generation will exclude parents. They will not be allowed in their home.

The Chairman: Getting back to your brief again, you talk about incentives to have the minimum wage increased. The minimum wage, I think, in this province is \$1.10 or \$1.15.

Mr. Smith: \$1.15.

The Chairman: Now, surely that is an important factor because the minimum wage at the federal level is \$1.65, and those who are hired on federal jobs get that even within the province, which is a good thing. But, what have you people locally done to improve the minimum wage standard which has such an effect on the working poor particularly.

Mr. Smith: I do not know if there is anybody in the audience that can answer that. I know I cannot. I have never done anything about it.

Mr. Finigan, do you know anything about this?

Mr. Finigan: Mr. Chairman, the minimum wage comes under the Department of Labour and they review it constantly, and I believe the trouble they have is that industry can only pay so much. I do not know if we need the type of industry that pays \$1.15—probably we do, but I think the Department of Labour bows to these industries. They say "Well, if you raise the minimum wage, we