

areas where unemployment is in excess of the national average. Unemployment can be controlled to some degree by the Federal Government and those areas where unemployment is higher than the national level will use community agencies to a greater degree, thus increasing the provincial cost of these agencies and increasing provincial expenditures. By increasing Provincial expenditures the tax payer feels the burden thus effecting those on limited or fixed incomes.

Recommendations: We realize of course that there are no immediate or spontaneous solutions to the existing problem of poverty. However, we feel that through long range planning and the continuous revision of our present systems we can alleviate many of the pressures caused by our inadequate services. We would suggest that the six major components of the poverty problem as we view it can be attacked in the following manners:

(1) Attitudes: The professional's attitude must change if he hopes to solicit acceptable responses from his clientele. The individual professional must endorse the "battle on poverty" from a community standpoint and not that of an individual agency or person. He must learn to use his imagination in utilizing the community resources.

The negative attitude of the non professional or lay man within the community should be combated by helping him to understand the poverty situation and those who are in it through the use of the news media and public relations, and thus by informing him of the use of his tax dollars and educating him in the long range benefits of such expenditures we might gain his support and assistance.

The recipient, for his part must be made fully aware of his right to assistance, of his ability to rise above his present situation through the services offered by the community resources. It is only through this awareness can he be motivated to appreciate his own capabilities thus breaking the endless poverty cycle.

(2) The Working Poor: To alleviate the pressures on the working poor and curtail any desire to give up in despair we must initiate immediate changes in the areas of training, income, and housing. By raising the minimum wage standards we place those individuals above the income level of welfare recipients thus creating a work incentive. Through utilization of subsidized social assistance programs we can encourage individuals to strive towards self efficiency, and becoming produc-

tive citizens within our community. As stated in the New Brunswick White Paper on Social Development, "There is evidence to indicate that some wage earners and their families would improve their conditions should they leave the work force and become recipients of social assistance." This factor alone should be reason enough for us to re-examine our system of service.

There must be steps taken to improve the crisis caused by lack of proper housing and provisions made to curtail abuse of the situation by landlords who take advantage of the opportunity to request ridiculous rates of rent for slum dwellings.

Our agencies must begin offering extensive service through group and individual counselling, including household budgeting. The basic unit of our society is the family and we must therefore strive to offer intensive counselling in the areas of family planning and assist in overcoming the complex problems which develop within the family setting.

We must strive to provide increased adult education and technical training to assist these individuals in the development of their skills and thus becoming self supporting in obtaining the goods and services needed by them to maintain themselves and their families.

(3) Youth: The problems encountered in attempting to deal with today's youth are, to say the least, complex and varied. The difficulty found in attempting to meet their needs is multiplied by the lack of adequate and proper facilities. We find that our educational facilities are inadequate to meet their needs and would strongly recommend a complete revamping of the present educational system with an emphasis placed on counselling and guidance to assist the "drop-out" as well as the participating student.

We must attempt to understand the "problem adolescent" and "hippie groups" and to assist them in finding solutions to their problems whether they be behavioral, emotional, or an inability to cope with the pressures of modern day society. We are obligated to at least try and understand the drug problem, keeping in mind that while a number make use of drugs in an attempt to expand his intellectual and emotional horizons there are also many who use them to escape from reality.

The term "generation gap" is more than just words, but rather it is indeed a fact. Increasingly more parents are experiencing