

I realize that you people must go back to Ottawa. You must study what you have found but in the meantime there are people who can do things, who can offer their services and possibly do something to fill the gap and this would mean just taking a look at the problem and getting together and doing what we can do.

Senator Hastings: In other words, you are not referring to violence?

Miss McGrath: No, I am not.

Senator Hastings: During the film I noticed one of the witnesses said something about he would appreciate receiving a regular cheque on Thursdays. How is welfare distributed in New Brunswick now?

Miss McGrath: I am not familiar with the distribution. Perhaps Mr. Owen would know.

Mr. Owen, Member, South End Tenants' Association: The Welfare cheques are distributed on the first of every month.

Senator Hastings: He wanted them every Thursday the same as a regular pay cheque. It is not by voucher?

Mr. Owen: Some are by voucher and some are by cheque.

Senator Hastings: Thank you. What percentage would be by voucher?

Mr. Owen: I cannot give you the percentage.

The Chairman: The usual practice we have heard about across the country is that some people, who do not make the best use of their cheques for various reasons, come to the attention of the department. They give them a voucher instead until such time as the lesson gets home. That is not the usual practice.

Senator Hastings: I would like to ask the witness a question with reference to the changing attitudes and opinions and I presume that refers to the attitudes of the poor. We had an interesting observation this afternoon that the press were misinterpreting the position of the poor or misinterpreting the views of the poor. Would you agree with that with respect to communication?

Miss McGrath: That the press are misinterpreting the conditions of the poor?

Senator Hastings: That is right, the plight of the poor. You mentioned about improving communications.

Miss McGrath: Not in any circumstances where we have been involved. It could be possible but where we have been involved we have not found they have been misinterpreting the conditions of the poor.

Senator Hastings: In other words, the press are doing all they can in the line of communication?

Miss McGrath: I think so but I think it has to go further than just the press. We will have to use all the media we can.

Senator Quart: Mr. Chairman, on page 7 may I ask the witness how they would work this out and I quote, "Manpower employees and community workers..." I can understand about community workers in the community—"...go to the unemployed rather than wait for the unemployed to come to them."

Miss McGrath: I think this is now being done to some extent in Halifax where a gentleman from the area was trained by Manpower...

The Chairman: We visited the area in Halifax.

Miss McGrath: And he could go and work in his own area instead of just talking with people together. It may be in a small area where he would know the people. He might possibly go to them because I think this is a specific problem of the poor people, their understanding of what goes on and their environment becomes smaller and smaller and they lose track of the fact they are still in contact with the rest of the world.

Senator Quart: That sounds like a very good idea. Are you satisfied with the services of Manpower?

Miss McGrath: No, not really.

Senator Quart: We have had that before. Thank you very much.

Senator Fergusson: On page 11 I notice you refer to the fact that the government cannot do everything. You say:

All the work that needs to be done cannot be accomplished by paid workers and it is doubtful whether it should.