

and in helping to get their own community developed to provide a more satisfactory and satisfying life for the residents.

Then we go on to commend you and the members of your committee upon the very fine job you are doing and we know that there will be some very important recommendations coming out. We did want to draw to your attention that we hope there will be correlation of the findings of your committee and a study of the White Paper on Taxation and on social welfare.

**The Chairman:** Thank you. Before we go on with our meeting I want to recognize a very distinguished member of the House of Commons with whom Senator Fournier and I served, and who is sitting in the back here. Thank you very much for coming, Mr. Bell.

**Senator Fergusson:** I would like to congratulate you and the Family Services for the excellent and comprehensive brief and the useful recommendations that they have presented to the group this afternoon. I would also like to congratulate the Family Services for having on their staff Miss Florence Christie, who is recognized as one of the outstanding social workers in Canada. I think it is most fortunate for Saint John to have her in this position. Certainly the brief shows that she has had a hand in preparing it and I think a great deal of the credit must go to Miss Christie, although I am sure Mrs. Forsythe and the members of the board have also made their contributions.

I am very glad they have specially stressed the psychological effect of poverty, while not overlooking how much the people are demoralized by economic deprivation. I think perhaps we have not had enough said to the committee about the psychological effect, and I think it is well to have this brought to our attention.

I would like to ask about your recommendation number seven. You speak of services to the aged, such as Meals on Wheels, the homemaker service, and day centres. I specially want to ask about the Meals on Wheels. Do you have that at all in Saint John?

**Miss Christie:** We do in a very limited way. One church has been providing it and the YWCA has until fairly recently also been doing it. We advocated it a lot and we do hope the groups will pick up on this because it is, as you know, a service that is very much needed and appreciated.

**Senator Fergusson:** It is one I am very much interested in. When you say they are doing it, are they doing it on a weekly or bi-weekly basis?

**Miss Christie:** A bi-weekly basis, Senator Fergusson.

**Senator Fergusson:** You say it should be subsidized by the Government. In many places they first start with volunteers, and in some other countries I have seen this done. The volunteers have so impressed the government that eventually the meals themselves have been paid for by the government and they still use the volunteers to do the delivery of the service, and things like that. Would you see that as something possible in New Brunswick?

**Miss Christie:** I would very much because the volunteers I think could handle that end of it very well. I think the service could be extended if they did have some financial help and might even start in some other places. It seems to have responded to certain individuals that have been thoroughly convinced of the need, and we have noticed sometimes when they move that there is a dropping-off of some of the interest of the others. It seems to need somebody that really sparks it and gives the others the incentive to carry it on. It does require, as you know, a good deal of organization and time on the part of key volunteers.

**Senator Fergusson:** I was very impressed in New Zealand with the people who were making the deliveries. They were the wives of doctors in the locality, and all of them were people who did no social work and had no interest in social work. This was something that appealed to them a great deal and they organized themselves. They were people who would mostly spend their spare time playing bridge or golf. Providing the Meals on Wheels and the contacts they made with the people to whom they were giving the service meant so much to them that if they were ill they did not want to give up their day for fear they would lose it, and they even coaxed their husbands to deliver that day for them.

I was wondering if this would work here and bring in many people who have not up to now shown an interest in that type of work. Senator McGrand mentioned young people looking for some way to make a contribution.