

THE SPECIAL SENATE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY

EVIDENCE

August 4, 1970,
Saint John, New Brunswick.

The Special Senate Committee on Poverty met this day at 9:00 a.m.

Senator David Croll: (*Chairman*) in the Chair.

The Chairman: I call the meeting to order. We have a brief this morning from the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of New Brunswick. On my immediate right is Mr. W.L. McNamara. He is the principal in the consulting firm of A.B.I. Limited of Fredericton, and the chairman of the brief committee. Next to him is Mr. Claude McKinnon, a native of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. He is employed as a building inspector for the metropolitan area of Greater Saint John.

Mr. McNamara would like to read his brief and he will begin now.

Mr. W. L. McNamara, Chairman of The Brief Committee, Association of Professional Engineers of New Brunswick: Mr. Chairman, Honourable Senators, ladies and gentlemen. For the benefit of the Committee Members following the brief I would like to start on page 2, saving the summary of conclusions and recommendations.

The Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of New Brunswick is the licensing and regulatory body of the professional engineering in the Province, whose members include employees of industry and governments, corporate executives, and private consultants. They presently number approximately 830 members. It is a participating member of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers in cooperation with ten similar professional engineering associations of other Canadian provinces and territories. Through the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers mailing contact is available to all of the approximately 60,000 registered professional engineers in Canada. A number of local branches of The Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of New Brunswick operate in cooperation

with local branches of The Engineering Institute of Canada to conduct periodic meetings and discussions on topics of local interest.

As a profession directly involved in the application of capital assistance programs, and as a representative group of Canadian citizens, we wish to address certain brief remarks to this learned Committee for its consideration.

The Webster's New World Dictionary states "poverty" as the broadest term "implies a lack of the resources for reasonably comfortable living".

For our discussion we would define "poverty", as it applies to the family supporter, as "the lack of resources to provide the basic necessities for a healthy and reasonably comfortable life for one's dependents and oneself".

We suggest such lack of resources usually includes one or more of the following:

- (a) Lack of suitable education or training
- (b) Lack of employment opportunities utilizing available training and experience
- (c) Lack of mental initiative
- (d) Lack of physical capacity (such as the ill or physically handicapped)
- (e) Lack of mental capacity (mentally handicapped or mentally ill).

It is suggested that lack of income is one of the immediate symptoms of such lack of resources but lack of income by itself is a very inadequate definition of poverty. Through present assistance programs and education systems, education and training are rapidly becoming available to all, but the forms and circumstances do not always create sufficient incentives to induce the mental initiative for persons to take advantage of training opportunities.

Abnormal deficiencies in physical and mental capacities can obviously only be overcome to a limited degree, so it is suggested that such conditions will always require and deserve direct and continuing assistance from