

brotherhood action

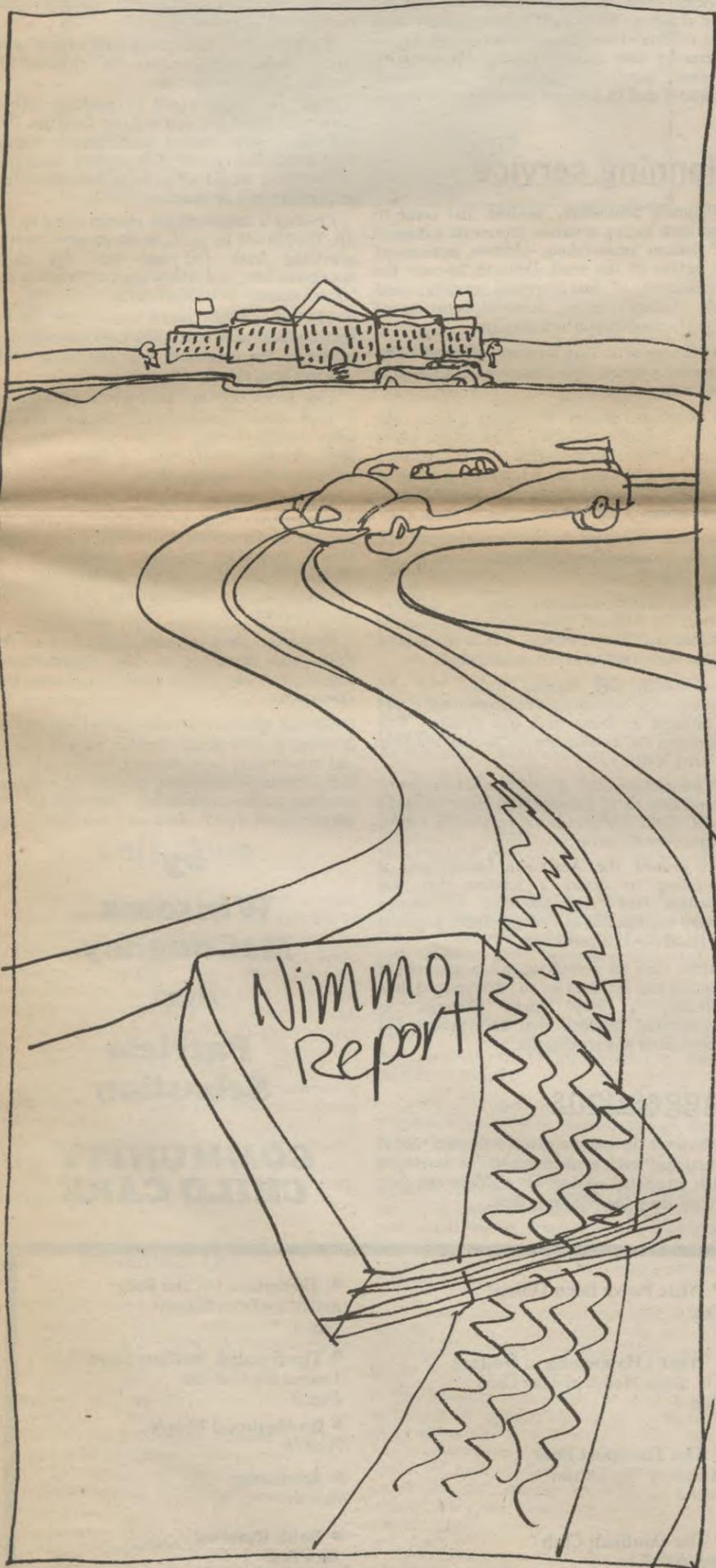
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The Journal of the Brotherhood of St Laurence

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OVER RIDING NIMMO



It is not the Brotherhood's intention to enter into detailed arguments about the complex issues surrounding the proposed new health scheme.

Beneath the violent objections and exaggerated statements made by bodies like the AMA there may well be some significant issues related to the actual delivery of health care that the Government's White Paper has not investigated in enough detail.

Many doctors claim that a scheme drawn up by economists is likely to overlook some of the problems of a medical nature.

The Government has demonstrated its willingness to examine these problems in more detail. To this extent it is particularly encouraging that the Minister for Social Security, Mr Hayden, has planned to go overseas to look at alternative schemes.

But in the cut and thrust of the debate, and in the technicalities of the political arguments, the poor and disadvantaged have been largely overlooked. This is the area of interest for the Brotherhood, because the many low-income earners are our special concern.

The Opposition has not yet informed the public as to its alternative health scheme.

The Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr Frank Woods and his three adjutors were very right to ask the Opposition parties what they intended to do having now rejected the bill in the Senate.

Most Opposition comments to date have stressed the fact that the existing health insurance scheme is quite satisfactory apart from the few areas that need improving.

It is hard to understand how an Opposition party (that when in Government commissioned the Nimmo Committee of Enquiry into Health Insurance and received its report back in 1969) can still make statements contrary to the main thrust of that report.

People have short memories. So it seems appropriate to repeat the findings of what was at the time the only major public committee of enquiry to be undertaken in the health and welfare field since the war.

Despite very limited terms of reference, the Committee's findings were critical and its recommendations extensive. Unfortunately the Committee was not allowed to examine alternative health insurance schemes so that its recommendations were limited to the present system.

The Nimmo Report concluded that the benefit organisations were not efficiently and economically administered, and that the structure of the health insurance industry was not conducive to the best interests of contributors.

It also found that the existing pattern of benefits did not provide good insurance against the financial risks linked with hospital and medical treatment.

Finally the Report argued that the present health scheme was not an effective social welfare measure, whether in the breadth of its coverage or on the level of contributions required relative to the ability to pay.

The Report described the scheme as "needlessly complex and beyond the comprehension of many."

It criticised the high administrative costs and "the abuse of competition which had developed in New South Wales and parts of Victoria."

The Report saw "no advantage in the duplication of facilities, or in the pursuit of activities designed to promote one organisation at the expense of others."

It was also critical that some of the major funds had put managerial objectives above the interests of the needs of their contributors.

In looking at the scheme as a social welfare measure the Committee said "contributions have increased to such an extent that they are beyond the capacity of some members of the community and involve considerable hardship to others."

What was true then is even more true in 1974.

Recent announcements indicate that family medical contribution rates would rise by up to 40 per cent in this coming year.

The then Government's decision to introduce a subsidised medical service to assist low-income groups has not been the success that was hoped.

Anyone involved in welfare planning will quickly point out that attempts to tack on a welfare measure to an essentially voluntary scheme, which requires considerable initiative on the part of the users, is doomed to failure from the start.

The public may not like or may be confused about the details of the proposed national health insurance scheme propagated in the December White Paper.

It may be that with further investigation both here and overseas, the scheme can be substantially improved from the point of view of health and hospital care.

Perhaps a period of delay will mean eventually that the Australian people will receive a better deal from our health and hospital systems.

But let this point be clear. There can be no going back to the old days of the 1960s.

It is not good enough for Opposition Health Spokesmen both at Federal and State levels to simply support the existing scheme with only needing minor improvements.

The Nimmo Report has refuted that view once and for all. It is disturbing to find the old arguments recurring five years later, as if that report and that enquiry had never been undertaken.

BY PETER
HOLLINGWORTH

brotherhood action

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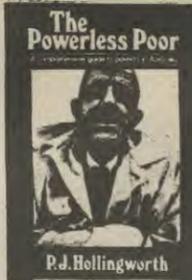
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Kids in care

One of the most neglected areas in Australian social security and education is community services for young children.

Moreover, services that do exist are not structured to meet large areas of need because they have not adapted to rapid social change.

For example, while pre-school education is available to a minority of three and four-year-olds, this service is inaccessible to children of working mothers because kindergartens only offer short daily programs.

About 25 per cent of Australia's 1,230,000 children under school age have mothers in the workforce. Yet there are registered child care facilities for only about 30,000 children, and only a fraction of these receive government funding.

As long ago as 1969, 42 per cent of mothers with school age children were in the workforce, yet after-school and holiday-care services are virtually non-existent.

Meanwhile, more and more married women join the workforce every year.

This current drastic shortage of services reflects two deeply entrenched assumptions of our society.

Firstly, there is the mistaken belief that all but the odd few mothers find it economically possible and vocationally satisfying to be full-time child rearers. But many mothers have to work, and not all mothers are suited by temperament or previous educational expectations to the full-time housekeeping-mothering role.

Secondly, there is the assumption that the family always provides the best conditions for a child's development. Many believe that the best place for the child is at home with mother.

This confidence in the effectiveness of the family unit as the complete agent for child-rearing stems from ideals associated with the "extended" family rather than from an assessment of the contemporary "nuclear" family.

changing society

In pre-industrial society, the three generational or "extended" family was a self-supporting unit integrated with a stable community of intimate relatives and friends.

As this whole "family" functioned as a group, child-rearing was not the responsibility of just one or two adults, but a shared activity of that whole group.

Changing economic and social patterns, including those of work habits, housing and transport, have resulted in the break up of these extended family groupings.

Child-rearing now falls exclusively on individual mothers, many of whom find it a lonely and exhausting business with no adult companionship, little outside stimulation and no time off.

Furthermore, children under school age at home with mother are not necessarily experiencing the wide range of social and cognitive stimulation that is so essential in the early years for full development.

The young child becomes totally dependent on his mother for emotional security and for social experiences. There is little chance for him to relate to other children and adults on a regular basis.

While the continuity of the parent/child relationship is of prime importance, this can be maintained without the child being constantly and exclusively in the company of mother. There is no evidence to suggest that the security

of the wider group may be just as important to the child's development as that of the nuclear family.

An assessment of the nuclear family's ability to cope effectively with all aspects of child rearing is long overdue.

Many areas of stress and breakdown in the family are all on the increase. It becomes apparent that nearly all families now, at some stage or other, need some form of community assistance with child-rearing.

The needs are diverse. Children under school age need a stimulating environment and a wider range of peer group and adult companionship. Young school-age children need after-school and holiday facilities. One parent families or working wives need part or full day care for their children. Women in the home simply need time off from their duties. Parents in crisis need emergency care and home help. Handicapped children need to participate in normal situations and to have access to special services.

planning service

Planning community services that come to grips with such a situation represents a massive yet delicate undertaking. Massive, because of the extent of the need. Delicate, because the introduction of inappropriate services could easily damage existing informal networks of support, co-operation and initiative.

It is suggested that services will need to be community-based with consumers consulted at early stages of planning.

Consumers should be consulted in the running and administration of the service where possible. Parent participation can be structured so that mothers and fathers develop a sense of belonging to the centre and an understanding of their children's experiences.

Services will need to be comprehensive and flexible, to allow for choice and to cater for the wide range of needs.

In the present situation, there are different services for different socio-economic groups. It is hoped that future services will be integrative so that this situation is not perpetuated.

Individuals and families within the one neighborhood who share a common need could be brought in touch with one another. This encourages the development of mutual self-help on many levels.

A long-term policy should aim for service to be available to all families who chose to make use of them irrespective of reason for use or socio-economic status.

At present the Australian Government is attempting to devise a scheme that will rationalise the responsibilities of service delivery and funding of Federal, State, Regional and Local Government levels.

While such an overall scheme is essential if resources and facilities are to be developed, it is politically a very tricky exercise in brinkmanship between rival departments and governmental power struggles.

suggestions

Whatever the outcome, it is suggested that at a municipal level, a scheme could be developed which integrated services for children and their families along the following lines.

Firstly, each local government authority could have its own Children's Bureau that would invoke and co-ordinate services within that one locality.

Each Bureau would have a core team made up of at least the following personnel:

- a children's services' officer involved in planning and overseeing the total scheme;

- a family social worker who would help parents work out the most appropriate solution to their child care needs and assist in the administration of the Family Day Care Scheme and Neighborhood centres;

- a child welfare sister who would co-ordinate the medical and para-medical services with the area; assist the centres and ensure that specialist services were available to children requiring them;

- a roving kindergartener who would guide and advise the untrained personnel in the family day care, small group centre, or play situation;

- a youth worker who would plan and co-ordinate after-school and holiday care recreational activities;

- a home help emergency care officer who would make arrangements for children of families in temporary crisis.

This core team would be working with a network of both existing and new facilities. For example, many existing kindergartens would continue to carry out their normal functions while others would adapt to include some full or part day care services.

Children's neighborhood centres could be set up. They could be small, multi-purpose centres providing both full and part day care, occasional care, and educational experiences for a maximum of 25 to 35 children.

These centres could also act as a social/educational centre for their parents, and others in the community who like to be with children (e.g. elderly citizens).

Five or six full time staff would be required in each centre, including one pre-school teacher who would develop educational experiences and provide on-the-spot training of the untrained staff working there.

Present private home child minding arrangements could be integrated within the total municipal service, by becoming part of the Family Day Care Schemes. Children in this scheme would have access to programs and resources of the kindergartens and neighborhood centres.

Parent-run playgroups could also draw on the skills and resources of the neighborhood centres, and take part in locally run courses and discussions.

We feel that just as Australia led the way in developing kindergarten services, we now have a real opportunity to do so again by devising new and imaginative solutions to a problem that is reaching crisis proportions throughout the industrialised world: child care and the family.

by
**Winsome
McCaughey**
and
**Patricia
Sebastian**

**COMMUNITY
CHILD CARE**

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CHILDREN AT RISK



Above: Mr Ken Haddock.

Serious child abuse, maltreatment of children by parents, child neglect or family crisis like death, illness and desertion.

These are situations dealt with by the Children's Protection Society in Fitzroy.

In Victoria, there are about 100,000 children under the age of 21 who are living at risk. Two-thirds of the children living at risk under the age of five come from families with either too many children, where the father is likely to be missing, or where the mother is not married.

Thousands of children are living apart from their parents.

Mr Ken Haddock, Senior Social Worker for the Children's Protection Society said, "We know that the early years of childhood are important in determining the kind of person the child will become. With such a large number of children living at risk, and the thousands in institutional care, this hardly augurs well for these children who will become tomorrow's parents."

The Children's Protection Society deals with about 1200 children a year.

Left alone

"One of our growing problems is with children being left alone for long periods of time. They are not only latch-key children but pre-schoolers who are left unattended while parents go out to work. This is understandable when one realises there are 38 per cent of mothers in the workforce," Mr Haddock said.

The Children's Protection Society is, like the Brotherhood, a voluntary organisation depending largely upon public support.

The Society has always been entrusted with authority from the State Government to bring children before the Court if they are found to be in need of care and protection. Only on very rare occasions has this authority been used.

There are branches of the society in Sale, Geelong and Ballarat.

Finding out

Mr Haddock said the society finds out about problems of child abuse in many ways.

"Sometimes a neighbor expresses concern about beatings a child has received from his parents. Sometimes a neighbor will notice a child that is not being clothed or fed sufficiently.

"Often a teacher or day nursery attendant notices a child with bruises and injuries."

A social worker will then visit the families concerned to look at the problem and see what help is needed.

Sometimes it is found that the family has been struggling financially and this has added to the tensions brought about by other problems they may have, such as emotionally or physically handicapped children.

"These parents have often not known how to get help for their problems. Migrant families for instance may not know about services available to them.

"Many lone parents try to battle on as best they can without sufficient money and without the support from their own families," Mr Haddock said.

Short term fostering

Temporary emergency care has been undertaken by the Melbourne and Sale branches of the society. This is helpful in family crisis situations like hospitalisation of one or both parents, separation of parents and parents temporarily unable to cope.

Mr Haddock said, "There is a real demand for this kind of emergency temporary care. By providing this short term emergency care it is hoped permanent family breakdown will be prevented. Children can be reunited with their families after a short separation."

Short-term fostering is a project recently started by the society. So far, 10 families have been selected in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Already a number of young children have been cared for, for periods of one week or more.

"Parents with several young children have gained temporary relief under this scheme. It has enabled them to keep going when tension and pressure were becoming too much for them," said Mr Haddock.

Low income one-parent families are especially vulnerable to crisis situations. It is far too difficult for most single parents to fulfill a dual parental role to the children as well as provide financially.

Some families are fortunate to have grandparents and other relatives who are able to assist them. But many services are necessary and should be available.

Ken Haddock suggested a housekeeper service to care for children while, for instance, one parent was in hospital. This would enable the child to stay at home with the other parent instead of having to put them into institutions or foster homes.

"Locally-based and low-cost child minding and day nursery services are desperately needed as so many mothers are finding it necessary to go out to work," he said.

Mr Haddock concluded, "It should be the birthright of every child to be nurtured by devoted parents in a consistent stable secure family environment. Obviously many children today are being denied their birthright. Many unwanted and uncared for children in our community today have a very uncertain future ahead of them.

"We must remember they are also the community's children. They depend on the community for their nurture and support. Their future is in our hands."

point
of
view:

OF
DR KEITH BENN,
PRESIDENT
OF THE
DOCTORS'
REFORM
SOCIETY

on health

During the last six months or so we have heard a great deal about the Hayden Health Program.

In one of the most expensive campaigns in our political history, vested interests like the private health insurance companies, and certain sections of the medical profession have played on the fears of the community in such a cynical fashion as to bring the image of the medical profession to an all-time low.

Health care delivery has always been an expensive business. It becomes increasingly so as more complex and life saving measures are discovered.

But unlike plumbers and carpenters, you MUST have a doctor when illness strikes you down. A leaking tap can be ignored or repaired with a little self-help — but only a doctor or surgeon can save your life if your peptic ulcer bleeds. Therefore, for over 20 years we have had a voluntary health insurance scheme that has been conducted by a diverse group of private health insurance companies.

For many years now, it has been observed here and overseas that a diversity of such companies leads to unnecessary administrative costs. Any talk about free competition (and there has been a lot said lately) is nonsense. These companies provide an effective insurance cover or they shouldn't be permitted to operate.

They accept and pay out money in accordance with a set of statistical rules that are quite fixed. The slight insignificant variation in operating efficiency between one company and another does not justify the overall 8-12 per cent administrative costs.

The most serious failure of private health insurance is that of inadequate usage. Mr Justice Nimmo had much to say about this problem in his committee report in 1969 but it is only recently, and while in opposition that the then Government administration has "discovered" that 12-15 per cent of the population do not take out insurance.

And the record states that it is largely this 12-15 per cent who for reasons of economy, social disadvantage and cultural estrangement, are the ones most in need of health cost security.

okay for some

The figures are very revealing: the wealthier the citizen, the more he is inclined to take out insurance because he can afford to. And it is a welcome tax deduction.

But this is not so of the lower income families, the migrants and those people who fail to see the possibility of illness ever being a reality.

For those reasons and others, the Government proposed a comprehensive health insurance system, that would ensure that every citizen was covered by insurance quite automatically.

Most of the finance would be provided by 1.35 per cent levy on your net income — up to a maximum of \$150 per taxpayer. (If you didn't pay tax you were still automatically covered of course).

In practice claims for 85 per cent of medical or hospital fees would be made to a Government Commission instead of, as now, to a private health fund. You would have access to your doctor just as now. He would not be a public servant and he would most certainly not be nationalised.

In answer to a great deal of hostile comment, one must acknowledge that the critics have done less than justice to their case by the sheer hysteria of their criticism.

There are possible difficulties associated with the introduction of any new proposal and health insurance is no exception.

In some areas of Melbourne, such as some of the inner industrial areas, anywhere up to 40 per cent of the community who previously were forced to submit themselves to an undignified means test at their hospital outpatient department (assuming they were able to travel there) could utilise their insurance cover to visit their local family doctor.

This is only right and proper, but it could have led to increased usage of a group of general practitioners who were already overworked and exhausted.

Central to the Government's proposal was a repeal of a means test for hospitalisation. Naturally enough, more people would seek public beds than before and correspondingly less people would seek private beds.

But let us note in passing, that if a person felt particularly attracted to a private hospital he could take out private insurance (tax deductible!) to cover the additional costs.

use vacant beds

As a result of this shift in patient care, it may have been necessary for the Government to utilise vacant Repatriation hospital beds, and perhaps in some cases, to lease entire private hospitals for specific purposes.

It would be very useful to have, for example, two or three hospitals specially catering for accident cases in Melbourne.

One should be able to expect more from a State Government. It seems more concerned with winning political kudos instead of co-operatively working with the Australian Government in developing a health system that is going to really meet the needs of the people.

Even though the National Health Insurance legislation was finally thrown out by the Senate, one thing seems obvious: there is a lot of room for improvement in the organisation of medical practice in Australia.

Not only the consumer feels this. An increasing number of general practitioners are tired, exhausted, alienated from their jobs. They are looking around for new organisational forms that permit time for relaxation, economic security in their old age, and an opportunity to head off illness rather than patching up medical disasters after they've occurred.

The future might be pretty misty at the moment, but it's there. And faintly through the mist I fancy I see well appointed community health centres, in which doctors are happily working with a whole host of paramedical assistance doing what they are trained to do — preventing illness and when need be, curing illness, without adding to the financial burdens of their patients.

What we've been doing

CHILD CARE GRANTS

The Commonwealth Department of Education has recently approved a capital grant subsidy to the Brotherhood to be made available for a proposed child care centre in Napier Street, Fitzroy.

Mrs Barbara Spalding, who is in charge of the Family Day Care Project, is keen to explore the possibility of the centre being used as a home base for children who can then continue to have access to other services in the community. This means that children attending the centre will still be taken to see the Infant Welfare Sister, or taken to attend the particular kindergarten or play centre appropriate to their age and locality.

In this way, the children will still have contact with the rest of the community.

Mrs Spalding is also keen to develop the idea of "family grouping" the children so that, for example, young brothers and sisters are not separated because of their age differences.

With this type of day care, one member of staff will be responsible for about five children who are not older than five years. At the same time the centre will be small enough to allow various groupings to mix, so that where children do have the same age interests, they are free to pursue them together.

It is also hoped that local mothers who have had the experience of rearing their own families will staff the Napier Street centre. They will work in conjunction with Barbara Scully, the pre-school mothercraft nurse.

QUEENSLAND

FLOOD RELIEF

It has not previously been the Brotherhood's policy to become involved in nation-wide appeals like the one organised for the Queensland Flood Relief.

This is because we believe it is more appropriate to support organisations, such as the Red Cross who are trained and geared to work in disaster areas.

This time, however, we decided that since this was a disaster of such magnitude, we could contribute best by making our collection services available for people who wished to give clothing and household goods.

Many people, who otherwise would not have been able to make a cash donation cleaned out their cupboards and the response was tremendous.

Brotherhood telephones ran hot and voluntary workers were called to help.

Most people who telephoned said, "We don't care what you do with the stuff. Just help those poor people."

After discussion with officials at Red Cross, it was decided that it would be better to convert our donations to a much needed cash contribution towards the appeal. This is because the Red Cross already had large stocks of clothing available in their stores in

Queensland and Melbourne. The high cost of transport was another major deciding factor.

The most pressing need throughout was money for food, and money that could be given immediately to people who had lost their homes and possessions.

As we went to press, figures were available for the first week only. From calls received at the Brotherhood, we were able to donate \$3000 directly to Queensland flood victims.

COMMUNITY CHILD CARE

The Brotherhood has new tenants on the top floor of the Head Office building in Fitzroy. They are Community Child Care.

Community Child Care is a non-profit organisation formed in response to a growing awareness of the needs of parents with young children for a variety of community services, such as playgrounds, day care for children under school age, and after-school and holiday care for school age children.

Community Child Care has two functions.

They aim to establish a central body of information on matters relating to child care, and make this readily available to all groups wishing to establish any form of child care service, ranging from play groups to after-school and full day care.

Community Child Care also aims to provide a consultative service to these groups by guiding and assisting them through the steps involved in developing children's services.

For further information contact Winsome McCaughey or Patricia Sebastian on 41-4151.

OVERSEAS TRIP

Mr David Scott, the Executive Director of the Brotherhood, has recently returned from a 10-week trip overseas.

Mr Scott visited the United Kingdom where he studied social welfare and social security policies and programs. Particular service areas he looked into were proposals for guaranteed minimum income, supplementary benefits, pilot projects in community development, services for the aged and housing.

As Chairman of Community Aid Abroad (CAA), Mr Scott included in his trip two weeks in India where he visited CAA projects.

This was the first opportunity Mr Scott has had to look at Social Welfare overseas.

CAMPS

Three Brotherhood camps were held over the Christmas vacation.

The first camp in January was at the Church of England Boys Society campsite in Frankston. Families, including babies, enjoyed the best possible weather and conditions.

The second camp was at Goulburn. Mainly young married couples went and most campers learned canoeing for the first time.

The third camp for teenagers was held at King Parrot Creek. Part of the holiday was spent riding horses at Lower Plenty. The Lower Plenty Pony Club provided horses.

What's happening in welfare?

At the turn of the century about six per cent of babies were born out-of-wedlock in Victoria. Last year the figures for Australia rose to nine per cent (25,659 babies) - not a dramatic difference in 70 years.

Nevertheless, the numbers are high. And there are many more single mothers who are deciding to keep their babies, making many more one-parent families.

For many years, concerned workers in the welfare field did what they could to help single mothers.

Five years ago, however, a new force began. A group of three single mothers and a social worker held a meeting to discuss the formation of an organisation of single mothers. A few months later, they became a special group within Parents Without Parents. Less than two years later, they formed an independent body, the Council for the Single Mother and Her Child.

The Council now has over 1400 single mother members. It provides many of the services of a welfare agency, giving information on benefits, legal advice and referral services. It carries out a considerable amount of political campaigning and public education.

In June 1973 it organised a national conference of single mother organisations which resulted in the formation of a National Council.

Support

From its inception, the Council has received support from established agencies including church groups, hospitals, the Victorian Council of Social Services and the Brotherhood.

One-parent families are still largely regarded as "problems". They are deviations from the

established norm and the community naturally feels entitled to express some concern.

Concomitantly of course, the community should also be asking what can be done to reverse the rate of increase, and what can be done to help these families overcome their problems.

Ms Jo Murray, spokeswoman for the Council said, "The single mother violates the accepted norm in two ways. Yet in each case, I feel, some community attitudes are out of touch with the reality.

"The single mother is unlike the normal family unit of father, mother and children. Yet increasing numbers of marital breakdowns, as well as many more early deaths through 'social' illnesses (heart disease, lung cancer, road accidents) means that there are many more separated, divorced and widowed parents. In other words, many more one-parent families.

"The single mother has outraged the supposed norm which requires that sexual relations occur only within marriage. But it seems that here she may well be acting within society's actual, if not accepted, norms."

A survey of 200 married women at Queen Victoria Hospital, in 1969, showed that 71 per cent of the women admitted to premarital intercourse. Only six per cent had used effective contraception.

Official statistics showed that in 1971 74 per cent of teenage brides were pregnant at the time of their marriage.

During the abortion inquiry, estimates of illegal abortions in Victoria ranged from 10,000 to 100,000 per year. In South Australia, about half the legal abortions are performed on single women, and doctors in Victoria have indicated that the proportion is about the same here.

"So it would appear that the single mother who keeps her child is only the visible tip of the

iceberg of extra-marital sexual activity," Ms Murray said.

"In general terms - and I speak from personal experience as well as from discussions with hundreds of single mothers - I can say that the majority become pregnant because of ignorance or the unavailability of contraceptives," Ms Murray said.

There are exceptions, of course. A very few have stated that they chose to become pregnant and remain single. Undoubtedly some have chosen not to use contraceptives in the expectation of being married, this expectation later being disappointed. Some have been the victims of the failure of whatever contraceptive method they have been using. An unknown proportion of births are to couples living in a stable de facto relationship.

Exploitation

Ms Murray said, "Our society permits the commercial exploitation of sex in films, music, and the media, especially in advertising. Indeed it sometimes seems to me that we are doing our best to make ourselves believe that sex has nothing to do with conception of children!

"The Catholic Church, however, in its insistence on 'natural' methods of birth control, is almost the only significant body which still does emphasise the connection between sexual intercourse and conception."

The question - what can society do to help single mothers and their children - is, fortunately, being asked more often. In a large degree society is willingly accepting its responsibility to provide fairly for all its members.

About five years ago, all States agreed to pay an allowance to single mothers who were without other means of support. In July, 1973, the Commonwealth Government introduced the Supporting Mother's Benefit, payable to single mothers, deserted de facto wives, and separated wives.

Although there is a six-month waiting period, during which the mother must try to exist on the lower, more restrictive State benefits, the Supporting Mother's Benefit at least gives her financial parity with the other unsupported mothers who have for many years been able to receive the Widow's Pension.

Prejudice and stigma are lessening. Acceptance of the mother and child as individuals, valuable in their own right, is increasing.

Most of their problems are the same as those of other one-parent families.

They include the practical ones of reasonable accommodation, managing to live and bring up a child on a pension, or if the mother wishes to work, of finding adequate day-care for the child.

They also include the emotional ones of loneliness and isolation, and the difficulty of bringing up a child alone and explaining the absence of a father.

VOLUNTARY HELPERS NEEDED

Do you live in or near MALVERN, DANDENONG, GLENROY, BENTLEIGH, IVANHOE, PRESTON, FRANKSTON or the CITY (ROYAL ARCADE)?

We are very short of VOLUNTARY HELPERS for our SHOPS in these areas. If you can help, please ring Dyranda Prevost on 41-4151.



Above: League of American Wheelmen, Washington D.C., about 1890. This organisation was in the forefront of the "Good Roads" movement before the coming of the automobile.

To anyone who has looked into the possibility of moving into one of those "nice little terrace houses" in Carlton or South Melbourne, it is no longer news that the whole social character of the inner suburbs is undergoing a radical change.

Since the middle 60s, parts of South Melbourne, Albert Park, Carlton, Fitzroy and North Richmond have experienced what amounts to a middle class invasion.

The middle class are moving into these areas because they have suddenly discovered that many of the terrace and row houses have "character", because they are accessible to jobs, services and places of entertainment, and because they offer a different life style to that of suburbia. In the process they are making it increasingly difficult for the original residents to remain and virtually impossible for their sons and daughters to find somewhere "close to mum" if they so desire.

The reasons why low income families, migrants and students are being forced out of these areas is clear enough. Given the free play of market forces, the increased demand for properties in the inner suburbs results primarily in higher property values but also in higher rents and rates. Shopping becomes more expensive as merchants adjust to the different life styles of the affluent newcomers and traditional but marginal businesses are forced out. The pre-occupation of the new middle class residents with environmental issues often forces the closure of small industrial and manufacturing firms, thereby removing sources of low income and manual employment.

What happens to the original residents? Where do they go, and when they get there, what happens to their quality of life?

outer areas

For the most part, low income families are being forced out to areas where there is land and housing at a price they can afford, which in practice means large stretches of the outer western suburbs, St Albans, Deer Park and Altona, Campbellfield and Lalor in the north, Clayton, Noble Park and Dandenong in the south-east and parts of Knox and Mooroolbark in the east. The recent inflation in real estate values and the subsequent credit squeeze has placed even some of these areas beyond the reach of the poorer families.

One of the most dramatic differences between the inner and outer suburbs is the quality of public transport facilities. Melbourne's public transport system has, like all other Australian cities, developed on radial lines from the city centre.

Since tram, train and bus routes converge on the central business district (CBD), the inner suburbs and much of the established suburbs like Camberwell and Caulfield are well served. The rapid growth however of the outer and fringe suburbs at low population densities has meant that fixed track systems like trams and trains cannot be extended economically to serve cross-city travel. Moreover, bus services are simply inadequate to cope with the travel needs of these areas.

Research by Ruth Bence of the Australian Road Research Board on data from the 1964 Melbourne Transportation Study highlights the fact that the assumption commonly made by

planners and politicians, that virtually everyone has the use of a car and can drive a car, is patently false.

If we ignore for the moment those who are too young to gain a licence or whose physical handicaps prevent them from driving, there are still large numbers of people who do not have every day access to a car.

non-car owners

The majority of non-car owners are those on low incomes, whether they be pensioners, single women or unmarried mothers, or simply blue collar workers on a low wage. Together with the young and the handicapped, they are the transport poor, who are captive users of the public transport system because, if they want to go anywhere, they have no alternative.

Ruth Bence's research and information from the 1966 census shows clearly that the majority of non-car owners are concentrated in the inner suburbs where public transport is at its best. However, it is these same areas that are now under pressure from the middle class. It is from these areas that the poor are being forced to move out to the outer suburbs where public transport is at its worst.

Even for those who manage to remain in the older suburbs, the changing nature of where jobs are located has meant that more and more workers have to make cross-city journeys to get to and from work. Living in Fitzroy, which is fairly well served by public transport, is not much help if the firm you work for has moved out to Moorabbin.

Improvements to the existing network of public transport will not do much for blue collar workers. An analysis of the 1964 Melbourne Transportation Study shows only one-third of blue collar journeys to work are radial compared with nearly one half for white collar workers, the great majority of whom work in the CBD.

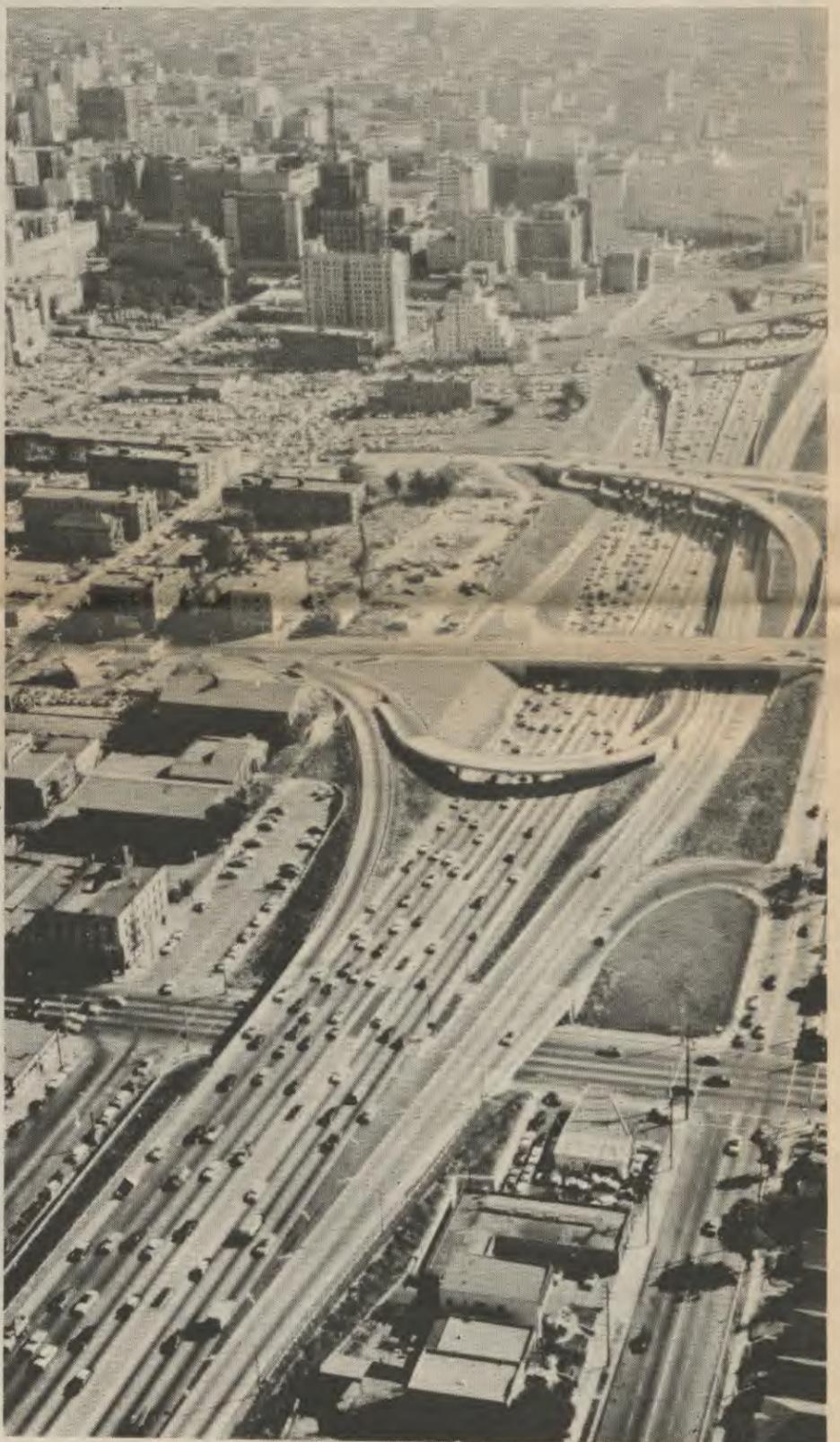
The continuing diffusion of industry means that now, 10 years later, even fewer blue collar workers are making radial trips and therefore in a position to use public transport. Silver trains, modern trams, the Eastern freeway, the proposed link to Doncaster, all these "improvements" in public transport have decreasing relevance for the traditional users of public transport. Instead, it is the middle and upper income earners from the eastern suburbs who stand to gain the most from increased expenditure on public transport.

choice narrowed

For the rest, the low income groups who live to the west and north of the Yarra, the range of transport choice has been narrowed to the point where there is virtually no choice. Without a car, you are dead — economically, socially and psychologically.

the transport poor

by TIM ELTHAM who is currently working in the field of the sociology of transport.



Above: An American Freeway. (Source: California Division of Highways).

It is therefore no surprise to find that in localities with poor public transport, the proportion of families without a car is very low. In these areas, ownership of a car is virtually the only means by which any sort of normal life can be carried on, with the result that family income has to be stretched even more thinly over other items of family expenditure.

The way in which we have allowed Australian cities to develop, a thin covering of people over a very large area, only makes sense

if there is universal access to a form of door-to-door transport. There is at the moment only one kind of transport that satisfies this requirement — the motor car. However, as a growing number of commentators (all of whom have their cars) are fond of pointing out, there has to be some limit to the growth in car usage.

No prizes for guessing who is going to be called upon to make the sacrifice in "the interests of the whole community."

THE COOLIBAH



Above: Coolibah Club Manageress, Mrs Jess Millott. ("Sun" Pictorial)

Old people often have problems trying to cope with haircuts, shaves and chiropody especially. But at the Brotherhood Coolibah Club for pensioners, it's all taken care of by Mrs. Jess Millott.

Mrs Millott's job is enviable because she likes it so much herself.

She is a chiropodist but does much more than that. She is the physical and emotional backstop for the Coolibah members. Her job is to be there when things aren't going right.

She can be found at the sewing machine, mending and making clothes. She looks after the old people's laundry, making sure that it's washed and dried. She cuts their hair and toe nails.

"The oldies can't bend down that far any more" she says.

rooms

Most of the old folk live in rooms where showers or baths are often not provided. So they come to the Coolibah Club to bathe.

And if they're sick Mrs Millott takes them to see a doctor or to a hospital.

Few of the members have family left, or at least not living near by.

Some of the members are too old or sick to leave their rooms, so meals are delivered to them. About 20 meals are delivered every day. Over the Christmas holiday, Collingwood and Fitzroy Council meals-on-wheels services closed down so the Brotherhood recruited extra voluntary helpers and delivered meals to the extra people.

Active members arrive at 8 am for what they call "Breakfast at Tiffanys" — tea and toast.

Their lunch time meal is either two or three courses and for that they pay 25 cents.

On the fourth Thursday in every month the Coolibah Club has a party. Pensioners from

other districts come to join in. They have entertainment and a sale of goods like jewelery, clothes or jam. Nothing ever costs more than 50 cents. From sales last year they raised over \$400 which was their contribution to the Brotherhood Fair.

holidays

Mrs Millott sometimes takes members on holidays. Recently they went on a trip to Tallangatta. They stayed in the old Tallangatta hospital.

Some members prefer that Mrs Millott looks after their money. This is because it's not uncommon for them to be bashed and robbed of their pension cheques.

The Coolibah Club is in the Brotherhood head office in Brunswick Street Fitzroy.

It was the first pensioners' club in Australia, and now has membership of 150.

The Club began in 1946. Then there were only male members and its purpose was mainly as a refuge from the weather.

In 1954 women were allowed to join. The men disapproved of having women in the club at first, but since then however, a few have even married.

The Club has a large dining room and kitchen, a chiropody centre, a conversation and smoking room and a TV room.

The main value of the Coolibah Club is not simply services provided.

It is a place where old Fitzroy people can come together and make friends in an area and surroundings that are familiar.

It is their club and they can use it how they wish. They can come every single day, or they can just pop in for a meal and a bit of conversation.

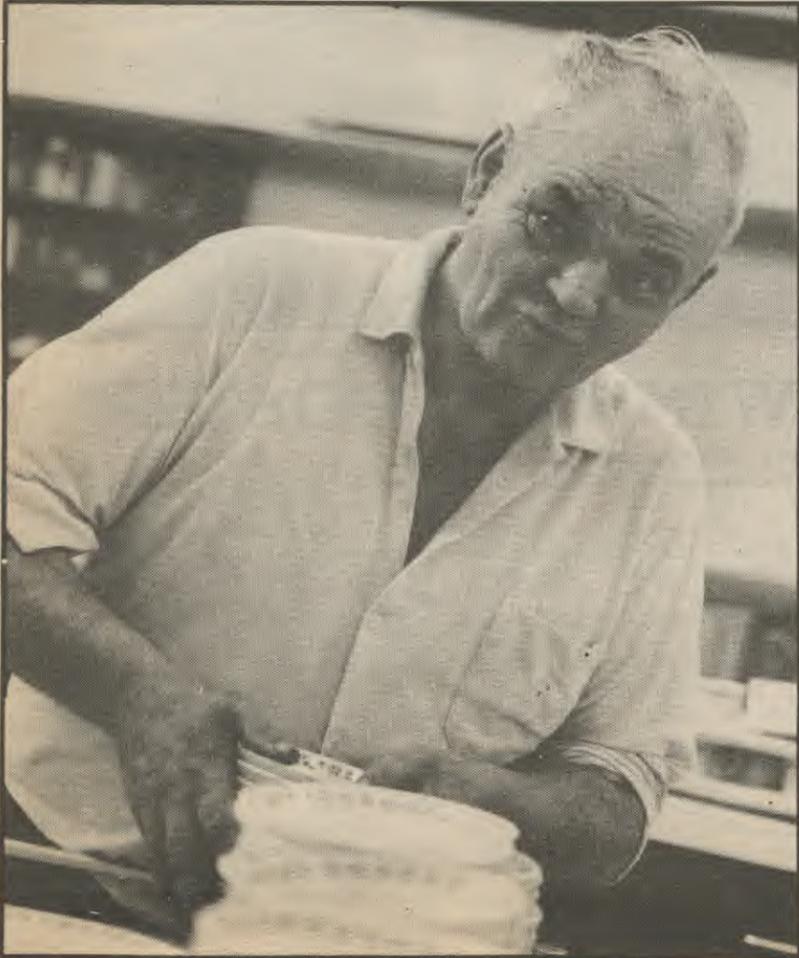


Below left: Mrs Elsie Brain of North Fitzroy has been a member of the Club for 8 years

Below: Mrs L. Jones of Fitzroy has been a member of the Club since 1961.



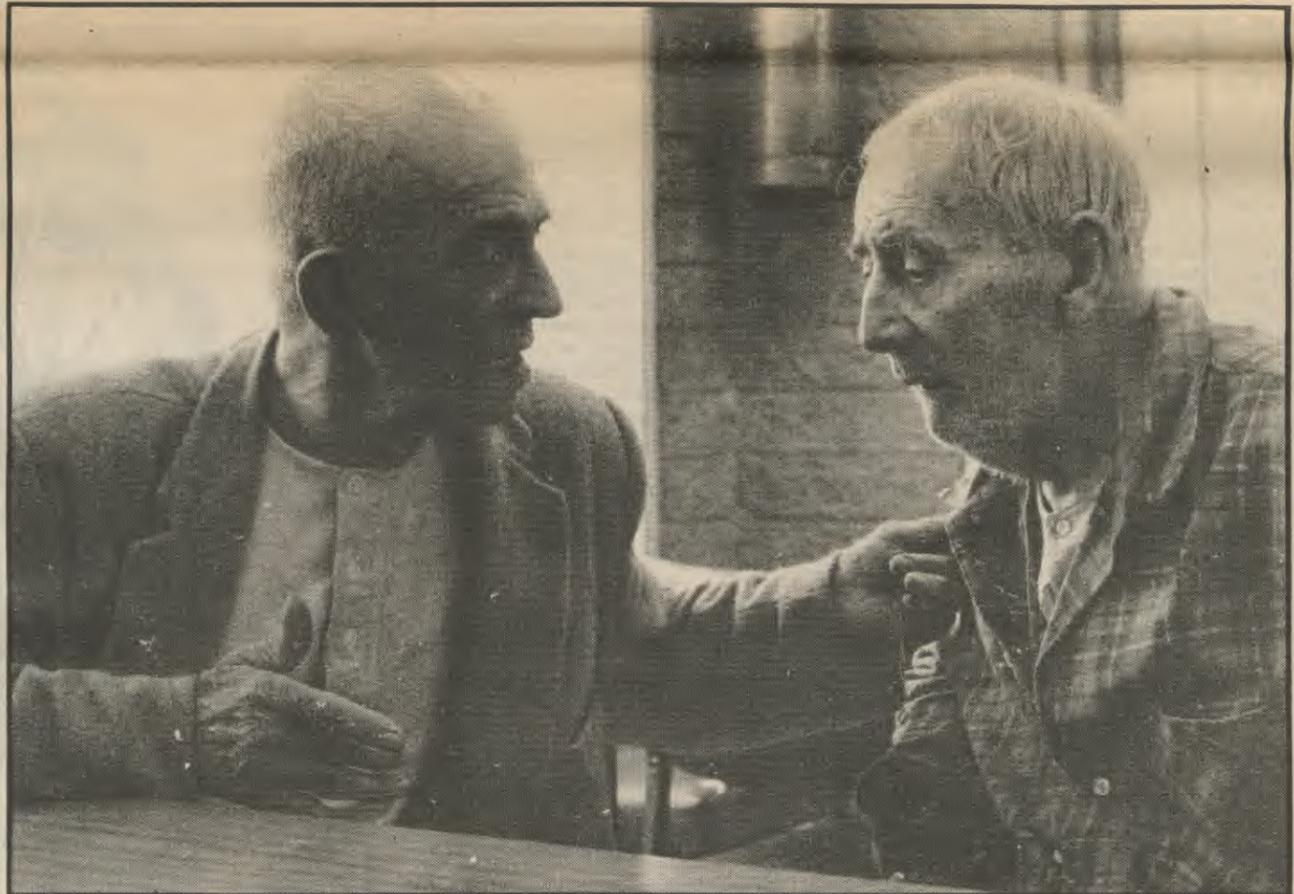
CLUB



Above: Mr Frank Carr of Fitzroy, a member of 12 months.

Above: Mr Bob Aitken of Fitzroy enjoys helping in the Coolibah Club kitchen and doing odd jobs in the Brotherhood.

**pictures
by
Christine
Georgeff**



Above: Mr Roy Michel of Fitzroy (left) speaks with his friend Mr William Reilly of Fitzroy. Mr Michel has been a member for two years. Mr Reilly has been a member for four years.

a place where old friends meet



EDUCATION for the poor

Children from poor families perform less well in school than middle class children. They leave school at a younger age than their abilities warrant. They are under-represented in tertiary institutions of all kinds.

This pattern has been widely documented overseas. And despite our belief that in The Lucky Country we have avoided the worst of Europe's class distinctions and America's extremes of wealth, the virus of educational inequality flourishes here too.

As the Karmel Report points out, nearly half the students entering professional faculties in Australian universities in 1965 and 1967 were children of professional and managerial fathers who consisted of only 17.5 per cent of the adult population. Industrial workers were nearly 60 per cent of the population, but their children accounted for only 22.6 per cent of students entering these faculties.

Some believe that this can be explained in terms of inherited intelligence. But are manual laborers so dull that their children should represent less than a quarter of university entrants? Are the children of richer families so inherently bright that they should overwhelmingly monopolise the Commonwealth Secondary Scholarship awards which were originally introduced to help needy students?

Hidden Curriculum

No. It is now generally accepted that the environment in which a child grows up, particularly his home environment, is more important in determining his success at school than his inherited intelligence.

Given at least average intelligence, the child in a middle class home is subjected to a "hidden curriculum." This practically assures his success at school. He then chooses careers and professions which are the hub of influence, control and decision-making in our society.

Through the important, formative pre-school years, his ability to learn is being sharpened and his desire to succeed at school is fostered.

Words are the vehicle of knowledge and in the families of higher socio-economic status, literacy is valued. There are books in the home. The young child is constantly spoken to and is expected to clearly formulate his own thoughts and feelings in words.

He is taught middle class virtues of thrift - to share his lollies and save his pennies. This ability to defer his gratification will see him in later years doing his homework at night instead of going out with his mates. He will continue at school instead of taking a job, deferring these immediate pleasures for the long-range benefits of the credentials and qualifications which will lead to influence and affluence.

In his first five years, a middle class child learns how to learn. He then finds that school is a mere extension of his home environment. The same attitudes and skills are praised. He meets teachers who, like his mother, value abstract thinking and the ability to verbalise, and who reward competitiveness, politeness, neatness and the inhibition on the display of feelings. Such a child has stepped aboard the conveyor belt that will take him to academic success.

Things are done rather differently in homes of low socio-economic status. There is evidence to suggest that even the child of high potential intelligence can be prevented from attaining that potential by the life-style and values of the home.

It is generally believed that a person's intellectual capacity is governed by his competence at language, and further, that the lower working class home does not foster the language style most valued by the school.

These children are not read to as much as middle class children. There is little intellectual stimulation offering in the home. With a working mother it means that the child has less opportunity for the vital practice of communicating directly with an adult.

Like the affluent families, many poor parents have high aspirations for their children and, with greater reason, hope that education will lead them out of the cycle of poverty.

But there is an unfortunate gap between these aspirations and the home support they are able to give to help their children attain these goals.

Nervous Advice

The working class mother warns her child to "sit still and be good" in school - nervous advice from one who probably has little reason to remember her own school days with much pleasure.

Meanwhile, the middle class child, very much at ease in the school setting, is asking questions, enjoying the competition for excellence and insisting on his share of the teacher's attention. Should he not get the attention, his parents know very well how to manipulate the system to rectify the matter.

A manual laborer, however, whose dignity is constantly affronted by his lack of authority and status at work, is less likely to feel any confidence in his power to control the school situation. It is also unlikely that he will fire his children with the belief that planning and hard work will produce any great change in their life situation.

So here we have the sad situation that the socially and economically under-privileged child stands on the threshold of his school career already heavily handicapped in the academic race.

But worse to come. Far from helping the disadvantaged overcome these handicaps, the school tends to compound them. The school experience itself emerges as an important factor in accounting for the increasingly poor performances of the poor children as they progress through the grades.

In fact, research shows that their attitudes and learning skills when they enter school are more adequate than those they possess after several years' exposure to school!

Teachers naturally favor those pupils, usually middle class, who have the full kit of middle class behaviour patterns - neatness, obedience and inhibition of aggression.

Teachers also have low expectations of pupils who do not fit this pattern, and it is generally agreed that a child's performance is strongly influenced by his teacher's expectations.

There is some evidence for the existence of teacher bias against lower working class children who are relegated to the lower streams for dull pupils regardless of their potential. If children are expected to fail, their performance will inevitably adjust itself to meet this expectation.

Given this strong association between achievement in school and the social background of children, what can be done?

The provision of pre-school centres for all children is a logical move. In Mr Whitlam's words from his pre-election policy speech he said, "It is precisely here that inequality is riveted on a child for a lifetime."

However, the American experience in this area during the 1960s was unfortunate. Under President Johnson's War on Poverty program, millions of dollars were poured into the Head Start projects that were designed to overcome the deficiencies in poor children's home background before they arrived at school. The program failed to produce any lasting results in improving the school performance of the underprivileged.

One could insist the schools themselves improve their performance in educating poor children. The Karmel Report recommends the diversion of federal funds towards needy schools.

These improvements are long overdue, but here again, overseas experience gives little cause for optimism. Our schools have a proven capacity for damaging the life chances of underprivileged children, but their ability to compensate for inequality is relatively minor.

The provision of buildings, libraries and laboratories, and the recruiting of additional teachers to reduce class sizes have not had any significant influence on improving the academic performance of underprivileged students.

As the bulk of the research constantly points to the paramount importance of attitudes, values and life-style of the home, the schemes that would seem to hold out the greatest hope for change are those that are trying to secure a stronger link between the home and the school.

The Education Priority Areas of Britain and the Task Force project of La Trobe University are vigorous and systematic schemes designed to make the school the agency of community change.

They work in the belief that the school could become instrumental in breaking the cycle of poverty by raising parents' interest in education, by fostering local control of schools and by teaching a practical syllabus that will give underprivileged children an understanding of the daunting realities of their world and teach them how to change it.

by Kevin Murray



John Bennett, winner of the competition.

WINNING POSTER

Recently a competition was run by the "Herald" in connection with Human Rights Day.

The idea of the competition was to design a poster which had some message of human rights, such as love, freedom, the right to religion and education.

The entries were judged by a gallery owner and a "Herald" artist.

The winner in the Under 14 section was John Bennett, 13, of Glen Waverley.

John chose the subject of Poverty for his poster.

"There is so much poverty around," said John. "It is a subject I feel very concerned about."

"Something that annoys me is the discrimination in the world against the under-dog," he said.

"I think poor people are poor because they just don't get the chances. They suffer bad luck

and can't get out of their troubles.

"And they are not lazy either. Often the jobs they have to take are the worst ones."

"The most unfortunate part is that the poorer kids have to get out of school when they are about 15 years old because they have to go to work. They are forced to do it. They don't have the chances other kids have," John said.

John said he thought there was a lot of poverty in Melbourne.

He said he thought schools ought to do more to help the situation. John suggested that they should introduce more social services. He also thought schools should try to educate children about social and economic differences in our society.

"Children should be made more aware of what's going on around them," he said.

At John's school, Glen Waverley High, social service money is collected each week to give to different causes.



POVERTY...

his right?

Winning poster.

THE SWEDISH WELFARE STATE . . . LESSONS FOR AUSTRALIA?

by Russell Lansbury—Lecturer in Administration, Monash University

"Technological and administrative advances are diluting the basis of popular participation that was once the very essence of the welfare state . . . the actual citizen is becoming more and more distant from government, and things are taken care of for him by a growing army of bureaucrats independent of political control."

This criticism could doubtless be levelled at numerous large modern societies at the present time, but when it is made by internationally famous economist Professor Gunnar Myrdal, about his own country, Sweden, it carries a special weight of authority.

Even more alarmingly, it is made at a time when the ruling Social Democratic Party in Sweden is at its lowest ebb in electoral support for the past 20 years.

It raises the question once again of whether the welfare state has a future in western democratic countries.

The Swedes are no strangers to criticism. During this early period of democratic socialist development, Sweden was chided by Lenin in "State and Revolution" for "overriding revisionism". Several decades later, during the 1950s, President Eisenhower ascribed Sweden's allegedly high suicide rate and number of illegitimate births to the country's "socialist philosophy."

Nevertheless, after almost half a century of predominantly social democratic government, Sweden is one of Europe's leading industrial powers and has the most highly developed social welfare system in the western world. Indeed it provides a model for many other countries standing "mid-way" between the capitalist and communist systems. Whilst the social democrats have been the largest party in the Swedish parliament since 1917, and were the first socialist government in the world to attain power through democratic elections, the evolution of the Swedish welfare state has been very gradual.

"Democratic socialism", according to the party's program, "wants to test, in each individual case, the forms of ownership, business and development that best serve material growth and human welfare." It urges "competition between different companies and kinds of companies" and the combating of trends towards bureaucracy in "privately and co-operatively owned companies."

Rather than describe their country as socialist, many Swedes prefer to see it as a relatively humanly managed capitalist country which does not permit too many of its citizens to fall below the poverty line.

Sweden's national basic pension law was first passed in 1913, before the social democrats gained power, and early social reforms were enacted by voluntary unemployment and health insurance societies.

During the 1930s however, the socialist government broadened the existing social security services and added new features, such as special provisions for maternity care.

The expansion of social welfare suffered a setback during the war years when, despite Sweden's neutrality, the country suffered economic dislocation.

Then, in 1947, enabling legislation was passed by the Swedish government to expand the social welfare system and give real "cradle-to-grave" economic security to all citizens. This was followed by more than two decades of frequent improvements and addition of new features to the existing system.

Social welfare spending at present amounts to more than 40 per cent of total government expenditure and is almost equal to the combined outlays for defence and education, which are the second and third largest items respectively. Health insurance and related services are the most costly items, accounting for almost half of the total outlay. Pensions are a close second, followed by family allowances. It is useful to consider details of each of these items under separate headings:

health insurance

The voluntary health insurance societies were nationalised in 1955, when health insurance became obligatory for all citizens. Present legislation provides for free hospital care including maternity care and confinement in hospital wards, low-cost clinical care, reimbursement of 75 per cent of physicians' fees, free medicine for certain chronic diseases and substantial rebate for other medicines.

In addition, sick and injured persons receive a weekly cash payment dependent upon their number of dependents, earnings and contribution rate. Health insurance coverage is comprehensive. It includes all resident families and their children as well as single adults.

pension

Basic national pensions, unrelated to past earnings and not subject to income or means tests, are presently paid to all Swedes above 65 years of age. About half the pensioners also receive means-tested rent subsidies. A national supplementary earnings-related pension law was also passed in the 1960s which aims, by the 1980s to provide all Swedes with a pension income equivalent to 65 per cent of their average yearly income earned during their 15 best years of gainful employment, up to a specified maximum.

family allowance

Since 1948, a number of general cash benefits not subject to means test have been paid to families with children. These allowances are normally paid up to 16 years of age but may be extended a further five years if children continue in full-time education.

Special provisions subject to means test are also available for families in lower socio-economic groups. Persons over 21 years of age, who are engaged in full-time studies, qualify for stipends and loans from the State. The loans are interest-free while studies continue and bear low interest rates thereafter. They are usually repayable over a 15-year period following the completion of studies.

There are a wide range of other benefits not included in the above categories. These include special provisions for invalids, the handicapped, widows, orphans, unmarried mothers and families on low income. They take the form of rent subsidies, vacation stipends, home help and day nurseries.

Unemployment benefits are the only form of social insurance which remain on a voluntary basis. It is heavily subsidised by the government, however, and organised in unemployment insurance companies associated mainly with the trade union movement.

The combined membership of these societies covers about half of the Swedish labor force. In addition, subject to changes occurring in local labor markets, unemployed workers are offered free vocational training and cash allowances for undergoing courses, by the Labor Market Board. When referred to suitable vacancies remote from their present locations, workers are also eligible for moving allowances.

In Sweden, neither the politician nor the citizen any longer argues the basic question of the government's role in providing social security, health and welfare programs. This does not mean, however, that there is unanimous support for social welfare measures.

One conservative political leader, for example, whilst not directly opposing existing social programs, recently argued that the basis of Swedish progress lay in economic growth rather than social reforms. "It may well be," he maintained, "that the successful solution to a number of our difficulties over the years has been the result of favorable economic conditions, rather than any excellence of our social system."

The main criticisms of the social welfare system may be divided into three main categories: the cost of the system, the effectiveness of the services provided, and meeting the future requirements of the Swedish population.

the cost

The cost of the Swedish welfare state is met through a combination of income tax, payroll taxes and, in recent years, indirect taxes on commodities. Total taxes amount to about 33 per cent of gross national income, and direct taxes, including social insurance contributions and others levied on employers, take approximately 25 per cent of gross wages of the average worker.

While taxes are no more popular in Sweden than elsewhere, none of the major political parties advocate a significant reduction in social benefits. They differ mainly with respect to details of procedure, timing and financing rather than matters of principle.

Nevertheless, there are members of the Swedish public who are critical of the methods used to finance welfare policies. The conservatives, on the one hand, claim that high taxes have substantially contributed to the rising inflation which Sweden has experienced in recent years.

The socialists argue, on the other hand, that the taxation system has failed to alter the distribution of income within the country — which remains substantially the same today as it was 20 years ago. Yet neither party has suggested viable alternatives to the present system.

effectiveness

The functioning of the social security system has been criticised on several points. Many think that it has expanded too fast and promised more than it could deliver.

The health services are particularly over-worked and there are long queues of patients awaiting treatment whose ailments have not been considered critical. The core of the health problem is a shortage of personnel.

Despite the large number of hospital beds per capita of population (16 per 1000 inhabitants compared with only nine in the United States), there is only one physician per 940 inhabitants, compared with one for 690 in the United States.

According to Professor Eric Dahmen at the University of Stockholm "the most frightening things can be expected to happen when the number of old, sick and senile people rapidly increase in a decade or so. We will never be able to plan efficiently for the old who can't take care of themselves."

future requirements

As one contemplates the future development of Sweden's welfare state, some serious questions arise. As mentioned above, the proportion of aged to the population as a whole is high and rising. In 1970, almost 12 per cent of the population was over 65 years of age and by 1980 the proportion is expected to rise to 14 per cent.

The share of the gross national product which is devoted to welfare expenditure is now 14 per cent and increasing at 3.5 per cent per year. Thus, in the foreseeable future, there is no reduction in the relative share of social costs anticipated on the basis of economic growth.

The vital question is whether the post-war generation, which is now reaching maturity and has little experience of economic insecurity will be prepared to submit to the high level of taxation required to finance welfare programs. Much will depend on the degree to which a more participatory style of welfare state evolves in the near future.

As Myrdal notes, this was the essence of the social movement during the 1940s which led to the establishment of the present system and which holds the key to its survival.

Remember the good old days when you could tell which were the girls? . . . and which were the poor?



and the ones that were so stupid they couldn't spell xerox backwards? . . . No . . . (That's on spelled backwards.) Now that equality's here . . . it's confusing. (That's gnisufnoc backwards.)

brotherhood people

"Mac" McNally has been with the Brotherhood about 10 years. He is in charge of the newsprint division.

Before coming to the Brotherhood he lived in the Southern Riverina where he worked in radio and electrics.

"I was quite active in the church. I began to change my thinking. I was beginning to wonder what I was doing and why."

Through a friend, Mac heard about a job in the Salvage division at the Brotherhood. So he moved to Melbourne and took the job.

Later he moved on to co-ordinating activities for elderly people on Brotherhood settlements. He did this for about four years and used to move about between Bendigo, Lara and Carrum Downs.

He began sheltered workshops and found suitable packaging and assembly work for the active elderly. This included finding men at Carrum Downs who would be able to work with timber.

"I realised there was a market for good timber letterboxes. Then I decided we'd make the best letterbox possible. We never had the man power to make huge quantities but the item was a good one."

And today the Brotherhood letterboxes are still being marketed as far away as Albury (NSW).

Soon after Mac found out that there was an export market for paper. So the Brotherhood started exporting small quantities of newsprint from Carrum Downs and Lara.

Mac heard that in Western Australia large quantities of paper were being exported. He went over to the West for a while to look at methods of collection and disposal of paper.

He then hit on the idea of combining paper collecting with sheltered work. As lifting of paper seemed to be heavy work for elderly people it was decided instead to use patients from rehabilitation wards in psychiatric hospitals.

The workshop is set up in a factory situation. People come there from the rehabilitation wards, from Turana Remand Centre and Training Centre and sometimes they are referred to the Brotherhood by social workers from Councils.

"The patients are able to re-develop work patterns and habits and in the end find themselves back in the workforce again," said Mac.

"In two years we managed to assist 29 people to reach the workforce. Another 35 people have been able to move from the institution to boarding houses," he said.

The work in the newsprint division is simple process work - sorting paper and putting it into bales. It is sold to the local pulp market.

Youth Groups

About 65 or 70 youth groups that come from churches, schools, clubs and Young Liberals are responsible for collecting news-paper.

Mac speaks to youth groups nearly every night of the week. He said their work is invaluable. He said he likes to point out to them that the workshop is not just a Brotherhood workshop. It is a combination of the youth groups and the Brotherhood working together.

"Without the youth groups, there wouldn't be any workshop," Mac said.

"It's not unusual for youth groups to collect five to 10 tons of paper on a Saturday. The groups are also aware that every ton of newsprint pulp prevents 17 trees from coming down," he said.

Mac has had a lot of good "feed-back" since the workshop began. One medical superintendent said it was the most meaningful work therapy he had ever seen.

One psychiatrist came to visit for 10 minutes and stayed for an hour and a half. He was amazed at the group participation.

One doctor at a clinic has changed her work program to include work therapy at the Brotherhood workshop.

The workshop has been going for over two years now. Mac said he wouldn't like to be working anywhere else.

"I see this as a half-way house between the institution and the working world. This work situation produces people," he said.

"While the balance sheet will show we're running at a financial deficit, we are really on a profit because I believe our profit is in people."

PENSIONERS FRIEND DIES

Mr Gus Haddon, 59, who worked for pensioners and the unemployed as chairman of the Victorian Action Committee for Social Service Justice, died at his home in Russell Place, Williamstown, on December 30, 1973.

More than 100 mourners attended his funeral service in South Melbourne.

Mr Haddon was an invalid pensioner and had had previous heart attacks.

He was born in Echuca in a family of eight children.

He carried his swag in the Depression and later turned to Union affairs.

Mr Haddon was in turn State President of the Clothing Union, secretary of the Jewellers, Watchmakers and Dental Mechanics' Union and chairman of the mail room committee of the Postal Workers' Union.

He dedicated his last years to making men realise that "the worker of today will be the pensioner of tomorrow."

In October, 1971, he organised the first meeting of the unemployed in Melbourne for 40 years.

In May, 1972, he drew in 50 unions to back his social services moratorium march through Melbourne. He worked hard in preparation for the march for 11 months even though he was in bad health.



Above: Mr Gus Haddon who worked for pensioners and the unemployed.

WHO ARE COMPANIONS OF ST LAURENCE?

The Companions of St Laurence is a fellowship of people from various denominations whose aim is to uphold the total work of the Brotherhood.

Companions do this by following a simple life style, and by promising to accept responsibility, as they are able, in the following ways:

- to pray that the Brotherhood may be guided and sustained in its mission of service, research and social action
- to exercise personal stewardship of possessions and abilities
- where able, to undertake some act of personal service
- to challenge and stimulate other people to be aware of poverty, social injustice and to work for change
- to observe St Laurence Day (August 10) and the Brotherhood of St Laurence Foundation Festival (December 10) either individually or corporately.

At the inaugural meeting of the Companions, in June 1970, Father Tucker said it was essential for people to come together in the community to learn of particular needs and to pray for them.

He said as the Brotherhood continues to grow from year to year, he would be fearful for its future if it were not for the active presence of a group of people like the Companions who were taking a prayerful interest in its

development.

Companions receive a regular newsletter containing intercessions and items of interest as well as "Brotherhood Action."

There is no financial involvement, but donations received especially from the Companions of St Laurence are spent in accordance with a decision made at each annual meeting.

This is not another organisation. It is simply an avenue of participation for those who have some real concern for the Brotherhood and desire to strengthen its task by following the principles of the life-style.

The annual service of Holy Communion and Re-Dedication on the Saturday nearest St Laurence Day is followed by a luncheon and meeting, giving opportunity for members to get together and learn more of Brotherhood doings.

Companions are asked to attend the Foundation Festival of the Brotherhood at Christ Church, South Yarra, where a further opportunity for fellowship takes place over supper, and if possible the All Soul's Day Service at Carrum Downs.

New members are always welcome to share in this fellowship and further information may be received by contacting the Secretary, Companions of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065.



"Mac" McNally, in charge of the newsprint division.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

The Brotherhood sometimes gets inquiries as to why people receive Brotherhood "Action" when they have not actually subscribed. It has always been Brotherhood policy to send our quarterly journal to all people who send us cash donations. In 1969 we commenced sending it to donors of clothing and furniture as well, though unfortunately we have not yet been able to mail it to all donors.

We are also happy to send "Action" to anyone interested in the activities of the Brotherhood. If you would like to receive it, please fill in the form below. We would be glad to hear from anyone whose Action wrapper is incorrectly addressed. The computer likes to have the code number so please be sure and return the wrapper or quote the number if possible.

All subscribers, as distinct from cash and clothing donors, are reminded that subscriptions are now due for 1974. Our usual subscription rate is 50c per annum.

To: "Action" Subscriptions, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065.

I wish to subscribe to Brotherhood Action/renew my subscription. (Block letters please)

I enclose cheque/postal note for 50c.

Name: Mr. Mrs. Miss.

Address:

.....

Postcode

brotherhood gift

Send to Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065.

Donations of \$2 and over to the Brotherhood are deductible for Income Tax purposes.

I enclose my gift of \$ towards

Family Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carrum Downs Village	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services for the Aged	<input type="checkbox"/>	St Laurence Court, Bendigo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	St Laurence Park, Lara	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you would like a bag for used clothing for salvage, please tick this space.

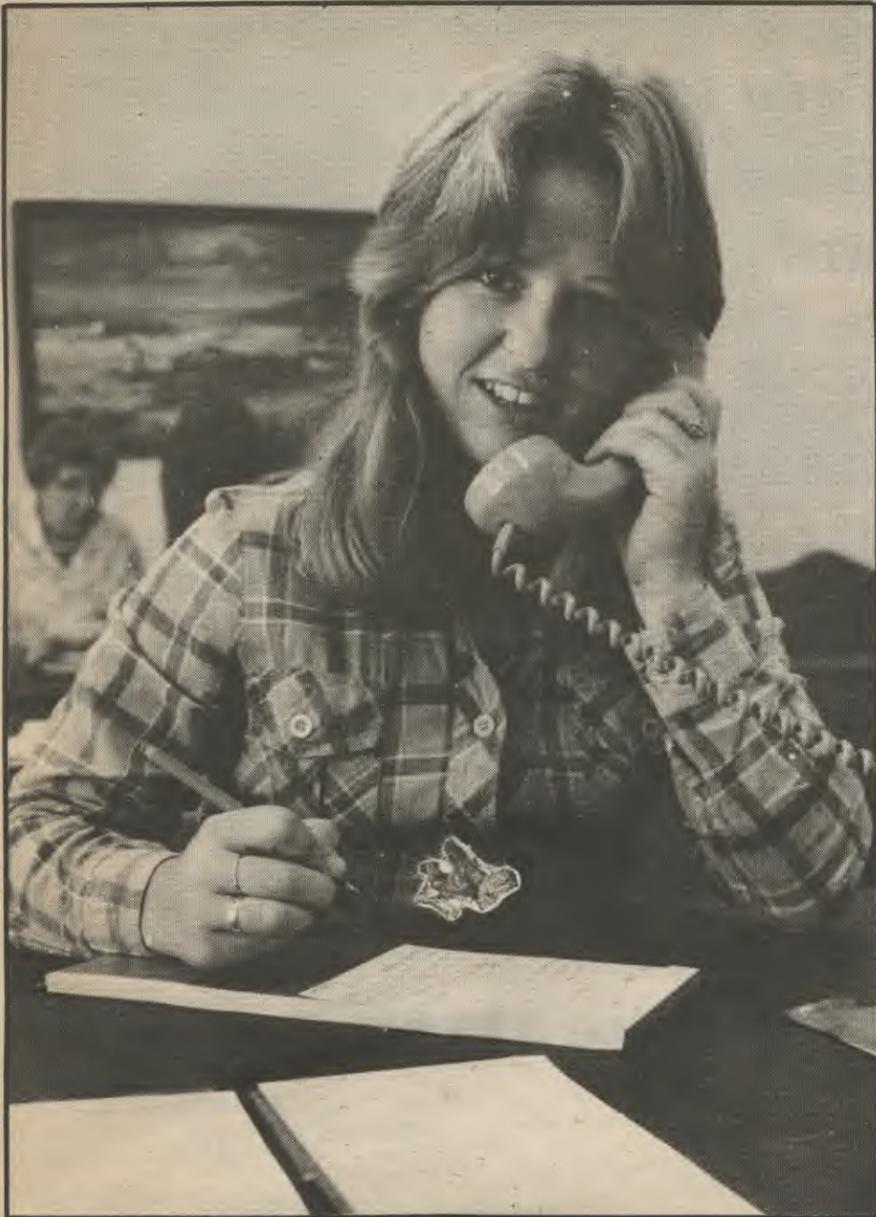
Name (Mr. Mrs. Miss)

Address

Postcode

CUT OUT AND MAIL YOUR GIFT

AUXILIARIES



Above: During the Christmas Appeal for Clothing, Maree O'Connell from Wagga Wagga helped answer telephones at the Brotherhood's Salvage Division.



Above: Voluntary worker, Warwick Jans helps a customer choose a tricycle at the Junk Joint.



Above: Mrs Joan Edwards (left), President of the Frankston Bazaar Auxiliary and Mrs Sybil Barratt arrange the window display at the shop.

After a record year fund raising for the Brotherhood in 1973, many of our auxiliaries have had a hard earned summer vacation and are now planning activities for this year.

At the Auxiliaries' annual meeting at the end of the year, a total of \$53,709 was handed over by the auxiliaries. Groups which staff the Brotherhood shops and bazaars helped to raise another \$90,341 through the salvage division.

Our shops don't close down at all over the holiday period, so auxiliaries have been very busy keeping their rosters filled. Sales have been a record in almost every shop over the last few months.

Many of our voluntary workers work even harder than usual during the holiday period. At the Coolibah Centre in Fitzroy, drivers for our meals-on-wheels program have been delivering

up to 30 extra meals each day, on top of our normal 15 or so. This was because the Collingwood and Fitzroy council services close until late January.

In the Family Centre, the holidays are their busiest time, with the summer camping program in full swing. The highlight was a camp at Frankston for a week with 60 members of the Centre that catered for all age groups. A team of volunteers, who are trained by Brotherhood staff, help both at the Centre and on camps.

Helpers at the Material Aid Centre was also very busy in the pre-Christmas period. Members of the Material Aid Group prepared, mended and ironed clothing ready for the Centre. Many groups of school children came in and repaired and painted toys for the Toy Club. Toys were given to over 600 children from low income families.

Successful Christmas Appeal

The Brotherhood's 1973 Christmas Appeal for clothing and household goods has been the most successful ever.

Thanks to all the radio announcers who helped us promote the appeal and who all showed a great personal interest in it. Thanks to nearly 10,000 people in Melbourne who rang us to donate their goods, we received almost half as much again as in the 1972 appeal.

But the appeal could not be run without the team of voluntary workers who valiantly manned our telephones during the four weeks of the appeal. Of course, many volunteers help during the year as well, but appeal time does put a strain on everyone.

A large amount of the best clothing will be given away through our Material Aid Centre in Fitzroy which last year helped over 2000 people. The rest of the goods will be sold through our shops and bazaars to provide cash for the other Brotherhood welfare services.

The Junk Joint

The Brotherhood's Salvage Division recently opened a new outlet for cheap junk furniture in a 17,000 square foot warehouse at 107 Brunswick Road, Brunswick (near Lygon Street).

This enormous area is something staff at salvage have hoped for for some time. It means that now we are no longer limited by space as to what donations we can accept. Now we can take almost anything.

And "anything" means that you can buy junk furniture, cheap clothing (being sold by weight as well as by normal methods), old doors, mantelpieces, washing machines, carpets, books, stoves, old TVs and electrical goods (mainly for spare parts value).

So we are continually looking for donations of stock, particularly furniture.

Even if you think what you have is really rubbish, don't throw it away. We can use it!

Staff at the Junk Joint would also be grateful for any help from any men who have time to spare.

by
dyranda prevost



Above: Peter Cavanagh (left) and Jim Barber, two of the four Jesuit novices from Loyola College who spent a month recently working for the Brotherhood. They are pictured washing dishes after lunch in the Coolibah Club.

BOOKS

"THE QUESTION MARK—the end of the Homo Sapiens"

by Hugh Montifiore. Collins, Price \$2.70

REVIEWED BY PETER HOLLINGWORTH

A couple of years ago I was given "The Question Mark" to read and review. I read it with mild interest, slightly surprised that an Anglican Priest should make a sizeable contribution to a range of interrelated issues which have been variously labelled under headings like "the ecological debate", "limits to growth", "environmental conservation", "the population explosion" and more recently "the energy crisis."

Unfortunately, these matters have largely remained within the domain of scientists and it is significant that a theologian should now enter the arena.

Perhaps it was the recent energy crisis, provoked by an immediate shortage of crude oil

supplies (foreshadowing a more serious long term crisis) which prompted a re-reading of "The Question Mark".

Hugh Montifiore, Biblical theologian, lecturer and vicar of Great St Mary's University Church, Cambridge, first presented his material in a series of lectures at Queen's University Belfast back in 1969, under the general title "Man's Dominion."

None of the sense of urgency expressed in the three original lectures has been diminished by the passage of time. Since that time there has been a depressing accumulation of evidence from scientifically reputable sources which has now been widely publicised. Most of us are now aware of the grievous and irreversible way man has altered the natural environment over the past 200 years. Indeed there are few signs to indicate that the concern expressed in books

such as this can be viewed with any less pessimism.

In the last two-thirds of his book Montifiore addresses himself and his readers to the basic ethical issue confronting mankind. He raises, though doesn't fully answer, the question as to how people's vague feelings of concern for their habitat can be mobilised to such an extent that the established power structure of industrial society can be regeared to meet social needs and to save the world from collapse.

Montifiore says that to begin with, we must all accept a universal and corporate moral obligation for posterity. This is no easy task because it is hard enough to persuade people to take responsibility for themselves and the present let alone for their children's children in a long term, unknown future.

Montifiore is none too impressed with the

recent efforts of humanists to create such a lasting obligation without using a religious framework. He asserts "plainly man must have a sufficient motive force to inspire his imagination and to fire his will to co-operate in such an enterprise." He proceeds to argue that this can only come about "through a lively belief in God as the Creator whose Spirit animates and energises the cosmos". From this flows man's conviction of his status as a trustee and steward of creation.

Not everyone will want to agree with Montifiore's conclusions. Personally, I found them persuasive and challenging. He has presented his case with a freshness, vigor and scholarship which lifted me out of the usual January lethargy.

Montifiore is one of a growing trend of Christian Theologians currently addressing themselves to the great issues of our times with a directness and clarity of vision which has often been lacking in the past.

It's not a hard book to read, church and community groups would find it an excellent study resource especially as they are trying to focus attention on the world around them.

"THE SYMMETRICAL FAMILY: A STUDY OF WORK AND LEISURE IN THE LONDON REGION"

by Michael Young and Peter Willmott.

Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1973. Price \$13.60

REVIEWED BY DAVID GRIFFITHS

History is a marching column with "the people at the head of it usually being the first to wheel in a new direction. The last rank keeps its distance from the first, and the distance between them does not lessen."

This is the theory of the Principle of Stratified Diffusion which Michael Young and Peter Willmott apply in explaining "the endurance with which the distribution of incomes and wealth has resisted change." They suggest it is "one of the most striking obstinancies of history. The differences between the classes are not markedly less than they were in the past."

There is a slow march towards egalitarianism, but it works with a time lag:

"As the column advances, the last rank does eventually reach and pass the point which the first rank had passed some time before."

Their theory is tested by a sociological and historical analysis of family life. A unique and pioneering effort for as the authors point out, "on our main subject there has been no full history." They quote J.F.C. Harrison:

"It is a sad comment on British historiography that while we have a great many studies of political parties, trade unions and religious bodies, there is not a single history of the basic social institution of British life, the family. Until some attempt has been made to fill this gap it is impossible to write with assurance about family life in the nineteenth century, or to do more than hazard a few

guesses at the nature of the impact of industrialism upon the home."

The book is the result of a survey of 1928 people living in London and the outer metropolitan area in 1970. The number of respondents represents 73 per cent of the eligible sample and compares unfavorably with the response rate to two previous surveys undertaken by the authors - an 86 per cent response in Bethnal Green and an 82 per cent response in Woodford. They comment on this:

"Our experience, which has been similar to that of other researchers, is that it has been becoming more difficult to get people to co-operate in surveys of this kind."

Young and Willmott argue that the family has passed through three stages. The first was the pre-industrial pattern where the family was a unit for production. The second was the disruptive stage where the factory system tore families apart. The third and existing stage in unity based on consumption.

They suggest that the basis of the third stage is not equality between husbands and wives but at least something approaching symmetry: the essence of a symmetrical relationship is that it is opposite but similar. Increasingly wives work outside the home and husbands inside it.

Symmetrical relationships are not, however, egalitarian relationships.

"Power has not been distributed equally in more than a few families. Division of labor is still the rule, with the husband doing the 'man's' work and the wife taking prime responsibility for the housekeeping and the children... the new family could be labelled simply egalitarian. But that would not square with the marked differences that still remain in the human rights, in the work opportunities and generally in the way of life of the two sexes."

The new symmetrical family is itself under increasing pressure. Contrary to the popular view, there is as yet no sign of a general increase in leisure. In some occupations work is dominant and becoming more so; at the same time the proportions of people in such jobs, though still in the minority, are expanding. Young and Willmott's survey shows that work interferes with the home life of 53 per cent of managerial and professional workers and 25 per cent of semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

A similar trend is reported for married women who take full-time employment - 58 per cent of those in managerial and professional jobs and 22 per cent of those in manual jobs reported that work interfered with their home and family life.

According to the Principle of Stratified Diffusion, the people in the van of the column foreshadow what those at the rear will be doing tomorrow and those at the rear represent the past of those ahead of them. So if there is a change visible at the van it may well be a portent of a more general change.

The implication then is that there will be increasing numbers of managerial, professional, semi-skilled and unskilled workers who report that their work interferes with their home life.

But, Young and Willmott's definition of interference seems to be confined to such things as taking work home or working back late.

What Young and Willmott tend to overlook is the deadening impact of the dirty work discussed by Graham Lacey in the last issue of ACTION (December 1973, p.5). The jobs occupied by the unskilled and the semi-skilled are invariably repetitive, monotonous and dehumanising.

The inherited affects of the Poor Law and the Puritan Ethic have permeated our society with an authoritarian work ethic that stresses industry, frugality and prudence. An ethic that assumes all men can make of their own lives what they will and that people ascend or descend to their appropriate levels in society. The low status unskilled and semi-skilled descend to low status, low paid occupations.

The authors are co-directors of the Institute of Community Studies. Michael Young is President of the Consumers' Association, Chairman of the International Extension College and author of "The Rise of the Meritocracy". Peter Willmott is part-time Professor at the School of Environmental Studies, University College, London. He is currently directing research in Paris and London on urban poverty.

The Institute of Community Studies is an independent sociological research unit. The Institute's aim is to add to knowledge about society and to publish its findings in a form which will interest the layman as well as the specialist.

BOOKS ABOUT PEOPLE

"Unemployment; the Facts and Effects" A social action study by David Griffiths. 1972. \$1.50.

"The Have Nots", A study of 150 low income families. Judith O'Neill and Rosmary Nairn. 1972. \$2.00.

"Two Worlds", School and the Migrant Family. A Brotherhood of St Laurence social action study. 1971. 95 cents.

"Mobile Living", An outline of mobile camping theory and procedure. Graeme Bull. 1971. 50 cents.

"The Cost of Free Education," Schools and low income families. Judith O'Neill and Janet Paterson. 1968. 60 cents.

"Leisure", A social inquiry into leisure activities and the needs of an Australian housing estate. David Scott and Robert U'ren. 1962. 60 cents.

All these books can be purchased at the Brotherhood at prices indicated plus postage. Inquiries 41-4151 or write to 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065.

OTHER BROTHERHOOD PUBLICATIONS:

Material Aid Service Report
Family Day Care Report
The Family Centre Report
Submission to the National Superannuation Committee of Inquiry.
Submission to the Commonwealth Commission of Inquiry into Poverty.

All those old clothes are only cluttering your cupboards and feeding the moths. They could be feeding, clothing and housing the less fortunate people of our communities. Our many Brotherhood shops need clothes, books, crockery, furnishings, toys and jewellery. Make a clean sweep of your cupboards.

Phone 41 3181 and a van will call.

Country donors: Goods free by rail to Flinders Street Station.

Brotherhood of St Laurence

don't
feed
the
moths

