

For a 16-year-old it certainly would be true. Perhaps from 16 to 21 it would not be as true. Then is it not more important that the community build an acceptance of this individual, a place for the individual and his job and civic affairs and such?

MAYOR WALSH. This is one part of the bill that worries me a little bit, this concern with the group up to 21. We find that there are any number of families where the father is over 21 who is in this poverty class. I don't think we should—the thinking of the committee should—be limited to just taking care of this group up to 21. You have to in your other programs consider persons over the age of 21 and try to retrain them. Hopefully some of the retraining programs that are available under other legislation would take care of these but we are finding a lot of the younger men, say, in the 30-year-age group, from 25 to 35, who are in this poverty-stricken class who are on welfare.

MR. QUIE. Do you find in your urban renewal program and your construction of low-income housing that it takes a while to develop a sense of community in the area?

MAYOR WALSH. By sense of community you mean a cohesiveness?

MR. QUIE. Cohesiveness and the people developing a sense of responsibility toward the area, their environment around them.

MAYOR WALSH. Yes; I think this is true. Again it depends on what you term community. I think many times we are overly concerned about the looks of an area rather than the cohesiveness of an area. As people are being displaced and move into new areas I think that what we are trying to do now through our urban renewal program, we have what we call a community organization specialist who is working with groups in the community trying to get them to take an interest in their particular community and it seems to be working. We are getting some good results with this, where people are trying to build up a community feeling for the neighborhood.

MR. QUIE. I think that is all the time I will take, Madam Chairman. I thank Mayor Walsh for his excellent statement again.

MR. GREEN. One of my concerns about this program is that we really don't do anything until the youngster is about 16 years old. May I ask you, as a person trained in sociology, isn't this pretty late for a child who comes from a multiple problem family?

MAYOR WALSH. I think you are right.

MRS. GREEN. What about residential schools for children under that age who would benefit by a change in the environment?

MAYOR WALSH. I don't know the answer. I think I recall these statistics, don't hold them to me accurately, but a study done in 1957 in New York State showed that about 86 percent of the heads of public assistance families had never finished high school and about 72 percent of the heads of public assistance families never finished grammar school.

Now we are finding in our studies with the mayors' commission for youth that the dropout problem is beginning in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. These are down where the 11-, the 10-, and the 9-year-olds are. This is where your problem is starting, if ways could be found to make this group more concerned with school. What we are trying to do now, with certain projects in Syracuse, is trying to concentrate on keeping them in school at that age and, by trying to treat