

industrial skill for the future. While we agree that the present proposal offers the possibility of a good attitude toward work and a receptivity of the discipline of regular employment, we do not feel that the program is realistically geared to provide a skill or even an interest in the skills required in the highly automated industry of the future. We suggest therefore that greater detail be set forth in different versions of this proposal which would indicate how the training experience will, in reality, provide these young men with the ability to develop and improve their industrial skills for the future.

The National Conference of Catholic Charities, as with all other religious social welfare organizations is interested in maintaining the fabric of family life for all, regardless of the emergent character of the circumstances. We therefore recommend, in addition, that a greater proportion of these youth work and training programs be so administered as to keep the trainee at home in his own community where the family ties can be preserved and where the unforeseen social and moral casualties can be kept to a minimum.

In approving the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the National Conference of Catholic Charities feels compelled to identify it as only a beginning in the process of long-range and wide-gaged planning necessary to influence all fields which are deeply affected by the impoverishment which prevails. We urge therefore that early action be taken on the following matters:

(a) *Expanded job training for fathers, particularly fathers with dependent children.*—While we are aware of the progress being made in this area, we, none the less, feel that it is not of sufficient size to meet the challenge which is before our country to provide everyone who is willing to work with the training necessary to maintain a job in the highly technical industry of our day. Further, we believe that an adequate subsidy should be paid each month to a man while he is in training so that the dignity and sense of self-sufficiency may be preserved.

(b) *Increased on-the-job training for youth.*—Closer relationship between our educational system and our industries must be developed so that a wider sense of responsibility will be exemplified by industry and education for the task of preparing young people, through on-the-job experience, for a vital role in our industrial society. It is our belief that a subsidy might well be paid by Government to those young men who are training in industries that cannot support them.

(c) *Housing for low-income and middle-income families.*—Housing in the centers of our larger cities, for low-income and middle-income families is clearly necessary if the unity of the family is to be preserved and the joy of family living experienced to the fullest. Special attention must be given to public housing which provides apartments for large families at a rent they can afford to pay.

(d) *Housing for the elderly.*—Attention must be given to existing programs and to the provision of new programs that would enable the Government, or private, nonprofit groups, to provide adequate, safe, and sanitary housing for older people, also at a rate they can afford to pay. When one considers the highly minimal fixed incomes of older people, it becomes dramatically clear that the present programs limit the possibility of public or private housers to provide adequate living quarters at a reasonable cost for our senior citizens.

(e) *Medical care for the indigent of all ages.*—Without implying that the Government take over the field of medical service, it is our conviction that adequate preventive, as well as treatment oriented, medical care should be provided for the mothers and the infants among the poor and those who are medically in need among the aged. It is our conviction that the latter category should be based on a social insurance system rather than a means test.

(f) *Adequate budgets for those programs now administered by various levels of government.*—This is essential so that the average budget, be it for individual or family, can be brought to such adequacy as would place them over, rather than under, the poverty line.

The National Conference of Catholic Charities offers a pledge of renewed activity on the part of its agencies, institutional and volunteer programs, to reach out to the poor in the spirit of true religious concern. It is a responsibility to be faced by us to be ingenious in recruiting personnel and in finding resources to alleviate the conditions of the poor on a neighborhood, parish basis. It is the responsibility of organizations like our own to support the kind of administrative and legislative activity on the part of Government that will lead to a greater degree of adequacy for all of our citizens. It will be our