

additional comments and suggestions

Each participant in the Arden House Conference was asked to respond in writing to the position papers and other data they received prior to the Conference. Their response included comments about the information sent, as well as views of their own.

Almost 75 per cent of the participants made such responses. Without exception, their contributions were thoughtful, provocative, interesting and, in some instances, opened new areas for discussion which went far beyond those contained in their earlier "homework." The comments were summarized, collated and recirculated to the conferees in advance of the Arden House meeting so that each delegate had the benefit of everyone else's point of view.

It would be impossible to impart the spirit or flavor of these comments, nor can justice be done to them in a brief summary. Neither can a written report capture the discussions in the various workshops and plenary sessions. Nevertheless, the Steering Committee believes that some of the Arden House highlights not embodied in the "Summary and Recommendations" deserve circulation and subsequent discussion.

Many participants stressed the need for more research, admitted that the more they learned, the less sure they were of possible solutions for many of the problems presented. The more they explored the field, they said, the more they saw how limited their knowledge was. This limitation, they felt, also applied in some measure to the data provided by "experts."

Evidence presented to the Steering Committee indicated that less than one-tenth of 1 per cent of the public welfare expenditure is devoted to research. This is an appallingly low percentage considering how very little is known about so many vital aspects of so important a problem. The Committee feels that a far greater research expenditure would be warranted in virtually all aspects of the assistance program. It therefore believes that far more experimentation and innovation would be useful to determine whether particular changes are practical, and even when found to be practical, could be improved as a result of experimentation.