

An aspect of the welfare problem that emerged was the plight of the 19-million children living in poverty or near poverty. Providing hope and opportunity and translating this into concrete, attainable programs for children was proposed as an area of high priority.

Opinion was unanimous that special efforts must be made by Government and industry alike to help end the conditions of dependency and despair that seem to lead to perpetuation of poverty from one generation to another.

Additional suggestions for dealing with this and other problems included the following:

1. EDUCATION

There was agreement at Arden House that improving educational opportunities, as well as the quality of education for deprived children, was an essential step if they were to be helped to break out of the cycle of dependency. While this subject was not a major topic at Arden House, the need for paying attention to it was stressed in many of the delegates' written statements, and it was a *sine qua non* in many of the workshops.

Three main proposals were suggested:

A. That day care centers be linked with Head Start programs and that efforts be made to apply the techniques of early childhood education to pre-school aged youngsters in such facilities.

B. Vocational schools in all sizable cities should offer a two-year accredited course as part of a cooperative effort between business and education with the curriculum geared to the needs of business within that community to give reasonable assurance that youngsters would be trained for jobs that exist, and upon graduation could be absorbed into the local labor force.

C. Initiation of a Federal master plan which would seek to establish minimum national standards of achievement in education.

2. HOUSING

There was general recognition that poor housing, as well as discrimination in housing, played an important role in perpetuating poverty and dependency, in creating problems of motivation and in a variety of other areas that tended to minimize the chance of a slum resident's becoming self-supporting. Most of the suggestions for improving the conditions of the poor, insofar as housing is concerned, were related to industry's own know-how and experience. Some of these suggestions included:

A. Business become a participant in the construction and ownership of housing for the low income groups.

B. Industry receive incentives to relocate in poor neighborhoods and that such incentives include land written down to a reasonable reuse value, low interest, long term loans and intensive utilization of land in cities through multi-story plans or in multi-purpose buildings which would provide space for business with housing above.