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REPORT TO

*His Excellency Kenneth M. Curtis  
Governor Of The State Of Maine*

BY THE

**GOVERNOR'S  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

*1971*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Message from Governor Curtis	6
Letter of Transmittal	7
Acknowledgements	4
Advisory Council Membership	5
History of Council	9
Areas of Exploration	
Major Problems of Families in Poverty	10
Some Problems of Administration of Poverty Programs	17
Educational and Vocational-Technical Opportunities for Women	18
Child Care	20
Conclusion	22
Appendix A – Presentation at Hearing of Human Rights Bill.	23

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The material for this report was obtained through regional hearings, in cooperation with Low Income, Inc., for low income people and other interested citizens; consultations with the Office of Economic Opportunity, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, the Director of the Bureau of Social Welfare, the University of Maine Extension Service, administrators and advisory committee of a local welfare program, and the Director of Pinecap; representation on the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Bureau of Social Welfare; attendance at Conferences of The Conference of Human Services; and membership on the Legislative Committee of The Conference of Human Services.

Material was also obtained from consultations with both the former and present Commissioner of Education, the Director of the State Bureau of Vocational Education, Directors of Vocational Technical Institutes, Directors of Vocation Technical Education in the public schools, and Guidance Counselors in the public schools.

Information on day care was gathered through consultation with state consultants on day care in the Bureau of Social Welfare, membership on the Sub-Committee on Day Care of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Bureau of Social Welfare, conferences on day care held in Augusta and Orono, and the Regional Director of Community Coordinated Child Care.

We feel warmly appreciative to all of our sources and welcome this opportunity to acknowledge publicly the assistance they have given us.

GOVERNOR'S  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Mrs. Helen Burney  
Augusta

Mrs. Joyce Champlin  
Rockland

Mrs. Ruth Crowley  
Augusta  
(Not participating in this report)

Mrs. Madeleine Freeman  
Orono

Mrs. Carolyn Glassman  
Portland

Mrs. Rose Guilman  
Lewiston

Miss Frances Hapgood  
Portland

Mrs. Ruth Hoch  
Glen Cove

Mrs. Evelyn Jephson  
Waldoboro

Miss Rachel Lemieux  
Augusta (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs. Valerie Moskowitz  
Presque Isle

Niss Laura Nawfel  
Waterville

Mrs. Frances Seaman  
Waterville (Chairman)

Mrs. Barbara Sears  
Portland

Mrs. Betty Ann Taylor  
Cape Elizabeth

The Honorable Charlotte White  
Dover-Foxcroft

Mrs. Ruth Zrioka  
Portland

Mrs. Ko Kimmel  
Gorham  
(Regularly attending adviser)





KENNETH M. CURTIS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04880

MESSAGE BY GOVERNOR KENNETH M. CURTIS  
FOR THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

I am indebted to the members of the Committee On The Status of Women for the efforts they have expended in helping to maximize the effective role that women can play in our society in Maine.

The specific goals outlined to you for finding ideas helpful to women in rural poverty and compiling a roster of competent women in the State fits into the larger pattern of achieving a quality life for all Maine citizens. The contribution of the Committee On The Status of Women presents important guidance for the future course of our State.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth M. Curtis".

KENNETH M. CURTIS  
Governor

The Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis  
Governor of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

June 30, 1971

Dear Governor Curtis,

The Governor's Advisory Council on the Status of Women herewith respectfully submits its full report for the major part of two bienniums, during which time it has served.

The report gives the sources for our studies and lists the findings and recommendations which resulted from them.

The Governor's Advisory Council on the Status of Women has held several meetings each year. The Chairman and other members of the Council have spoken on the status of women in Maine to service clubs and at the annual meeting of Church Women United, all with interested response. Various members of the Council have attended legislative hearings in Augusta. A Governor's Conference on Day Care was held with the cooperation of the Departments of Health and Welfare, Education, and Labor and Industry and the Office of Economic Opportunity. Also, our support was given to a follow up conference on day care which was held at the University of Maine in Orono. We have written a separate report on these two conferences.

The Council has held hearings for low income people and other interested citizens, in cooperation with United Low Income, Inc., in the Augusta, Bangor, Waterville and Skowhegan areas on Problems of Poverty. Our major interest has been to find out what impact poverty has on women and their families.

We have not gone into the special problems of the aged poor since a full report on those is available in "Steps for Maine's Elderly". Neither have we dealt separately with poverty in minority groups in Maine.

We attempted to compile a roster of capable women, as you requested, but were disappointed that our efforts were not more successful. We recommend that continued attention be given to the compilation of such a roster.

Womanpower is one of our nation's largest undeveloped and underutilized natural resources. The State of Maine has a large portion of this reservoir of undeveloped and underutilized womanpower, a great deal of it caused by poverty, as this report will show. While we found that there are many people working hard in a large number of programs to help the poor, we also found strong negative attitudes toward people on welfare and a rather general lack of awareness of and concern for the problems of the poor in the public sector.

We are urging in this report that the public be informed and sensitized to the problems of poverty and to the basic needs of the poor, and that efforts to meet these needs be coordinated.

Although our major concern has been the effect of poverty on women and their families, we are also aware of and concerned about discrimination against women. This needs attention. (See Appendix ).

We would like to express our warm appreciation to our Governor for his support, and especially for his sponsorship of the Governor's Conference on Day Care.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances F. Seaman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the phrase "Respectfully submitted,".

Frances F. Seaman, Chairman

## HISTORY OF COUNCIL

Maine's first Commission on the Status of Women was appointed by Governor John H. Reed in 1964, "in recognition of the increasingly important role played by women in our national life, to study the progress women have made in achieving opportunity in the state and to explore the social, economic and legal problems with which they are confronted." This action followed the recommendation of the President's Commission on the Status of Women, appointed by President Kennedy in 1961, that action be taken in many areas, including a call to action on the other governmental levels. Since that time every state and also Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have formed Commissions or Councils on the Status of Women.

In 1967 the Maine Commission was able to get legislative action which required by law that Maine have a Governor's Council on the Status of Women, with seventeen members. They and the positions of Chairman and Vice-chairman are appointed by the Governor. This legislative act assures the continued existence of a council on the Status of Women and allows for (modest) financial help.

The present Council was appointed in October of 1967 and reappointed in July of 1969.

According to the Governor's charge to this Council its purpose has been to study and recommend constructive programs in rural poverty areas; find ways to use existing public agencies; to step up the development of human resources; and to use creative thinking and action in improving the status of people in Maine.

We have been especially interested in what impact poverty makes on women and their families and how it affects their growth and development. We were pleased that our Governor gave us this charge because we feel that the need for developing and protecting our human resources is at least as important as those of other natural resources.

We are interested in the changes that "need to be made in our social arrangements so that people who aren't poor won't become poor and so that people who are poor can join the group which is not poor.

## AREAS OF EXPLORATION

### A. MAJOR PROBLEMS OF FAMILIES IN POVERTY

#### 1. *MEDICAL*

Low income people report great difficulty in getting medical assistance including dental, eye, ear, and pre-natal care. They find it especially difficult to obtain emergency medical assistance.

They tell us that they have been asked to pay before they have received help and that at times they have been denied help.

The medical system as it exists finds it difficult to deliver adequate medical help to the poor. If the doctor—patient relationship is based on the patient's ability to pay, then the poor are on a spot unless they are covered by Medicaid.

The working poor get no help toward obtaining medical aid or medicine and sometimes this creates a very serious situation (as in the case of diabetes or epilepsy, for example).

#### 2. *NUTRITION*

In some areas surplus foods are not available due to indifference of local officials.

A desire was expressed for help in knowing how to use surplus foods in an appetizing way.

The University of Maine Extension Service reaches many people with help in this area but has not been able to reach all who would like it.

#### 3. *HOUSING*

There is great distress and even fear felt among the low income people concerning housing. They would like more assistance in obtaining housing.

Their expressed problems centered on the difficulties they have with landlords who do not seem at all interested in keeping housing habitable, who do not want families with children, and who evict them. Fear was expressed that the state would take away their children if they did not provide a suitable place for them to live. Some who were facing eviction said they were just unable to find a decent place to live.

Some low income people would like to get low interest loans so they would be buying a home rather than just paying rent.

#### 4. *EMERGENCY HELP*

The difficulties of getting help in various kinds of emergencies (other than medical) were described as many. For example:

There is a waiting list for legal assistance; there is red tape involved when people need immediate help for food or fuel; they find it hard to know where and how to get help and feel they get the "go-around" and often that people just do not care.

#### 5. *TRANSPORTATION*

Lack of transportation results in isolation in rural areas.

It isolates people from main streams of communications, education, medical help, job opportunities, and policy making opportunities.

#### 6. *FAMILY COUNSELING*

Low income people expressed need for more adequate family counseling opportunities for multi-problem families.

#### 7. *FAMILY PLANNING*

They expressed great need for family planning information and for more money to fund the program.

#### 8. *LOCAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE*

*(See, also, problems of administration of programs for the poor)*

There was considerable criticism of some local welfare programs and of the attitudes of those who administer them. Some of the poor reported that they had experienced condescending, contemptuous and hostile attitudes.

Not all people needing help are getting it (and still budgets for the programs are cut).

There are usually no written guidelines for granting financial aid.

There are usually no records kept of those who are denied aid, and why.

There is usually no opportunity to appeal their cases when denied assistance or not granted adequate funds to meet their emergency.

## *9. PUBLIC ATTITUDES*

Frequently during our explorations we came across indifferent, unsympathetic, hostile and/or contemptuous attitudes among the general public, the taxpayers, toward people on welfare.

There are strong feelings in regard to people getting welfare who are not "worthy" of help and who are immoral, according to their own standards.

One very frequent attitude expressed is "If they (the poor) would get busy and work they wouldn't be in the fix they're in. I got a job. I support myself (my family). If I can do it, they can do it.

Occasional abuses of welfare contribute to these attitudes.

## *10. LACK OF INFORMATION CENTERS*

Although there are many sources of help for low income people in the state, we found they do not know where to turn for the particular kind of help they need. There seems to be a woeful lack of adequate communication, in spite of efforts to improve.

## *11. BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT*

The low level of economic development in the state offers virtually no opportunity for people on welfare, or other low income people, to improve their situation with a better paying job.

More training and retraining programs for adults need to be made available in order that people may up-grade themselves.

Approximately 18% of the recipients of welfare have said that they would prefer to work but do not dare risk getting off of welfare because they would lose their medical coverage.

This was true even of a registered nurse (with a sick child) who could earn good money.

People on welfare fear that assistance will be discontinued if they try to improve themselves.

There seems to be more incentive to stay on welfare than to be off of it and working.

But Aid to Families with Dependent Children pays them only about 48% of their minimum need as calculated by the state Bureau of Social Welfare. How can they live on 48% of their minimum need?

## *12. PROBLEMS OF CREDIT BUYING*

Low income people find the interest rates for buying on the installment plan prohibitive.

## *13. SOME SPECIAL PROBLEMS*

### *The Working Poor*

There are no programs to help this group and they need help in almost all areas.

They feel that, despite hard work, they have less security than those on A.F.D.C. who have medicaid and can depend on financial assistance, even if scant.

The wives of the working poor men say they would very much like to get training in something they could do at home to earn supplemental money.

### *Widows*

Widows between 45 and 65 have special problems:

They are untrained.

They find it hard to get training, because of their low level of basic education.

They are isolated.

They are too young for social security.

They do not qualify for categorical assistance.

Some low income people feel that many administrators of programs to help the poor are getting paid for doing nothing. They say low income people are not getting the benefits of the programs.

People on welfare say that they have tried unsuccessfully for as long as a year to get in touch with their social worker.

## **RECOMMENDATION 1**

THAT NEIGHBORHOOD AND/OR REGIONAL, AND/OR TRAVELLING HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING DENTAL, EYE, EAR, AND PRE-NATAL CARE BE ESTABLISHED TO SERVE THE POOR, WITH EMPLOYMENT OF PARA-MEDICALS WHERE FEASIBLE, THE STAFF TO BE SUBSIDIZED BY PUBLIC FUNDS.

## **RECOMMENDATION 2**

THAT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION BE ENCOURAGED TO INNOVATE AND TO SUPPORT INNOVATION TO DEVELOP MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEMS WHICH MORE ADEQUATELY MEET THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF ALL OF OUR CITIZENS, WITH EMPHASIS ON PREVENTION OF ILLNESS.



RECOMMENDATION 3

THAT MEDICAID INCLUDE COVERAGE FOR THE WORK-  
ING POOR.

RECOMMENDATION 4

THAT SERVICE CLUBS BE ENCOURAGED TO COORDINATE  
AND COMBINE THEIR EFFORTS TO HELP NEEDY PEOPLE  
TO THE END THAT MORE SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS CAN  
BE INAUGURATED WITH THEIR FUNDS.

At present they participate in many helpful projects. We are  
suggesting that, if they combine their efforts, for example, they  
might give substantial help towards getting a dental clinic started  
one year and, perhaps another year an eye or ear care program  
started, etc.

RECOMMENDATION 5

THAT A STATE-WIDE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM BE ES-  
TABLISHED, TO WORK ON A ONE TO ONE BASIS WITH  
LOW INCOME PEOPLE WHO ARE HEADS OF FAMILIES.

This would be similar to the very successful adult literacy pro-  
gram being carried on by Church Women United, to encourage  
proper nutrition and to give information on low cost foods (or  
donated commodities) and how to use them.

This will expand the fine work the University of Maine Extension  
Service is already doing in this field.

RECOMMENDATION 6

THAT THERE BE MADE AVAILABLE TO LOW INCOME  
PEOPLE A VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SERVICE TO HELP  
THEM PROCURE HOUSING.

For example, service organizations and/or church groups could  
form such councils in their localities.

RECOMMENDATION 7

ENCOURAGE MORE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR HOUS-  
ING, EXPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS.

Adequate housing is usually otherwise financially out of reach  
of low income people.

RECOMMENDATION 8

THAT MORE EFFORT BE MADE TO MAKE RURAL FAMI-  
LIES AND COMMUNITIES AWARE OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS  
AVAILABLE TO THEM TO GIVE THEM SAFE AND SANI-  
TARY LIVING CONDITIONS.

RECOMMENDATION 9

THAT LEGISLATION BE INTRODUCED TO MAKE IT ILLEGAL TO REFUSE AUTOMATICALLY TO RENT TO PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN.

RECOMMENDATION 10

THAT INFORMATION CENTERS BE SET UP IN REGIONS OVER THE STATE AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE CENTER BE WIDELY PUBLISHED IN EACH REGION, SO THAT A PERSON NEEDING HELP CAN CALL FOR REFERRAL INFORMATION.

We recommend that trained volunteers man the phones. (This kind of thing has been established successfully by the Urban Coalition, with a follow-up procedure.)

RECOMMENDATION 11

THAT PROGRAMS BE DEVELOPED TO HELP THE WORKING POOR BY THE FORMATION OF AN ADVISORY COUNCIL INCLUDING A LARGE PROPORTION OF MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE WORKING POOR.

RECOMMENDATION 12

THAT OPPORTUNITIES BE CREATED FOR WIDOWS, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN 45 AND 65 TO GET FURTHER EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TRAINING AND THAT THESE PROGRAMS BE WIDELY PUBLICIZED.

RECOMMENDATION 13

THAT VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION CORPS IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE STATE BE SET UP TO GIVE TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAL CENTERS, MARKETING OR MEETINGS.

RECOMMENDATION 14

THAT SOCIAL CASE WORKERS BE INSTALLED IN THE ELEMENTARY GRADES TO WORK WITH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

RECOMMENDATION 15

THAT LOCAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS FORMULATE WRITTEN GUIDE-LINES FOR AWARDED FINANCIAL AID TO APPLICANTS AND THAT THESE GUIDE-LINES BE POSTED.

RECOMMENDATION 16

THAT INFORMATION ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD BE MADE AVAILABLE ON A STATE WIDE BASIS WITH SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM.

RECOMMENDATION 17

THAT LOCAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS KEEP CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS OF PEOPLE DENIED ASSISTANCE AND REASONS FOR DENIAL.

RECOMMENDATION 18

THAT APPLICANTS FOR AID HAVE AN APPEAL BOARD, OR MEDIATION BOARD, TO WHOM THEY CAN TURN IF THEY FEEL UNJUSTLY TREATED.

RECOMMENDATION 19

THAT MORE MONEY BE APPROPRIATED TO PUBLICIZE THE PROBLEMS OF POVERTY AND THE NEEDS OF THE POOR, AS EXPRESSED BY THE POOR.

We need to have the public aware of and sensitized to the problems of the poor in order to gain citizen support for programs aimed at aiding those in poverty.

RECOMMENDATION 20

THAT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES WHICH PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO IMPROVE THEIR SITUATION BE DEVELOPED FOR THE POOR.

These to include:

1. Low interest federal loans for establishing small businesses (Including advice on how to run them);
2. Allowances for job expenses such as transportation, child care, suitable clothing for work, tools, licenses, and union dues when computing a family's financial need;
3. Expanded medicaid to cover all low income people, or required health insurance in place of business; and
4. Lessened reductions from A.F.D.C. grants because of money earned, so that the poor can have a real feeling of getting ahead.

RECOMMENDATION 21

THAT SUPPORT BE GIVEN TO A WELFARE REFORM BILL THAT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR FAMILIES TO REMAIN TOGETHER AND STILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR WELFARE.

Present statutes place a premium on broken families for welfare eligibility. This leads to families deliberately breaking up in order to receive welfare.

RECOMMENDATION 22

THAT EMPHASIS BE GIVEN TO WELFARE SERVICES OF A PREVENTIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL NATURE RATHER THAN FOR MAINTENANCE AT LEVELS FROM WHICH IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO RISE.

We need preventive welfare, not crisis welfare.

RECOMMENDATION 23

THAT THE CONFERENCE OF HUMAN SERVICES BE APPROACHED TO COORDINATE THE WORK OF THE MANY AGENCIES IN THE STATE, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, THAT DEAL WITH HUMAN NEEDS.

RECOMMENDATION 24

THAT THE COMMUNITY BETTERMENT COMMITTEES THROUGHOUT THE STATE BE ENCOURAGED AND URGED TO INCLUDE THE BETTERMENT OF PEOPLE AS WELL AS THE LANDSCAPE.

The Governor's Advisory Council feels that the problems of the impoverished need to be communicated to and become the concern of the whole community. This means that the Community Betterment Committees need to include representatives of low income people in their membership.

RECOMMENDATION 25

THAT LOW INCOME PEOPLE HAVE SUBSTANTIAL (NOT TOKEN) REPRESENTATION ON POLICY MAKING BOARDS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

B. SOME PROBLEMS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS TO AID THE POOR.

*FINDINGS:*

Applicants sometimes apply to more than one agency for financial aid.

Applicants sometimes give false information on the application.

Applicants sometimes refuse to work for aid.

Administrators have no written guidelines for awarding welfare grants.

There is a lack of sufficient and adequately trained staff.

Administrators are bound by law to certain practices.

There is a problem of public servants to please the 9 or so taxpayers out of 10 who are not on welfare, as well as those depending on welfare.

It is difficult for local administrators to check on applicants who are strangers to them, there being no central information center they can refer to. When applicants falsify it is likely to increase suspicion in general.

The state is legally responsible for children who are neglected but it is extremely difficult to keep surveillance of people who are on welfare and exploiting the situation using money to buy liquor instead of food for their children, without creating a gestapo state.

RECOMMENDATION 26

THAT ALL ADMINISTRATORS OF LOCAL WELFARE PROGRAMS BE OFFERED OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND WORKSHOPS SIMILAR TO THOSE AVAILABLE FOR ADMINISTRATORS AT THE STATE LEVEL TO GET HELP ON WAYS OF HANDLING APPLICANTS AND THEIR PROBLEMS AND TO DISCUSS WHAT ATTITUDES ARE HELPFUL.

RECOMMENDATION 27

THAT ADEQUATE AND TRAINED STAFF FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF WELFARE PROGRAMS BE CONSIDERED AN ESSENTIAL PART OF GOVERNMENTS' BUSINESS AND, THEREFORE, BE PROVIDED.

C. EDUCATIONAL, AND VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN.

*FINDINGS:*

The median amount of education of females in Maine is 11 years.

In our present technological age, when it is necessary for workers to have education and skill training, Maine girls have little opportunity to get it, since our vocational-technical courses at both the high school and post high school levels are mainly the conventional courses for boys.

We found the directors of the Vocational-Technical Institutes interested in and wanting more courses for girls.

Several job training programs financed and set up by the federal government have not made use of our vocational-technical schools but have set up separate programs.

Guidance counselors are mainly in the high schools. They are generally overloaded with the number of students they are responsible for guiding, and are generally under considerable pressure from parents of college bound students to get them admitted. This kind of situation is widespread, even when 80% of the high school students in Maine do not go to college.

A large number of our high school students graduate without a salable skill and are not prepared to become self dependent, tax-paying citizens upon graduation.

Schools are likely to be mirrors of the society they serve. In the case of females this would mean that they are expected to fulfill the expectations society has for them in the roles they play. They do not get help or encouragement to develop themselves in terms of their abilities or in realizing the wide variety of opportunities that might be open to them when they are adults.

It is not possible for young people to work in licensed professions such as those of practical nursing and beauticians unless they are graduates of professional schools or are in apprentice programs (in the case of beauticians).

There is virtually no guidance personnel in the public schools to serve children in the elementary grades and their families.

A general negative attitude held by the public toward vocational courses has worked against students taking them.

We were assured that if the Bureau of Vocational Education were given an area of need for women workers, and if they were shown that there were women interested in taking the course, they would set up an appropriate one.

RECOMMENDATION 28

THAT MORE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL COURSES FOR GIRLS, WITH A WIDER VARIETY OF CHOICE, BE ESTABLISHED.

RECOMMENDATION 29

THAT FEDERALLY SUPPORTED JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS BE PLACED IN THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS RATHER THAN IN SEPARATE AGENCIES AS THEY HAVE BEEN.

RECOMMENDATION 30

THAT THE LICENSING LAWS FOR PROFESSIONS WHICH COULD BE LEARNED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BE MODIFIED TO LICENSE SUCH GRADUATES.

RECOMMENDATION 31

THAT SOCIAL CASE WORKERS BE PLACED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL TO WORK WITH THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AS NEEDED.

RECOMMENDATION 32

THAT QUALIFIED GUIDANCE COUSELORS BE INCREASED IN NUMBER SO THAT THE 80% OF STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT COLLEGE BOUND CAN HAVE MORE HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN CHOOSING A SALABLE SKILL IN LINE WITH THEIR ABILITIES AND INTEREST.

RECOMMENDATION 33

THAT A PUBLICITY PROGRAM BE LAUNCHED WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE NOT COLLEGE BOUND DEVELOP THEMSELVES IN LINE WITH THEIR ABILITIES AND TO HAVE A SALABLE SKILL WHEN THEY GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL, AND TO INFLUENCE THE ATTITUDE OF THE PUBLIC.

RECOMMENDATION 34

THAT THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN BE REPRESENTED ON THE STATE ADVISORY BOARD TO THE BUREAU OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

*D. CHILD CARE*

(The importance to the State of Maine of adequate and reliable child care cannot be over-stressed. The increase of women workers, the increase of women who are heads of families, and the increase of women who live in poverty make it absolutely necessary that we have more child care facilities. Even without any of these increases Maine already has thousands of women whose families would benefit from their having jobs or getting training for better jobs. There is no way for women in poverty to improve their situation without care for their children being provided.)

*FINDINGS:*

Many more day care facilities are needed in Maine.

Maine has acute need for federal money to help finance day care centers. This is needed both for renovation and construction of buildings and to operate the centers.

We lack a good communication system to keep people informed about sources of money for day care centers. One such center obtained funds from five different federal programs in order to meet its budget.

Day Care has made progress in the increase of facilities and the number of applications for licensing them in the past two years.

The Model Cities agency in Portland, in cooperation with the state Department of Health and Welfare was the first Title IV A child care project in the nation, bringing nearly a million dollars worth of child care services to the low income population in the area.

A full time fire inspector, for inspecting licensing fire safety requirements for child care facilities only, has been hired. It is expected to help the process of obtaining a license to a considerable degree.

There is a growing public awareness and desire for child care facilities not only for low income people but for all working mothers.

RECOMMENDATION 35

THAT A SMALL INEXPENSIVE BOOKLET BE PUBLISHED BY OUR STATE CONSULTANT ON CHILD CARE AND MADE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE WANTING TO START A DAY CARE FACILITY WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM STEP BY STEP PROCEDURE.

RECOMMENDATION 36

THAT UP-DATED INFORMATION, AS COMPLETE AS POSSIBLE, BE CIRCULATED TO PEOPLE INTERESTED IN DAY CARE REGARDING AVAILABLE FUNDS.

RECOMMENDATION 37

THAT THE COMMUNITY COORDINATED CHILD CARE COMMITTEES BE FORMED WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED AND THAT THEY INVOLVE INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS INDUSTRIES, LABOR UNIONS, CHURCHES AND SERVICE CLUBS IN THE CONCERN ABOUT CHILD CARE NEEDS IN THEIR LOCALITIES.



## CONCLUSION

As is evident in this report, the problems of poverty are many and the processes of solution to those problems are complicated and uncoordinated.

Two basic things stand out:

1. Those who do not have money are at a decided disadvantage to the point of being second or third class citizens.
2. We do not seem to have the public will to deal with poverty, although poverty would seem to be as important a problem as pollution.

Question:

Are we refusing to deal with poverty realistically because it does not threaten us, individually, as much as pollution does?

There still remains the matter of underdeveloped and underutilized human resources, not to mention the premise, that all citizens should have equal opportunity, upon which our nation was founded.

We question why so many people should be locked in a welfare system which has tended to disrupt their families and prohibit them from improving themselves. Surely, if we had the will, we are resourceful enough to coordinate our efforts and zero in on the problems of poverty. Having, or acquiring, if we don't have it, the "know how" is characteristic of our times. We need the public will.

Two recommendations that we therefore urge are that the general public be sensitized to the meaning of poverty to the poor and to the meaning of poverty to our state as a whole, and that we gather together a coordinated means of focussing on the problems causing poverty. We can ill afford this waste of human resources.

APPENDIX A  
PRESENTATION AT HEARING ON HUMAN RIGHTS BILL

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Frances Seaman. I appear before you as Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Council on the Status of Women. As you no doubt know, this Council was created by legislative action and is composed of a representative group of women from all sections of the State of Maine. They have authorized me, as their chairman, to express to this committee their deep concern with L.D. 659, being heard by you today. This concern is not merely the expression of the Council which I chair, but is a concern shared by those many women throughout the State of Maine with whom we have been in contact throughout the past seven years as we have attempted to fulfill the charges given us by Governor Reed, who created the first Council, and then by Governor Curtis.

Our opposition to this Bill is qualified. We heartily favor effective support of human rights and we find much in this Bill that is commendable, but we are unable to agree with the stated policy of the Bill. There appears to be a very basic inconsistency between its Title and its stated Policy. Its title is the "Maine Human Rights Act". Its stated policy is to "prevent discrimination in employment, housing or access to public accommodations on account of race, creed, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, and, in employment, discrimination on account of age."

It is proposed a Commission be appointed to implement the Bill. The authority of the Commission is repeatedly spelled out as being the prevention of discrimination in this State on account of those specifics stated in the Policy of the Bill.

Nowhere in the language of the Bill do we find anything to lead us to believe that discrimination because of sex is to be a concern of the "Maine Human Rights Commission". Since the Legislature has already recognized discrimination against women in employment by passing the equal pay for comparable work law, we can but conclude that this might be an inadvertant oversight on the part of the draftsman of the Bill. Or, in such persons' opinions, are women of Maine not considered to be "Human", or to have no "Rights", worthy of the concern and protection of the Legislature of this State?

Although discrimination because of sex has been specifically omitted from the provision of this proposed Bill, there seems no doubt that it was intended that women be included as taxpayers of this State in providing in part the money necessary for an appropriation of \$62,794 requested by the Bill.

We cannot believe that it is consistent with the philosophy of our Legislature, which is elected by all voters of our State and entrusted with the representative power thus given to it, to deny a large segment of those voters the equal protection of any law which it passes.

Large numbers of women in this State are employed. All women in this State need housing and the use of public accommodations. Are they not to be protected equally from discrimination? Can it be considered "Human" or "Right" to require of the women of this State to pay taxes to support a Commission that will be unable to protect these same women taxpayers from discrimination in the very employment from which such taxes are derived? In the seeking of decent housing, and in the access to public accommodations?

We think not.

We respectfully recommend to you that until such time this proposed Bill is amended to include the word "sex" in the list of unallowable discriminations, in recognition that within our State there are citizens of the female as well as of the male sex, both of which are generically identified as "Human", and both of which, by the "Right" enunciated in the Constitution of our State and Nation, are equally entitled to the protection of our laws, that this Bill be rejected by this Committee and this Legislature.

Thank you.

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