

want to live longer but no one wants to grow old. Parishes and communities are kept alive by groups of interested people but they neglect to include our elderly citizens in their programs. Much more can be done for them in homes and institutions." — *Marie G. Hickey.*

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From an address by Rev. Andre M. Guillemette, Director of Gerontology, University of Montreal:

"It is clear that in whatever action we take to provide a minimum satisfaction of the needs of the elderly, we must give a prominent place to the following points:

1. A degree of material security which will be procured by adequate economic means.
2. The health care required not only for rehabilitation and treatment but also for prevention.
3. Decent housing adapted to the physical capacities of the elderly and proportionate in cost to their income.
4. A degree of permanence and continuation in the social institutions and organizations with which they are familiar.
5. Ability to engage in leisure activities, which are means of achieving integration in a social group."

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"Talk of a policy of assistance or support for old people immediately conjures up in some people's minds the bogey of state control. Statistics and research show that the inflammatory statements attacking the Welfare State, which spoils the citizenry, kills personal initiative and makes people dependent on the government, are unfounded. We find, and this is borne out by statistics, that since old age pensions were introduced, the amounts of insurance, annuities and private pensions taken out in Canada have risen steadily. An analysis of the facts has shown that government intervention has not had anything like the disastrous effects, psychologically and financially, which many Casandras said were inevitable."

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"It is greatly to the credit of the present generation of citizens 65 years of age and over that a large number of them have been able to arrange their affairs in such splendid fashion during the years of youth and adulthood that they can get along on their own means in the sunset of their life. Without guidance, taking employment where they could find it, often earning only a pittance, going through an economic depression that ate away and often completely swallowed up their savings, with no idea of insurance and no pension fund, they never-

theless raised a family, educated the children to give them a better chance in life than they themselves had had, and laid the foundations for the prosperous economy which the country enjoys today."

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"It is a proven fact that most elderly persons want to live in their own homes and their own community and to put off moving into institutional accommodation as long as possible. Hence, part of an overall policy for old age must be a housing policy with auxiliary services brought to the elderly person in his home. It is essential to have para-medical services in the home provided on a regular, co-ordinated basis. Among such types of care I would include home nursing and meals-on-wheels."

"We must think of our old people's leisure not only as a means of helping them to pass the time or to kill time; but we must take a very positive attitude and make it a means of social expression."

"A policy for aging and restoring the dignity of old age are the responsibility not only of the elderly themselves, but also of the young, of the public authorities and of private groups."

Survey of Styles For Seniors

RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS of the Senior Citizens' Committee in many parts of Ontario have been made aware of the difficulties of older women in finding suitable clothing. As it was reported at the Conference on Aging, there is a need for clothes that are "elegant but suitable for an older woman." A survey by the Red Cross is now underway to get the views of a cross section of women of sixty-five and over, and to present their recommendations to the clothing industry. "At present," says the report "there is little available except half-size styles that never seem to change from one decade to the next, or are sleeveless shift dresses too short to grace their increased years. What they are seeking are garments of basic lines and styles preferably with elbow to three-quarter length sleeves even in summer or house dresses. Most of all they would appreciate suitable styles and sizes in attractive fabrics in the less expensive half sizes."

Questionnaires will be circulated in senior citizens' clubs and Homes for the Aged. Anyone else wishing to offer suggestions is invited to write for a questionnaire sheet to "Senior Citizens' Committee, Ontario Division, Canadian Red Cross Society, 460 Jarvis St., Toronto."