

to assure they are providing the proper facilities required by elderly persons. Interestingly, with the expansion of local governmental welfare services and welfare workers, there has been a corresponding increase in the work of the Information and Referral Service as the former come to the social worker for advice (Growing Older, September, 1973).

The National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation: 127 - 6th St., Toronto, Ontario M8V 3A4, Canada.

The National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation has been steadily growing in membership and receiving increasing financial support from its Affiliates. This was reported at the annual conference of the Federation held in Lethbridge, Alberta on September 24, 1973. All provinces were represented with the exception of Newfoundland. A number of resolutions were passed at the conference requesting increased pensions, the creation of a Federal Department of Ageing, improved housing, tax relief for elderly people, prescription drugs at cost, and reduced fares on public transportation

The increase in the Federation's membership has been facilitated by the New Horizons program under which the government provides grants to groups of elderly people so that they can continue to participate in community life and use their skills for the benefit of others. New Horizons' monies have been used to organize new local chapters in the provinces or to expand existing ones. Since New Horizons was introduced in 1972, 1521 projects have been awarded \$9,334,768. (National Pensioners/Senior Citizens News January, 1974).

INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON AGEING

U. N. Population Conference to Look at Ageing: The United Nations has designated 1974 as World Population Year. Since elderly people increasingly constitute both relatively and absolutely a larger part of the world's population it has

been decided that the U. N. conference on population, to be held in Bucharest August 19-30, 1974, will also look at demographic aspects of ageing.

U. N. Action on Ageing: At its last session in December 1973, the General Assembly had under consideration a Report of the Secretary General entitled "*Question of the Elderly and the Aged*." Of particular interest to members of the Federation, to whom copies of the report were sent, was the section called "*Guidelines for National Policy Development*." According to the Report, such guidelines must be comprehensive, flexible and dynamic.

"International action is essential in collaboration with national governments and voluntary organizations in achieving such policies and translating them into viable legal, social, economic and human services and resources." At the national level, the Report urges that a structure be developed for coordinated leadership on ageing problems among the agencies of government dealing with health, social services, housing, economic security and maintenance (social security), employment, industry and agriculture.

The two resolutions adopted by the General Assembly based upon the Report spell out a course of action to be taken by the Secretary General which provides for participation by organizations such as the IFA. This subject will be taken up at the March meeting of the Federation Steering Group.

I.L.O. To Reconsider Problems of the Ageing Worker: The Governing Body of the International Labor Organization (ILO) recently decided to re-examine the plight of ageing workers (those over 40) in light of new developments---i. e., the improved health of the population and the technological changes which have reduced the physical demands on labor. The ageing worker was last a topic for discussion at the International Labor Conference in 1962.

At both the conference held in 1962 and in the contemplated new re-examination, ILO has defined the ageing worker as between 40-64 years old. In light of the discussion below

on the desirability of flexible retirement policies, the IFA might consider recommending to the ILO that it expand its scope to include the employment needs and desires of those over age 65 now relegated to retirement status.

World Assembly On Ageing: Senator Frank Church, Chairman of the Special Committee on Ageing of the United States Senate, proposed in 1972 that a World Assembly on Ageing should be convened, possibly under the auspices of the United Nations. The Assembly would take place after the Tenth International Congress on Gerontology in 1975.

Reaction to this proposal has been markedly favorable, according to Senator Church, and he plans to hold informal consultations to which the Federation will be invited, before seeking official action by the United Nations.

International Symposium on Housing and Environmental Design for Older Adults, December 11-14, 1973, Washington, D. C., sponsored by the International Center for Social Gerontology: The Symposium under the co-Chairmanship of Dr. J. A. Huet and Clark Tibbits, was addressed by such distinguished persons as Dr. Ferguson Anderson, Arthur Flemming, John Macey, and Madame Helvi Sipilä. It conducted most of its work in six study panels, some of whose recommendations follow.

The Symposium urged that all residential developments aided by public financing or insurance should provide a wide range of accommodations suited to the needs of all ages unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary. Public policy in zoning laws should encourage residential developments with accommodations for the elderly, and, in some situations, they should be mandatory.

An International Information Clearinghouse, to be limited to housing and living environments during the development period, was proposed.

On the last day, Mr. Nash spoke on the International Federation on Ageing, Dr. Huet on the 5th International Course on Social

Gerontology, Mr. Bergman on the 10th International Congress of Gerontology and Mr. Oriol on A World Assembly on Ageing.

FEATURES

Poitiers Becomes a Conference on Ageing: The city of Poitiers in France turned itself over to the problems and possibilities of retirement in a week-long conference held October 17-21, 1973, entitled "How to Live One's Retirement in Poitiers". Thanks to the energetic efforts of a local social welfare agency (BAS) and the National Institute for an Active Retirement (INRAC) a large proportion of the elderly population of Poitiers, as well as many younger citizens, participated in workshops, round-table discussions, demonstrations and lectures held throughout the town.

The large turnout was preceded by a heavy publicity campaign. A permanent exhibition on "The Art of Ageing Well" was organized in the City Hall. Free transportation was provided to the elderly so all could participate.

The daily morning workshops, which were rotated among the different neighborhoods of Poitiers, concerned themselves with the realistic, everyday needs of the elderly. Representative topics included how to maintain one's memory, how to keep physically fit, how to take advantage of one's rights and how to rehabilitate housing. There was even a workshop on how to apply cosmetics to help maintain a sense of physical well-being.

The afternoons were devoted to round-table discussions on various topics such as how to live with others, the aged person in a family situation, a couple facing old age, etc. Many younger people were attracted to this new and direct approach of dealing with the different aspects of retirement.

The elderly were at first suspicious that this would be another conference of experts, but the news soon spread that a practical exchange of ideas was taking place. Auditoriums were filled to overflowing. For the first time such events were reported not only in the media,