Mrs. Baldwin 10.45 p.m.

The Baldwin's lived in a terraced house, the front door of which was painted scarlet. Mrs. Baldwin was not a very bright woman, slow in her movements and her speech. Many of her answers consisted of 'Dont't know really', 'haven't thought about it', 'couldn't say'. As a result the interview only took ¾ hour. The two youngest children were home, eating bowls of cereal in the kitchen - they had already had some at breakfast time. They were adequately dressed tho' rather grubby and spent most of the interview trying to tear up the questionnaire, take my pencil away and remove the buttons off my coat. The children's programme on the telly kept them quiet some of the time.

The family

Mrs. Baldwin aged 37 was 12 years younger than her husband, who had been married before. His first wife died during the war and the son of this marriage (who was now aged 19) was no longer living at home. The Baldwins had 5 children, the oldest 10 years, the youngest 3. None of the children had any particular difficulties. The three eldest went to the same primary school which was near enough for them to be able to walk to school. Only one had been to a day nursery - the third child Tony - and this because he had no one to play with. Mr. Baldwin knew very little about the school, didn't know the size of the classes, tho' she knew Carol, the oldest was in the top group of her class. Mrs. Baldwin's father who had been a dustman died 5 years ago and her mother 25 years ago when she was 12. Her father had married again. She had three brothers "all live in different parts" and all married. Her husband's parents were both dead and his only sister lived in Yorkshire. When I saw Mr. Baldwin the following Friday his brother-in-law had come down for the weekend, he had picked him up on the way back from Scotland.

Accommodation

The house had previously belonged to Mr. Baldwin's mother and he had taken over the mortgage from her when they got married. Mrs. Baldwin didn't tell me but they had let the top half of the house to a married couple with 2 children. (they had been his mother's tenants also). The rent was 25/- a week. The Baldwins had the ground floor i.e. 1 living room (obviously the scullery before) and two bedrooms. There was no hot water and no bath in the house. Mr. Baldwin told me he wanted to move and had been on the Council list since last July. According to him tho' the Council did not know he was disabled and he thought once he told them that they might get housed more quickly. Mrs. Baldwin would like 3 or 4 bedrooms and two living rooms so that she could 'keep one nice'. A ~~garden~~ garden would be nice for the children because there was nowhere for them to play at the moment.

The furniture I saw was of poor quality and none of it was new. The wireless didn't go and the T.V. which was on during the whole interview was rented. They weren't buying anything on H.P. at the moment and weren't likely to until the children were bigger.

Sometimes she had to ask them to wait for the mortgage payments 'They don't mind as long as you let them know'.

Food

They seemed to have a very unexciting diet - tea and cereals for breakfast, soup for dinner and sandwiches for the children when they came home from school. Her husband had been home the previous night so they (she and her husband) had a mixed grill. When I arrived the two youngest children were eating a bowl of cereal each. She'd like to buy more fruit if she had more money but didn't mention anything else.

Clothing

She was rather shabbily dressed and neither her clothes or the children were very clean. She bought all her clothes with Provident checks for which she paid £1 a week (this entitled her to have £20 worth of goods). She never had shoes repaired as they usually got beyond repair. The children had one pair of shoes each plus slippers and wellingtons.

Outside contacts etc.

She hadn't been out at all in the last fortnight tho' when I called the following evening she was out at the pictures. She'd last had a holiday in 1963.

She hadn't felt ill recently tho' she often felt tired. When the last baby was born her husband had taken his holidays and looked after the children - she'd found they had managed quite well and she didn't think she would have liked extra help. If she suddenly needed extra money for something she said she'd have to go without 'I wouldn't ask anybody'.

Attitudes

Her husband gave her £10 plus the £4/5 he got paid from his war disability pension. She said her husband earned £10 a week tho' as he explained to me he gets £6 a week " pocket money" which he keeps for himself. I gathered from him that he didn't spend the whole of this £6 on his weekly visit to Scotland.

Family allowances were considered part of the housekeeping. She thought perhaps 10/- for every child would be better. 'They ought to give it to the first child - it's all wrong to me'. Beside 'You can always do with more'. She had no idea why some people wanted family allowances abolished and asked me if if knew. As for varying the size of the allowance according to the age of the child - no 'You need it all the way thro.'

She only smoked 5 cigarettes a day - the same as she always had. She had no opinion on the subject of the size of her children's families and was very unforthcoming about her feelings on having a large family. They were more company tho' on the other hand 'You can't always dress yourself up as you'd like to - it all goes on the children'. However she'd have the same number of children if she were starting married life again. She'd never had any advice on methods of birth control 'I've not much faith in it

and I've never discussed it - I don't fancy it really'.

Not a very talkative woman and she told me after it was her husband who had sent the postcard - I'm sure she wouldn't have bothered. She was very vague about when I could see her husband as he went up to Scotland on a Monday or Tuesday and usually came back sometime on Friday. She unethusiastically suggested I came back Friday afternoon.

Mr. Baldwin

As I expected a much more talkative person. I did call earlier in the afternoon but the litt girl upstairs (whom I took to be one of the older Baldwin children) said he wasn't back. I returned in the evening to find Mr. Baldwin had been expecting me all afternoon.

The children were all up watching the telly and his brother-in-law and friend were there too. Mr. Baldwin aged 44 (12 years older than his wife) had been a prisoner of war for 4 years and then had escaped. During this time he caught hookworm and mentally he was very shaken up. After the war he couldn't go back to taxi driving as he couldn't bear to work in a confined space or have much contact with people. In 1959 he had been unemployed for 2 years and during this time the Red Cross had paid his mortgate for him - he showed me a letter of introduction from them, which he has carried around ever since. He was now working for a small firm as a long distance lorry driver taking a load up to Scotland every week. His boss was very good and din't mind what day he went off and what day he got back as long as the journey was done within the week. Of course, as Mr. Baldwin said 'I get a low wage, because of this, but with my complaint I can't do a more regular job'. He knew long distance lorry drivers were paid more than this but in this job he could take an afternoon off to go to the pictures or go off on his own 'sometimes I just have to get away from people'. He got picked up by the police sometimes for driving irregular hours and then he had to explain about his 'complaint'. (No doubt that is why he always carries the letter from the Red Cross around with him).

He wasn't concerned about the size of family his children might have to' he pointed out "men who go out can't afford to have a big family'. The advantage of a large family was the comfort they provided (to him rather than the children I suspect) as he said "With my complaint I wanted a large family". The only disadvantages were that they get more sickness and there are more worries. He emphasised that when he came home at weekends he didn't want to go out but was content to stay with the children repreating that they were his chief interest and only social contacts. When I asked him about his financial position he said he wasn't bothered - in fact with his complaint he mustn't get worried by these things.

He was quite sure he was an 'unusual case' and didn't think anyone quite like him had turned up to be interviewed. All the way thro' the interview he kept referring to his 'complaint' and how this meant he couldn't live a normal life.

Mrs. Bell

The Bells lived in a very splendid house at the bottom of a cul-de-sac in Southgate. All the houses in the Close were large and set in their own spacious gardens. The Bells house had its own garage and a trademan's entrance.

Mrs. Bell answered the door - a large, well-built woman, dressed in a nylon overall over a skirt and jumper. The family were still in the middle of lunch because two of the girls were home with 'flu and everything was behind that morning. To start with I was shown into their sitting room - thick carpet, 3 piece suite, a grand piano, several bookcases etc. She asked me whether I was 'a Times' woman or a 'Good Housekeeping' woman but having given me one of them decided I might just as well come and talk to her in the kitchen as they'd nearly finished lunch. The two youngest children were there, the oldest had retreated upstairs to remove her hair curlers! Mrs. Bell's mother was also there - she looked well in her 70's, had very white hair and a very wrinkled face. She also had a disconcerting face twitch and had difficulty in speaking sometimes - she looked as if she might have had a stroke at some time. The Bell's breakfast room/kitchen was very large. There were sink units etc. all the way down one wall under the window which overlooked the garden. There was a large table in the middle of the room. They had a 'fridge, gas stove, washing up machine, a larger opening off one end of the kitchen, a store room at the other end and a 'utility room' adjoing it.

The family

There were 6 girls: - Rosemary 16, Elizabeth 14, Margaret 12, Susan 9, Angela 4, Judy nearly 2. Mr. Wells was 46, his wife 44. He was a chartered accountant and worked as a financial director to a dental company. His parents were living in the Argentine where his father was managing director of a firm over there. They come over every 2 or 3 years and stay for 6 months with the Bells. Mrs. Bell's father who had been a schoolmaster died 3 years ago but her mother who lived just up the road had lunch with her daughter every day. Mrs. Bell had 2 younger brothers, both married - one with 4 children, the other with 2. One lived quite near and the other was moving from Kent to Dulwich very soon. Mr. Bell was an only child. He had studied at University and got a degree in law. Mrs. Bell was studying music but gave it up when she war started and went into the forces as an ambulance driver. She was 25 when she got married.

The first four children were born in a nursing home, the last two at home. All except Judy, who was too young of course, had been to nursery school - Angela still went. The 3 oldest girls all went to Channing School in Highgate - this cost £750/annum just in school fees. Rosemary, who was present for the most part of the interview, had taken 8 'O' levels and was taking 'A' levels in the summer. She was hoping to go to University to read Maths. She helped her mother at home 'as much as her work lets her'. The whole family had gone to Switzerland for 3 weeks last summer. Elizabeth also hoped to go to University and Margaret too for 'she 's a clever girl'. Susan was going to

a State Primary School and was in the top group, Angela would be going to the same school soon. The 4 oldest children were having music lessons - Rosemary played the clarinet, Elizabeth the piano and flute, Margaret and Susan the piano. 'Daddy' took the girls to school every morning.

Accommodation

They had 6 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, a big billiards room, a utility room, a large attic room where Mr. Bell's parents stayed when they came over, or where the girls' friends could stay. They had 2 baths, wash basins in 3 of the bedrooms and 3 lavatories. She had an automatic washing machine and only sent sheets to the laundry. The house was oil fired centrally heated. They had been living in the house 9 years and had paid £9,000 for it - ½ of this they paid initially (mainly from his savings) and ½ of this was paid by means of a life endowment policy which he paid £300/annum. I had to ask the husband all the questions of housing costs as his wife had no idea what they were.

Mrs. Bell "enjoyed living in the house very much" - hardly a surprising comment! She liked the garden both for growing things and for the children to play in. 'Of course, I say I like to sit in it, but I never do'.

Food

They had a very adequate diet and altogether spent about £12 a week on food. She had meat and groceries delivered - spent about £2 on fruit and another £1 on vegetables. They all had a cooked breakfast except for Mrs. Bell; a light lunch, a high tea for the younger children and a full meal for the older ones and the parents later in the evening.

Clothes

She never bought clothes on credit apart from school uniforms - she had an account ~~to~~ at the school shop. She used to have a lot of clothes for herself and the children but doesn't so much now. When she bought clothes she paid for them from their joint bank account. The 3 oldest children had to wear school uniform, the 4th didn't have to, but did. The 2 youngest children had two pairs of good shoes each, the next 3 had 3 pairs and Rosemary had 7 pairs of shoes. Mrs. Bell thought the children always grew out of their shoes first.

Furniture etc.

There were no problems about furniture. They weren't buying anything on H.P. and never had. The house was very obviously adequately furnished with good quality furniture.

Social contacts etc.

Her husband played Bridge two or three evenings a week. She went to choir practice, and belonged to a Choral Society which took 2 or 3 evenings a week. She was also studying music and was going to take her L.R.C.M.

The family had had 'flu last week and she'd had a day in bed. That day her husband hadn't gone to work and her mother came in to help. When Judy was born she'd had someone to come in for a fortnight and anyway she was born during the school holidays so they managed very well.

When I came back to see her husband Mrs Bell asked me why we hadn't any questions about domestic help "I thought that wasvery odd. After all it's just physically impossible to look after 6 children single handed". She had a woman who came in 3mornings a week and a girl who came in for 2 hours every evening.

Attitudes etc.

She thought family allowances ought to be paid to the first child because it's then that you need most money. "It ought to be related to means in some way - we don't really need it." She thought only those who hadn't got children wanted family allowances abolished. She thought it quite a good idea to give a largerallowance for the older children - they were more expensive as they got older. Her daughter disagreed about this and thought younger children's clothes cost just as much as older childrens. I think her mother managed to convince her that they were not.

She hoped her children wouldn't have larger families tho' it did depend on their situation. The advantages of a large family were "They get the corners rubbed off and learn how to give and take". The disadvantages she thought were 'There's not enough time to spend with the older children and your patience goes as one get older'. She thought a lot depends on one's income. If she were starting married life again she'd have 4 children. As for birth control 'I'm definitely all for it ~~au fait~~'. When I came back to see her husband she joined me after the interview and she was talking generally and when 'the Pill' was mentioned said 'I bless the Pill' so there's no doubt as to what method she uses. Neither of them are Roman Catholic - she's Church of England but her husband 'never sets foot inside the Church' as her daughter put it.

Her daughter talked to me a little while her mother was making tea. She wanted to be a teacher when she'd got her degree. Like her mother she was very fond of music and was studying music as well as Maths. She didn't like young children and wasn't going to have many children herself.

Mrs. Bell was sure her husband would see me - he was interested in the survey too. 'It must be rather amusing doing a survey like this."

Have many professional people answered the letter?' I said no to the last part of the question so she then asked 'Have you found the better class of people answer your questions more easily 'To which I also replied - no - tho' I had to admit the more vocal ones were more likely to have answered our letter.

Mr Bell

I saw Mr. Bell 10 days later in the evening. He was quite a tall man, well-dressed and quite good looking. However, it became obvious very quickly that he was a very self-satisfied man and rather smug.

I first asked him all the financial questions his wife hadn't known - the cost of the home, heating etc, telephone and insurance. He complained bitterly about the rates which had gone up from £175 - £260 'I'm about to send the whole thing to Mr. Brown - he says he wants to keep prices down!' The house was insured for £15,000, ~~and~~ the contents for £5,000, and his wife's jewellery for another £5,000. They had spent £350 on repairs etc. in the last year tho' this was heavier than usual.

His salary was £3,600 and profits from the firm gave him another £3,500. £2,000 went in income tax, £300 in surtax and £150 deducted for his pension. Another £500 was paid by the firm into a Top Hat scheme which would give him £20,000 on retirement. This £500 was, of course, tax free. He worked a 36 hour week. He was also getting £480 war disability pension (this too would be tax free).

'Family allowances are far too small to cover the cost of a child. I've never understood why the first child was excluded. In modern conditions the wife is working so their net income is halved when the first child comes - It's needed more for the first than the others. I'd give more to the smaller income groups - for many people the allowances must be terribly important, but they're nonsense for surtax payers'. His wife was in the room at this point and added 'I think it's terribly important that it should be paid to the wife. Some husbands don't give their wives enough money but at least the family allowance goes to them'.

At Christmas his father and uncle had sent £320 - presents for the children. His wife had £100 premium bonds, and he had £30,000 of stocks and shares. These yielded £1,350 interest of which £700 was left after tax. He was paying £300 towards an endowment of £4,500, the £150/annum deducted by the firm gave him a pension of £1,850 a year. He managed to save £1,000 a year.

Attitudes etc.

His answer to the question about the size of family he hoped his children would have was 'I couldn't care less', but added 'Financially they must be able to cope'. The advantages of a large family were 'It prepares them for life. They can't be selfish - they have to consider others and help the weaker members'. The advantages to the parents was 'They tend to keep you young'. The disadvantages 'It could be that one has to restrict all the family activities. One has to go at the pace of the youngest or - in another way one thinks twice

about giving one of the children 10/- for extra activities because it means giving all of them 10/-'. Mrs. Bell had told me that one is very restricted with young children and that if one gives enough attention to the youngest there isn't enough time to talk to the older ones as much as one would like. She'd had au pair girls to help with the younger children but she'd only had one who was any good. Besides if there was someone to look after the younger ones then 'you lost them'. Both of them thought the disadvantages of a large family started after the 3rd. However Mr. Bell said 'I'd have as many children as come along. I'm fatalistic about it. I hope we don't have any more because another child is more and more of an upheaval for the children. Their mother feels ill before the baby is born and then there are all the other adjustments to make - for their sake I hope we don't have any more'.

Holidays were a problem - a week's holiday with the 6 children set them back £100 just for accommodation. Mrs. Bell told me that if they had a smaller family than she'd rather go to Spain or Majorca instead of Switzerland for their holiday!

Mr. Bell thought the Roman Catholic view of birth control was 'non-realistic', but thought the Church would end up by changing its views. I asked him whether people commented on the fact that he had 6 children. He said they did but there were always favourable comments - in fact he got quite a lot of kudos from having a large family. Sometimes people didn't believe he'd got 6 children 'What - a bloke like you has got 6 children!' Mrs. Bell told me that once when she was collecting the children from school and was expecting Judy - i.e. there were 5 children in the car plus hefself very obviously pregnant - a lorry driver leaned out of his cab as they stopped at some lights and yelled 'Cor Mrs. you'v e been busy!'. Apart from that nobody commented on the fact that she'd got 6 children.

Mr. Bell showed some interest in the survey but was not very concerned to know how people on lower incomes managed. Mrs. Bell obviously had no idea how little some people had to manage on, and lived very much in a comfortable world of her own. She wanted to read the report when it was published - she was going to insist her library got it!

Mrs. L.M. Brown, 15 Waterer House, Flower House Estate, S.E.6
Monday, 29th March, 1965

I have just called on Mrs. Brown for the seventh time, the first time being on 15th February. There was no answer to my knocking when I called at her flat today at three o'clock and one of the neighbours shouted across the courtyard from a neighbouring block of flats that there wasn't anyone at home. Mrs. Brown is a very difficult person to get hold of, because she is out of work in the morning and in the afternoon she has to cope with her housework and preparing meals for her nine children. In addition on the of the occasions when I have been to see her she has been engaged in either visiting children in hospital or taking them there for inspections or taking them for an operation. She herself is a smallish woman, quite attractive for her age, which is 45, and with some kind of disability in one of her eyes. This seems to be a hereditary thing because sevenal of her children have eye trouble of various kinds and these visits to the hospital have been connected with them. When I called on Mrs. Brown the first time she seemed quite prepared to see me and to answer the questions we have, but she was due to go to the hospital in three-quarters of an hour with one of her children to have the child fitted for a pair of spectacles at the clinic. The hospital is quite a long way from where Mrs. Brown lives and to get there involves changing buses. I therefore offered to take Mrs. Brown and this gave me the opportunity not only to spend more time in completing some of the questionnaire with her at home before we had to go, but also in continuing to complete it while we sat waiting for the child to be seen. While we were waiting we managed to get through all the sections of the questionnaire on the nine children but we haven't got any further. After the child had been seen at the clinic I drove Mrs. Brown back to her house, but the time was then getting on and she didn't feel she could spare any more to complete the questionnaire, but suggested that I should come back again. I therefore called three days later on the 18th February, but there wasn't anyone at home. I called again on the 19th and Mrs. Brown told me that she had no time to answer any questions then, but would I please come on the 22nd. On the 19th I did arrive in time to give Mrs. Brown a lift to the hospital to visit one of her children shd was then in the hospital. This was not the same child who I had helped take to the clinic on a previous occasion. Although I had an appointment to see Mrs. Brown on the 22nd at a time which she had herself suggested, when I arrived she said she hadn't time to see me, but it had been agreed that I would see her husband when he came back from work a little later - in fact he turned up just as I was about to leave, so I was able to complete his section of the questionnaire with him sitting in his dormobile van in the courtyard between the blocks of flats. He appeared very interested in what we were doing and showed no reluctance at all in giving the information, although I suspect that some of the details about extra earnings and so on were distinctly on the low side. On this occasion Mrs. Brown stressed that I should come back on 24th February but on the 24th I called to see Mrs. Norford who lives nearby and the interview there took so long that when I eventually got to Mrs. Brown's, she said that it was too late in the afternoon

- it was then about four o'clock and she hadn't time to continue with the questionnaire. She therefore suggested that I should come back on 3rd March and when I did so I found that she had gone to "gran's" as one of the children put it - I am not certain if this was Mrs. Brown's parent or if it were her own grandmother. I left a card with Mrs. Brown asking her to ring me when it would be convenient and I also wrote to her the next day and sent her a stamped, addressed postcard asking her to let me know when I could come again. I haven't had this back and this is why I called today without any success. I shall probably try calling once again on a Thursday afternoon because that is the day Mrs. Brown has told me when she has to be at home because the shops are closed. But if she is still unwilling to complete the questionnaire then it would probably be best to consider her as a non-respondent. I see that I said above that I wasn't certain who "gran" was - in fact, Mrs. Brown did tell me that her husband's parents had been dead for about ten years but her own parents, in fact, live within 30 minutes travelling time and so it must have been her mother that she was visiting. Her parents don't come to see her because they suffer from arthritis and find it difficult to travel. Mrs. Brown usually visits her parents every week. Her father, while he was working, was formerly a sergeant in the army and later worked at Woolwich Arsenal. Her husband's father was at one time a bailiff on an estate belonging to royalty in the north of England. Mrs. Brown has four younger brothers, three of whom live within 30 minutes travelling time. But of these, she has only seen one within the last month. She sees this brother pretty regularly every three weeks or so. Another brother, John, she hasn't seen for three years although he doesn't live very far away. The third brother lives in Canada and hasn't been heard off for over ten years. Mrs. Brown told me that her husband comes from a family of eight children but it was at the point where she was going to tell me about these that we ran out of time and she also felt that I ought really to ask Mr. Brown about them and we haven't therefore managed to complete this. The Browns live in a four-bedroomed flat on the second floor of a block in an estate built by the local council in the early 50's. The blocks are separated by concrete stretches with sheds and parking spaces on one side and lawns and flower beds on the otherside. It looks as if children aren't encouraged to play on these lawns. But there is in fact a good children's playground right next to the blocks of flats so there aren't any difficulties from this point of view. The blocks are only three storeys high, that is including the ground floor, and there isn't a lift. The flats are approached by outside galleries running the length of the buildings. There isn't any provision for hanging laundry close to the flat and Mrs. Brown has strung a line along the gallery leading to her door which is the last one. Apparently this is frowned upon by the authorities who don't like the look of washing hanging out on the galleries, but Mrs. Brown does'nt seem to care about this. She did tell me in conversation that she hasn't a washing machine but takes her laundry out to a launderette locally and dries it in the spin dryer and then on the balcony, or rather the gallery. Before occupying their present flat the Browns occupied another flat on the same estate

which was rather smaller and carried out an unofficial exchange which the local authority agreed to in order to provide them with a larger flat. The rooms in the flat are not large. I was shown into the sitting room on the first and second occasions when I went to see Mrs. Brown. There was quite a lot of furniture in it and the condition was fairly good. It didn't appear to be tattered but it wasn't expensive furniture. There was a television set. The room was heated at that time in the cold weather by a coal fire which was very effective and the children were playing around on the floor on the carpet. The children were quite well dressed and smartly dressed, but were messing around in rather a purposeless manner and looked a bit stupid. The two eldest boys, Trevor and Kevin, are at work. Trevor is an apprentice in an engineering firm on Greenwich Hill. Mrs. Brown didn't know the name of the firm. He was born in a maternity home. He left school at the age of 15 and continued to take evening classes at technical college for a year after that. He earns about £7 a week and gives his mother 35s. He doesn't give his mother much help at home. He only does the odd job. Kevin, the second son, born at home in 1949 has had eye trouble. He became blind in one eye through illness and had to have two eye operations. He also spent three or four months away from home when he was nine having an operation on a bad ear. This seems to have been connected with mastoid trouble. Christopher, the third son, born at home in 1951 seems not to have had any physical trouble but Kathleen, the fourth child and first daughter born at home in 1953 had meningitis and has had two operations on her eye. However she hasn't spent three months or more away from home for any reason. Teresa, the fifth child, born at home in 1954, has also had operations on her eye. In each of the cases of children with eye difficulties, Mrs. Brown has ascribed this to illness, but in view of her own eye trouble I rather doubt this. It may simply have been that the eye trouble didn't become obvious until some years after the children were born. Eileen the eighth child born in hospital in 1959 also has eye trouble and has to wear glasses. It was this girl that I helped to take to hospital. She has spent stretches of six to seven weeks in hospital ever since she was two months old with lung trouble. All in all, the health record of Mrs. Brown's children doesn't seem to have been very good, but as this was the first family I visited, I didn't go into the details as fully as I have done with later families. Although the two eldest boys, who are at work, don't give much help at home, Mrs. Brown says in response to the question that the younger children who are still at school are all very good at helping in the home regularly with different kinds of things, particularly the odd jobs like laying the fire and the washing-up, and so on.

Pocket Money

Christopher who is still at school and is the third son born at home in 1951 has a paper round and doesn't get any pocket money from his parents. But the other children down to the very youngest get between 3d and 1/3d. a week. In addition to this Mrs. Brown buys sweets and so on to the value of 1/-d. per head on Fridays which the children share. Kathleen the eldest girl goes to dancing school and this costs 4/-d. a week.

Holidays

Kathleen went on a free holiday with the school for ten days last year. Trevor hasn't had a holiday since 1962, when he went to his father's sister. Kevin and Christopher spent one week with their father and mother and the other children while Kathleen and the younger children spent two weeks on holiday with their mother visiting relatives.

Income and Employment

I have mentioned that Trevor the eldest son earns about £7 a week and give s his mother 35s. Kevin, the second son, wants to become a baker but at present he has a temporary job as a labourer in a plastics firm. He works 40 hours a week there and earns about £5. Of this he gives his mother 30s. Mrs. Brown has two jobs - one during the week in the mornings - I don't know exactly what this is - and the other a free-lance job at weekends. For some years now she has been working for a firm catering for social fuctions but recently she has branched out on her own and now does the arrangements and carries out the work herself with the help of one or two other women whom I suppose she employs. She was just about to start doing this when I last visited her when we discussed it briefly. She seems to have a good deal of drive and initiative and was looking forward to the new experience of carrying this responsibility herself. I don't know how much she earns from her various jobs.

Mr. Brown is employed as a tool and cutter grinder in Moleens factory at Deptford. Moleens are manufacturers of among other things cigarette making machinery. He worked 48 hours last week which includes 8 hours overtime and this is pretty general. He earned £22 but says that his average earnings are about £23 a week. Out of this he pays no income tax and apart from the standard deductions of about £1 he has 10/- deducted on a savings fund and 10/- for a holiday fund. As he works on shifts he has time to have a second job and he says that this is also tool grinding for various friends, local firms and so on who require the occasional services of a tool grinder. He said that he had earned about £20 in cash in this way on his second job during the last twelve months but that he had also had various payments in kind, for example, he had done some work for a garage which had repaid him by servicing his car, and he had also received payment in the form of tobacco. He said that this other job took about two hours a week and that in the last month he had earned about £10. But he insisted that this would not be an average figure. However, I suspect he may have earned a good deal more than £20 over the last year, if he earned £10 in the one month.

Mr. Brown is a medium-sized, rather slow, man with regular features. When I last saw him he chatted to me about the difficulties he was having with the starter motor of his dormobile. He was quite prepared to talk about having a family and obviously enjoys have a large one. He hesitated about discussing the disadvantages. He said, "I can't see any disadvantages really". He didn't think there were any troubles.

Obviously if you couldn't get accommodation, it must be difficult. When I asked him how many children he would have if he was starting married life again, he said at least six - the more the merrier. As this was one of our earliest respondents I didn't ask him what the most difficult stage in his life was, but the question about "at what stage did you notice these disadvantages" was one which he couldn't answer. He said that he would have more children if he had room for them. He felt that with a large family life was much fuller and there weren't any dull moments. He wouldn't tell his children to have a smaller family. He felt that a lot depended on the environment as to the number which they should have. His only comment on family allowances was that they came in handy. All in all, it seems that within their cultural environment the Browns seem to be managing quite well and have a positive attitude towards their family. Their flat is clean and tidy and I should imagine that they have been able to get most of the things which they have wanted to get. Mr. Brown has said that he gave his wife £14.10.-. a week and if we make a guess and say that Mrs. Brown earns about £10 a week from her two jobs, this may be an exaggeration of course, the household income must be something around £30 a week for the rent, food, clothing and so on.

Mrs. Conroy 11 children

Mrs. Conroy was expecting me as I had telephoned her to make an appointment. Altho' it was half-term so that most of the children were home, Mrs. Conroy insisted on talking to me on my own and the children were kept well out of the way. However at the end of the interview curiosity overcame them and 8 of the 11 children (the oldest 3 were working) surged into the living room.

The family.

Mrs. Conroy was 34 years old and inspite of her 11 children, still looked young and attractive. Her hair was nicely done (due I discovered later to her second daughter who worked part-time at a hairdressers). She had kept her figure and was neatly dressed. She had married when she was only fifteen to Mr. Conroy who was 22 years older, and until 1947 had been a Civil Servant in India. His parents, who were English had lived many years in India, his father working on the railway. They had had 17 children, 14 of whom were still living.

The oldest child of the family who was 18, was a gas fitters apprentice working for the Gas Board. The ~~absent~~ oldest daughter worked as a shop assistant at a furriers in Oxford Street and was engaged to be married, and the next boy was an engineering apprentice. Six of the children were still at school, tho' Patricia who was nearly 15 would be leaving in the summer and joining her sister at the furriers. So Mrs. Conroy had the 2 youngest children at home with her, the baby only 7 months old. Mrs. Conroy explained that her husband was marvellous with the children and while she was out working in the evenings (she worked at Peak Freans) he would give them their supper and put them to bed. Also some of the older children were a great help especially Dorothy (one of twins aged 13). She told me she wanted to be a children's nurse when she grew up - she'll certainly have had experience of children It was she who stayed home when her mother was ill and at the birth of the last baby.

All the children went to Roman Catholic schools, tho' not to the same one which is what Mrs Conroys would have liked - instead they went to 3 different ones. This meant school uniforms couldn't be handed down and this was a real hardship for uniforms were expensive and compulsory. They had been living in Surrey until 3 years ago and there the school had been much more convenient and there had been room for the children in the nursery class. ~~Expensive~~ Expenses connected with education - 30/- a week school meals, 15/- a week bus fares plus extra for cookery classes etc. a well as uniforms were a real burden to the Conroys. Mr. Conroy had a lot to say on this when I talked to him.

Accommodation

The house consisted of 4 bedrooms 3 living rooms and a kitchen. It had been in a bad state of repair and decoration when they first moved in and in the last 12 months they'd spent £40 on decorating. It was expensive to heat - £3/week and during the very cold winter of 1963 they had found things very difficult. The first Christmas they'd spent in the house they'd not been able to buy any Christmas presents etc. because of the expense of moving and the extra costs of heating a larger house. Altho' they had four bedrooms it meant that there were 5 girls in one room - 3 sleeping in one double bed and 2 in another. Mrs. Conroy would have like another room for them.

The home was adequately furnished, the floors were covered with lino and carpets and considering the number of children things seemed tidy and well organised. This was so when I called on Mr. Conroy when he was not expecting me.

Clothing

They bought some clothes from jumble sales and were given some (tho' not as many now as when they lived in Surrey) but mostly they bought clothes from a clothing club for which her sister was an agent . Shoes seemed to be more of a problem than clothing and she was buying the twins a pair at 35/- each, every fortnight.

Furniture etc.

They were buying quite a few things on H.P. The T.V. was rented and last summer they had bought a second hand dormobile with the money from Mr. Conroy's insurance policy. For the first time they'd been able to go away for a holiday. Travelling expenses was another subject Mr. Conroy felt very strongly about.

Food

Mrs. Conroy thought she spent £9 - £10 an food a week. She always paid cash at food shops. The 2 babies had 4 tins of welfare dried milk between them - she though that was quite a lot but said it was good for them and as long as they wanted it she'd give it to them. They also had a box of Farex a week. They didn't have 'afters' and there was little mention of cakes etc. Biscuits were something they'd had to cut down on.

Outside Activities etc.

Mrs. Conroy explained that they didn't go out much - her husband lived for the children and was quite happy to spend all his time with them. She visited her sister about once a week. Also her sister helped with the children if really necessary and in return she was going to help out when the sister was having her baby. Now they'd got the dormobile they could go out altogether.

Attitudes etc.

Mrs. Conroy was more concerned about paying dinner money etc. than getting bigger family allowances. She thought it was only people who don't have children who wanted family allowances abolished. It would be a good idea if family allowances were bigger for older children because clothes were more expensive for older children and they also wanted more variety. She hoped her children had smaller families. Patricia, the 14 year old, told me she had no intention of having as many children. She also said they got teased at school about having so many brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Conroy thought the cost of food and clothing were the main disadvantages of having a large family. However the children were marvellous company for each other as well as for the parents. They didn't go out much but someone was always round. She said the children preferred to bring their friends home rather than go to their homes. Also quite a few children in the street seemed to like coming round and were always popping in and out uninvited. Mrs. Conroy thought this was because these children were lonely in their own homes without brothers and sisters.

However Mrs. Conroy would only have 4 children if she was starting married life again. She was not going to have any more and altho' they were Roman Catholic (her husband from birth, but she had been brought up C. of E. and had become a Roman Catholic) she was now taking 'The Pill'. She had been very ill with the last 2 babies both during her pregnancy and at the birth so the doctors had told her she must not have any more. Asked what her husband thought about this she said he wanted nothing to do with it tho' in view of the fact that another child would endanger her life, he wouldn't forbid it.

Mr. Conroy

He did not tell me his wife was using 'The Pill' and I suspect he had not been told of her decision to do so - he had not wanted to know. He seemed a very worried little man and deeply troubled by his position as the father of a large family vis-a-vis the outside world. He hoped "things will get better for Roman Catholics and perhaps large families will get a special dispensation to use the 'Pill". His conscience would not have let him restrict his family - as a Roman Catholic he could not unless the Church changed its view on birth control. He thought it terrible that public opinion was so against large families ~~esepcially~~ especially as the number of children had been because he was a good Roman Catholic. He told me his wife felt 'out of position' for example on buses with all the children, other passengers would start counting and making remarks. He got teased at work and told he ought to do this that and the other so as not to have children. His workmates told him they were paying for his children - look how the money they paid in taxes went on family allowances, State education etc. However he felt he wouldn't give his children

a first class education and as second best had let his children leave school and apprenticed them. The advantages tho' of a large family were that there was a greater chance of one of them "being great and making good". I tried to get him to elaborate on this but all he added was that his parents had let him stay on at school as long as possible (until 17 years old) altho' they had 16 children and in their old age had never wanted for anything. He kept stressing how disappointed he was that he didn't get more help with educating his children and that people were so unsympathetic about his position.

Mrs. Cow

Mrs. Cow was out when I first called - Brendan, the second eldest boy was home and asked me in as he said his mother would not be long. Brendan wasn't at school because the weekend before he had fallen off a fence and gashed his leg badly. He had had to have stitches in his leg and had had a few days off school. He's a small boy - rather a pale freckled face, ear that stuck out and ginger hair. He was quite talkative and explained that his grandmother had 'flu so his mother had spent the morning with her and was now doing a little shopping. He was sorry to be missing school because that afternoon they were playing a football match and as he was in the team this was very important to him. The back room he showed me into was large, with french windows opening on to the small garden. The floor was carpeted and there was a sideboard, rather grubby 3 piece suite, a T.V. and a couple of other chairs in the room. This was obviously a Roman Catholic household as there were little statues and crucifixes about. There were toys over the floor, on the settee was a large polythene bath full of clean but un-ironed clothes and several comics about. There was a good coal fire burning in the grate.

Mrs. Cow was longer than Kevin expected so when she came in - as I expected, she suggested I came back another day. 'It's like a whirlwind here when the children come home from school' so I made an appointment early afternoon.

Mrs. Cow was a large expansive woman who looked as if she should have lots of children. She had a pleasant face but gave the impression of being able to be very firm when she wanted to be. She was a little suspicious of the survey and was most concerned that all the information she gave would be treated confidentially.

The family

Mr. and Mrs. Cow were both Irish. Her father died ten years ago - he had been a farmer in Ireland and her mother, now lived in Muswell Hill. Both parents of Mr. Cow were dead - his father died when he was a little boy. Mrs. Cow was one of a family of 5 and 2 brothers and a sister were all married with children and lived nearby - she had seen them all in the last week. Mr. Cow was one of 7 and they also lived near except for a brother still in Ireland. Those living in Finchley had all been seen in the last week too. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cow left school at 14 - she worked as a domestic until she married at 21.

The Cow's had 7 children: Kevin 12, Brendan 10, Gerald 8, Dermot 7, Jacqueline 6, Mervyn 4 and Amon 2. Mervyn and Amon were home and watched the children's programme on the T.V. for part of the interview. Mervyn was recovering from measles and was supposed to be in bed. He was still wearing puyjamas - his mother explained that he wore pyjamas out faster than any of his other clothes because he hated getting dressed into his other clothes. He was very lively and spent some time playing around and showing off. His mother said he was a very mischievous little boy and a big handful. Amon was sent upstairs to bed to have a rest but we could hear him bouncing up and down on his cot for a long time before he did go to sleep. Brendan was very helpful with the smaller children and made

us all a cup of tea. He sat thro' most of the interview listening quietly.

Kevin had failed the 11+ and was going to a Roman Catholic Secondary School. He was in a small class - D4 . Mrs. Cow didn't seem to know what level this indicated. He was a great help at home. Brendan was still at a R.C. Primary School - the same as Gerald, Dermot, and Jacqueline. Gerald wasn't as helpful as the older boys and Jacqueline helps as much as I amke her'. None of the children had had a holiday but this year the 2 older boys were goint to stay with their uncle in Ireland. Mrs. Cow didn't have a great deal to say about the children and after I'd gone thro' the questions for the two she anticipated the questions for the others.

Accommodation

They had only been in the house about 18 months tho' had lived in Finchley a long time. The house they were in had been requisitioned and they were now buying the house from Finchley Council on a 25 years mortgage. They were paying £11.3.4. a fortnight. They had 2 living rooms and 3 bedrooms. She had the 5 amenities and a telephone as well. She had a lodger who paid her £5 a week. She was quite satisfied with the amount of room they had and she was glad to have a garden for the children to play in, especially as 'I don't like the children mixing'.

Food

'Nearly all my money goes on food - money on food is well spent' - this was her attitude towards food and as a result they all seemed to have a very adequate diet. She cooked a high tea for the children and a full meal for herself, husband and lodger later on. She bought 2 lb. apples every day and bananas at the weekend. She spent about 12/- a day on meat. If she had more money to spend on food she'd buy more of everything. The things she had cut down on as the family got bigger were cakes, tinned fruit and fresh fruit. She had some things at a local shop and some at Sainsbury's - she thought supermarkets were better value.

Clothes

Mrs. Cow bought nearly everything on credit from a club and spent about £2 a week, which came out of her housekeeping. She didn't think she had as good a choice as in a shop, tho' the quality was about the same. Her sister gave her clothes sometimes and she knitted a few things. 'I buy good shoes that will last' and had spent £8 on shoes in the last month. All the children had 2 pairs of good shoes plus plimsoles and wellingtons. They also had 2 pairs of sandals.

Furniture.

They had bought quite a few things on H.P. in the past but always had one thing at a time and were not buying anything at the moment. She'd like carpets for the bedroom but weren't going to get anything unless it was secondhand.

Outside activities etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Cow always went out together - they'd been to see their relatives and had spent a social evening at school in the past fortnight. However she'd not had a holiday since she was married. If she felt ill 'I'd

just carry on tho' my mother could come over if really necessary'. When the last baby was born her husband had taken time off to help with the children. In the school holidays her sisters are a great help and come over 2 or 3 times a week.

Her family would also help financially if they needed it.

Attitudes etc.

Her husband gave her £20 a week housekeeping money. She collected her family allowance every week 'I'm very pleased with what I'm getting. I can't say whether they should be bigger tho' I'd never say no to more'. She realised she was very lucky and felt a bit guilty when people asked her how on earth she managed with 7 children. She knew she was better off than a lot of people. She thought only people without children wanted family allowances abolished.

She couldn't say whether she hoped her children had a smaller family or not. 'You have to go without a lot if you have a large family. For example, holidays - I don't count a caravan as a holiday'. However 'A large family is good for company - you're never lonely or bored'.

She and her husband were Roman Catholic but she was convined 'Those that can't afford them shouldn't have them'. She also thought the Church ought to change its attitude towards birth control 'Most think it should'. She seemed very sure that it wasn't wrong to use other methods of birth control other than 'the safe period' but denied ever using anything else - I'm not certain that she was being completely honest about this.

Mrs. Cow was very reluctant for me to see her husband as he never got in until very late, and would be too tired to see me anyway. She said I could try one evening but was very pessimistic. I thought it best to ask her questions about her husband's income as she knew quite a lot about it in case I couldn't catch him.

He was self employed and was a road worker with a little business employing 8 men. He gave his wife £20 a week housekeeping, provided the home with coal as he had to buy it for the business anyway. He allowed himself £15 a week expenses for the Dormobile he had for his job and £10 a week pocket money for dinner out etc. He spent £2 weekly on the horses but sometimes won £10 or so. He had over £100 saved and managed to put by £20 a week. However during bad weather he couldn't work so altho' his earnings in a normal week were high there were periods when things were much worse. Mrs. Cow thought their financial position was worse than a year ago 'The children are growing and needing much more'.

March 11th 10 a.m.

Mrs Duggen. Interview 2¼ hrs.

The Duggen family lived in a new block of L.C.C. flats at the end of a street of terraced houses. They lived on the ground floor. Mrs. Duggen's door was ajar and Julie aged 4 answered it when I rang. 'Come in' she said but her mother shouted 'wait a minute'. Mrs. Duggen appeared and asked me in as soon as I explained why I'd come. She was a small, thin woman, dark hair done up in a pony tail, a pleasant face. She was wearing trousers and a jumper, over which she had an apron. Julie and the baby (aged 2) were in and out throught the interview which took place in the kitchen while Mrs. D. got on with her washing and cooking.

The family

There were five children ranging from age 10 years to 2 years. She was 32 years old and her husband a year older. He was a furniture porter. None of her children had any physical or mental handicap - they all sounded very normal and happy. The three who went to school all liked going, and were also a great help in the house 'they all have their little jobs'. She believed in having a routine - that way one could find time to spare - she also believed in being tidy otherwise with so many children one would never find anything. Until 10 weeks before Julie's birth (the 4th child) she'd had a job - as a cashier. She was always good at Maths at school but could never do English. However Jimmy the oldest boy was very good at English and had a brilliant imagination. Kevin was also good at English.

She had been sterilised after the birth of the last baby. 'The doctor said I was one of those women who was made to have a large family. I didn't want any more children and threatened to put my head in a gas oven if they didn't do something - I wouldn't have done but you have to make a fuss. The hospital used to say as I left with each baby "see you next year Mrs. Duggen". I only wanted three children, but had 5".

Mrs. Duggen's parents lived within a 5 minutes' journey. Her father was now a bookies' runner. Her two younger brothers both lived at home and her grandmother lives next door to her parents. She saw these members of the family every day. Her husband who was Irish and had been Roman Catholic was the youngest of 7. His father had died when he was fifteen and he'd not seen his brother and sisters for some time. Both Mr. and Mrs. Duggen had left school at 14. 'I just got out in time, the next year you had to stay till 15. Was I glad to leave school'. She'd worked as a wages' clerk cashier both before and after her marriage until 4 years ago.

Accommodation

They lived on the ground floor of an L.C.C. block of flats. She didn't like Acton because of the dirty atmosphere. During the war she'd been evacuated to the country and then never had colds etc. When she's in Acton she always gets catarrh etc. and never feels as well. She had asked for a transfer to the country. She would love her own garden so that she could grow things and the children would have somewhere safe

to play. She complained about the lack of safe playing space for the children for altho' there was a playground they could ~~only~~ easily get out into the alley where vans from the nearby laundry were continually up and down. She'd like bigger bedrooms as there wasn't room for chest of drawers etc. in the children's room. I suggested bunk beds but she said the children didn't like them. She'd like a bigger kitchen because she spends most of her time in the kitchen 'You can imagine what it's like on a Sunday when we're all home'. Her kitchen was small, tho' it contained all the necessary equipment and there was room for a table and four chairs.

Food

She was preparing a stew while I was interviewing her. This was to be lunch for herself and the two children at home, and supper for her husband. She spent about 30/- a week on meat normally and in the school holidays 10/- or 15/- more. She never buys fresh fruit 'can't afford it'. Her mother had brought over a bag of ~~apples~~ apples at the weekend tho'. At Christmas they'd had some fruit and it had gone rotten cos the children hadn't touched it. She'd like to be able to buy fruit, and salad stuff "We all love salads - the lot, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber etc." Also more tinned fruit tho' sometimes as a treat if Dad's tips have been good he'll buy a tin of fruit and a block of ice cream. Usually she made milk puddings or sometimes fruit pies. Her husband liked the pastry she made 'best he's ever tasted'. She explained she always used butter even for cooking. She bought her bread and groceries at a little shop up the road - she paid weekly tho' sometimes she couldn't always pay the total bill, and so he'd take £4 instead of £6 and sh'd pay the other £2 as soon as she could. She never worried about extra bills 'cos she was lucky on the horses and the football pools, and whenever they had to find extra money she was lucky and won something.

Clothes

She bought her clothes from a mail order firm and her mother went to jumble sales and got clothes for her. Also they passed things round in the neighbourhood. She never made clothes - she hated sewing of any kind. The children didn't have to wear school uniform 'I dread it when they do, tho' you're allowed a grant to start with I think'. She found shoes lasted for sometime and never had them repaired. 'the toe caps go and they can't be repaired'.

Furniture

They were not buying much furniture on H.P. As she said "We wouldn't buy 'a home' until the children grow up. A decent home has got to last". She didn't want a car 'cos she thought it was so dangerous on the roads. Her hsuband thought the same. Anyway they wouldn't buy anything else either on H.P. or outright until she went back to work or unless they won a lot of money.

Outside contacts etc.

Mrs Duggan didn't go out in the evenings apart from weekly Bingo sessions on a Thursday and these were dependant on her husband being home in time. He didn't go out at all in the evenings. Asked what happened when she was ill 'I can't go sick, I just have to carry on or confine it to weekends'. (At the time of the interview she had a bad cold and when I saw her husband the following evening it was much worse). When the last baby was born her husband had taken a week of his holidays and looked after things at home. 'With children it's different - that's expected'. When she had had to spend a couple of weeks in hospital a couple of years ago, the children had been fostered out.

Attitudes etc.

Her husband gave her his wage packet every week (£11 - £12) and kept his tips for himself. If he'd had a bad week she gave him back £1 pocket money. She complained about people who only gave small tips and said 'It's people with money who don't give it. They've no value for money because they've never been short". Still her husband was often given clothes, blankets and curtains by the people he was moving. She showed me some curtains he'd been given the day before. She went on at great length about how she always puts the family and children first and the only money she spent on herself was on smoking and Bingo 'I feel I'm entitled to Bingo'. She'd never won anything at Bingo, only on football pools and horses. Two Christmas's ago her husband won £50 from an 8/- bet on a horse. That year she was able to buy the family Christmas presents (normally they couldn't afford presents) and ~~payed~~ paid all the bills she owed. By the New Year the money had gone. Asked about family allowances she thought the first child ought to get something and said it was 'disgusting' that the second child no longer had the allowance as soon as the first left school. People who wanted family allowances abolished must be 'crazy'.

She hoped,her children didn't have such a large family 'I wouldn't like them to struggle'. Still it was nice to see them all grow up together and she hoped they'd all respect her in the way her Gran was respected. 'Gran' had five children and her husband died very young so had to bring them all up on her own. Now they've got families of their own but they all come and see her, take her out in the car and buy the flowers etc. This is the sort of treatment Mrs. Duggan was looking forward to later on. She told me her husband kept telling her the children would all grow up, get married and move away, but she hoped he was wrong! She obviously enjoyed being the centre of attraction and liked talking about herself.

At the end of the interview she showed me round the flat. It was certainly very tidy and adequately furnished. There were plastic flowers in the front room and photos of the children displayed on the mantelpiece.

Public outbursts etc.

Jane Duggan doesn't go out in the evenings apart from weekly bingo sessions on a Saturday and sleep most afternoons on her bedroom being home in time. Jim didn't go out at all in the evenings. Annie said happened when she did 'I don't go sick, I just have to carry on or confine it to weekends'. (At the 'slimmer' the interview she had gone and when I saw her because the 'Collinsty' evening it was most worse). When the last baby was born our mother had taken a look at his neighbors and looked after them instead of here. 'Well neighbors it' different - people opposite'. When she had to spend a long in of work in hospital a single or married age, the neighbourhood been fantastic kids.

Children etc.

Her husband gave her money to spend every week (£12 - £15) and kept the sign-on himself. He hadn't had a bad week she gave him back it period money. His conditions about people who really have work a and a lot 'It's people with money who won't give it. They've no value for money because they've never been short'. Still spoil them and often given clothes, blankets and vouchers for the people in her neighbourhood. Go round no-one vouchers he'd be given the day before. The week on at approximately about not, she'd go round the family and children first and the only money the spend on herself was on smoking and Bingo 'I feel I've entitled to this', she'd never gone anything at Bingo, only on football pools and horses. The Christmas's spending hundred from £50 from an old - but more horse. That year she was able to buy the family Christmas presents (normally they couldn't afford presents) and bought all the kids in coat. By the time Jim left the money had gone. Asked about family allowances she thought the 'Great' while might be withdrawing and said it was 'big nothing' that the money only had the allowance at as the 'Best Left Money'. People and working family allowances children must be 'money'.

Jane regard her children claim's have been a large family 'I wouldn't like them to change'. Still it was nice to see them all grow up together and she hoped they'd all remain for in the way her Mum was respected. 'Mum' had five children and her husband died very young so had to bring them all up on her own. Now they've got families of their own but they all come and see her, take her out in the car and buy the flowers etc. Talk to the social of treatment Jane. Jacqueline looking forward to leaving school. The role as her husband kept telling her the children would all grow up, get married and move away, but she hoped he was wrong! She obviously enjoyed hearing the centre of attention and liked talking about herself.

At the end of the interview she showed us round the flat. It was certainly very tidy and neatly furnished. There were photos of Jacqueline in various dress and photos of the old man stuck on the mantelpiece.

Mrs. de Cordova

Mrs. de Cordova had been out when I first called and I conducted a whispered conversation with one of her boys, Richard thro' the letter box to find out when she would be in. I called next morning to find Mr. Cordova in bed. The previous day she had had what sounded a bit like a stroke - she'd collapsed and when she came to found her left side felt peculiar and wasn't functioning as well as it should. She'd been out at the doctors when I'd called the day before and now she was in bed waiting for her doctor to come to see her. There was some talk of her going into hospital. She said she didn't mind seeing me even tho' she was in bed - in fact she was glad to have someone to talk to as she was bored. She talked a lot about her illness - I couldn't quite follow what she thought was wrong with her. She'd had a nervous breakdown last autumn and thought perhaps her illness might be connected with that. On the other hand it was possible she was pregnant (- she had missed her period since December -) tho' she didn't think she was. She didn't seem to mind having to stay in bed 'There's so much to cope with'. Later when I asked her about holidays she said 'I'm having my holiday right now'.

The family

Mr. de Cordova was a Jamaican, who worked as an electrician for Bryburn Electrical Co. Mrs. de Cordova had been a nurse and came to England when she was 16, 22 years ago. She was an American Negro who had lived in New York before.

The Cordova's had 7 children: Norman 14, Courtney 12, Richard 11, Sharon 9, Garry 6, Kareen 2, Gaynor 9 months.

Norman was at a secondary modern school and was in the top group. I asked whether he wanted to stay on at school and was told 'Yes - he informed us he'd stop on'. He likes school very much. At weekends he was a big help to her and did a lot of shopping and was good with the little ones. He played football every weekend for a Willesden club. Also at weekends he helped with a milk round, "earning 12/- he got 7/- pocket money" depending on the running of the home". Courtney went to the same school and was also in the top group. He didn't help much because 'He's always at Judo'. Apparently he had been interested in Judo for some time and a little while ago went to Japan with his instructor. He was planning to go back there when he'd left school and take up Judo full time. He was going to leave school at 15. 'He loves clothes too much', was the reason. Richard would probably go to a Grammar School as he was top of his class at his school and the headmaster obviously thought very highly of him. Richard wanted to be a doctor. In 1963 Richard had been knocked down by a car and still gets giddy spells, as the result of the head injury he received. He had tablets to take. Mrs. Cordova had bought a set of New Work Encyclopediaes (58 gns.) to help Richard with his studies but was disappointed because he had just looked thro' them for the pictures but didn't seem to use them for reference

at all. Sharon was doing very well at school too. She was a great help to her mother. Like her mother she wanted to be a nurse. Gary had only just started school. He'd got food poisoning just before Christmas and missed 3 weeks of school. Kareen hadn't been long at school but she liked it. Mrs. C. spoke very highly of the headmaster of St. John's Primary School which the children were going to. He had always taken a lot of interest in her children and she felt she could go to him for advise etc. whenever she needed it.

Mrs. C. had 3 sisters - 2 older and 1 younger but they were still in the U.S.A. Her father had been a ship's chef and he died 17 years ago - her mother died 2 years ago. Her husband was an only child and his father had owned a taxi rank in Jamaica. They had both stayed on at school a long time. Mr. de Cordova had wanted to be a doctor.

Accommodation

They lived on the 2nd floor of an L.C.C. block of flats. From the outside they looked rather scruffy and the concrete steps up to the flat weren't very clean and children had scribbled on chalk on the walls. The first time I called the dustbin was outside the flat, spilling its contents on to the floor.

They had 3 bedrooms and a living room, as well as a kitchen and bathroom. For heating they had electric fires and radiators - she never used a paraffin stove. She told me a long story about a stove an old lady she knew had given her. It was very old and didn't work very well but she daren't throw it away for fear of offending the old lady who obviously thought she'd given them a great treasure.

They had lived in this flat for 8 years, but ever since she came to England she had lived in Kilburn. She'd like to have more space but wouldn't want to move out of the district as she knew it well and liked it. She wished the boys could have single beds (4 of them slept in double bunks) and the girls a room each. (3 of them slept in a double bed.) However she didn't want to have 2 living rooms 'I'd have nothing to put in it'.

I only saw her bedroom - there was a dressing table, wardrobe, large double bed and the baby's cot. The wallpaper was bright and cheerful and everything looked reasonably tidy. 'It would be nice to have a nice home but at the same time you have to think. It's not easy - you have to sit down and think things out'. They had been given a refrigerator and the 2 oldest boys have bicycles. The rest of their furniture they had bought outright - and they weren't buying anything on H.P.

Food

She spent quite a lot of her money on food and had a lot to say about the rapidity with which food disappeared. She complained about the price of meat 'This meat business is getting on my nerves'. She bought fruit at weekends but it didn't last more than 3 days. The children always asked her if they could have an apple or orange but she never kept

track of how many times she'd said 'Yes' so things went as quickly as if they just helped themselves. 'I have to hide the cake and I get peanut butter because they don't like it so much so it lasts longer. I bought some orange squash yesterday but when I sent for it this morning they brought me an empty bottle. I'm going to send out for some tonic water later on - they don't like that so I'll be able to have some'.

Her husband had a cooked breakfast every morning, the children had cereals or porridge. When the children came in from school they had milk and biscuits and the younger ones then had cereals, toast or soup and the older ones a cooked meal with their father. If she had more money to spend on food she'd buy more vegetables and not so much starchy foods. She was one of the few families who bought food at the clinic.

Clothes

She always paid cash for clothes 'My husband wouldn't let me have anything on credit'. She drew her family allowance fortnightly and spent this on clothes for the children - not for herself 'I've left myself right undone for the children'. She had a great deal to say about those mothers 'who fly to the Post Office every Tuesday and then go straight to the Turfman or spend it at Bingo or in the Pub'. She gets called 'moneybags' and they tell her 'It's alright for you - you can afford to wait'.

She had quite a lot of clothes sent to her from America from her sister. She commented that living here wasn't as expensive as in the U.S. because there "everbody's keeping up with the Jones's".

She had bought quite 'a lot of clothes in the January sales - the whole family had had shoes and she'd bought a lot of underwear. All the children had 2 pairs of shoes plus a pair of plimsoles each.

Social Contacts etc.

She was a very active woman - unlike her husband whom she described as 'a dead drone - he'll go out only if he's compelled to'. Every Wednesday and Friday evening she helped at an old people's club and on Sunday she went round entertaining 'old folk' with a group of young people. While she's out her husband stays in and looks after the children. His chief outside interest was the Rotary Club to which he belonged - apparently he took this very seriously.

When the last baby was born her husband had taken a holiday and they had also had a home help. She was expecting a home help to come the morning I interviewed her - she was supposed to come at 10 a.m. but hadn't appeared by the time I left at 11.30 a.m.

They hadn't had a holiday for 5 years - she thought the money was better spent on a good education. They did have a car which Mrs. de Cordova had bought outright for £100 plus together with some material which Mrs. de Cordova's sister was sending over from the U.S. (This would be worth about £35).

She had quite a lot of help from her neighbours when she needed it. One had done her washing for her. It sounded as if she was on friendly terms with them all and saw quite a lot of them.

She would never borrow money tho' from anyone 'If you don't have it - how to pay it back?' If she wanted to buy something but hadn't got the money she'd just go without. 'I don't ask nobody for nothing'.

Attitudes etc.

'There shouldn't be any' she said referring to family allowances. 'They take too much advantage - it's for the children but the children don't get it. There's some who buy good meals and clothes for the children but others have nothing by Monday'. She was able to leave her allowance for 2 - 3 weeks and when she knew she was having the last baby she'd left her allowance for 5 months.

She didn't answer the question about the size of family she'd like her children to have. 'The children sometimes say they're not getting married! Anyway they don't want big families'. She didn't mention any advantages of a large family - the disadvantages were financial and the extent to which the mother lost her independance. I asked her how many children she'd have if she were to start married life again. 'How many children, dear? I wouldn't get married again - you lose all your independance. You feel really tied down with children'. After a little more thought tho' she thought if she were starting again she'd only have 3 or 4 children.

Her husband didn't like women working if they were married. She thought a part-time job was alright (she'd worked until the 3rd child was born) provided the children were looked after in a nursery:- 'I wouldn't let anyone else look after my child". The 3 oldest children had been looked after in a day nursery of which she spoke very highly.

I didn't get a chance to ask her the last questions about birth control etc. because she had a visitor and I had to leave. She said she'd telephone me to make an appointment with her husband tho' there might be some delay if she had to go off to hospital for a little time.

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Mrs. J.V. Florey, 139 Athenlay Road, S.E.15.

I called on Mrs. Florey for the first time on the afternoon of Monday, 29th March. She wasn't at home. The door was opened to me by a small boy of perhaps eight years who said very briefly that she wasn't at home. I asked when she would be back and he was very non-communicative. I pressed him about this to find out whether she was at the shops or whether she was at work and he said she was down at the shops, but he didn't know when she would be back. I am watching him now - he is now going out on his bicycle. I think he has been given an errand by the old lady next door. The house itself is perhaps 60 years old. It's in the middle of a terrace of rather small houses. There are a few cracked stone steps up to the front door. Compared with the other houses in the terrace Mrs. Florey's is perhaps a bit scruffier. The bell push is broken and there is a crack in the brickwork in the porch. When the door was opened I noticed that the decorations inside were very poor indeed. The plaster was off - it was only painted plaster in the form of a sort of dado round the edge of the hall and this had crumbled away. There is a small front garden before the house, or rather, I should say, in front of most of the houses - Mrs. Florey's house has this patch which is about 6 ft across covered with concrete and there are a couple of bicycles, a broken tricycle, some old mudguards and bits and pieces of this kind lying there. I should imagine that the house has three bedrooms and three rooms downstairs. It looks the kind of house which does have a bathroom and may have a small scullery behind the back room which is often used as a kitchen.

After a few moments Mrs. Florey came back from the shops and went into the house. I gave her a few minutes to get straightened out, and then went and knocked on the door. When she opened it I explained who I was. She didn't understand at first and then seemed quite pleased to see me and made a few joking remarks about that she'd be able to tell me something indeed. If anyone had problems she certainly had. Mrs. Florey is an attractive slim woman, but her face shows signs of strain and although her manner is cheerful, there is an underlying suggestion of the depressing effects of her problems. These problems, apart from the size of the family which she doesn't, in itself, consider as one, stem chiefly from her husband's unfortunate employment record over the last couple of years. By occupation he is a fitter/welder and has been doing this all his life. For fifteen years he had a secure job in a firm called Sykes. He had responsibilities here. He was the trade union shop steward but apparently like a bolt out of the blue, the old family firm of Sykes was taken over by Westing House, who declared their intention of closing it down. This was in September, 1963. Sykes paid Mr. Florey about £60 redundancy money. But Westing House kept the old firm open until the end of May 1964 when they paid Mr. Florey a further one week's redundancy money. Although, in effect, Mr. Florey seems to have been given warning of the imminent closure of the firm and termination of this employment, it nevertheless seems to have come as a great shock to him that after fifteen years he should be thrown on to the open labour market again. He had

during those fifteen years acquired a large family and begun to buy his house and he now found himself in a position of unemployment and insecurity. After a couple of weeks on unemployment pay and national assistance, Mr. Florey was able to find a job in another firm where he was occupied also as a fitter/welder but here he only averaged about £22 a week instead of the £27 which he had been earning in his previous job. He was finding it hard to manage on this sum and stayed at this job for three or four months. He then decided to try working on the buses where, at that time, he got the impression one could earn quite a lot of money by doing overtime. But when he went on to the buses as a conductor, he found that for some reason the overtime available was very limited and he would only be able to earn around £17. He stuck to this for about six months which takes us to be the beginning of the present year. Mr. Florey said, "I like to make things with my hands. Buses, working on them is just money for old rope. It's not hard but there is no end product except a ticket. I like to see something I've made. I don't like those unsettled hours. Your life is not your own, even though you do get time off and you can do other things". At the time that Westing House closed down the Sykes factory Mr. Florey was offered a job in another Westing House factory at Chippenham in Wiltshire but he felt reluctant to take this for two reasons - partly that he distrusted Westing House and partly that it was a long way away and would make a great deal of difficulty with finding accommodation and moving his family. The kind of work that Mr. Florey generally does is in factories where the needs are apparently seasonal and overtime is worked at some times of the year but not at others. When Mr. Florey was looking for a job last summer, he thought of applying to one firm, which is, in fact, the firm he is now working for, but understood that time would be very short and there wouldn't be much point. It was this that persuaded him to work on the buses instead. It since turned out, he told me, that for exceptional reasons the factory had a large order book during the autumn and winter and had he gone there as he thought he might he would have earned a great deal more money and have been doing the kind of work he really enjoys. This is one more reason why he feels so depressed. However, he now has a job as a fitter/welder again and seems quite pleased with it. He has had to start at a low rate of pay of 7/- an hour compared with the 8/2 an hour that is the standard rate but he is working up towards this now, and taking into account that he did 20 hours overtime last week, he earned £24.10.-. The trade union to which he belongs, which is the National Sheet Metal Workers and Braisiers, only allows 30 hours overtime to be worked a month and although Mr. Florey is a strong unionist, he feels that in his special circumstances at the moment this is something the local branch ought to cast a blind eye upon since he so badly needs the overtime earnings. In fact, a number of other members at this particular factory which is Kaymets of Silver Grove, S.E.5 also work more overtime than the union allows, but the local branch doesn't know. Mr. Florey doesn't particularly like having to work seven days a week but feels that this is the only way he can redeem his parlous financial situation at the moment. Looking back over the past twelve months Mr. Florey feels that his financial position is very much worse than it was and his reasons

for this are not only that his original employer of long standing closed down but that he didn't feel able to settle down after this experience of being thrown out of work. He couldn't get back into the position that he was in before and felt that he hadn't in his new firm worked himself back into the "little perks" as he put it that go with a secure position, being a shop steward and so on. He seemed when I met him to be very depressed and down-hearted and I don't if this was his normal manner. I rather doubt it - it was so obviously something that was on top of his own character. His wife also remarked on this - how he had changed over the past few months and how this experience of insecurity had unnerved him. It's clear that here was a person who found it particularly difficult to cope with employment and security and the responsibilies of having to find enough money for a large family, and at the same time do a job which he wanted to do and which would express his creative aims. Mr. Florey seems to have a very strong feeling towards his family, a sense of responsibility for it. On the question of money he says that he has always given his wage packet to his wife who gives him back what he needs for fares and so on and takes sandwiches to work. His money has always gone into the house and into the family rather than on extras and non-essentials. If he has earned extra during the week, Mrs. Florey has always been given the money if she needed it - it was there. Mrs. Florey interrupted Mr. Florey at this point in our discussion to say "we eat well - we don't go short of money much". And Mr. Florey added to that, "we don't go out". Both Mr. and Mrs. Florey roll their own cigarettes in order to reduce the cost of them which they didn't do before they were married. The fact that Mrs. Florey said that he gave her £10 for the house-keeping I think means that this is simply for food and recurrent expenses of that kind, rather than this is the total amount which she receives from him because, of course, she said herself it wasn't. Mrs. Florey first told me, and Mr. Florey later confirmed this, that one of things which most shocked him about the job situation last year was having to go down to the Labour Exchange and queue for the unemployment money with the rest of the people there. He really felt this as being something degrading. I prompted him on the question of how the officials of the Labour Exchange and the National Assistance Board treated him and he agreed that they were quite polite. They tried to be helpful and there wasn't any sense that they were bullying him or anything like this, but it was a subjective feeling that he shouldn't have been put in the position of having to go and ask for help from these people. This was what really depressed him - being down there with all the layabouts and the people who live of it whereas he was somebody who needed first aid rather than constant assistance. He didn't think that he ought to be in the same place as them. He didn't say this in a snobbish sense but simply that a respectable hard-working person shouldn't have to come up against it in the same kind of ways - those he seemed to look down upon in some way as being less responsible in a sense than he was. According to Mr. Florey the unemployment benefit gave him between £7 and £8 per week for a couple of weeks and the national assistance board made this up to about £13, which of course was about half or less what he was getting before

and he naturally found it very difficult. One interesting point was that the National Assistance Board didn't pay the whole of his mortgage repayments. It only paid the interest element and not the capital element. If one looks at this in a detached manner, this may seem quite just - that the National Assistance Board shouldn't help one to buy one's house but only to maintain the residual payments which are outstanding, that is the interest on the capital, but, of course, this argument doesn't help people like Mr. Florey who nevertheless have to pay the capital element week by week and so, of course, he fell behind during these weeks and had to make it up somehow out of the lower wages which he was getting when he got back to work. It was lucky of course that the mortgage was still fairly new, that is to say, it was only three or four years old and therefore the interest element was a large part of the total weekly repayment, and the National Assistance Board covered that. Had it been a mortgage which was nearly repaid, then the capital element would have been the largest part and the National Assistance Board wouldn't have paid it, thus leaving the recipient of national assistance in a particularly difficult position as regards paying off what amounts, in one sense, to rent in that it is a payment which must be made by a specified date. This might be one of those small points of detail which it may be worthwhile taking up quite independently of this investigation with the Board to see of some arrangements can't be made to cover difficulties of this kind where they do arise, or to see if arrangements could have been made that weren't made with Mr. Florey. Mrs. Florey's comment on all this was, "My husband's really bitter. He'd sooner sweep roads than go to the National Assistance. He couldn't stand it up there. He thinks people on the dole are lazy good-for-nothings. He wouldn't ask for help." She said he was so depressed nowadays. He used to be so helpful to the neighbours, going out and doing odd jobs for them, but now he wouldn't lift a hand for anybody. She also said, referring back to a point we discussed earlier on the housekeeping money, "He gives me £10 housekeeping as a rule, but, of course, when he gets any extra he givesit to me."

Mr. Florey is 40 this year, so it's not particularly surprising that he feels the question of job security to be of particularly pressing importance to him. Mrs. Florey is six years younger than he is. They were married when she was 17½ and since then they have had seven living children and four miscarriages. The eldest girl, Linda, was born in 1950 and is in a special L.C.C. boarding school for delicate children, so she is only at home during short holidays. The house has four rooms upstairs and three rooms downstairs, and in addition a kitchen/scullery which is just large enough for three or four people to eat in. The two principal downstairs rooms, that is excluding the back room which the Floreys use as a living room, and the kitchen/scullery, are let to lodgers - Mr. and Mrs. Ryan. The Floreys have only let these two rooms for the last few weeks since their financial position became really desperate and don't look upon it as a long-term proposition - they'd much rather have the space if they didn't need the money so desperately. Apparently Mr. and Mrs. Ryan are a young couple who are very friendly. They only use the two rooms

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perhaps three nights a week - they both work in printing firms somewhere in the centre of London - and often work at night and then go and stay with Mrs. Ryan's mother somewhere near their work. Mr. Florey had a sink and cold water tap put into the back room of the two which Mr. and Mrs. Ryan occupy. In return for this, the Floreys receive £4 a week which includes lighting, but doesn't include other utilities for which the Ryans pay themselves through a separate meter. The sink which Mr. Florey put in was a nearly newrone obtained extremely cheaply from a demolition site.

As I have said, the Florey's are buying their house. When the Floreys moved into it ten years ago it was requisitioned by the local council who put the Floreys in as council tenants into the ground floor - they only had four children then. The upstairs floor was separately occupied, also on a requisition basis, by other council tenants. The Floreys paid the council 12/- a week for the three rooms and kitchen on the ground floor. At a later stage, the tenants upstairs moved out and the Floreys, who by that time had some more children, persuaded the council to allow them to take over the whole house and they then paid a rent of 25/- a week. After the Rent Act came into operation it appears that the house became de-requisitioned and the original owners of it then tried to evict the Floreys because they wanted more rent than 25/-. But before the owners did this, they called on the Floreys and offered to sell them the house as sitting tenants for £1600. There was to be no deposit, no legal fees - all that Mr. Florey had to do was simply to start paying the weekly mortgage repayments which amounted to something of the order of £3/£3.10/- a week. At the moment they are £3.10/-. The Floreys considered that they hadn't any choice but to accept this offer although it meant paying far more than they thought they ought to pay for accommodation. Their own comment is "They panicked us into buying it - they were using use as prawns (sic) in the game. I wouldn't recommend a family like us to do it that is to buy a house". Mr. Florey thought he had a secure job and would be able to manage somehow, but of course the occurrences of the last year had really thrown them into confusion and there was a period when they were behindhand with their repayments and the Building Society wrote to them. However the Floreys told them that they would pay and they managed to send off £5 a week for last and £5 this week in order to bring their position back to normal. Mrs. Florey's own comment about the house was that she loved it here. On the other hand, the children would like to get out into the country. They don't like the noise of the traffic around here. There used to be a railway line running behind the house but this has been closed some years and the land on which it stood has been taken over by the council who has built blocks of flats and terraced houses on it, and this was something that Mrs. Florey didn't particularly like - I think rather because they overlooked them than because it was any noisier than a railway line, although admittedly if the railway had been derelict before this would have been quite pleasant. She liked having a garden - she enjoyed gardening and while I was there there was a good deal of discussion about plants she

had bought, keeping the children off the new plants and, oh dear, what would happen if they trod on them? She also liked having the garden for the small children to play in, although she said herself the older children all go out and play in the street. She doesn't like the young children to play in the street until they are at least four or five. As far as the number of rooms is concerned, Mrs. Florey would like to have two plus a kitchen. She would like to have her front room back again so that when people come she has got somewhere to take them, and also, she said, I would like to shut myself in with the radiogram when I want to be alone. There are times when I do want to get away from the children. The Floreys eat their Sunday dinner together, but they can't all do it around one table. Mr. Florey sits in the living room and Mrs. Florey has her dinner in the kitchen with the children. This is of course partly because there is no table in the living room but there is one in the kitchen. They do have two other tables which at the moment are having to be stored in one of the upstairs bedrooms. They come out of the two front rooms which the Ryans are occupying. The bedroom occupation is Mr. and Mrs. Florey in a double bed and, in the same bedroom, Wandy in a single bed and Donna in a cot. In the second bedroom Stephen and Glenn each have a single bed and in the third bedroom Alan and Victor each have a single bed. Stephen and Glenn have the two tables in their bedroom. Mr. and Mrs. Florey have a chest of drawers and a dressing table in theirs, as do Alan and Victor also. When Linda is at home from boarding school she has to sleep on a put-u-up in the living room. Mrs. Florey commented, "We're a bit squashed at the moment". As far as bedding is concerned, and I didn't see the upstairs of the house, Mrs. Florey says that she only buys the dark blankets and hasn't any spares. But, she said, she felt she had enough. There were five on each bed in winter. Sheets are a problem because Victor and Glenn wet their beds - this information came out when I was discussing the problems of bedding and not during the discussion of each of the children and their possible problems. Mrs. Florey says that she makes sheets herself out of bits of sheeting and sews them up by hand - she hasn't a sewing machine. If this is true and she does it often, it must be quite a lot of work. The furniture in the living room and kitchen, which were the only two rooms that I saw, was worn but adequate. It was mainly the upholstery which was torn, but the furniture itself was fairly solid, even if rather out of date. In the kitchen, apart from a large wooden table at which they work and eat, there is also a marble topped cupboard (I suppose a form of washstand) which Mrs. Florey says she uses for making pastry. There is a carpet on the floor of the living room of a cheap, but not too badly worn, kind. Food is kept in the sideboard in the living room. Mrs. Florey said, unprompted, that she would very much like to have a refrigerator because of the extreme wastage of food during the hot weather last summer and this is one of the things which she hopes to be getting during the coming year, providing that the financial situation picks up. The laundry is done in a gas boiler in the kitchen and it is dried in a spin dryer which is one of the few peices of equipment Mrs. Florey has. Electricity is paid for by account and

had bought, keeping the children off the new plants and, of course, what would happen if they trod on them? She also liked having the garden for the small children to play in. Although she said herself the older children all go out and play in the street. She doesn't like the young children to play in the street until they are at least four or five. As far as the number of rooms is concerned, Mrs. Florey would like to have two plus a kitchen. She would like to have her front room back again so that when people come she has not somewhere to take them, and also, she said, I would like to shut myself in with the radiograms when I want to be alone. There are times when I do want to get away from the children. The Floreys eat their lunchy dinner together, but they don't all sit round one table. Mr. Florey sits in the living room and Mrs. Florey has her dinner in the kitchen with the children. This is of course partly because there is no table in the living room but there is one in the kitchen. They do have two other tables which at the moment are having to be stored in one of the upstairs bedrooms. They come out of the two front rooms which the Foxes are occupying. The bedroom occupation is Mr. and Mrs. Florey in a double bed and, in the same bedroom, Andy in a single bed and Donna in a cot. In the second bedroom Stephen and Glenn each have a single bed and in the third bedroom Alan and Victor each have a single bed. Stephen and Glenn have the two tables in their bedroom. Mr. and Mrs. Florey have a chest of drawers and a dressing table in theirs, as do Alan and Victor also. When Linda is at home from boarding school she has to sleep on a put-up in the living room. Mrs. Florey commented, "It's a bit scrambled at the moment". As far as bedding is concerned, and I didn't see the upstairs of the house, Mrs. Florey says that she only buys the best blankets and hasn't any spares but, she said, she felt she had enough. There were five on each bed in winter. Sheets are a problem because Victor and Glenn wet their beds - this information came out when I was discussing the problems of bedding and not during the discussion of each of the children and their possible problems. Mrs. Florey says that she takes pleasure herself out of bits of mending and does them up by hand - she hasn't a sewing machine. If this is true and she does it often, it must be quite a lot of work. The furniture in the living room and kitchen, which were the only two rooms that I saw, was worn but adequate. It was mainly the upholstery which was torn, but the furniture itself was fairly solid, even if rather out of date. In the kitchen, apart from a large wooden table at which they took and eat, there is also a marble topped cupboard (I suppose a form of washstand) which Mrs. Florey says she uses for making pastry. There is a carpet on the floor of the living room of a green, but not too badly worn, kind. Food is kept in the sideboard in the living room. Mrs. Florey said, unprompted, that she would very much like to have a refrigerator because of the advantage of food during the hot weather last summer and this is one of the things which she hopes to be getting during the coming year, providing that the financial situation pick up. The laundry is done in a bag boiler in the kitchen and it is dried in a spin dryer which is one of the few pieces of equipment has. Mrs. Florey has. Electricity is paid for by account and

Mrs. Florey says she would far sooner have a cash meter because it is difficult to put money by. Coal for the fire is bought weekly, usually about 2cwt. at a time for about 25/- and for about six or seven months of the year. There is no telephone. The last gas meter collection produced about £14 with a rebate of £2 10s. although Mrs. Florey said that she estimated that she spent about four or five shillings a day on gas. Although the Floreys have lived in this house for about ten years they say that they have lived within about five miles all their lives. Mr. Florey was brought up in Bermondsey, his father was a carpenter and died in 1958 but his mother is still alive and he has seen her within the last month. Mrs. Florey's father was a sergeant in the army and later a painter. Both of her parents are alive and live within about 30 minutes travelling time but they have not been seen since before Christmas. Mrs. Florey is one of five children, she has three brothers and one sister. All the children are married but only three others have children themselves respectively two, six and three. Mr. Florey comes from a family of four, he has two brothers and one sister. The sister is unmarried. The brothers are both married and have respectively three and two children. All of his siblings live within 30 minutes travelling time but none of Mrs. Florey's do. Mrs. Florey left school at fourteen and got married at seventeen and a half and during those three and a half years she worked in Woolworth and was later in the Womens Auxiliary Airforce. Linda the eldest child was born in 1950 apparantly only tow years after her parents marriage. She has had asthma since she was two and is very nervous. Mrs. Florey says "She carries the world on her shoulders". Mr. Florey's grandfather and sister are also sufferers from asthma as is Linda's brother Victor. The only lengthy period that Linda has spent away from home is the past year when she has been at boarding school at Wapham Court near Horsham which is an L.C.C. school for delicate children. She was formely at Brent Knoll school Sidenham which is an L.C.C. open-air school so that children with disabilities that need treatment in this way and she was there from the age of five. Mrs. Florey was not particularily keen that Linda should go to boarding school, she said "We should all be together" but she felt that it was probabley for Linda's good. Linda was at Brent Noel from the age of five till she was thirteen but she was not getting any better in London and 'They', that is, I suppose the L.C.C. authorities felt that a change of air would do her good. She worried about everything at home and her doctor advised Mrs. Florey that perhaps Linda would do better at a boarding school away from some of the home problems. She was home on holiday from boarding school for six weeks last summer and Mrs. Florey said that she was ill the whole of that time. She also said "I can't really say that I like them going away". The Floreys went to see Linda last Sunday and Mrs.

Florey's brother went along as well. He said that Linda was looking very much better and that there were roses in her cheeks. Linda is expected to stay on at the boarding school until she is at least sixteen and the Floreys would be quite satisfied to let her stay on if it is benifical as Mrs. Florey said "You Don't have children to go out to keep you". At the boarding school and also at Brent Knowles school classes are small and the personal attention given to the children is very great, but on the other hand, Mrs. Florey says more attention is given to health than to learning and this is particularily noticable in Victor's case as we will see in a moment. He also went to Brent Knowle and learnt very little so that he was extremely backward when he was returned to the normal school system. The Floreys go down in their little car to see Linda at boarding school every three weeks and they generally give her about 10/- pocket money when they go down to see her. Apart from this they have to pay 5/- a week towards her school uniform. She has been at this school since Easter 1964. In addition there are occasional expenses for dress-making materials.

Victor the second child has suffered from asthma since he was seven. He does not have as much asthma as Linda, he tends to suffer more from bronchitis. He gets very nervous if he is worked up but this isn't so bad nowah When I called on Mrs. Florey, Victor was at home because he felt dizzy and had a sore throat. He spent three years at Brent Knowle's special school for delicate children and then return to the local secondary modern school where he is in one of the lower classes and is located in one of the oldest buildings. There are never buildings for the better classes. As I said before he was appartently very backward in reading and writting ability when he returned to the normal school system. He's missed quite a lot of school in the last couple of terms because of colds and similar things. He has a paper round for which he earns 14/- a week and works an hour and a half every day. He's an neurotic but how frequently he wets his bed I don't know.

Alan, the third child suffers from ear trouble due to measles and has to be careful with his ears. He is in the lowest stream at school he's also at a secondary modern. He has missed quite a lot of school because of ear and stomach trouble which Mrs. Florey said was as likely to be psychological as physical and he is going to the Child Guidance Clinic at the moment.

Both Victor and Alan want to be lorry drivers, Mrs. Florey told me and their blazers they should be proudly, were covered with badges of different kinds of lorry manufacturers.

Stephen the fourth child had a turn in his eye but this was corrected through operation. He goes to the local primary school which Mrs. Florey doesn't like, she says that no one seems to like it but it is the only one round here. He is in the lower class of two.

Glen, the fifth child, has trouble with his feet which Mrs. Florey told me was calva. It is something like club foot, there is a tightening of the tendons which effect the length of the foot and makes it rather difficult for the child to walk. He has been treated at Kings College Hospital, Dulwich and has to wear pads in his shoes. The hospital say that this trouble can get worse but so far it hasn't.

When Donna was born two years ago, the three boys Alan, Stephen and Glen were in the care of the local authority for five weeks. Mrs. Florey had a very difficult birth, it had to be a Caesarean operation and she was very ill at the time. Glen is also a neurotic.

Wendy, the sixth child, is a bit under weight but she seems to be quite chirpy. Mrs. Florey took her to hospital to be examined because of her apparant low weight but the hospital said that she was in perfect condition. Wendy is too young to go to school and doesn't go to nursery school. Donna the seventh and youngest child was born, as I said by Caesarean operation at the end of 1963, she seems to be quite a bonny baby. she has threepence a day spent on her for sweets although she is only a year and a half. As I said, Mrs. Florey was very ill when she had Donna, she said "I never have been in good health". Last Winter she had septecimia and had to spend a week in bed. It was the time when Linda was at home on holiday and she looked after the family and was very capable. Mrs. Florey also has a bad leg she has and had to stay in bed for a day last month. Mrs. Florey would have liked more help at that time with washing and ironing particularly the nappies because although Mr. Florey helped he doesn't find the time and as she says "Women have more of a system for that sort of thing."

Food, Mrs. Florey says she doesn't have time to go down to the clinic to get Welfare foods, but she buys her Dexalin at the shop. She seems to buy a fair amount of fruit and while I was there she casually gave the children oranges to eat. It seemed to be the natural thing to do. She says she doesn't but as much fruit as she used to she used to have apples and eggs for the children every day and she makes her own cakes now where she used to buy them. She says she can spend easily £10 a week on food, about £5 alone on groceries alone at Tescos. She finds it very well worth while to send to the two eldestboys down to the Tesco supermarket to do the groceries because on an item such as sugar alone she can save something like ½d. or 4d. a pound and she buys 12lbs. at a time. Mrs. Florey had

a breakfast of egg and bacon and she says that the children have eggs on alternate days and nobody goes short of anything.

Clothes Whereas Mrs. Florey doesn't buy any food on 'tick' most of the expenditure on clothes has to be on credit. She buys from the Tally man to whom she gives 19/- a week but this includes things like bedding. There are two firms Bensons and Lairds of which the latter is good, she says, on pyjamas and bedding and she thinks that Laird's quality is as good as she's likely to get in a shop. Whether or not she buys either new or second hand clothes cash, depends of course on the cash position. She'll never buy second-hand shoes because it's bad for the childrens feet. In her family there is a good deal of interchange of baby and childrens clothes she says "I give the family baby clothes they pass them round". The family bought clothes for Wendy because she was was the first girl born in the family for some time and she, herself, that is Mrs. Florey, has clothes from a neighbour. While I was visiting the neighbour called Mrs. Florey out into the garden and handed her a very nice dress. On the other hand Mrs. Florey has given the neighbour's girl some baby clothes, this isn't the same neighbour but another one whose daughter "Got into trouble" as Mrs. Florey put it and didn't have the resources to buy the necessary clothes for the baby. Mrs. Florey couldn't send two of the boys to school recently because they didn't have any shoes, but a lady from Ivydale Road I understand that is after our authority, got Mrs. Florey four pairs of shoes from the L.C.C. on a special order whereby Mrs. Florey pays half a crown per pair and a notice sent to the Co-op. The shoes themselves were worth 36/- a pair. As Mrs. Florey handles all the households money, the question of clothing expenditure coming out of it doesn't arise. She'll spend more money as the cash situation gets better. As far as school uniform is concerned, she told me that the prefects at school were picking on Alan because he hadn't a uniform and he was so unhappy about it that he doesn't want to go to school. By rights she says he should have everything, cri ket clothes, P.T. clothes, football clothes, carpenters apron and so on and all this would cost about £40. She sent in a form applying for a uniform grant from the local authority but nothing has happened and she hasn't followed this up.

Possessions and H.P. The only outgoings at the moment are a relay television and a divan and matterass which cost half a crown a week. The motorcar which the Floreys had cost £10 two years ago and this came out of the redundancey money which Mr. Florey was paid. The spin dryer has XX long since been paid for. Mrs. Florey lives in hopes of the fridge and she misses not having a vacuum cleaner. As far as non-durables are concerned she needs towels but hopes to get them in the sales if she has any money.

Outside Activities. The last time Mrs. Florey went out was Christmas evening for a drink with friends. She doesn't like to go away for holidays, she said 'I never ever like to stay away. I used to go out every day , I never ever really wanted too. I like to go out days and come home to my own bed.'. The health visiter calls to see the two youngest children occasionally, not very often., Mrs. Florey says she came as a friend and she could get in touch easily enough. Mrs. Florey never has any help from neighbours or relations.

Troubles I've already mentioned the financial trouble which Mrs. Florey had last year. After some prompting Mrs. Florey came out with the following story about trouble with children. Alan had been in trouble with some local boys he broke into a restaurant at Peck ham Rye and was discovered and was remanded two weeks in custody. Mrs. Florey said "They all said that the magestrate was very harsh on him", that is the need to keep him in custody for two weeks. He is now on two year probation. The others children he was with are bad children Mrs. Florey said who were often in trouble and they have been sent to an approved school. The whole affair only took place a few days before I called. Alan was due to go and see the probation officer the first time that night.

Cash Forces Mrs. Florey said "We don't know anyone to borrow from, We've never asked for any help" but when they had all this trouble recently the health visitor happened to be by asked Mrs. Florey, whom she could see was very upset what the matter was and Mrs. Florey explained. The result of this was that the health visiter was finally able to get some money from the Maternity and Child Welfare fund of the L.C.C. which was paid by the L.C.C. direct to the Rating Authority as a result the baliffs that Mrs. Florey was expecting any moment didn't have to come. Mrs. Florey told me that the L.C.C. had helped, the healthvisiter said because it was obvious that the Floreys were trying to cope. At one point in Mrs. Florey's depression she said she'd mentioned the matter at the Consort Road Child Guidance Clinic and they help me by letting me talk to her and trying to get help from charity. This was in fact from one of St. Martins-in-the-Fields charities but it didn't come to anything. For the last few days Mrs. Florey has been going out to work or perhaps I should say for the last few nights because in fact she is working all night and will probabley have to give it up soon the effect that she gets about an hours sleep in the afternoon. she's working seven and a half hours every night and for this she is being ~~paid~~ getting £9. Mr. Florey gives her his pay packet and simply takes out the money he needs for necessearies. Mrs. Florey said he should get about £24 this week. The fact that she reports that he normally gives her about £10 housekeeping isn't therefore relevant this is more for the food alone.

Mrs. Harney

Mrs. Harney was in the middle of washing when I called. However she had a machine which altho' only had a wringer and not a spin drier could be left for a little while. She was a small woman with short curly hair and a pale complexion. She had a good quality skirt and jumper on over which she wore an apron. She looked rather tired but was quite keen to talk to me tho' was a little puzzled about the survey and why she had been included. The interview took place in their front room apart from 15 minutes in the kitchen while she was making coffee.

The family

The Harneys have 7 children: Michael 13, Margaret 11, Paul 9, Gregory 8, Geraldine 6, Kevin 5, and Desmond 1. Her husband aged 52 was a surveyor in Local Government. Mrs. Harney was 43.

The eldest boy was at an R.C. Grammar School. They hoped he'd stay on at school until he was 18. Margaret who wanted to be a teacher went to St. Ursulas - also an R.C. Grammar School. Paul was going to the Prep. School of Michael's school. This was costing 18gns. a term. Gregory and Geraldine were at a State Primary School - Kevin would be joining them soon.

None of the children seemed to help much at home. Michael had been to Scout camp last year, Margaret had had 2 weeks holiday with the school, Paul hadn't had a holiday the previous year, Gregory and Geraldine went away with their school and the youngest two hadn't had a holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harney are Irish. Her father had been in the Army, in the Post Office and now worked for the railway. Her parents were both still alive. Mr. Harney's father who died when Mr. Harney was only 4, had been a farmer. His mother died 10 years ago. He was the youngest of 9 - one brother lived only a half-an-hour's journey away but they didn't see much of him. 6 of Mrs. Harney's brothers and sisters lived near but they weren't seen much either. One also had 7 children.

Accommodation

The Harneys lived in a 3 bedroomed semi-detached house near Hither Green Station. They were buying it themselves. They had the 5 standard amenities. In summer the water was heated by an immersion heater, in winter by the boiler. They'd been living in the house 15 years - i.e. since marriage. They had put £200 down (saved from a P.O. Gratuity) and had a mortgage from the Local Authority on which they were paying £12 a month. The mortgage had 10 years to go.

They needed another bedroom - the 4 boys slept in one room - 2 in a double bed, 2 in single beds; the 2 girls had bunk beds and the baby slept in a cot in his parents room. There was a little garden at the back of the house and a little at thefront but they'd like more space for the children to play.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Clothes

They always paid cash for clothes - occasionally they were given clothes and she made quite a few for the children. She thought she spent £10 a month on clothes and shoes for the children. All the children had one good pair of shoes as well as slippers and wellingtons.

Furniture etc.

Their front room had a three piece suite in it which looked of good quality tho' now rather old. There was a carpet on the floor. Their dining room had a large table surrounded by chairs, a sideboard and an occasional table. They were buying the radiogram on H.P. She was hoping to get a spin drier on H.P. 'We only get one thing at a time tho'.

Food

Mrs. Harney spent about £10 a week on food. They all had a cooked breakfast. Her husband and the children took a packed lunch and they had a cooked meal in the evening. She bought some fruit but would buy more if she had more money. 'You can't cut down on food' she said.

Outside activities etc.

They'd last had a holiday in 1961. However as I've already said the children had had holidays separately. Her husband had taken his holiday when the baby was born - they could have had a home help but thought she would be too expensive. The last baby had been 'a surprise' and they had had to get another pram because they'd given away their old one.

Attitudes etc.

As far as family allowances were concerned 'I'm grateful for small mercies'. She thought people who wanted family allowances abolished were those who hadn't got children themselves. However she hoped her children had smaller families because it was very expensive to have a big family. If she were starting married life again she'd only have 4 children - she certainly didn't want any more. Altho' she was Roman Catholic she seemed very determined and certain that Desmond was to be the last baby. (Her husband thought differently). She thought the advantages of a large family were that the children were less selfish - they had to learn to give and take.

She wasn't a very talkative woman and didn't give much extra information. She was interested in the survey but was uncertain about the use we could make of the information she'd given us. She obviously thought that as they were quite comfortably off and managed well that we wouldn't be interested in her family.

Mr. Harney

Mr. Harney was also not going to give any more information than necessary. He told me he earned £1,400 a year net. He worked a 35 hour week and if he did overtime he had time off in lieu. He thought his financial position now was worse than a year ago because of the increase in

cost of living.

The advantages of a large family were the companionship it provided for the children, and to the parents it provided them with someone to look after them when they were old. The disadvantages were mainly financial. However he'd have the same number of children again. He praised his wife and said whe coped very well with them - she organised things very well. It would be hopeless if one had lots of children but a wife who couldn't manage.

He took me into the dining room where the children were playing and reading. They looked a happy crowd and very sturdy youngsters. He was obviously very proud of his brood.

He asked me quite a lot about the survey and hoped they'd been of use.

each of 1 vote.

The advantages of a Party in which the organisation is provided for the children, and in the support it provides them with amongst an Israel where they were old. The disadvantages were mainly financial. Towns had to be made under of conditions in the produced the kibbutz and it has worked very well with them - the central are things very well. It would be impossible if we had lots of children but . Adds the student's work.

In both we have the claim - that there the children were slightly and lonelier. The Leaders are very social in very sense from where. In the division by very young of the based.

In a word we decide a lot about the survey and agreed they'd been of use.

Mrs. Hawes

The Hawes lived at the top of a block of L.C.C. flats near Surrey Docks. Mr. Hawes ansered the door - a pale rather droopy man in an old raincoat. I was asked in and met Mrs. Hawes - a very large woman, untidily dressed - sloppy shoes, no stockings, a dress with a varied hem line on which she wore a grubby apron. The 3 girls were at tome - none of them had shoes on, they all had grubby faces and the toddler was wearing nothing to cover her legs. The children played around the room throughout the interview - every so often Mrs. Hawes would yell at them to stop making so much noise or to stop fighting and eventually two of them were banished to one of the bedrooms. Mr. Hawes was just going out (to borrow some money from his mate I discovered later).

The interview took place in their living room.

The family

The Hawes had 5 children - Jennifer 15, Gary 7, Wendy 5, Janine 3, Carole 2. They also had a nephew aged 16 living with them. This boy was Mrs. Hawes' sister's son. His parents were divorced and he had stayed with his father. However his father took no interest in the boy and he never saw his mother who had remarried. His father never even remembered the boy's birthday and when he took him a birthday present a little while ago asked the boy what he'd come for and didn't even acknowledge the gift. Mr. and Mrs. Hawes appeared genuinely fond of the boy and he was going to stay with them until he went in the Navy. At the moment he was working on barges.

I soon discovered Mr. Hawes had been unemployed since 1962 as the result of an accident at work. However he was hoping to be able to move to Haverhill in Suffok as he'd got a job there. That morning theg'd had a letter from a woman in Bury who wanted exchange accommodation. All Mrs. Hawes' family came from Ipswich - she had 6 brothers. Mr. Hawes' parents, also Suffolk people, died when he was very young and he spent his childhood in various children's homes. His 5 other brothers were lucky and were fostered out to families but he - as always he said - was the unfortunate one.

The oldest girl was going to a Secondary Modern School and hoped to stay at school until she was 16 years old to finish a shorthand and typing course. Gary was still at Primary School and the others hadn't started yet. None of the children including Jennifer helped much at home.

Accommodation

I had a long, long story about their housing problems. They had been on the L.C.C. housing list for 5 years. During this time they had been living in a dreadful fifth floor flat in Bermondsey. Ever since his accident at work Mr. Hawes had developed bronchitis and asthma so climbing stairs was very difficult but there was no lift in the building. The flat was also in very bad condition and they only had 2 bedrooms. Last Spring they saw a programme on T.V. about the homeless in London (one of the series of programmes "The World in Action"). They wrote to Mrs.

Andersen the secretary of the Help the Homeless Fund telling her about their situation. A little later the Evening Standard got held of the story and came round to see Mr. and Mrs. Hawes. As a result of their story was printed in the Evening Standard. (Mr. Hawes proudly showed me the press cuttings). Within 6 weeks the L.C.C. offered them this flat, but then they found they hadn't got enough money to move. The Evening Standard reported the fact in an article entitled "£40 between this family and happiness" and readers of the Evening Standard sent in enough money to pay for their move and there was enough left over for the family to have a 2 week's holiday in a caravan in Felixstowe.

Their present flat had 3 bedrooms and a living room. She'd like another room "for visitors". The rent which the N.A.B. paid was £2/14 a week, (their previous flat had been 22/-). Both Mr. and Mrs. Hawes were looking forward to moving out of London into a house with a garden. They especially wanted a garden because the children wanted to have a dog, as they always had had until they moved. At this point I was shown a photograph of the dog.

The children had bunk beds, the nephew slept on a camp bed with the older boys. The baby slept in the pram which stood in the living room. The bunk beds and a bedroom suite were being bought on H.P. The furniture in their living room was in poor condition - the settee and easy chairs they'd been given by a relative. The T.V. which was on during most of the interview was rented. Mrs. Hawes had a great deal to say about the water heater which was in the flat when they moved in. According to her she didn't want it any more so had stopped paying for it (she had paid £9). However the firm said they wouldn't collect it until she'd paid another £18. Mrs.Hawes was refusing to pay this because she said she didn't want it and didn't see why she should pay for someone to take it away.

Clothing

Mrs. Hawes spent 25/- a week on clothing checks. A month ago she applied for a clothing grant from the National Assistance Board but was unsuccessful. However just before Christmas they had seen a programme about the Family Welfare Association in which they were appealing for toys to give to children from families who wouldn't be getting much for Christmas. Mrs. Hawes thought it was worth writing to the F.W.A. asking whether they still had any toys or any children's clothes. The result was that the F.W.A. applied to the N.A.B. on their behalf and got a £15 grant from them with no trouble at all. Mr. Hawes thought it was all wrong that because he tried to look neat and tidy, and Mrs. Hawes did ther best to see the children had reasonable clothes, the people at "the assistance" assumed they could manage without further help. 'You don't need help - your children always look alright". Mrs. Hawes thought £15 to buy the children a new winter coat each was rather unrealistic - she'd managed to buy 3 of them a coat but that was all. The W.V.S. had given them clothes sometimes. As for shoes

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'They don't last long enough". However each child had 2 pairs of shoes.

Food

Mrs. Hawes spent about £1 a day on food. She said the Assistance had given her tokens, and she got free tokens for orange juice at the Clinic. The children never had a cooked meal at night - just bread and jam. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Hawes ever had breakfast - the children had porridge. She cooked a meal in the middle of the day but they never had 'afters'. Mr. Hawes had ulcers and was supposed to have eggs, chicken, meat etc. - the N.A.B. gave him the princely sum of 7/6d to buy these extras! Mrs. Hawes was very derisive about this.

If she had more money to spend on food she'd buy more cakes, butter, fruit, eggs, bacon etc. When Mr. Hawes was working he earned about £20 a week - they were now living on half this. Mrs. Hawes said they used to have nice puddings and fancy cakes but now they couldn't have any of these things.

Outside Activities etc.

They never went out now. They used to go to football matches, wrestling, bingo but not now. Apart from not being able to afford it Mr. Hawes could no longer stand for football or wrestling. Mr. Hawes saw quite a bit of his 'mate' during the day but didn't go out in the evenings.

Attitudes

Her husband collected his money from the N.A.B. and handed it straight over to his wife because she was more careful with money than he was. If he went shopping he couldn't resist the temptation to buy extras.

She collected her family allowances weekly and of course they went straight in with the housekeeping money. 'I think they should be larger - the first child should be entitled'. She also thought the allowance should be paid every 6 months - and that one certainly ought not to lose it if they weren't collected within 6 months. He thought older children need more. As for those who wanted family allowances abolished 'They don't like paying for other people's children'.

She found it difficult to hand clothes etc. down because Jennifer was so much older than the others and then came Gary - the only boy - for whom she had to get everything but little of this was of use to the others. If she were starting married life again she'd have had all her children earlier. As for the size of family she hoped her children would have - 'I haven't thought about it'.

Mrs. Hawes seemed to be able to take things as they came - she laughed and joked a lot and obviously enjoyed telling the story of their misfortunes. When the children became too noisy she told them to shut up in no uncertain terms - I should think she could be rather fierce when aroused and could give the children a walloping.

'They don't last long enough'. [illegible] 1 & 2 pairs of shoes.

Food

Mrs. [illegible] spends about £[illegible] on food. She said the assistance had given her choice, and not got from friends for change point in the Office. The children never [illegible] at night - just [illegible] one jam. Mrs [illegible] - but old [illegible] and porridge. [illegible] 'pilfered'. Mr. [illegible] had [illegible] to have [illegible] chicken, meat etc. - the A.A.S. gave him [illegible] and [illegible] extras! Mrs. [illegible] very definite about this.

If she had more money to spend on food she'd buy more cakes, butter, fruit, eggs, bacon etc. Then [illegible] giving to spend about £[illegible] a week - they were now having a hard time. Mrs. Hughes said they used to have the pantry and [illegible] [illegible] Council's [illegible] of their [illegible].

Outside activities etc.

They never went out at all now. They were [illegible] football matches, cricket, bingo, but not now. Mrs [illegible] [illegible] it Mr. Hughes [illegible] for [illegible] [illegible]. Mr. Hughes [illegible] of his 'work' during the day but didn't [illegible] in the evenings.

Attitudes

Mrs [illegible] officials [illegible] from the A.A.S. and based it straight over to the wife because [illegible] more than to man. If he [illegible] supplying to profit's [illegible] to her wishes.

The children had family allowances [illegible] of course [illegible] straight in with the housekeeping money. 'I [illegible] be lazy - the first only should be [illegible]'. She also thought the allowance would be paid every 6 months - [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] if they weren't [illegible] 6 months. The [illegible] children need [illegible]. As for those who wanted family allowance abolished 'they don't live [illegible] for other people's children'.

She found it difficult to read [illegible] etc. [illegible] Terrible [illegible] - [illegible] - [illegible] - for [illegible] [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] - 'I haven't [illegible] it'.

Mrs. Hughes seemed to be able to take things as they come - she laughed and joked a lot and obviously enjoyed telling the story of the [illegible]. The children [illegible] - [illegible] in no [illegible] - I should [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Mr. Hawes

Mr. Hawes also enjoyed giving me the account of his accident and what had happened to them since. His wife left us alone for most of the time as she was getting lunch for them. When she did come and interrupt Mr. Hawes sat quietly until she finished and started off again 'To get back to what I was saying.....'

Mr. Hawes had been working for a firm which processes almonds for making marzipan - his job was concerned with roasting the almonds. There was a hole on the floor in front of one of the ovens and altho' he had told the firm about this, they'd done nothing about it. He was taking a tray of almonds out of the oven and slipped on the floor, falling backwards into a pile of trays waiting to be put into the oven. Crushed between the trays he broke his ribs. After his accident he developed bronchitis and asthma - according to him, his doctor said this was a result of the shock of the accident - and had suffered from these ever since. Also his ribs were very weak - he'd broken them again just moving the settee across the room at Christmas.

He was suing the firm for damages - his solicitor had taken his case to a claim assessor who said they should try for £3,000. The firm had offered him £700 but he wasn't going to take that. Until December 1963 he had had a £2/6 week hardship allowance and had been given an 18 gns. diability grant. Now he was getting sickness benefit only. The National Assistance Board made the money up to £10.10.6 which included £2.18.0. rent. In fact if he was to get the full National Assistance rate he'd have £15.19.0. i.e. he's getting £5.8.6. less than he's entitled to. As he said - the sickness benefit rate has gone up, but it won't make any difference to him - the N.A.B. will just have less to make up.

After he broke his ribs again in December 1964 he applied to the Board for an allowance because of 'aggravation of an old injury'. The Monday previously they had told him that they couldn't give him a grant, and so he'd just referred the matter to the John Hilton Bureau of the News of the World. The Board hadn't given him a medical examination and seemed much more interested in his bronchitis and asthma than his broken ribs.

In December they had had the electricity cut off - Mrs. Hawes said they owed £4 which they were paying off at the rate of 5/- a week. Mrs. Hawes told me they hadn't given her any warning about cutting her off and she was very indignant about the way in which it was done (I suspect I didn't get all the details). She was also very angry at having to pay 10.6d. reconnection fee. However they had now reduced what was owing on the mill to 27/-.

Mr. Hawes said he was hoping to go to Haverhill as he had a job -'a security job' on an industrial site there. He thought that he could easily get a transfer of a house now that he had a job to go to. He said he got the job himself by going to see the firm in Haverhill. He had tried to get a job locally but hadn't had any luck because the sort of light labour job he could do was not available. He said he didn't like staying around at home all the time - the children got on his nerves a lot.

He spent 10/8d weekly on tobacco - a year ago he was smoking twice as much. He used to drink too - but not any more. This reminded them of the happy time they'd had 3 Christmases ago when they'd had lots to drink etc. They used to buy records etc. for the children but couldn't do that anymore. She said her nephew didn't contribute to the household tho' sometimes he bought things for the family. He'd also take Gary to the pictures - they'd gone last Saturday and Mrs. Hawes was very cross because they'd stayed out so late. Even if her nephew did give her a little money it wouldn't be much because he couldn't have been earning a great deal. Besides as Mrs. Hawes said he would need the money when he went in the Navy, so they let him keep it. Whenever the nephew was mentioned Mr. Hawes started talking about his childhood and lack of family life. He hoped his children would have large families. The only disadvantage with having a large family was the cost and anyway things had only got really difficult when he lost his job. Before that they could afford extras. Mr. Hawes said she knew exactly what she'd do if she won a lot of money. She'd buy a house for herself, and one for her mother and father. They'd have a lovely holiday and lots of clothes etc. Poor Mrs. Hawes.

The Hawes appeared to be an optimistic family - perhaps I saw them in one of their brighter moods. They certainly seized every opportunity of getting assistance - I gathered they sent the postcard back with the attitude 'There's no harm in replying - you never know what might come out of it'. They were fairly interested in the survey - but didn't ask any detailed questions about it.

Mr. Hewes said he was trying to go to Haverhill. He had a job - a company job - in an industrial site there. He thought that he could easily get a transfer of a house now that he had a job to go to. He said he got the job himself by going to see the firm in Haverhill. He had tried to get a job locally but hadn't had any luck because the sort of light labour job he could do was not available. Meanwhile he didn't like staying around at home all the time - the children got on his nerves a lot.

He spent 10/6 weekly on tobacco - a year ago he was spending twice as much. He used to drink too - but not any more. This reduced them of the money that they'd had. Christmas ago when they'd had lots to drink etc. They used to buy records etc. For the children but couldn't do that anymore. The wife was further didn't contribute to the household but sometimes he bought things for the family. He'd then take them to the pictures - they'd gone last Saturday and Thur. Before was very cross because they'd stayed out so late. Even if her nephew did give her a little money it wouldn't be much because he couldn't have been earning a great deal. Besides earlier, Hewes said he would need the money when he was in his forty's so they had had kept it. Moreover the nephew was mentioned Mr. Hewes started talking about his childhood and lack of family life. He hoped his children would have large families. The only disadvantage with having a large family was the cost and anyway things had really difficult when he lost his job. Before then, they could afford extras. Mr. Hewes said his wife could do it by saving a lot of money. She'd buy a house for herself, and one for her mother and father. They'd have a lovely holiday and lots of clothes etc. Poor Mrs. Hewes.

The Hewes appeared to be an optimistic family - perhaps I was biased in one of their brighter moods. They certainly seized every opportunity of getting mentioned - I gathered they took the pessimistic attitude "There's no harm in trying - you never know what might come of it". They were fairly interested in the survey - but didn't ask any detailed questions about it.

Mrs. Parnwell

Mrs. Parnwell lived in a detached suburban looking home in West Finchley. There was a little garden in the front with neatly trimmed rose trees and a lot of garden at the back. There was an ancient car in front of the gate. Mrs. Parnwell was expecting me as I'd 'phoned the week before to make an appointment. A rather anxious woman who was concerned to give me exact information. The night before she and her husband had worked out their expenditure in great detail so she'd be able to answer my questions correctly. She was dressed in a skirt and jumper - good quality but fairly old. She'd got dark hair and a rather pale complexion.

I was shown into the front room which was carpeted, had 2 bookshelves full of books by the fireplace, a piano, a table and chairs in the bay window and comfortable chairs to sit in.

The family

There were 5 children, 2 of whom were adopted. Jane 12, Michael 11, Andrew (adopted) 7, Clare 7, Elizabeth (adopted 6) 'I'm surpriesed you ghtought we were a large family'. Mr. Parnwell worked in the Criminal Division of the Home Office - he was a high executive officer and his work consisted of assessing reports on prisoners serving life sentences. His father was a senior official in the Treasury. They didn't see either of his parents very often as they lived in Harpenden. Her parents lived very near and they saw them nearly every day. She had 2 younger brothers, one of whom was married with 3 children and lived very near. Mr Parnwell had 2 younger sisters living in Harpenden. Mrs. Parnwell was 23 years old when she was married, before that she'd been a children's librarian. She'd worked for a year after her marriage.

Jane went to an R.C. Grammar School. She helped at home a lot at weekends but not so much during the week - at least in term time. The whole family had music lessons and the 3 girls had dancing lessons. Michael went to a State school and would probably go to a Grammar school as he was in the top group of his year and did very well. He did odd jobs in the house to help. Andrew, the adopted boy had had a lot of psychological problems. He had spent the first year of his life in a nursery before he came to them and he responded so little to his surroundings they thought he was stone deaf for a time. He used to go to speech therapy classes. He had gone to the nursery class at Hall for 2 hours every morning from the age of 3½ - 5. Mrs. Parnwell explained that there were so many children wanting to go to the nursery class that they didn't take any for the full day but had 2 sessions and the children only went to one of them. He was a bit backward at school but was making a lot of progress and his teacher thought he'd soon be catching the others up. Clare was now going to the same school, tho' only since this year because they'd been worri

Mrs. Farwell

Mr. Farwell lived in a detached suburban looking house in West Ealing. There was a little garden in the front with mostly lawn and some trees and a lot of garden at the back. There was an ancient car in front of the gate. Mr. Farwell was expecting us as I'd 'phoned the week before to make an appointment. A rather anxious woman was summoned to give us exact instruction. She might before she had her husband had worked out those somewhat in great detail so she'd be able to answer any questions correctly. She was dressing in a skirt and jumper - good quality but fairly old. She's got dark hair and a rather pale complexion.

There were in the front room which was carpeted, had 2 bookshelves full of books by the fireplace, a piano, a table and chairs in the bay window and ordinary pleasing sitting room.

The family

There were 7 children, 2 of them were married. Jane 12, Michael 11, Trevor (adopted) 7, Clare 7, Elizabeth (adopted 6) 'I'm surprised you think of it as a large family'. Mr. Farwell worked in the Criminal Division of the Home Office - he was a high executive officer and his work consisted of assessing reports on prisoners serving life sentences. His father was a senior official in the Treasury. They didn't see either of his parents very often as they lived in Wycombe. Her parents lived very near and they saw them nearly every day. She had 2 younger brothers, one of whom was married with 3 children and lived very near. Mr. Farwell had 2 younger sisters living in Wycombe. Mrs. Farwell was 33 years old when she was married, so she'd been a children's librarian. She'd worked for a year after her marriage.

Jane went to an S.G. grammar school. She played at home a lot with neighbours but not so much during the week - it left in her time. The whole family had music lessons and the 3 girls had dancing lessons. Michael went to private school - he could perhaps go to a grammar school as he was in the top group of his year and did very well. He did odd jobs in the house to help. Jane, they felt, had been a lot of psychological problems. Mr. Farwell had spent the first year of his life in a nursery because he was so ill and he seemed so little to his surroundings. They thought he was emotional from this. He seemed to approach everything differently from the nursery children. Mrs. Farwell had to make every morning from the age of 2 - 3. Mrs. Farwell explained that there were no very children working from the nursery other than that they didn't [illegible] for the full day. We had 2 mornings and the children had gone to one of them. He was a bit jealous and had to be carried, the other one. There was no going to the same school. The only times this year because they'd been [illegible]

about sending them both to the same school as they had thought they'd be in the same class. Elizabeth was quicker than Michael and they thought it would be bad for him to have his sister always doing better than him at school. However they didn't have to be in the same class so all was well. Elizabeth they'd adopted when she was 3 years old and she'd not had any psychological problems. She was in the infants class of the same school as the other two.

I was introduced to the children when I called to see Mr. Parnwell. They looked well-cared for children - very intrigued to know who I was and what I was doing. Much whispering and giggling went on outside the door.

Accommodation

They had 4 bedrooms, 3 living rooms and a kitchen. She had an automatic twin-tub washing machine, a 'fridge and an electric stove. They had a solid fuel stove which heated 5 radiators. They did have an electric fire but didn't use it much. They were buying the house on a L.A. mortgage £120/year. They'd borrowed £1000 from Mr. Parnwell's father to buy the house. The house and contents were insured for £3,500.

There was nothing she really disliked about the house, tho they were going to buy a bigger house. They had 4 bedrooms and an attic room which they'd use as a playroom for the children. The garden was mainly for the children.

When I interviewed the husband I talked to him in their sitting room which was very pleasant. Close fitting carpets, bookshelves with lots of books, a 3 piece suite. At the end of the room were French windows opening out on to the garden. I could hear Jane practising the piano in the room I'd been in before.

Food

She hadn't cut down on food as the family got bigger instead she had to have more money. However she would like to be able to buy more fruit and meat. She bought about 15 lbs. of potatoes a week and 8 loaves - there was no difference in the school holidays tho'. The children had porridge for breakfast. When they came in from school they had biscuits and a drink and then had a cooked meal when Mr. Parnwell came home.

Clothes

She buys on credit quite a lot. She had a budget account at John Lewis for which she paid £1 a week (for this she could get £9 of clothes). She also had an account at Hepworth (30/- a month) and also belonged to a mail order agency 'I never thought I would but a neighbour is an agent and persuaded me to join'. She would rather go to Marks and Spencers for the clothes but found it convenient to buy clothes this way. Her husband gave her extra money for clothes 'if it's there!'. They had a joint bank account. She did have clothes given her 'things get passed around quite a lot' and she made clothes herself on her own sewing machine. The 4 youngest children grew out of their shoes before they were worn out, the oldest wore hers out. The

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each had a pair of winter shoes, sandals, plimsoles and wellingtons.

Furniture etc.

They were renting a T.V. The washing machine and cooker they'd bought on H.P. from the Electricity Board and the heating installation they were paying for - £5/5 a month for 5 years. They were also buying lino, curtains and flooring tiles on H.P. - £2 a month. They'd been given the car for £15! - it went because Mr. Parnwell drove me to the station.

There ~~weren't~~ wasn't anything Mrs. P. thought they ought to have 'We can manage perfectly well'.

Outside contacts etc.

Her husband went out once a week to a club. She went to a Church meeting every so often but spent a lot of time studying for a diploma in English. When the last baby was born her husband had had his holiday and they'd had a home help. If she feels ill she doesn't usually stay in bed but just leaves the housework 'I'd rather leave it and just let things go. My mother would help a bit if really necessary'.

If they needed money urgently they'd borrow it from the family. When the last baby was born her father-in-law had given them £10.

Attitudes etc.

Her husband was now earning £1,400 as he'd recently had an 8% rise. This had been back dated and they'd just received a £100 back pay. This was going to be most useful for moving into their new home. She paid the family allowance into the Post Office and saved them for holidays. 'Family allowances are definitely not too large. It's sad not to get it for the first child. Perhaps they should be varied a bit according to the income of the parents but I don't like a means test'. She thought it was the last generation who were saying that family allowances should be abolished 'It's not the mothers of families'.

When the last child was born 'We couldn't cut down on anything' tho' they hadn't gone short of anything. However she said 'Everythings a struggle'. She knew they had more money than many and felt a little guilty about not being able to manage on less. She didn't think she was extravagant but the money just went.

She thought it was up to her children to decide how many children they had. She hoped they wouldn't have a larger family tho'.

The advantages of a large family were 'The spread of love and emotion. They widen your life and outlook'. For the children a large family provided companionship. The disadvantages were 'the work a' expense. Also trying to maintain the individuality of each child difficult'.

each had a pair of winter shoes, sandals, galoshes and wellingtons.

Furniture etc.

They were renting a K.V. The washing machine and cooker they'd bought on H.P. from the Electricity Board and the heating installation they were paying for - £3/3 a month for 3 years. They were also buying linen, curtains and flooring tiles on H.P. - £2 a month. They'd been given the car for £15! - it went because Mr. Tamwell drove me to the station.

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The advantages of a large family were 'The spread of love and emotion. They widen your life and outlook'. For the children a large family provided companionship. The disadvantages were 'the work and expense. Also trying to maintain the individuality of each child difficult'.

Still she'd have the same number of children again in fact s'd like to adopt another.

The subject of birht control was obviously one that she'd thought a great deal about. 'It's an awful dilemma - and very worrying after all these years of struggle and sacrifice to do what we thought to br right, to think that it might all have been useless'. She thought she might use the Pill if the Church changed its view. She was definitely against sterilisation and abortion. She emphasised very much the struggle with their consciences over the question and that it had caused them quite a lot of suffering. When I talked to the husband about it, he obviously felt the same way.

Mr. Parnwell

A very tall, thin man and rather nervous. When I 'phoned to confirm the appointment Mrs. Parnwell siad 'You won't ask him any awkward questions will you? - He's rather shy'. When I started the interview she came in and sat next to her husband watching him anxiously 'You're going to prompt me, are you?' he said to her. Luckily the children needed her attention as they were just going off to bed so she left us alone most of the tiem. I suspect she makes the decisions in the house and tends to 'protect' her husband. She drove the car - her husband never did, because she used it much more and anyway he hadn't learnt to drive.

Mr. Parnwell thought hard about each question and gave the answers in a very hesistant manner. He thought family allowances were 'about right' but he didn't think higher tax allowances were advisable. They lived 'right up to the hilt' and didn't have any savings. However his position was better than 3 years ago before he got promotion and not much different from last year. His wife's housekeeping money had been adjusted as he got more money.

He had more to say about the advantages and disadvantages of a large family. He thought his family was a reasonable size, but the number of children one has is a voluntary decision and he wouldn't want to influence them in any way. The advantage of a large family was 'The children have to learn to share - they benefit by learning to give and take a bit more. We benefit by their being able to look after one another'. As for the disadvantages 'You can't give as much individual attention to the children's needs as you want to. Of course they have to go without material things but there's no harm in that'. He'd have the same number of children again - or even 6.

His answers to the questions on birth control echoed his wife - almost word for word. From the little he said I gathered he had a great struggle of conscience about using contraceptives (I'm sure they w n't using anything but this entailed quite a lot of suffering for bot

In a way I think both of them almost regretted that the Church was reconsidering its position on the question because it would mean that all this 'suffering' would appear to have been unecessary.

Mrs. Poulter

The Poulters live in an L.C.C. block of flats near Finsbury Park. Her husband was home when I called as he had been out of work since Christmas 1962 and having completed a rehabilitation course and a retraining course only last week was hoping to find work. So far he had had very little success as the only jobs offered him were worth £13 a week. He was getting £14 unemployment benefit with National Assistance, but with 8 children it was difficult to manage on this. Mrs. Poulter aged 34, was a thin woman with a pleasant face. She had her hair half done up in curlers. She was wearing a jumper and pinafore dress. Her husband was 3 years older - a big man who stooped. He had greying hair and was losing it at the temples.

The family

There were 8 children:- Lynn 14, Michael 12, Susan 10, Stephen 10 (just!) Martin 7, Amanda 6, Gary 4, Dean 2. She'd had a miscarriage between Lynn and Michael and early this year had lost a baby at birth. She'd now been sterilised.

Lynn, the oldest girl was 'a girl in a million' and a great help to her mother at home - she was good with the children and helped with the shopping. She was taking shorthand and typing at school and wanted to stay on until she was 17. She didn't get much pocket money but what she did get she often spent on buying sweets for the younger children. If her mother bought her a pair of stockings say she would always ask 'Are you sure you can afford it Mum'. She'd tried to get a job in Woolworths but was told she wasn't old enough. Michael went to the same school as his sister - he wasn't very bright 'They're all a bit slow'. He earned 14/- a week doing a paper round and every Saturday morning when he got paid he came to his mother first and asked if she wanted to borrow any of it. 'I don't like to - after all he's earned it and it's his. He saved up and bought a pair of trousers last week'. Michael had been in hospital a couple of months after a stomach operation in the autumn. Susan went to the same school. She also helped a great deal at home 'They're all wonderful children'.

None of the other children ever had pocket money, tho' the older children often bought them sweets. Those going to school all went to Stroud Green Primary School. Mrs. Poulter didn't know much about it. Amanda had been born with a dislocated hip and had spent 10 - 11 months in hospital when she was 18 months old. Dean, the baby who looked a sturdy little chap had just returned from 7 weeks in hospital. He'd had a rare kind of pneumonia.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Poulter's families came from Hornsey and still lived around that area. Mrs. Poulter's father died very recently - he'd been a driver, the mother died 6 years ago. Her husband's father who had worked on the Underground died when they were children his mother last year. Mr. Poulter was one of 8, his wife one of 7. She'd seen them

all within the last month at her father's funeral.

Mr. and Mrs. Poulter both left school at 14. Before she married at 18 she'd worked in a sweet factory. She hadn't worked since she was married but recently had tried to get a baby to mind but so far had been unsuccessful.

Accommodation

They had a 4 bedroom flat on the 3rd floor. She had no washing machine, no 'fridge. "There's no point me having a 'fridge I'd never have anything to put in it. I can only buy enough food for each day". She had to do a lot of her washing by hand at the kitchen sink. They were buying coal for the fire at the rate of a bag a day.

They had been in council accommodation some time, and in this particular flat 5 years. They'd only been on the housing list one year before they were housed, because before that they'd been living in one room which had caught fire and they lost everything. They weren't isnured then and still weren't. For the moment she felt she'd got enough bedrooms tho' she would love another living room "so that we could keep one small room nice to shut away". Also they couldn't eat meals all together - some sat in the kitchen (which only had room for a small table) and some in the living room. She and her husband slept on the put-u-up in the living room together with the baby in a cot. 3 boys slept in another room - 2 in a double bed, 1 in a single, 2 girls slept in a single bed and Lyne and Gary slept in a double bed. 'He won't sleep anywhere else'. They had one chest of drawers and one built in cupboard - no wardrobes.

Clothes

She paid £1 a week to a clothing club and in the last month had spent about 30/- on clothing - underwear, stockings and a jumper for Dean when he came out of hospital. They had got 4 pairs of shoes 'off the school'. School uniform was compulsory for the 3 bigger ones and she'd got a grant for them when they first started. The neighbours gave her clothes sometimes and her sister gave her things for herself. "We never get anything new". She used to make things for the children 'I had to sell my machine - it had always been my dream to have a sewing machine - it was lovely electric. It was the only thing I really wished for - but it had to go'. The children only had one pair of shoes each and repairs had to 'wait for holiday time'.

Furniture etc.

They had a slot T.V. 'I have to scheme each evening to see how much we can watch'. Their transistor wireless had to go for food one weekend. They were still paying for the electric cooker and the water heater. Asked what she thought the family ought to have but hadn't got 'Nearly everything - carpets, chest of drawers, washing machine and sewing machine, clothing'. If they bought any of these it would either be second hand or on H.P.

[illegible] in a room in the Jubilee Tenement.

Mr. [illegible] Allen had lived [illegible] Before the housing act, it should having in a [illegible] tenement. The landlord opened a bar [illegible] to pay a fine for [illegible] had been unnecessary.

Overcrowding

They had a [illegible] in the Jubilee. The bed [illegible] nothing, no furniture. "Sometimes we make no money - [illegible] have [illegible] in it. I am only [illegible] enough food for each day". The [illegible] in [illegible] by [illegible] the children sick. They were trying [illegible] for the [illegible] day.

They had been in normal accommodation [illegible], and in this [illegible] flat 3 years. They'd only been on the housing list one year before they were housed, [illegible] where they'd been living in one room which had no fire and they [illegible] in [illegible]. They [illegible] a house and [illegible] work. For the month the kids were [illegible] because their [illegible] living room "we have to put coals keep one small room warm to be [illegible]". Since they moved, [illegible] - [illegible] (which only [illegible] for a small while) and [illegible] in the living room. The [illegible] slept on the put-u-up in the living room, together with the baby in a cot. 3 boys slept in another room - 2 in a double bed, 1 in a single, 2 little girls in a single bed and there was baby [illegible] in a double bed. The room's sleep [illegible] [illegible]. They had one chair of [illegible] and [illegible] in cupboard - no [illegible].

Health

The [illegible] a [illegible] clothing [illegible] the last month [illegible] 3/- on bedding - [illegible], blankets and a [illegible] for [illegible] and baby's bed. They [illegible] of those left the house!. Doctor [illegible] [illegible] the 3 children [illegible] [illegible] for them when they [illegible]. The [illegible] have been [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] for the children I had to [illegible] - it had [illegible] [illegible] to have a [illegible] - it was lovely [illegible]. The [illegible] I really [illegible] for - but it has to be [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] of chocolate and [illegible] had to [illegible] for [illegible].

Housing [illegible]

The [illegible] Act. If [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] type. [illegible] to [illegible] for food and [illegible]. They [illegible] [illegible] London: "Living [illegible] the Jubilee [illegible] to have but [illegible] [illegible] - [illegible], [illegible] of [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on [illegible].

Food

She spent about £2/day on food and always paid cash. The money her husband collected for unemployment benefit lasted her till a Tuesday. I saw her on Tuesday before she collected her family allowances - "I haven't a ha' penny in my purse. I'll collect the allowance and that'll have to last until Friday". If she had more money to spend on food 'I'd buy luxuries. I'd have afters every day instead of once a week, I'd buy fruit too'. They only had tea for breakfast - the children had porridge. In the evening they had egg and chips, tea and biscuits. In the last week she'd only spent 18/- on meat.

Social contacts etc.

They never went out, and since they were married she'd never had a holiday. When the baby was born her husband looked after the children. She wouldn't have liked more help because 'The children only like us'. She used to take the baby to the clinic but since he had chest trouble hadn't been.

Last year they had got into rent arrears and the British Legion had had helped them. They also gave her a couple of 15/- food vouchers. The British Legion had tried to get her husband a disability pension because he was discharged out of the army because of ear trouble - his ear drums were perforated. However it was only a couple of years ago that this had become a real disability. He had mastoids and had lost his sense of balance so he could no longer work as a bus driver and couldn't do any heavy labouring job. Presumably since his earning capacity hadn't been impaired directly after his ear injury he'd couldn't claim compensation.

If she was short of cash - a permanent state - 'I sort out rags and take them to the rag shop - I'll be doing that later today'.

Attitudes etc.

Family allowances of course went straight into the kitty. 'I would like them to be bigger but I think they're fair really'. However she felt they ought to be given to the first child. Only people without children wanted them abolished. She said she couldn't cut down on any more 'I only buy bare necessities'.

She hoped her children would have a smaller family - it was such a struggle. However children in a large family 'are better brought up'. If she were starting married life again she'd only have 4 children. She'd been sterilised now but had never followed any advice on birth control. She thought abortion was wrong 'If you fall for children you should have them. I was always disappointed when I'd first fallen but you love it when it comes'. They didn't belong to any particular church so their attitude to birth control wasn't governed by their conscience.

Mr. Poulter

He had just finished a 6 months course run the Ministry of Labour at Princeton College in Holborn. He'd been trained as an 'accountant' i.e. bookeeper. During his training he was paid £10 a week and this was made up to £14/6 by the N.A.B. (this included rent). He got a travel warrant into Holborn. Last week tho' as he'd finished the course he had only got £8/9/- from unemployment benefit and £3 from the N.A.B. for rent. 'We had a dreadful weekend'. However this amount was going to be 'adjusted'.

He'd been disabled out of the army - discharged because of trouble with his ears. The British Legion had tried unsuccessfully to get a pension for him. Two years ago he had to give up work as a bus driver because he had mastoids and lost his sense of balance. He couldn't do any form of heavy labour. However the only jobs he'd been offered so far that week would pay him £13 - £14 - he was getting that much on N.A.B. The people at the 'Labour Place' had been annoyed with him for not taking the job but as he said - how could he live on £13 a week. He wanted to earn at least £18 - £19. He was seriously considering taking a heavy job just to earn enough money.

Mrs. Roberts

The Roberts lived in a very seedy looking house in a row of rather dilapidated houses. They were set back off the road and in front of the house was a very rough 'garden'. The house badly need painting. Children had scribbled in chalk on the walls and front door, the windows were dirty, tho' none of the panes were actually broken. The first time I called Mrs. Roberts was out and her 15 year old daughter answered the door. (I discovered later she had had 'flu so was taking a few days off).

Next time Mrs. Roberts was in. She was a little woman, dressed in an old skirt and jumper, brown curly hair and a bright face. However she was a very highly strung person and altho' she appeared cheerful enough it wouldn't have taken much to change her mood completely. I followed her daughter down the dingy passage down the steps into the breakfast room/ living room. It was a cosy room with a dresser along one side. One of the shelves was covered with photographs of the children 'my portrait gallery' as she put it. They had an electric fire - one of thos mock coal fires - in the room, with a couple of comfortable chairs either side. The dog was curled up in front of the fire. Mrs. Roberts was in the middle of preparing her husband's supper - stewing steak which she was making in a caserole. It was obviously only intended for him for there wouldn't have been enough for everyone. She finished that and then sat and talked to me. Her daughter was present for most of the interview.

The family.

This was Mrs. Robert's second marriage - she didn't say anything at all about her first husband and passed the question over so quickly that she obviously didn't want to talk about it. She had 3 daughters by her first marriage the oldest 21, married with 2 children and living in Banbury. Maria 15, Shirley 14 were still at school. Robert 12, Stephen 11, Lynn 10, Victor 9 were her husband's children by his first marriage and Tony 3 was the only child of the present marriage.

She had a son by her first marriage but he died nearly 2 years when he was 15 years old. She didn't tell me this until we were discussing accommodation when she said she wanted to move out of the house. 'I don't like talking about it because I'll start bawling". She was obviously still very upset and keeps his old room locked up and hasn't been it in since he died.

Both she and her husband had lived in the district all their lives. Her father died 2 years ago - he was a leather worker. Her mother lived only 5 minutes away and she saw her nearly every day. Her husband's father - an electrical engineer in the G.P.O. was still alive and altho' he lived near the hardly ever saw him. His mother had died 10 years ago. Mrs. Roberts had 3 brothers - one older than herself. They were all married with children and lived very near - she'd seen them all in the past week.

Mrs. Robards

The Robards live in a very neat looking house that was at another dilapidated house. They were not back off the road and in front of his house was a very rough 'lawn'. The house really need painting. Children had scribbled in chalk on the walls and front porch, the windows were dirty, but some of the panes were partially broken. The front door & screen door were off. Robards was out and was 17 year old daughter answered the door. (I discovered later she had been 'life' on her 'daughter's day off).

Mrs. Robards was in. She was a little woman, dressed in an old skirt and jumper, with curly hair and a vacant face. Drawer was very highly strung, nervous, talking and appeared observed. Judge in reality's have taken more behavior for work slightly. I talked and her daughter keep the baby quiet by giving her the television while living room. It was a very room with a couch along one side. One of the chairs was covered with pillowcases of the children 'by practical necessity' as she put it. They had an electric fire - one of those much cost fires in the room, with a single or comfortable chair either side. The log was curled up in front of the fire. Mrs. Robards was in the middle of preparing her husband's supper - showing steak which she was cooking into a casserole. It was obviously only for need for him for there wouldn't have been enough for everyone. The children had run then and failed to re. Her manner was reserved for most of the interview.

The Family.

This was her, Robard's second marriage - she didn't say anything at all about her first husband and seemed the question over as quickly that the obviously didn't want to talk about it. She had 3 daughters by her first marriage who visited it, married with 2 children and living in Banbury. Marie 19, Shirley 17 were still at school. Mabel 16, Gordon 12, Lynn 10, Victoria 9 were her husband's children by his first marriage and Tony 3 was the only child of this second marriage.

She had been married for four months but he had worked a year from the age 15 years old. Her other's will be this difficult were concerned, consequently when he left the house at 7 and came home at 6 the house. 'I don't like talking about it because it's hard working'. She was tired and very worried and feels the room looks untidy and doesn't know if she can cope.

Both she and her husband have left in the divorced all their lives. For instance, about 2 years ago - he was a bachelor member. The mother lived only 3 miles away and she saw her nearly every day. Her mother's further - a disabled engineer in the C.E.G. was still alive and visited her every day nearly even now. The parents had died 10 years ago. Mrs. Robards had brothers - one older than herself. They were all married with children and lived very near - they'd been then all in the past week.

Altho' her husband's 3 brothers and 2 sisters lived near they hardly ever saw them - one brother they hadn't seen for over 2 years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Roberts had left school at 14. She married when she was 18 and then when she was 37.

Maria went to a Comprehensive School in Peckham. She was in a class learning shorthand and typing and hoped to stay at school until she was 16 or 17 years old. She hadn't got any spare time jobs 'She'd like to, but her father says no'. She was a great help in the house especially in holiday time. Last year she'd had a holiday in Hastings with the relatives of a school friend. Shirley went to the same school and was quite clever. She wanted to be a policewoman but her mother was afraid she wouldn't be able to because she wore glasses. She had also had her first holiday with friends in Bognor. She was a great help in the house.

Robert was going to a Comprehensive school and hoped to stay on until he's 16 or 17. Stephen went to the same school. He didn't help much because he was rather clumsy. Neither of the boys had ever had a holiday. Lynn went away with a cousin for a couple of weeks. She and Vicki both went to Peckham.

Accommodation

There were 8 rooms altogether - 3 on the ground floor, 5 upstairs. They had a little kitchen adjoining the living room - this contained a gas stove, sink and washing machine. She'd only got a kitchen cabinet to store food in. There was no bath in the house 'we just have a good wash down' and the lavatory was outside. Her husband joined in at this point - he was working near and called in for a cup of tea. He sat and listened but didn't say much. Mrs. Roberts answered my questions about who paid for what with very meaning looks in his direction. 'It all comes out of the housekeeping'. They'd lived in the house since their second marriage - they rented it from a private landlord for £2.9s. a week. She complained about the state the house was in - it was very damp and a lot needed doing to it but the landlord didn't bother.

Her mother owned a house which she said her daughter could have - it was worth £1000. Mrs. Roberts wanted to sell it and use the money to put a deposit down on a house. However her husband would have nothing to do with it - it was her money, not his and he wasn't going to touch it. The house itself was far too small for the family to live in so it was no use to them as it was.

She'd like a nice garden - they'd only got a yard so during the holidays the children felt very cooped up, it was too far to take the children to the park every day.

Clothes

She always paid cash for clothes. However she was given a lot for herself and the children by relatives. 'I haven't bought anything for

Arthur's husband - a business man - died shortly after they
they hardly ever saw them - the house they bought 20 years for over 2 years.

Arthur, and Mrs. Andrews had left school at 14. The
then she was 18 and then he was 17.

Arthur went to a correspondence school in Yorkshire. He was in a
clerk in a textile mill and was asked to stay on as a clerk until eleven-
ty or 47 years old. He didn't get any spare time jobs 'cause there
to, but he's a fitter now'. He was a great help in the house
especially in holiday time. Later years he'd had a holiday in Scarborough
with the employees of a textile mill. Working week on the same as I and
was quite clever. Was asked to be a foreman but he didn't want
the work. He's 5 years younger than Mrs. Andrews. He had never had a
holiday with his friends in 4 years. He was a regular early in bed man.

Mrs. Andrews was going to a Comprehensive school and hoped to stay on until
he's 16 or 17. Stephen went to the same school. He didn't really much
because he was in his mathematics. Neither of the boys had ever had a holiday
away from their parents for a couple of weeks. They saw Tivoli both
and go Cockle.

Accommodation

There were only two bedrooms - 3 on the ground floor, 3 upstairs.
They had a little kitchen including the living room - which contained a gas
cooker, sink and washing machine. She's only got a little table to eat
food on. They were not able to use the 2 rooms upstairs because of water
and the lavatory was outside. Her husband joined them at this point - he
was working nearby and called in for a cup of tea. He was quiet and but
didn't say much. Mrs. Andrews answered my questions about the maid for
what with very meaning looks in his direction. 'It all comes out of the
housekeeping'. They'd lived in the house since their second marriage - they
rented it from a private landlord for 22.25 a week. They considered from the
start the house was in - it was very damp and a lot needed doing to it but
the landlord didn't bother.

Mrs. Andrews owned a house which she had her daughter could have -
it was worth £1000. Mrs. Andrews wanted to sell it and use the money to
put a deposit down on a house. However her husband would have nothing to do
with it - it was her money, not his and he wasn't going to touch it. The
house itself was far too small for the family to live in - it was no use
to them as it was.

Mabel like a little woman - they'd only got a good standard
holiday the children felt very cared up, it was too far to take
children to school every day.

Diet

Mrs. Andrews did cook for Mr. Andrews. However she was given a lot
for herself and the children by relatives. 'I haven't anything for

5 years for myself. My mother and sister are about the same size as me so they give me a lot of things. My friend next door keeps me in stockings - look the pair I'm wearing now are perfect but she didn't like the colour or something'. In the past 3 months she'd only bought the youngest children shoes. They all had one good pair of shoes - the two oldest 2 pairs. Each child had a pair of plimsoles. 'We just hope the repairs come in holiday time'. She found shoes wore out before they grew out of them.

Furniture.

They weren't buying anything on H.P. - her husband believed in saving up for things and until you had enough money to pay for something you just went without. 'We saved up together to buy the washing machine - it took 3 years'. They had been given most of their furniture 'There's no point in having decent furniturewith young children - we'll wait 'till they're older'.

Food.

They had a very dull diet. She and her husband had tea for breakfast, the children had cereal too. She and her husband had had fried egg and bacon for lunch and for tea she was going to have baked potatoes and apple tart. The apple tart was a treat - they didn't often have 'afters'. Her husband on the other hand was having the braised steak I'd seen her preparing. However the children always had an apple or orange every day. At weekends they always had an H bone of beef which cost £1. She thought she spent as much as 8/- on her husband's evening meal. Her husband did the weekend shopping - she gave him £2 to buy eggs, fruit and the meat. She bought about £4 of groceries herself during the week 'I go round all the cut price shops'. If she had more money to spend on food she'd buy different cereals, better marg., more cakes and they'd have pudding every day. She'd tried to keep up on food and didn't think she'd cut down on essentials.

Social contacts etc.

Neither of them went out in the evenings. Her husband had never had a holiday, she had one 7 years ago. She'd not felt unwell for a long time - 2 years ago she'd had 'flu and her husband had stayed home to help with things. He'd also helped when Tony was born. She'd taken the children to the clinic once a month until they were 3 years old.

She never had any help from relatives or neighbours as far as looking after the children etc. was concerned. Their support seemed to consist of help with clothing etc. She rarely felt ill - two years ago when she had 'flu her husband stayed home to help.

If she needed extra money suddenly she'd borrow from the 'electric light money' or would go without - she'd not borrow from anybody.

Her husband gave her £13 housekeeping money which she insisted was not enough. She had made a list of everything she had spent money on and proved that she always spent 3/- a week more then he gives her but he wouldn't take any notice. She was glad that I would be interviewing him 'I expect you'll get a different story'. As for family allowances 'I'm very grateful - we're lucky to get them'. She didn't think that they should be larger or smaller. People who wanted the allowance abolished 'They're people with fewer children or who are working so they don't realise the expense'. When the last baby was born she'd found the maternity allowance sufficient. She had a pram and some clothes given her so she managed.

She didn't say how big a family she hoped her children had. She liked a large family 'They're something to live for. If the money was O.K. I'd have a dozen more "love children" '. However she said that each child would like to be an only child. She thought the cost of food was one of the biggest worries.

She didn't think she'd like any more children tho' 'doesn't bother' with any contraceptives and had never been to a family planning clinic. From what her husband told me later I suspect she leaves it all to him.

Before I left she showed me their front room. There was a nice fire and comfortable looking tho' rather dilapidated 2 piece suite 'It's all ready for viewing'.

Mr. Roberts.

He was a tall, well built man - grey haired and a rather stern face. He was just 50 years old and looked his age.

He worked as a carpenter for Charles Gee and Company - working mainly on the maintenance of hospitals and police stations. He earned about £15 gross a week but just recently had started working at weekends earning 7/- an hour for 18 hours. This weekend work was in connection with special houses built by Chas. Gee as showpieces. He was paid every 3 months for this so at £6/6 extra a week this meant he'd be getting about £80 at a time. On his ordinary job he was paid hourly and normally worked 45 hours.

He used to have savings but they were all taken up when he had his 'tragedy'. His first wife died of cancer nearly 9 years ago, leaving him with 4 children under school age. He insisted on keeping all of the children but got no help from anybody to do this. When he applied for help they only offered to take his children into care. If the children were ill he had to take time off from work and as he was paid hourly this meant his earnings were considerably reduced. After his wife's death he had to miss 13 weeks work altogether. He felt very bitter that he'd not received any help when he needed it most. He'd paid insurance stamps for years but then when he needed it couldn't get help. He talked a little of those who get assistance even tho'

[illegible] gave me all homeopathic money which she
inherited was not enough. The man's idea of everything she had
spent money on had proved [illegible] - each one was short be
[illegible] but [illegible] was my mother. She was glad that I would be
[illegible] 'a good proof, [illegible] story'. As for
[illegible] 'It's very peaceful - [illegible] shop'. [illegible]
[illegible] only [illegible] larger [illegible]. People who wanted
[illegible] 'Where [illegible] for children or who are
working so they don't mind the [illegible]'. When the last baby was born
[illegible] 'Thank [illegible] quite [illegible]'. She had a great [illegible]
[illegible] place [illegible].

She [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] children and.
She liked a large family [illegible] something to live for. If she [illegible]
[illegible] C.V. I'd have a [illegible] 'Money [illegible] said that
[illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] towards the cost of food
[illegible] one of the biggest [illegible].

She didn't think [illegible] were [illegible] 'Doesn't [illegible]
[illegible] contraceptives [illegible] to a family planning clinic.
From [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] leaves it all to him.

[illegible] the chores [illegible] front room. There was a nice
[illegible] comfortable looking [illegible] furnished [illegible] suite. 'It's
all ready for viewing'.

Mr. Roberts.

[illegible] - [illegible] from a [illegible] stern face.
[illegible] and liked his [illegible].

He [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] Gas Company - working
mainly on [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible]. He earns about
£15 [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] working at weekends [illegible]
[illegible] for [illegible]. While [illegible] in connection with special
[illegible] by [illegible]. [illegible] every 3 months [illegible]
[illegible] £20 [illegible] £30 of a time.
[illegible] [illegible] and normally [illegible] 45 hours.

[illegible] have [illegible] but they were all [illegible] when he had his
'[illegible]'. His first wife died of cancer nearly 3 years ago, leaving him
with a [illegible] school age. He insisted on having all of the children
[illegible] [illegible] to do this. When he [illegible] for help they only
offered to take his children to care. If his children were ill he had to
take time off from work to be [illegible] with them. [illegible]
considerably [illegible]. After [illegible] he had to take 15 [illegible]
[illegible]. He felt very bitter [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]
modern life [illegible]. He'd paid [illegible] for years but [illegible] he needed
it [illegible]. He talked [illegible] who got [illegible] [illegible]

they haven't contributed much - for example immigrants. He said he often saw them in the police stations. However he wasn't anti-coloured immigrants or against helping them for he said he know and worked with some fine people but it was the system he was against i.e. a system that didn't help all those in need.

He told me all about his wife's illness in great detail - how she'd been ill for a time and then seemed to get better. Then one day he came home to find her in a coma and the babies crying - one was still sitting on her lap. They'd rushed her off to hospital in Maida Vale but there was little they could do. Her brain was affected and an operation was out of the question tho' Mr. R. begged them to do something.

He'd stayed on in their council house and the children went to a day nursery - he paid according to his earnings which of course varied from week to week. Even tho' they were very young they helped with the housework as much as possible. He would get a meal ready at lunchtime and they would light the stove and set the table. They did a little ironing and helped as much as they could. Mr. Roberts talked of his children at this time with great pride and rather regretted that Mrs. Roberts didn't believe in expecting the children to do much as she said it wasn't fair on them.

The advantage of having a large family was for him "They're an asset in times of trouble". However he hoped his children wouldn't have so many as the cost of food, clothing, accommodation etc. was so much, and the world situation wasn't very happy. He didn't want any more children at his age - he felt it would be irresponsible at his age as his patience wasn't what it was now he was getting older. He wanted peace and quiet when he came home in the evenings and wanted to have undisturbed sleep at night.

For him having children and watching them grow up was like a gardener tending and nurturing precious plants.

He referred in passing to the question of housekeeping saying he'd like to point out that altho' he always gives his wife exactly the same amount every week if he'd had a good week with overtime etc. he'd buy extras for the weekend - he often bought supper for them all on a Friday for example.

He was about to tell me how he met his present wife - but got no further than telling me they met at the day nursery when his wife and 2 of the children came in. Mrs. Roberts looked at me rather apprehensively and smiled rather too brightly. Mr. Roberts offered to make me a cup of tea and the subject of his present marriage was dropped. He chatted generally for a little while and asked me about the survey - he seemed quite interested and wished me well.

they haven't contributed much - for example family life. He said he often saw them in the police stations. However he wasn't well-educated family, his wife did not helping them for he said he knew and worked with some time ago, but it was the system he was against i.e. - everyone that didn't really fit there in mind.

He told me all about his wife's illness in great detail - how she'd been ill for a time and then recovered to get better. Then one day he came home to find her in a coma and the babies crying - he was still sitting on her lap. They'd rushed her off to hospital in Santa Ana but there was little they could do. Her brain was off over and an operation was out of the question but Mr. R. begged them to do something.

He'd stayed on in their council home for the children sent to a foster-mother - they'd accounting to his evenings which of course varied from week to week. Even that they were very young they helped with the housework as soon as possible. He could get a meal ready at lunchtime and they would light the stove and get the coals. They did a little ironing and helped as much as they could. Mr. R. seemed fond of his children at both time with great pride and rather regretted that Mrs. Roberts didn't believe in encouraging the children to do much in the hard it wasn't fair on them.

The advantage of having a large family was for his "they're an asset in order of people". However he hoped his children wouldn't have as hard as the cost of food, clothing, accommodation etc. was so much, and the world situation is a very happy. He didn't want any more children at his age - he felt it was irresponsible at his age to bring children when it was now in a getting older. He seemed peace and quiet when he came home in the evenings and wanted to have undisturbed sleep at night.

For him having children and bringing them up was like a pre-war training and nurturing precious plants.

He returned to speaking to the question of housekeeping saying he'd like to point out that either he always lives his wife exactly the same amount every week if he's had a good week with overtime etc. he'd buy extras for the week end - he often bought supper for them all on a Friday for example.

He seemed to tell it how he was his present wife - but yet he treated the children as he felt at the day nursery when his wife and of the children came in. Mrs. Roberts looked at me rather apprehensively and spoke very little. Mr. Roberts offered to make me a cup of tea and the subject of his present marriage was dropped. He obviously felt a bit jealous on seeing us sitting out the survey - he seemed quite interested and stayed on well.

The Scotts live in a council house on a big housing estate in Billingham. Mrs. Scott greeted me with 'Hullo - are you from the National Health?' I explained that I was not but she asked me just the same. She didn't seem at all concerned about the survey as a whole, but was quite ready to answer question. She was a rather scraggy looking woman with blonde greasy hair which she wore long and kept smoothing back off her face. She sat on the edge of her chair all the time waiting eagerly for each question. The interview took place in the living room - they did have a front room which was kept 'nice' but it was cold in there so with many apologies she took me into the other room. There was lino on the floor with a rug in front of the new gas fire. The furniture was of poor quality but adequate.

The family

The Scotts had 6 children - Graham 14, Roland 12, Laureen 9, Adrian 6, Royston 5 and Sheridan 1. Mr. Scott aged 41 was a crane driver.

She was obviously very fond of her children and gave me the impression that Graham had been spoilt - perhaps as the result of his spending a year in hospital when he was 3 years old. He had had whooping cough, bronchitis, pneumonia and a collapsed lung. He always came home for lunch 'He won't eat out' and if the baby was ill he was very ready to stay home from school to help his mother. 'I've been a bit naughty about it and got into trouble with the school - but what should I do? I know it's foolish to keep him away from school when he's backward but he doesn't like school and I have to go out to do the shopping for lunch and I can't take a sick baby out too'. On the other hand she would have liked him to have gone to a Grammar School i.e. " a better school". He would be leaving school when he was fifteen and wanted to work in a garage. Meanwhile to earn some money he wanted to do a paper round but her husband said he shouldnt because it meant not only he would have to get up at 5.30 a.m. but his mother would too.

Roland was going to a Comprehensive School too - again she would have preferred her to go to a Grammar School. Roland was brighter than Graham and hoped to stay on until 18 years old and become a policeman. When he was 2 years old he was undernourished because Mrs. Scott used to leave him with a neighbour while she worked and this woman didn't feed him properly. He was then too tired to take his evening feed, but it was 2 months before Mrs. Scott realised what the matter was. When he was 7 he spent 4 months in hospital with inflammation of the brain and a year later had a bad abscess behind his ear which meant another month in hospital.

Laureen hoped to go to Grammar School according to Mrs. Scott - she was second in her form. Apart from breaking her leg when she was 6 she'd not had any serious illnesses. She was having piano lessons which cost her mother 5/- a week.

Royston didn't have any peculiarties neither did Adrian. They both attended the Local Primary School. Sheridan was home of course. He sat on his mother's knee most of the interview tho' he got a bit restless towards the end. He was probably not used to his mother sitting down for so long.

The children all got sweets 'The lollyman is a worry'. They all had comics as well as pocket money. She tried to give the older ones extra if she had the money. Similarly if Dad had had a good week he gave them a bit extra.

Later in the interview Mrs. Scott told me Graham was on probation for housebreaking with another boy 'I didn't mean to tell you - but it's out now. The probation officer is a very nice man and comes to see him once a fortnight'. His companion in crime' had been a boy from an approved school and Mrs. Scott implied Graham had been led astray by this boy.

Mrs. Scott's father who had been a leather worker had died during the war. Her mother lived only ½ hours journey away but she only saw her 3 times a year because of the fares. She had 9 brothers and sisters but didn't see any of them often. Her husband's father lived near and they'd seen him in the last week. His mother died 4 years ago. Mr. Scott had 6 sisters - 2 of whom lived near but weren't seen much. Both Mr. and Mrs. Scott left school at 14.

Accommodation

The Scotts had been living in their present house for a year. They had 3 bedrooms and 2 living rooms. Altho' they had a bath there was no wash basin. Previously they'd been living in an L.C.C. flat which only had 2 bedrooms but it did have better amenities and it wasn't damp. She wasn't in rent arrears at the moment but had been in the past.

She'd like more room so that the 4 boys could be split between2 rooms instead of being altogether and Laureen could stay on her own. At the moment Sheridan had a cot in his parent's room. Altho' during the week they ate at different times on Sundays they all ate together.

Clothes

She got a lot of clothes at jumble sales and the rest she bought from a clothing club. She paid at least £2/week to the club. As for shoes 'The Boys need a new pair of shoes every 3 weeks - it's these fashion shoes they don't last'.

Furniture

The cooker, gas fire and washing machine were paid for quarterly. They were buying 3 beds on H.P. Graham had made his own bicycle. However she wasn't going to buy any more furniture in the near future. 'I don't worry about furniture because with children you can't keep everything perfect. If I had more money to spend I'd spend it on food. Last week they had a piece of haddock but they could have eaten more of it - I'd love to be able to just go out and cook another big piece and give it them'.

Together didn't have any possibilities neither did Graham. They both attended the local Primary School. Graham was born of course. He was on his mother's knee just at the interview that he got a bit restless around the end. He was probably not used to the method sitting here for so long.

The children all group's mounts 'The Infirmary I am weary'. They all had coming as well as pocket money. The mother to give the other ones extra if she had the money. Similarly if Jed had had a free week he gave them a bit extra.

Later in the interview Mrs. Scott said to Graham gave a problem in for boarding with another boy. I didn't mean to tell you - but it's out now. The problem children is a very nice man and come to see him once a month. His behaviour in school had been a boy from an approved school. Scott implied Graham had been had money by this boy.

Mrs. Scott's father who had been a leading worker had died during the war. Her mother lived only 4 years afterwards but she only saw her 3 times a year because of the farm. She had 3 brothers and sisters but didn't see many of them often. Her husband's father lived near and they saw him the last week. His mother died 4 years ago. Mr. Scott had 3 sisters - 2 of whom lived near but weren't seen much. Both Mr. and Mrs. Scott left school at 14.

Accommodation

The Scotts had been living in their present house for a year. They had 3 bedrooms and 2 living rooms. Before they had a flat there are no such houses. Previously they'd been living in an L.C.C. flat which only had 2 bedrooms but it did have better amenities and it wasn't damp. The room's in rent arrears at the moment but had been in the past.

She'd like more room so that the 4 boys could be split between rooms instead of being all together and Graham could stay on for one. At the moment Graham had a cot in his parent's room. Either during the week they sleep at different times on Sundays they all sleep together.

Clothes

The cost of clothes at Jewish salon and the rest she bought from a clothing club. She paid 1st Instal £2/week to the club. As for shoes 'The boys need a new pair of shoes every 3 weeks - it's their fashion shoes they don't last'.

Furniture

The cooker, the fridge and washing machine were paid for yearly. They were buying 3 hire purchase. Graham had made his own bicycle. He even wasn't going to buy any more furniture in the near future. 'I don't worry about furniture because with children you can't keep everything perfect. If I had more money to spend I'd spend it on food. Last week they had a piece of haddock but they could have another piece of it - I'd love to be able to just go out and cook another big piece and give it them'.

Food

She had 5 pints of milk a day but during the week bought 10 - 12 extra pints at the shop and 4 pints from the milk machine. She never bought food at the clinic - the children didn't like clinic orange juice. She thought she spent about 6/- a day on meat. If she had more money to spend on food she'd buy much more fruit, fish and Rice Crispies. She didn't seem to have a very adequate diet - tea for breakfast, a cooked lunch but only toast for supper 'I don't feel hungry often'.

Outside Activities etc.

She never went out and her husband hadn't been out in the last fortnight. She never stayed in bed when she was ill and when Sheridan was born her husband had stayed at home to look after the children. 'I got up after 3 days - I pretended I was ready. I'd have liked someone to look after the children - to cook and wash'.

During the school holidays the boys did a lot of her shopping - especially at the supermarket. Her neighbours didn't help with shopping or the children but they did lend her money. Every week she borrowed £2 from the next door neighbour 'It's like a big cycle every week - you keep hoping you'll get out of it but you just go on from one week to the next just the same'. She was hoping to get a job when Sheridan was old enought to go to school - "Anything - cooking, cleaning, washing - just so long as I can earn some money". However her husband wasn't keen on her going out to work. 'I was all set to go out to work when Royston was coming up for school. Then I fell for Sheridan - it was his fault - I think he did it to keep me at home".

She thought family allowances were a 'great help" and all of it except 10/- which went towards the rent was spent on food. However she didn't think they ought to be any bigger 'I wouldn't be greedy - it's only foreigners that grumble. After all we're not entitled to it and then we get the maternity allowance as well'. She thought if she was working and therefore earning some money she might join those who thought family allowances ought to be abolished. She had no definite opinion as to whether the allowance should be graduated according to the age of the child. When Sheridan was born she had tried to get a little extra from the National Assistance Board but without success. Instead her father lent her £10.

She hoped her children would have a smaller family unless they had a lot more money. The main disadvantages of a large family were the cost of everything. However she loved the companionship a large family provided - for herself it seems more than the children. 'At Christmas it's great fun - they all get their little presents for me and I have to pretend not to notice where they'v ehidden things. It was lovely yesterday they all sent me Valentine Cards - even their Dad who's never sent one before thought he ought to go and get one'. She was obviously a soft-hearted woman bordering on the edge of spoiling the children. She didn't like to refuse them anything - this came out in her attitude towards food - she wanted more money to spend on their favourite

foods rather than the food they needed most.

If she were starting married life again she'd only have 2 children. She hoped she wouldn't have any more but wasn't doing anything to see she didn't. She had been to the clinic for a year but had given up using the contraceptive they advised 'It's messy - it made me feel sick - I didn't like it'.

Mrs. Scott didn't ask many questions about the survey - she obviously just enjoyed talking about herself. A kind woman but nat a good manager and not always as sensible as she might be. On Mondays she usually cleaned the bedrooms but didn't mind at all being prevented from doing so. 'It's nice to sit down and have a chat'.

Mr and Mrs Siffleet, 6 children. Interview: 2 hrs.

Mr. Siffleet was at home recovering from a cold and Mrs Siffleet had taken the opportunity to go out shopping while he was around to look after the children. It was half-term and all the children except the eldest were home. He asked me to come back a little later when his wife would be home and they would have finished lunch. This I did, and had a chance to talk to his wife while she and the children finished washing up.

The family

Mrs. Siffleet was a very friendly woman, large and motherly tho' not fat. She was neatly dressed (her thick stockings I discovered later were worn for practical reasons, she could not afford to keep buying the thinner ones she preferred). She was very anxious to talk about her problems and how she felt about having six children. It appeared that the last baby had been 'a surprise' for after Jacqueline, the fifth child, they had given away the pram and all their baby clothes. This last baby had upset Jacqueline who had become a very difficult child to manage ever since its arrival. Mrs. Siffleet said she tried to give the children a lot of attention individually but found this difficult sometimes. She was sure some women were much better mothers than others and she felt she was not cut out to be a mother.

Frances, the eldest child (12) went to a Convent School at Greenwich and hoped to stay on until she was 17 or 18 and then become a nurse. She helped a little in the house, her mother thought she might help more when she was older. Her sister, aged 9, went to a Roman Catholic primary school, and Mrs. Siffleet told me the buildings were old and the lavatories were outside. However she added that a lot of schools were like this so she shouldn't grumble too much. She used to pay half price for school meals for all of them but since this year they had had to pay the full amount. The Education Department had explained they wer e borderline case and couldn't help them. Mrs. Siffleet found £1 each week for dinner money a lot and thought she could provide a mid-day meal for all of them much more cheaply. School uniforms too, were a problem. Gillian had had to have a new outfit last September and altho' she had managed to make nearly all of it, items like school blazers had to be bought and these were expensive.

Mrs. Siffleet was an only child and Mr.Siffleet had only one sister. His father had died when Mr. Siffleet was only 2 years old. The two eldest children had spent a holiday with their aunt last summer. Mrs.Siffleet's mother had previously owned the house they were now living in and altho' she had only moved a short way a way wasn't seen much by the family.

Mrs. and Mrs. Stafford, 6 children. Interview: 2 hrs.

Mr. Stafford was at home recovering from a cold and Mrs. Stafford had taken the opportunity to go out shopping while he was around to look after the children. It was half-term and all the children except the eldest were home. He going to come back a little lower than his wife would be home and they could have finished lunch. This I did, and had a chance to talk to his wife while she and the children finished washing up.

The Family

Mrs. Stafford was a very friendly woman, large and motherly but not fat. She was really dressed (her clothes resembling I discovered later were worn for practical reasons, she could not afford to keep buying the thinner ones she preferred). She was very anxious to talk about her problems and how she felt about having six children. It appeared that the last baby had been 'a surprise' for Mrs. Stafford, the fifth child, she had given away the same day all short by stealth. This last baby had upset Mrs. Stafford and she had become a very difficult child to manage even since its arrival.

Mrs. Stafford said she tried to give the children a lot of attention particularly but found this difficult because. She was sure some women were much better mothers than others and she felt she was not cut out to be a mother.

Eldrees, the oldest child (12) went to a Grammar School at Greenhill and appeared to settle in well and was 17 or 18 and then become a nurse. She had a little in the house, but mother thought she might help more when she was older. The eldest, Peter 9, went to Sunny Dunville primary school, and Mrs. Stafford felt he was highly intelligent although his investigations were costing. Jeremy she added that although he was like his father in the schoolchildren's terrible see work. He used to pester all people for school meals for all of children who didn't pay, and he always the full amount. The Jeremy's experiments had alarmed Mrs. Stafford a considering cano and couldn't bring them. Mrs. Stafford found it each week for dinner money. Jeremy had taken it to school provide a mid-day meal for all of them which more cheaply. School authorities then, were a problem. Children had has to have a new outfit last September and Mrs. Stafford had managed to make nearly all of it, items like school blazers had to be bought and these were expensive.

Mrs. Stafford was an only child and Mr. Stafford has only one sister. The father had died when he. Stafford was only 2 years old. The two elder children had spent a holiday with their mother last summer. Mrs. Stafford's mother has previously been the house but were now living in and Mrs. Stafford felt only moved a short way a day mean's been much by the family.

"Between you, me and the gate post shes got a bit of a religious mania" said Mrs. Siffleet. This meant that her mother was very involved in doing good works for the church for all to see but not interested in helping out her daughter which would be a 'hidden' form of service. Mrs. Siffleet had stayed on at school till she was 17 years old and then worked as a secretary for seven years until she married. Mr Siffleet had left school at 16 and was now working as a draughtsman.

Accommodation

The family had been living in the house for over six years but until 2 years ago had had only three rooms. Then her mother, who was living in the rest of the house decided to sell it and Mr.Siffleet offered to buy it. (Apparently he had to suggest this - her mother didn't offer it to him). They had managed to get a full mortgage which they wanted to pay off in ten years. They had rejected a 20 year mortgage because in the long run this would have meant paying a lot more. However, neither of them seemed to have considered that the biggest financial demands in other respects would be made on them in this period also. As it was they had had £430 in the bank 2 years ago, now they only had enough for the next mortgage payment (£34) and Mrs. Siffleet spent £4 a week more than Mr.Siffleet gave her, every week. The house had been in a bad state of repair and since they bought it they had spent £250 on repair and decorations. Mrs. Siffleet complained too about the waste of space in the house - too many passages. This also meant it was more difficult to heat. However they were very glad to have more room - previously they had had only 3 rooms (for the seven of them) and - not surprisingly! - Mrs.Siffleet said there had hardly been room to move. Two of the girls were sleeping in a double bed, tho' they owned bunk beds but had not enough blanket to be able to use them.

Clothes

Mrs.Siffleet never bought second-hand clothes. She always paid cash for clothes and tried to economise by buying in the Sales. However she never had enough money to buy all the bargains she saw and needed. She also bought remnants of material and made a lot of the children's clothes. Her family allowances were drawn once a week and she tried to put these towards buying clothing.

She bought each child 2 pairs of shoes a year tho' Jacqueline was needing a pair every 3 months (at 25/- a pair). She bought Clarks shoes (cost £2) as this was the only way of knowing the shoes would fit well and would last. She told me cheaper shoes were a false economy as they wore out before the children had grown out of them. As for repairs - they just hoped they'd be able to be done in the school holidays.

"Between you, me and the gate-post she's got a bit of a religious mania" said Mrs. Gifford. This meant that her mother was very involved in doing good works for the church for all to see but not interested in giving out her money which would be a 'hidden' form of service. Mrs. Gifford had stayed on at school till she was 17 years old and then worked as a secretary for seven years until she married. Mr. Gifford had left school at 15 and was now working as a dry-waiter.

Accommodation

The family has been living in the house for over six years but until 2 years ago had had only three rooms. Then her mother, who was living in the west of the house, decided to sell it to Mr. Gifford offered to buy it. (Apparently he had to persuade his - her mother didn't offer it to him). They had managed to put a mortgage which they hoped to pay off in ten years. They had replaced a 25 year mortgage because in the long run this would have meant paying a lot more. However, neither of them seemed to have considered or even thought about financial change in which case they would be paid on them in this period then. As it was they had had £250 in the bank 2 years ago, but they only had enough for the next mortgage payment (£24) and the. Gifford owed as much more than Mr. Gifford gave her, every week. The house had been in a bad state of repairs and since they bought it they had spent £250 on repairs and decorations. Mrs. Gifford complained bec about the state of repair in the house - too many passages. This also meant it was more difficult to heat. However they were very glad to have more room - previously they had had only 3 rooms (for the seven of them) and - not surprisingly! - Mrs. Gifford said there was hardly been room to move. Two of the girls were sleeping in a double bed, that they owned but had not enough blankets to be able to use them.

Clothes

Mr. Gifford never bought second-hand clothes. The housekeeping was for clothes and tried to economise by buying in the sales. However she never had enough money to buy all the boys's and her mother. She also bought remnants of material and made a lot of the children's clothes. Her family allowance were given once a week and she tried to put these towards buying clothing.

She bought each child 2 pairs of shoes a year but Jacqueline was needing a pair every 3 months (at £1 - a pair). The boys'll Clothe shoes (cost £2) so this was the only way of keeping the shoes would fit well and comfortable. The girls go shopping alone here - Miss saying as they know out before the children had grown out of them. As for hobbies - they just hoped they'd be able to do them in the school holidays.

Mrs. Siffleet obviously missed being able to buy things on impulse. As she put it she "looks straight ahead and walks past the special offer of stockings at 2/11d.". Not being able to have her hair done regularly was also something she regretted. She had obviously recently had it done, tho' she explained later this was the first time for 3 or 4 months and she had to do something about her hair 'cos it was too long and all over the place. 'I felt a terrible mess'.

Ownership of durables etc.

The Siffleet's house was nicely furnished and they were not buying any of their furniture on H.P. or on credit. They would have liked a car but couldn't possibly afford one. Mrs. Siffleet said she'd also like a nanny, tho' she realised that was wishful thinking. When the children were all at school she was going to get some kind of typing job.

Food

Mr. Siffleet was spending £8 a week on food at least. She did not like cooking very much tho' was always pleased to get compliments on a good meal. The drudgery of all the preparation got her down - peeling 40 lbs. of potatoes a week for example. The children were not yet old enough to be of real assistance. They always had cereal in the mornings for breakfast, but she couldn't give them any variety. Also she would like to give them bigger breakfasts instead of say one piece of toast or one piece of bacon. The children always took an apple to school. She wished she could buy more fruit, vegetables (especially salad stuff) and eggs. ~~Altho'~~ Also she couldn't afford to buy more milk and the children had to go without a drink before going to bed. She didn't get supper as soon as the children got home from school because they would then get hungry before they went to bed. Instead she made them wait until 5.30 or 6 p.m. She only had a snack herself at lunch, sometimes when the neighbour was looking after Jacqueline, she'd also give her lunch.

Outside activities and contacts.

Neither of them went out in the evenings and they'd not had a holiday for 5 or 6 years. She missed the holidays they used to have because they were always a rest for her. They used to stay in a hotel for a fortnight. If she felt ill she usually 'managed'. 18 months ago when she was ill with pneumonia and she'd gone into hospital, Paul stayed with her mother, Jackie went to her Aunt and the other children coped with father. When the last baby was born her husband had taken a few days leave - she was only away a week in any case. She would have liked more help before the baby was born, during those times when she felt poorly, with them afterwards. During the actual birth her hsuband managed quite well but beforehand she would have loved someone to have helped with the cooking and washing. She had to do three big washes a week and never got to bed before 1 a.m. Before the winter she went to the clinic every month but couldn't manage to take all ~~stay~~ of them now. She wished her mother was more interested in helping her and altho' her neighbour sometimes looked after

Mrs. Gilfillan obviously dreaded being able to talk without an hesitation. Perhaps just in her "three sheights above and under" had the special effect of stockings at Christmas.". Not being able to browse their form regularly was also something she regretted. "She loves everything neatly and in order, and the sanitation layer this was the first time for 3 or 4 months she was able to do something about her hair. Mrs Gilfillan's hair was long and all over the place. 'I felt a terrible mess'.

Treatment of children etc.

The Gilfillan's hair was already fixed when they were not having any of their children to H.M. or to crecie. They certainly have lived a cor but couldn't possibly afford one. Mrs. Gilfillan said she'd also like a nanny, but she realised that was a totally unknowing. When the children were all at school she was going to get some sort of cleaning job.

Food

Mr. Gilfillan was spending 3/- a week on food as bread. She did not like cooking very much but was always pressed to get something on a good meal. The dungeery of all the preparation put her down - feeling it like of producing a meal for example. The children seemed not old enough to be of real assistance. They always had cereal in the morning for breakfast, but she couldn't give them any variety. Also she would like to give them bigger breakfasts instead of just one piece of toast or one piece of bacon. The children always took an apple to school. She added she could buy more fruit, vegetables (especially mind stuff) and eggs. Mrs. Gilfillan's afford to buy more milk so the children had to go without a drink before going to bed. Had she got anyone in as the children came from school because they could then get hungry before they went to bed. Instead she made them wait until 5.30 or 6 p.m. The only had a snack herself at lunch, sometimes when the neighbour was looking after Jacqueline, she'd also give her lunch.

Family activities and relations.

Neither of them work out in the evening and they'd not had a holiday for 3 or 4 years. The claimed the children they used to have because they were always a great burden. They used to stay in a hotel for a fortnight. If one felt ill she usually 'managed'. If something was when she was ill with rheumatic and she'd gone into hospital, Paul stayed with her mother, Jacqueline went to her aunt and the other unmarried sister in Ashton. When the last baby was born her husband had been a few days leave - she was only away a week in any case. Her mother lived more than before the baby was born, during these times when she felt ill. During the school hours her husband managed quite well but afterwards she might have liked someone to have helped with the cooking and washing. She had no outside hobbies or work and never got to bed before 1 a.m. Before the children she used to go dancing every month but couldn't manage it with them now. The children her sister was more interested in helping her and didn't go to neighbour sometimes looked after

Jackie she always felt she had 'to wait until she offered to help'.

Attitudes

She collects her family allowance weekly and said she couldn't manage without them. She didn't complain about their size but if the increase in cost of living were taken into account they ought to be £1 a week. It would also help if the allowance were bigger for older children as clothes etc. were so much more expensive later on. The last baby was 'a surprise' and they(d given away the pram etc. However her sister-in-law lent her things and her neighbour helped. Before the baby was born they had only been paying half price for school meals - this helped. Now the cat could only have Kit-E-Kat not Nice tit-bits! She didn't smoke and had stopped having her hair done regularly.

Large families were all right 'if you can manage' but it was 'a lot of wear and tear'. However large familes were 'the catholic way of life' so she accepted what came. She would have liked 4 children and she told me the children all said they only wanted one or two children. She obviously felt she'd lost her independance by having so many children and I think she talked of getting a job as soon as the youngest was at school in order to get away from the house as well as to earn some money.

Mr. Stabler

Mr. Stabler was expecting me as I'd made an appointment to see him. I'm sure his wife had recounted in great detail the interview she'd had with me. Mr. Stabler was a pleasant man - very helpful not not such a chatterbox as his wife. He had the look and manner of a bank official - the solid, dependable type wearing a smart dark grey suit.

There were several items Mrs. Stabler had been unable to tell me because her husband dealt with the finances of the family. The house they were buying on a mortgage covered by an endowment policy - the Bank of England has a special scheme for its employees. He didn't tell me the rate of interest - he didn't want to.

His net salary was £100 a month (£2,160). Last year he'd had a 3½% rise. His normal working week was 35 hours. He thought family allowances 'are about the right size. If they were larger they'd be abused and if they were smaller they wouldn't be much use'. He didn't think they should be abolished altogether tho'. You have to be sure not too much responsibility is taken away from parents'. He didn't have strong feelings on the subject.

In the last year his wife had cashed £100 of building society shares 'They went into the family kitty just to keep things going'. However he thought his financial position was no worse than it had been a year ago 'The cost of living has gone up but then my salary has too, it's just about kept pace". He didn't smoke and only spent 2/- a week on the 'Parish Pools' - still last summer his wife had won £9.

He found the question on the size of family he hoped for his children very difficult to answer 'I think the same but I don't know - it depends on the circumstances. I don't know what conditions will be like in 20 years time'. To start with he couldn't think of any disadvantages in having a large family. 'They're minimal - I wouldn't like to emphasise them. A large family has mainly advantages'. These advantages were: 'They get the corners rubbed off and so socially they find it easier to mix well with others. The children, probably don't think it's an advantage to be told 'you can't have that now - you'll have to wait' but I think looking back they'll realise this was a good thing'. As for advantages to the parents 'You have a better chance of being looked after when you're old. I know this is probably a selfish reason but it's true just the same'. Later on when I was talking generally to both of them Mrs. Stabler said she'd thought of a very basic disadvantage of having a large family and after considering it Mr. Stabler agreed and thought I should put it down as the one disadvantage. This was as Mrs. Stabler put it 'When the oldest child is over 10 years old there's too wide a range of interest so the husband and wife have to split - one to look after the older children one the younger. I'd like the ability to join in with the older children's activities. For example when my husband takes them to Wales at Easter I'd like to go too but we just can't take the little ones so I have to stay with them'.

Mr. Stabler had quite a lot to say about family planning. First he pointed out there was a distinction between contraception and family planning - he wasn't against family planning and the Church wasn't either. However he found the present review of the Churche's attitude towards methods of family planning 'disturbing". 'I've been brought up with the idea that contraception is immoral - I still hold that'. I asked him whether he would consider using the Pill if the Church found it acceptable. He thought he would find it acceptable if it was used only to regulate the period so one could use the 'safe period' more successfully but not if it was used to prevent ovulation. However he wouldn't commit himself very firmly - he just said he'd 'wait for the Church's authority'. He thought the Church might change its mind and said if it did so it would be mainly in response to the widespread fear of overpopulation. However he didn't take such an 'alarmist view' of the situation.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Stabler were interested in the survey as a whole and asked about the lower income families and how they managed. Mrs. Stabler asked whether many of them smoked and had a telly - obviously these were two things she thought 'sensible' people would economise on. However I pointed out that people who never had evenings out, never had a holiday and literally had to watch every penny they spent deserved some form of escape or relaxation. She agreed with this and added that she'd found television a great boon tho' it was difficult to supervise the children's viewing as much as she'd like. Their T.V. was in the playroom and the evening I was there the children were watching 'The Great War'. 'It's a harrowing thing but I think it's good for them to see it'.

As for being confined to the house she said that she didn't have to go out at all - she could have everything delivered but she felt she <u>ought</u> to go out. (She'd missed the point that there's a difference between staying in by choice and staying in by necessity).

She'd been very thrilled to have our letter asking her to take part in the survey and was very surprised we hadn't had a higher response rate. She told me at great length about an aunt of hers who had been an almoner and had tried to persuade her to do social work when she was younger. At that time she felt she was too young and immature to do that kind of work tho' she'd always been interested in social problems. She told me she was a supporter of the Liberal Party - her husband wasn't. She hoped in 15-20 years time there'd be a strong Liberal Party.

Mr. Stabler gave me a lift to the station in their big dormobile - 'we grew out of our family car'.

Mr. Strutt had quite a lot to say about family planning. First he pointed out there was a distinction between contraception for family planning - he didn't mind family planning and the Church wasn't against it, however he found the previous review of the Commonwealth attitude towards of family planning misleading. "I've been brought up with the idea that contraception is immoral - I still hold that". I asked him whether he would consider using the Pill if the Church found it acceptable. He thought he would find it acceptable if it was used only to regulate the period so one could use the safe period more successfully but not if it was used to prevent ovulation. However he didn't consider it very firmly - he just said he'd wait for the Church's authority. He thought the Common Market change it would and if it did so it would be mainly in response to the disapproval from of overpopulation. However he didn't like such an "artificial view" of the situation.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Stubbler were interested in the survey as a whole and asked about the lower income families and how they managed. Mrs. Stubbler asked whether many of their neighbours had a telly - obviously these were two things she thought "ordinary" people would concentrate on. Hence I pointed out that people who never had anything out, never had a holiday and literally had to watch every penny they spent developed some form of escape or relaxation. She agreed with this and added that she'd found television a great boon that it was difficult to appreciate the children's viewing as much as she'd like. Their T.V. was in the living-room and the evening I was there the children were watching "The Great Ape". "It's a terrible thing but I think it's good for them to see it".

Mr. Stubbler explained to the house she said she didn't have to go out at all - she could have everything delivered but she felt she ought to go out. (She'd added the point that there's a diff. between shopping in Ty-Croes and shopping in Ty Mawr).

She'd been very gratified to have our letter asking her to take part in the survey and was very surprised to hear it had been higher response rate. She said she'd great hopes that what in sort of boy she had been an almoner and had tried to persuade her to do social work when she was younger. At that time she felt she was too young and therefore to do it kind of work that she always been interested in mental problems. She told me she was a supporter of the Liberal Party - her husband was not. She hoped in 15-20 years time there'd be a strong Liberal Party.

Mr. Stubbler gave me a lift to the station in their big Cortina - "we grew out of our family car".

8th March 10.45 a.m.

(22)

Mrs. Weight

Interview: 2 hours

Mrs Weight's flat was ~~hardly~~ easily recognisable ~~and~~ as there were several pairs of wellingtons ~~both~~ boots outside the door. She had just finished her washing when I called, and she was in the kitchen talking to the woman from the flat above. Three of the children were home, watching the telly. Mrs Weight was very pleased and excited about the survey 'I want my name in print - you can quote me, I'll give you some'.

The Family

Start

Mrs. W. She had six children living with her, the two oldest live in homes for maladjusted children and had been there for ten years. Of the six children with her, one was also maladjusted and one of the girls was epileptic and 'hyperkinetic . Mrs Waight was married for the first time when she was 18½ years old (in 1949) and was separated from her husband nine years later in 1958. She married again in 1960 and since then had had 3 more children. Her eldest boys (now aged 13 and 12) were taken away by the 'Cruelty Man' because her husband kicked her out and she refused to go to a reception centre. Jeffrey, the eldest was at a boarding school for maladjusted children and had passed the 11+ - the only boy from the home ever to do so. His brother Laurie apparently had an I.Q. of 120+ but had failed his 11+ because he wouldn't work for it. David who was 11 had done very well at school and she was hoping he'd go to Wolverstone Hall, in Suffolk (a LCC boarding Grammar school) because he was going to have an ' 'academic career'. David obviously helped a great deal in the home and often saw to the younger children's breakfast if Mrs W. Waight wasn't back from work. His godmother was the Probation Officer who had helped Mrs. Waight during her separation from her first hsuband. Every year he spent 2 weeks holiday with her in Somerset, the other children taking it in turn to go with him. [OMIT He belonged to the children's book club - his mother paid his subscription ~~and~~ He also sang in the church choir (the family were 'High Church' and went every Sunday to church).] Michael had been going to the same school as ~~him~~ David until last November but his headmaster had found him too difficult and disturbing for the other children to keep him. He was waiting to go to a day school for maladjusted children but meanwhile the only schooling he was getting was a weekly tutorial class. [OMIT He was darker than the other children and was very sensitive about this apparently. When I remarked this wasn't very noticeable Mrs. Waight said 'You don't know Wapping'.] Rosemary, his sister had been going to nursery school but was also too difficult to manage and they had not been able to keep her either. She was taking phenobarbitone and other sedatives as she was hyperkinetic as well as epileptic but as Mrs. Waight put it 'You can't repress everything'. During the first year of her life she spent 8 months in hospital with dysentry. Mrs. Waight didn't make it clear whether the eldest boys had been removed from home because her husband had left her and she had not got adequate accommodation etc. or because they were always very disturbed children. She always talked in terms of her family of 6

Mrs. Waight | Interviewer: G Moore

Mrs Waight's flat was neatly recognisable as there were several pairs of wellingtons [illegible] outside the door. She had just finished her washing when I called, and she was in the kitchen talking to the woman from the flat above. Three of her children were home, rattling the telly. Mrs Waight was very pleased and excited about the survey "I want my name in print - you can write on, I'll give you some".

The Family

She had six children living with her, the two eldest live in homes for maladjusted children and have been there for ten years. Of the six children with her, two are also maladjusted and one of the girls was epileptic and 'hyperactive'. Mrs Waight was married for the first time when she was 18½ years old (in 1949) and was separated from her husband nine years later in 1959. She married again in 1960 and since then had 3 more children. Her eldest boys (ages 1 and 14) were taken away by the 'Crusaly Kom' because her husband kicked her out and she refused to go to a reception centre. Jeffrey, the eldest was as a boarding school for maladjusted children and had chosen the 11+ - the only boy from the home ever to do so. He is at that hostel apparently but an I.Q. of 120 but had failed his 11+ because he wasn't work for it. David who was 11 had done very well at school but she was hoping he'd go to Grayscone Hall in Suffolk (a boarding grammar school) because he was going to have an 'academic career'. David deliberately helped a great deal in the home and often was to the younger children's treatment if Mrs Waight wasn't been from work. His grandfather was the retired Officer who has helped Mrs. Waight during her separation from her first husband. Every year he spent 2 weeks holiday with her in Essex, the other week was taking it in turn to go with him. He belonged to the children's book club - his mother paid his subscription and also sang in the church choir (the family were 'High Church' and went every Sunday to church). Michael had been going to the nurse school as [illegible] until last November but his headmaster had found his too difficult and advising for the other children to [illegible]. He was waiting to go to a day school for maladjusted children but meanwhile he was attending a special unit [illegible] twice a week by tutorial[illegible]. He was further than the other children and was very sensitive about this apparently. When I remarked this wasn't very noticeable Mrs. Waight said 'I don't know happiness'. However, his sister had been going to nursery school but was also too difficult to manage and they had not been able to keep her either. She was taking phenobarbitone and other medicines as she was hyper active. [illegible] as well as epileptic but so [illegible] 'I'm sure it's responsible for everything'. During the first year of her life she spent 5 months in a special wish hospital. Mrs. Waight didn't make it clear exactly the children had been removed from home because her husband had left her or she had not adequate accommodation etc. or because they were always very disorderly [illegible]. She [illegible] baked in terms of her family of 6

children and told me Jeffrey never came home and tho' Laurie did occasionally it upset the other children especially Michael. Before they had moved into their present flat (3 years ago) they had been in Norwood House an L.C.C. 'Rest House' for 2 years where she had to live apart from her second husband. So neither the children of her first nor the children of her second marriage had had a stable home life for the first few years of their lives.

Accommodation

They had been living in an L.C.C. flat for 3 years, before that they had been in Norwood House(paying £6.2.6. a week). The rooms were rather untidy and there were piles of washing (clean!) everywhere 'The latest in sideboard decoration' said Mrs Waight pointing to the pile on the sideboard. The living rooms had been decorated at Christmas tho' it did not look like it now. Michael had 'done a Piccasso on the walls' as Mrs Waight put it. Altho' untidy, the flat was not dirty.

Mrs. Waight disagreed with the recent 'Which' report which stated that the cheapest way to do one's washing was to send it to the laundrette. She had an automatic washing machine and wouldn't be without it. She did sent blankets to the laundrette. Both gas and electricity were paid for by a slot meter - husband had to contribute because Mrs. Waight 'never has shillings when he's around - I'm not stupid'. She didn't use an electric fire, she was afraid of accidents with the children.

She would rather have a three bedroomed house than a 4-bedroomed flat; because usually the room are bigger. She'd love to have a garden and be able to grow things in it. As it is she has a window box, potplants and cacti. She'd also like two living rooms so that she could keep one nice for visitors. When the eldest boy (meaning David) was settled i.e. certain of going to Wolverstone Hall, she was going to apply for a transfer to the country.

Food

Mrs. Waight seemed to provide quite an adequate diet for the family, and also shopped wisely. She did her shopping in New Cross at a wholesale butcher for the meat and at a big supermarket for the rest of her groceries. She went over on Friday often with her neighbour who had a car and could bring the things home for her. She'd like to buy more salads and more cheese (they have 1½ lbs a week). On Wednesday during Lent they didn't eat meat and on Fridays they always had fish - 'You have to set an example to the children'. In the school holidays the children went off to the paycentre and she packed them up for a lunch each - 'so they're not on at my earhole for money all day'.

Clothes

She was an agent for a mail order clothing club and earned £3/month this way. She 'let it keep' and collected it about every 6 months. At the moment she was trying to put money by for David's uniform, sports equipment etc. for Wolverstone Hall. She tried to buy clothes the children needed in advance. When asked about father's clothes she said 'I don't buy anything for Dad on principle - you can quote that'. She explained that he won't tell her what he earns so she didn't really know, but a little while ago she found an old wage envelope in his dressing gown pocket. "It was silly of him to have left it there, so I looked - it said £31. I didn't say anything but I was very angry." Apparently he gives her £15 housekeeping and that has to cover everything for herself and the children.

Furniture etc.

They had bought quite a few things on H.P. but were only paying for the washing machine at the moment. She'd like to have some carpets on the floor to deaden the noise because the neighbours underneath were always complaining. She quite understood - she wouldn't like 6 young children on top of her - "but you can't keep children quiet all the time".

Outside Activities

Mrs. Waight went to the mother's club at the ~~clinic~~ church once a fortnight apart from that she didn't go out. Asked whether her husband ever took her out - 'Are you joking - if Mum pays he might'. He works till 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. every night 'so he says' 'He's a picture addict'. She last had a holiday in 1946. Asked if she could managed to stay in bed if she felt ill she said no she 'just struggled up'. Michael was very difficult and to calm her nerves a bit the psychiatrist had given her some tablets too. When the last baby was born Dad had had 5 weeks off and he managed O.K. (He didn't get paid during this time). She took the baby to the clinic once a fortnight - 'theres a nice doctor there'.

Help from neighbours etc.

This question revealed that two years ago her husband had been to prison for 3 months for indecently assaulting a little girl at the pictures. Apparently this had happened before but she'd known nothing about it. Unfortunately one of her neighbours sons had been in court on the same day and ever since then they'd have nothing to do with the Waights. Only 'the lady upstairs' who had a car and helped Mrs. W. with the shopping is friendly. The Church helps quite a bit - the Sisters give them clothes sometimes. She was still in touch with the Probation Officer in Somerset and whenever she had a problem she would write to her for advice. She and her mother (in Liverpool) "agreed to disagree" and so was no support from her,

Attitudes.

Mrs. Waight worked 18 hours a week as an office cleaner for which she got £5. She hopes "my girls won't have to go office cleaning". "The money I earn is Kate's" she said, but in fact it got spent on the children. Pointing to the laddered pair of stockings she was wearing she explained she felt guilty if she bought a pair of nylons because the same money would have bought a pair of socks for one of the children. She collected family allowances weekly 'I'm sorry to say' 'cos she'd like to be able to save them. Asked whether family allowances were big enough she said 'Yes - I'm grateful for small mercies'. If she were a lady M.P.' she wouldn't make family allowances bigger but she would "introduce a standard rate of housekeeping based on a husband's money and the number of children". She obviously resented her husband keeping nearly as much money himself as he gave her for the seven of them. Still she shouldn't complain too much he didn't drink "and doesn't wallop me now - he used to". The only money she spends for her own pleasure went to a book club and a record club - she didn't smoke.

She couldn't say whether she hoped her children had aslarge a family - that was up to them. She did hope they'd stay together, as one of the main advantages of belonging to a large family was "there's always someone to help in times of trouble". She obviously missed the support brothers and sisters might have given her during the considerable trouble she'd had one way and another, tho' she seemed a very self-sufficient woman. The disadvantages of a large family were that one was 'considerably poorer' and it was difficult to cope with them all. 'It's Mum this and Mum that all day long. I feel choked by demands, sometimes I could throttle them-but that feeling only lasts a second, mind". She'd probably have as many children if she were starting married life again but would try and space them better. Her husband wouldn't use contraceptives and if she used them, she'd have to buy all the necessary equipment etc. She didn't think much of the rhythm method 'you can't put a timetable on one's urges, that is if you've any left after so many children'.

After the last baby she had been sterilised, her husband had agreed at the time but was regretting it now. She felt it ought to be the wife's decision solely "after all she has to bear and look after the children". Her husband "is one of those men who think a woman should only be interested in her home and her children" so "to keep her tied down" had made sure she had children. She felt sure he was regretting his decision to let her be sterilised 'cos he was afraid as the baby got older she might find time to do other things. This was silly she said as she had her hands as full

as they could be now and things wouldn't be easier for a long time. She was glad she couldn't have another baby as she 'had had enough. "I don't want to get like a cabbage'.

Mrs Waight seemed quite an intelligent woman and in many ways very competent. However, she obviously lacked the emotional security a happy home would have given her (her father died during the war, she obviously didn't get on well with her mother or half-brother). No doubt her experiences during her first marriage hadn't helped her - or the children of that marriage.

Mr Wilkinson

The older children were playing football outside - they live at the end of a lane so there was little danger of traffic. Mr. Wilkinson was expecting me as I'd written to say I was coming. He was an average sized man - clean shaven and hair neatly combed back. He was wearing two old jumpers and an old pair of trousers.

He earned £16 gross, £15 net a week. For this he worked 45 hours. A year ago he was only getting £14/13 net.

'Family allowances are a big help - I'd feel the pinch if they were abolished. I don't know whether they should be a lot more or not - I think if the Government had more money to give around I wouldn't say it should be given to family allowances'. As for including the first child 'I don't see why the first child shouln't be included - I don't know the economic reasons for not including them. Of course, family allowances were stepped up after the war because they wanted people to have bigger families - we kept reading in the paper about how in a few years time there'd be a lot more old people. I think family allowances are an investment for the country - think of the taxes and so my children will be paying when they grew up'. I asked whether he got teased at work about his 6 children 'Oh yes - but it's like water off a duck's back. It's one of our fiercest arguments". He told me about his barber who used to go on at great length about how dreadful it was that people should have a large family. 'He forgets to' that when he just cut my hair he'd only got 3/6d now I take the two boys and he gets 10/-. So It's good for business that's what I mean about it being a good investment for the country'.

He'd been left a small inheritance of £300 very recently. He hadn't actually received it yet but he was going to put most of it into the new P.O. savings at 5%. They would spend £50 - £60 on holiday this year but the rest would be used up gradually helping the boys stay on at school. He won £10 on the horses last week and that money had paid off the rest of the money owing on Christopher's Spanish holiday. He didn't think Christopher was going to benefit much from this holiday 'He'll be glad to be home so I suppose he'll appreciate us more - but I don't think he'll get much out of the holiday itself'. Mrs. W. had won 25/- on the Lincoln. Altogether they spent 10/- on the 'Church football'. He was supporting the Church because 5/- of that 10/- went straight into the Church's building fund. He'd won £21 a couple of summers ago 'so you don't lose anything by giving'. He thought all in all he probably won more than he spent in a season - beside he liked the excitement of it.

He hoped his children had more than 1 or 2 children, 'The more the merrier, depending on their financial status'. He thought the advantages of a large family were 'You've got less time to worry about your own troubles. They're a lot of hard work when they're young

Mr. Hillinson

The older children were playing football outside - they lived in and it's like so there was little danger of traffic. He, Hillinson, expecting me as I'd a letter to say I was coming. He was an overweight elderly man - a fine clever-looking Mick nearly cropped hair. He was wearing the old jumper and an old pair of trousers.

Remuneration very good, £15 not a week. Currently he worked 45 hours. A year ago he was only getting £14/15 wet.

'Family allowances are a big help - I'd feel the pinch if they were abolished. I don't know whether they should be a lot more or not - I think if the Government had more money to give around I wouldn't say it should be given to family allowances'. As for including the first child 'I don't see why the first child should be left out - I don't know the reasons for not including them. Of course, family allowances were logged up after the war because they wanted people to have higher families - we kept reading in the paper about how low the birth rate was. I don't know. I think family allowances are an investment for the country - think of the taxes and so my children will be paying when they grow up'. I asked whether he got tired of work right in a uniform 'Oh yes - but it's like wearing a doctor's frock. It's one of the inconvenient uniforms'. He told me about his brother who used to go on at great length about how degrading it was that people should live in a large family. 'He thought that when he just had his half only at £4/6a week he was too poor and he was 10/-. He's good for business that's what I mean about it being a good investment for the country'.

He's been left a small inheritance of £300 very recently. He hadn't actually received it yet but he was going to put most of it into the new S.C. savings at 3%. They would spend £20 - £30 on holiday this year but one week would be used up visiting his boy who is at school. He was £10 at the Bonfire last week and that they had paid off the rest of the money owing on Christmas. Spent holiday. He didn't think Christmas was going to benefit much from this holiday 'We'll be good to be here so I suppose he'll appreciate us more - but I don't think we'll get much out of the holiday itself'. Mon. 'had cost £2/- on the lottery. Altogether they spent £6/- on the Bonfire football'. He was supporting the Church because £2/- of that £6/- went straight into the Church's building fund. He won £21 a couple of months ago 'so you can't blame anything by gambling'. He thought all in all it probably was more than he spent in a season - besides he liked the entertainment of it.

He knew his children had more than 1 or 2 children. 'The more the merrier, because financially financial reason'. He thought the advantages of a large family were 'You've got less time to worry about your own troubles. They've lot of hard work when they're young

but they'll be a lot more help when they're older. They pull each other to pieces and squabble a lot when they're together but that's not a bad thing.

As for the disadvantages: 'When they're young I'm very reluctant to get out of bed at 2 in the morning to go up to them - that's the first thing. You can't go out as much as you'd like to tho' we do go out sometimes. Last week after the meeting up at the school we went and had supper in a restaurant'. Disadvantages to the children were that 'You haven't always got the time and energy to devote to them as much as you'd like to. Besides you don't always feel inclined to give it'. However he'd have the same number of children again in fact 'I would have like 7, but my wife's got other ideas. After all the wife's the one who's got to have them'.

He had quite a lot to say about birth control. 'The Church has begun to realise it wants to be brought up to date on this question. If the Church said it was alright and it was proved the Pill had no side effects I'd use it. I leave it to the Church because I haven't got an infinite amount of time to study and read about the question - that's their job. If someone brings a pair of shoes in to be mended I like to be left to get on with it not told 'I want this done this way and that another' - it's my job to know'. He went on to say that they did use a form of birth control 'the safe period' where one uses 'free will' not any mechanical means.

He thought his financial position was about the same as last year 'It's no different because altho' I've had a rise the cost of living has gone up'. His wife joined us at this point and she thought that they kept their heads above water and got by. There were a lot of things they couldn't do but they appreciated the little outings they did have. For example a couple of Sundays ago they all went for a picnic in the fields along by the canal 'It's not much really, just packing up a bit of tea but the children were very thrilled. We'll go again when we have another nice Sunday'. He asked me whether his wife had told me she never went out - 'she does you know'. Mrs. W. laughed and said she had told me about her evenings out. Mr. W. explained that he got free cinema tickets sometimes because 'the guv'nor' advertised 2 of the cinemas in his shop and they sent him free tickets. Mr. W and another mate were the only two at work who were interested in the tickets so they often got them. 'Mind you, there's a lot of things that aren't worth seeing - next week there's a Norman Wisdom film so the boys will go to that'. He

He teased his wife about liking jumble sales - quite apart from the fact she picked up things for the children at them. She'd got a little dress to alter for Ann at the moment.

Mr. W. had a lot to say about the telly 'It's rather a curse really. But in the summer they'd rather play outside so they don't want to watch it so much. They have such awful adverts - on Sundays in the middle of a children's programme they advertise women's foundation garments - the children know the advert. off by heart - I think it's all wrong to have an advert like that on a children's programme'. Still they did have some good programmes - he'd watched a programme about Poverty in the U.S. anlittle while ago 'We live like princes compared with some of those families tho' a lot of people would think we have to go without a lot'. He thought that altho' they wouldn't have lots of things they made up for it in other ways and appreciate the things they did have much more. Mrs. W. would like new furniture and a better home tho' while the children were young and had 'jammy fingers' there'd be no point in having nice furniture. They both seemed quite contented and satisfied with life and appeared very fond of the children. Mr. W. had been brought up in a convent until he was 13 as his father died when he was only 4 years old and then he spent a year in Gloucestershire at another convent where he learnt to be a shoe mender 'That was the happiest year of my life'. Mrs. W. had been evacuated to Chalfont St. Giles in the war and liked the country, too. She'd like to be able to visit her sister in Australia but knew that wouldn't be possible for a time. Both of them had a lot of friends and relatives living near. While I was there 'Uncle Doug.' came to see them. His wife Kath, does Mrs. W's hair for her once a week and they'ree obviously great buddies. Kath has started working at a factory very near and has lunch with Mr. and Mrs. W. every day.

I was introduced to 'Uncle Doug' and they insisted I stayed a bit longer and had a chat. Mr. W. told me right at the end that his wife hadn't wanted to send the card back but He'd heard of the London School of Economics and never thought he'd have such close contact with it!