

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF CERTAIN ATTITUDES OF SELECTED SOCIAL WELFARE  
ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL RELATED TO THE CLOTHING NEEDS OF THE  
LOW-INCOME RECIPIENTS

By

DORA BELLE HOWELL

Bachelor of Science

Central State College

Edmond, Oklahoma

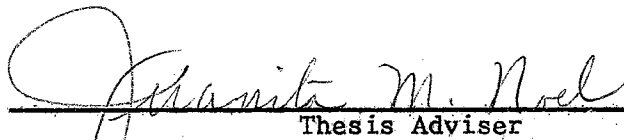
1957

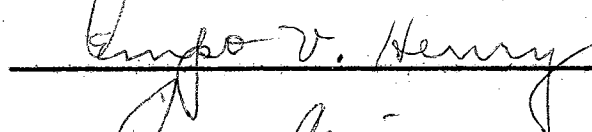
Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of  
the Oklahoma State University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of  
MASTER OF SCIENCE  
August, 1964

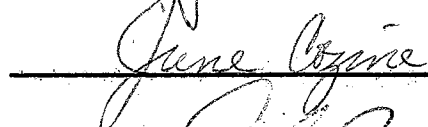
JAN 5 1965

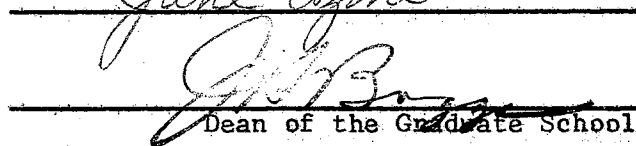
AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF CERTAIN ATTITUDES OF SELECTED SOCIAL WELFARE  
ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL RELATED TO THE CLOTHING NEEDS OF THE  
LOW-INCOME RECIPIENTS

Thesis Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thesis Adviser

  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean of the Graduate School

569614

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Dr. Juanita M. Noel, Head, Department of Clothing, Textiles, and Merchandising of Oklahoma State University for her guidance, assistance, and encouragement throughout the study.

The guidance and encouragement of Miss Empo Henry and Dr. June Cozina are greatly appreciated.

The writer wishes also to acknowledge the encouragement and support of her husband, Paul.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
Statement of the Problem . . . . .	1
Purposes of the Study. . . . .	2
Limitations of the Study . . . . .	2
Significance of the Study. . . . .	3
Assumptions of the Study . . . . .	4
Hypotheses of the Study. . . . .	5
Definition of Terms. . . . .	5
II. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE . . . . .	6
III. METHODOLOGY. . . . .	14
Selection of the Population. . . . .	15
Collection of Data . . . . .	17
Steps Utilized in Analyzing the Data . . . . .	18
IV. ANALYSIS OF DATA . . . . .	20
Hypothesis No. I . . . . .	21
Hypothesis No. II. . . . .	22
Hypothesis No. III . . . . .	25
Hypothesis No. IV. . . . .	27
V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS. . . . .	30
Recommendations. . . . .	32
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY. . . . .	34
APPENDIX A - Pilot Study No. 1 . . . . .	36
APPENDIX B - Pilot Study No. II. . . . .	51
APPENDIX C - Addresses of the "Other" Welfare Organizations. . .	57

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. Percentile Ranking of Methods Used to Identify Clothing Needs of Low-Income Recipients by Forty-Six Welfare Organizations. . . . .	22
II. Percentile Ranking of Information Received from Recipients and Considered Beneficial by Forty-Six Welfare Organizations. . . . .	24
III. Percentile Ranking of Forty-Six Administrators Concerning Sociological Types of Information. . . . .	27
IV. Percentile Ranking of Methods Used by Forty-Six Organizations to Meet Clothing Needs. . . . .	29
V. Percentile Ranking of Information Received from Recipients and Considered Beneficial by Five State Welfare Organizations. . . . .	53

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Map of Stillwater, Oklahoma . . . . .	38
2. Sketching of Block . . . . .	39
3. Sketching of Designated Area . . . . .	40
4. Original Questionnaire . . . . .	55
5. Revised Questionnaire. . . . .	56

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The mass production of clothing for all age groups and all types of garments has helped to make the problem of clothing a family seem relatively simple to most people. Some people in the low-income group, however, apparently find the responsibility of clothing themselves or their families a difficult task. Some children appeared to be inadequately clothed when in school. Others were seen in public places apparently clothed insufficiently. Some people have received help with clothing problems through the state welfare organizations or through the local social service organizations. When people seek assistance from the social service organizations, it would seem that part of the responsibility for clothing can and often does become the responsibility of one or more of the organizations. The attitudes of the personnel in the social welfare organizations could affect the assistance given to the people who ask for help.

#### Statement of the Problem

The problem investigated is concerned with the study of certain attitudes of a selected group of social welfare administrative personnel as related to the clothing needs of the low-income group.

### Purposes of the Study

Several purposes underlie the problem. The main purpose of the thesis was to identify the methods used by the agencies to meet the clothing needs of the recipients. In order to determine how the agencies coped with the clothing needs of the recipients, the investigator endeavored to (1) identify the method predominantly used by the selected social welfare organizations for identifying the clothing needs of the low-income recipients (question two on the questionnaire), (2) identify the information considered beneficial by the selected social welfare organizations that was received from the recipients and was used in meeting the clothing needs of the recipients (question three on the questionnaire), (3) identify the method predominantly used by the selected social welfare organizations to help meet the clothing needs of the recipients (question four on the questionnaire), and (4) identify information related to the recipients' clothing needs which were considered to be beneficial to the organizations (question five on the questionnaire).

### Limitations of the Study

The problem area was limited to certain attitudes related to the identification and to the alleviation of the clothing needs of the low-income recipients. The population of the study was limited to two groups: (1) the directors of the fifty state welfare departments in the United States and (2) some of the other social service organizations. The second group included religious and church-related social service organizations and independent social service organizations.



### Significance of the Study

The importance of clothing to the individual varies according to the individual's social class. Jacobi found that the importance of clothing within a given social class also varied according to the length of time the individual had belonged to the given social class.<sup>1</sup> The influence of clothing on the individual was observed by Dr. Joseph Manch, Buffalo, New York, Superintendent of Schools. The behavior of the students seemed to be influenced by the attire worn.<sup>2</sup> The influence of clothing on children was recognized by the principals of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, school system. "This human conservation is one of the greatest contributions that the P. T. A. could make to the youngsters' welfare in this school system" expressed the attitude of one school principal concerning the work of the Clothing Bank in that community. Students who appeared to be inadequately dressed showed marked improvement in school work and social life after receiving clothes that were attractive, clean, and comfortable.<sup>3</sup> The lack of adequate clothing prevented some students from attending school,<sup>4</sup> and others attended but were "emotionally as well as physically handicapped" by inadequate dress.<sup>5</sup> Baker's report on the Larned State Hospital approach to the wearing apparel of the patients

---

<sup>1</sup>John E. Jacobi and S. George Walters, "Social Status and Consumer Choice," Social Forces, Vol. 36, No. 3, (March, 1958), pp. 209-214.

<sup>2</sup>"Better Dress Codes ... 'A Perfect Fit' for U. S. High Schools?", Senior Scholastic, Vol. 82, No. 10, (April 3, 1963), pp. 14-15.

<sup>3</sup>Margaret Hickey, "Gifts of Clothing Freely Given Keep Children in School in Albuquerque, New Mexico," Ladies' Home Journal, Vol. 76, No. 10, (October, 1959), p. 37.

<sup>4</sup>Josephine Pollock, Report of Seminar: Cooperative Extension Service Work with Low-Income Families, U. S. Department of Agriculture, (June, 1963), p. 75.

<sup>5</sup>Hickey, op. cit., p. 39.

indicated that the wearing apparel made an important contribution to the "morale, the sense of self-worth and the patient's over-all outlook on life."<sup>6</sup>

The attitudes of the administrative personnel can affect the distribution of clothing to the people in the low-income group. Some principals in the Albuquerque school system were reluctant to cooperate with the Clothing Bank at first. Later the principals said that the program was effective.<sup>7</sup> Since the clothing budgets of federally supported social welfare departments were determined in part by the administrators of the state welfare departments,<sup>8</sup> the attitudes of the administrators would seem to be reflected in the clothing programs of the organizations. Some of the attitudes were considered in the proposed study.

#### Assumptions of the Study

The assumptions underlying the investigation were the basis for formulating the study. The assumptions pertinent to the study were as follows:

1. Tax money was allocated to help meet the clothing needs of several hundred low-income families and individuals.
2. Private money was contributed to help meet the clothing needs of some low-income families and individuals.
3. All welfare recipients were in the low-income group.

---

<sup>6</sup>Hazel Bennett Baker, "The Psychology of Clothing as a Treatment Aid," Mental Hygiene, Vol. 39, (1955), pp. 94-98.

<sup>7</sup>Glenna Lee Gallemore, "Council Clothing Bank Keeps Children in School," National Parent-Teacher, Vol. 52, No. 3, (November, 1957), pp. 31-32.

<sup>8</sup>John M. Lynch, Monthly Cost Standards for Basic Needs Used by States for Specified Types of Old Age Assistance Cases and Families Receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, (January, 1963), p. 1.

### Hypotheses of the Study

Several hypotheses were pertinent to the study, namely:

1. The majority of the selected social welfare organizations participating in a clothing program for the low-income recipients accepted a pre-determined clothing budget to identify the clothing needs of the recipients. (question two on the questionnaire).
2. Information considered beneficial by the majority of the participating administrators that was related to the clothing needs of the recipients did not go beyond the age and sex of the individuals. (question three on the questionnaire).
3. Information considered beneficial by the majority of the participating social welfare administrators concerning the clothing needs of the recipients were physiological. (question three and five on the questionnaire).
4. Money was given to the recipients by the majority of the participating organizations to help meet the clothing needs of the recipients. (question four on the questionnaire).

### Definition of Terms

Low-Income designates a family receiving less than \$3,000 annually<sup>9</sup> or an individual receiving less than \$1,000 annually.

Social Welfare Administrative Personnel are employees of the state welfare department and paid or volunteer employees of an organization listed under the Social Service Organizations of the classified section of the telephone directory.

"Other" or "Others" are the social welfare organizations that are not state welfare departments.

---

<sup>9</sup>Marjorie Hunter, "Johnson Seeks Aid for Nation's 'Forgotten Fifth'," New York Times, (January 21, 1964), p. 17.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The research completed in the field of clothing related to the social classes seemed to be limited in the past ten years. A search of the indexes of the Sociological Abstracts from 1953 to 1963 revealed four articles pertaining to any phase of clothing. Two of the articles were historical. A third article reported college men's social acceptability rating among college students according to their clothing. The fourth article discussed the social status of women and their choice of dresses. The latter also appeared in the indexes of the Psychological Abstracts. From 1953 to 1963 the indexes of the Psychological Abstracts listed a total of thirty-six articles. Most of the articles identified were related to outer space clothing and foreign and domestic industries. The indexes of the Economic Abstracts for the same period of time listed nine articles, but none were directed to clothing for the social classes.

Other sources of secondary data were perused. In the compilation of completed theses for home economics and related fields during the years 1953 to 1963, the titles of two theses relating to low-income clothing were found. The titles of the theses listed were (1) "A Study of Some of the Factors that Contributed to Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction in the Clothing of 92 Urban Families" and (2) "The Development of Guides for Helping Low-Income Families with their Clothing Problems."

The Agricultural Experiment Stations have published several bulletins on low-income clothing, but none dealt directly with problems related to the attitudes of administrative personnel. An extensive perusal of indexes of related literature in the Oklahoma State University library revealed a limited amount of secondary data on the physiological, sociological, psychological, and economic aspects of clothing either for the low-income class or for the other classes of the society within the United States.

Some of the clothing problems of the low-income recipients could probably be met with a set of objective standards. The objective standards would measure the satisfaction of clothing of an individual in a scientific manner. One of the problems of the administrative personnel was to determine the clothing needs of the recipients. The problem could be met more objectively with established standards of a physiological, sociological, psychological, and economic nature. Research was conducted during World War II to measure the physical satisfaction derived from clothing in a given climatic situation. The objective of the research was to correlate the clothing of the military personnel with the climatic conditions of the battle area.<sup>10</sup>

One of the purposes of the proposed study was to identify the method predominantly used by the selected social welfare administrators to help meet the clothing needs of the low-income recipients. If the methods used by the administrators could be identified, the formulation of objective standards of the physiological nature of clothing might be established. If the methods used were not adequate to establish objective

---

<sup>10</sup>Harwood S. Belding, "Clothing for Cold Weather," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. 43, (March, 1951), pp. 200-203.

standards of a physiological nature of clothing, further research probably would ensue. Tate and Glisson expressed some reservation and noted that it would be difficult to express the physical value of clothing in scientific terms which would be useful to the public. Tate and Glisson, however, did express the belief that usable scientific standards would be established some day.<sup>11</sup>

Although the primary purpose of clothing is physiological, the sociological influence of clothing on the individual has been investigated by several sociologists. The relationship between social behavior and the clothing of the individual has been established at several levels. The behavior of high school pupils are attributed to the influence of clothing by some school administrators. Teenagers recognized the relationship between the clothing of an individual and the social acceptability of an individual. High school pupils often attributed embarrassment to clothes and gave unsatisfactory clothing as the reason for not participating in social activities.<sup>12</sup> The social influence of clothing at the college level was observed in a study at Michigan State College in 1949. The study was designed to investigate the relationship between clothing and social participation of the wives of college students. The data revealed that the wives did not wear "best" clothes to the functions enjoyed the most.<sup>13</sup> Several studies conducted at the college level were related to

---

<sup>11</sup>Mildred T. Tate and Oris Glisson, Family Clothing, (New York, 1961), pp. 21-22.

<sup>12</sup>Mary S. Ryan, Psychological Effects of Clothing, Part II, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 898, (July, 1953), p. 23.

<sup>13</sup>Mary Lou Rosencranz, "Sociological Aspects of Clothing Studies," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. 42, (March, 1950), p. 206.

clothing and social acceptability. One such college level study indicated that the clothing of young college men was less influential in measuring social acceptability among the students that were acquainted than among the students that were not acquainted.<sup>14</sup> Nystrom stated in 1928 that the relationship between clothing and social acceptability was recognized in the work of the social workers. Nystrom stated that "the relationship that dress bears to sprucing up temporary failures and to helping them [the social welfare recipients] to get jobs and put them [the social welfare recipients] on their feet again is recognized by all social workers."<sup>15</sup> Jacobi found in his research that the woman who was well established in a social class or income class did not feel the need for clothes as the woman who was in transit.<sup>16</sup> Research completed at the various social and age levels seemed to indicate that the individual's satisfaction from clothing depended to a great extent on the social acceptability of the individual through clothing.

One of the purposes of the proposed study was to identify the attitudes of the administrators of the selected social welfare organizations related to the sociological importance of clothing to the low-income recipients. The efforts of the organizations to help the recipients satisfy the clothing needs beyond the physiological aspects could be influenced by the administrator's attitudes. The principal purpose of the study was to determine the identity of the attitudes of the administrators related to clothing needs. No effort was made in the proposed study

---

<sup>14</sup>Thomas F. Hault, "Experimental Measurement of Clothing as a Factor in Some Social Ratings of Selected American Men", American Sociological Review, Vol. 19, No. 3, (June, 1954), pp. 324-328.

<sup>15</sup>Paul H. Nystrom, Economics of Fashion, (New York, 1928), p. 79.

<sup>16</sup>Jacobi and Walters, op. cit., p. 214.

to evaluate the attitudes.

[The psychological importance of clothing held by the individual seemed to be essential to the formation of the physiological and sociological importance of clothing. The psychological aspects of clothing were recognized by Nystrom. He wrote that the changing of an individual's apparel could indicate the desire for a change in environment or personality or both. The desire to change things were probably felt more strongly by people who were defeated or who had experienced disappointment. Since it was difficult to change one's environment or personality, the changing of one's clothing was a vicarious act.<sup>17</sup> Assuming that the recipients of the low-income group experienced failures or disappointments, the desire to possess sufficient clothing for several changes would seem to be important to the individual.]

The effects of clothing were observed in patients at the Larned State Hospital. The patients had been clothed as nearly alike as possible to reduce the operational expenses of the hospital. The administrative personnel found that with individual selection of garments and differences in dress the hospital not only spent less money on clothes but also contributed to better mental health of the patients.<sup>18</sup>

Rosencranz found in research concerning older women that clothing contributed to the mental health of the individual. In a group of older women, garments were purchased as a means to "cheer-up." This means of "cheering-up" appeared stronger in the group having a yearly income over

---

<sup>17</sup>Nystrom, op. cit., pp. 68-69.

<sup>18</sup>Baker, op. cit., pp. 94-98.



\$2,000.<sup>19</sup> The proposed study did not endeavor to ascertain the psychological effects of clothing of the low-income group, but the writer considered the area important to the study.

The economic factors of clothing appeared to be related to the physiological, sociological, and psychological factors of clothing. One economic factor discussed by Barber was the equation of evaluating an individual at first glance. The equation of evaluation was: "consumption equals wealth or income, wealth or income equals occupational position, occupational position equals social class position and therefore consumption equals social position."<sup>20</sup> Of course there are other factors involved. In a study of ninety-two urban low-income families the amount of clothing owned by the family seemed to be related to age, education, the number of children in the family, social activities, and whether or not the wife worked outside the home and the kind of work in which she was engaged.<sup>21</sup> The economic factor appeared to affect the amount of education of some individuals. In certain areas of the United States young girls dropped out of school because of unsuitable attire.<sup>22</sup> In another part of the country the student's absentee record in school was related to the clothing problems of the child. When suitable clothing was provided, the quality of the work improved, and the number of days absent

---

<sup>19</sup>Maloa Ebeling and Mary Low Rosencranz, "Social and Personal Aspects of Clothing for Older Women," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. 53, (June, 1961), pp. 464-465.

<sup>20</sup>Bernard Barber, "'Fashion' in Women's Clothes and the American Social System," Social Forces, Vol. 31, (December, 1952), pp. 124-131.

<sup>21</sup>Katherine B. Hall, "A Study of Some of the Factors that Contribute to Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction in the Clothing of 92 Urban Families," Unpublished Doctor's Thesis, Pennsylvania State University, 1955.

<sup>22</sup>Pollock, op. cit., p. 75.

from school decreased.<sup>23</sup> Sherif found that the economic value of clothes varied not only according to the ethnic group of the youngster but also according to the sex of the individual.<sup>24</sup> One of the purposes of the proposed study was to identify the economic methods employed by the administrators to help the recipients meet the clothing needs.

The responsibility of helping some of the low-income people economically meet the clothing needs was delegated to the administrators of the state welfare social service organizations and to the welfare workers. According to the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, each state is responsible for its own assistance standards. The assistance standards are the "basic needs of living requirements - shelter, utilities, food, and clothing."<sup>25</sup> The interpretation of the Social Security Laws placed the responsibility of determining the standards for basic needs on the director of the state welfare programs. The directors of public welfare are responsible to the state public welfare commissions for the following duties:

"All executive and administrative duties and responsibilities of the Department shall be discharged by the director, subject to the approval of the commission."<sup>26</sup>

The attitudes of the directors of state welfare departments and the administrative personnel of the "other" social service organizations seemed to

---

<sup>23</sup>Gallemore, op. cit., pp. 31-32.

<sup>24</sup>Carolyn W. Sherif, "Established Reference Scales and Series Effects in Social Judgment," Unpublished Doctoral Thesis, University of Texas, (Austin, 1961), p. 86-87.

<sup>25</sup>Oklahoma: Compilation of Social Security Laws, (Oklahoma City, 1963), p. 2.

<sup>26</sup>Monthly Cost Standards of Basic Needs Used by States, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, (Washington, D.C., 1964), p. 1.

be important because these people shaped the clothing program for many low-income recipients. Some of these attitudes are analyzed in subsequent chapters.

## CHAPTER III

### METHODOLOGY

Several conversations of a somewhat casual nature with a welfare recipient and two state welfare workers initiated the design of a study in low-income clothing. An extensive perusal of related literature in the Oklahoma State University library seemed to reveal a limited amount of research on low-income clothing information. To exhaust other sources of secondary data, interviews were conducted with a sociologist, a housing researcher, a social psychologist, a home management specialist, and an extension service coordinator. All of these resource personnel were members of the Oklahoma State University graduate faculty. Letters of inquiry concerning low-income research were sent to Dr. Carolyn W. Sherif, a social psychologist at the University of Oklahoma, to Miss Dorothy Threlkeld, extension specialist in clothing at the University of Kentucky, and to Dr. Mary Lou Rosencranz, Associate Professor of Home Economics at the University of Missouri. These three people have completed and published research related to clothing of the low-income recipients. A questionnaire was developed from the identified sources for the low-income recipients. A procedure for presenting the questionnaire was developed and a pilot study was conducted in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The pilot study is presented in Appendix A.

After the completion of the pilot study in Stillwater, Oklahoma, an

appointment was made with the director of the Oklahoma State Welfare Department at the Capitol in Oklahoma City. The appointment was set up for the expressed purpose to solicit permission to use the state welfare roll of one Oklahoma county as a sample of the low-income population. The request was denied.

The interest of the researcher in information concerning low-income clothing continued. Therefore the decision was made to approach the subject of low-income clothing from the administrative level. A questionnaire was framed for the administrative personnel of the social welfare organizations that participated in a clothing program for the low-income recipients. First, a question was structured in such a manner as to determine whether the organization was participating in a low-income clothing program. The procedure followed by some county welfare organizations had been observed. This procedure appeared to be (1) securing information from the recipients or about the recipients, (2) identifying the recipients' clothing needs, and (3) helping the recipients meet the clothing needs. Assuming that this procedure was followed by most social welfare organizations, the researcher formulated questions that would indicate the procedure used by the selected social welfare organizations. The questionnaire was tested in a pilot study. The second original questionnaire, the results of the second pilot study, and the revised questionnaire are presented in Appendix B.

#### Selection of the Population

The population to receive the revised questionnaire was selected from the social welfare organizations in the United States. The population

included all of the state-supported social welfare organizations that were not used in the pilot study and other social welfare organizations. The second group included independent organizations, religious-related social service organizations, and church-affiliated social service organizations. The second group was randomly selected as follows:

1. The largest city in each state was listed.<sup>27</sup>
2. The name of each suburb of New York City was placed on a slip of paper. The slips of paper were folded in half, placed in a container and shaken well, and one slip was drawn. The name of the suburb on the slip was used to represent New York City.
3. The classified section of the telephone directory of forty-two selected cities were located in the Oklahoma State University library.
4. The classified sections of the telephone directories listing the social service organizations of the other eight cities were ordered through inter-library loan service.
5. The page or pages in the classified section of the telephone directory listing the "Social Service Organizations," "Social Service and Welfare Organizations," "Social Service Agencies," "Social Services," or "Organizations - Welfare" were xeroxed.
6. Six of the eight telephone directories ordered through inter-library loan service were received.
7. The name and address of each organization from one city telephone directory were separated from the other with a pair of scissors. Each slip was folded once, placed in a container, and shaken well. One slip was drawn from the container. The name of the organization, the director of the organization, if listed, and the address of the organization were recorded in Appendix C. This procedure was followed for each selected city.

---

<sup>27</sup>Collier's Encyclopedia, Vol. 1 through 20, (New York, 1963)

### Collection of Data

A procedure for mailing the revised questionnaire to the selected social welfare organizations was organized. The initial step was to address an envelope for each of the forty directors of the state welfare departments who were not selected for the pilot study, to the one director selected for the pilot study who did not receive a questionnaire, to the director in the pilot study whose office was not located in the capitol of that state, and to the randomly selected social welfare organizations. Secondly, an envelope was self-addressed for each of the selected organizations. To establish a coding system for the returned envelopes, a commemorative stamp was placed on the self-addressed envelopes sent to the randomly selected social welfare organizations, and a standard five-cent stamp was placed on the self-addressed envelopes sent to the state welfare organizations. Next, a cover letter was written to accompany the revised questionnaire and the self-addressed stamped envelope. The three items were mailed to the selected social welfare organizations.

Three weeks after the questionnaires were mailed, a reminder was mailed to all the organizations that had not replied. The reminder was in the form of a postal card with the message that, if the questionnaire had not been returned, the administrator should return it on or before May 21, 1964.

Each envelope was opened when it was received and sorted according to the stamp on the envelope. The contents were not removed until the tabulations were started. A check sheet was kept that noted the state, the state number, the two types of organizations used in the study, and

the date the questionnaire was received.

#### Steps Utilized in Analyzing the Data

Following the closing date for the return of the questionnaires, the contents were removed from the envelopes. Each questionnaire was checked to see whether the code on the questionnaire was in agreement with the stamp code. The code on the questionnaires was as follows: The open parenthesis in the first question was omitted on the questionnaires sent to the state welfare organizations, and the open parenthesis was inked in on the questionnaires sent to the "other" social welfare organizations. If the two codes disagreed, the code on the questionnaire was used to establish the identity of the type of organization that returned the questionnaire. The number of the state as it appeared alphabetically in a list of states was placed in the upper right-hand corner. The code letter S for state welfare organizations was placed to the right of the number of the state. The code O for "other" welfare organizations was placed to the right of the number in the upper right-hand corner of the questionnaires for the "other" welfare organizations. The state number and the code letter were used to identify the questionnaire when the questionnaires were used together.

The answer to each section of the questionnaire was counted and recorded to expedite the analysis of the data. The tabulation was done to show the number and percentage according to (1) the state welfare organizations, (2) the "other" organizations, and (3) the state and "other" organizations combined.

The numbers tabulated were used to establish the percentage position



of each section of the questionnaire. The percentage position was established for the state social welfare organizations, for the "other" social welfare organizations, and for the state and "other" social welfare organizations combined. The analyses of the data will be presented in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS OF DATA

Question one, "Does your organization help meet the clothing needs of the welfare groups or the low-income groups," was constructed to determine the identity of the organizations that participated in a clothing program for the low-income recipients. The identification of the organizations that were participating in a clothing program for the low-income recipients was essential to the analysis of the data.

Ninety questionnaires were mailed to the selected social welfare organizations. Sixty-eight (75.55%) were returned. Thirty-four of the returned questionnaires were from the state welfare organizations, and thirty-four were from the "other" social welfare organizations. Forty-six of the sixty-eight (67.65%) questionnaires returned indicated that the organization did help meet the clothing needs of the welfare or low-income groups. Twenty organizations (29.56%) indicated that the organization did not participate in a clothing program. Of the forty-six organizations participating in a clothing program for the low-income group, thirty-one (69.57%) were state welfare organizations, and fourteen (39.43%) were "other" organizations.

It should be remembered that there was only one state welfare organization in each state and that one "other" organization was selected to represent all the independent social welfare organizations

within each state.

#### Hypothesis No. I

The first hypothesis of the study was that the majority of the selected social welfare organizations participating in a clothing program for the low-income recipients accepted a pre-determined clothing budget to identify the clothing needs of the recipients. Question number two of the study was designed to identify the techniques employed by the organizations to determine the clothing needs of the recipients. The techniques listed on the questionnaire were personal interview, hearsay, and pre-determined budget. Space was provided for the administrators to write in other methods employed by the organizations. The study was planned to determine the techniques employed by the majority of the participating organizations. The study did not endeavor to evaluate the effectiveness of the methods used.

In Table I the data show that more than one-third (39.13%) of the forty-six questionnaires returned indicated that the personal interview situation was used to identify the clothing needs of the recipients. Five (10.86%) indicated that the personal interview was used exclusively. The five organizations were from the "other" social welfare organizations. The personal interview was used conjunctionally with hearsay, a pre-determined budget, or write-in methods as "requested from a minister" and "referral from other agencies." Two "other" organizations used write-in methods exclusively. The methods were "children received here at the home" and "on going relationship."

Thirty-three of the forty-six organizations (71.74%) indicated that

a pre-determined budget was used by the organizations to identify the clothing needs of the individual or family. Twenty-four organizations used a pre-determined budget exclusively, and nine organizations used a pre-determined budget with other methods. Twenty-four state organizations and two "other" organizations employed a pre-determined budget that was based on age and/or sex. Five state organizations indicated that the budget for the organization was based on "per individual regardless of age and/or sex." Two state organizations and one "other" organization indicated that pre-determined budgets were used but did not indicate the bases for determining the budget.

TABLE I

PERCENTILE RANKING OF METHODS USED TO IDENTIFY CLOTHING NEEDS OF  
LOW-INCOME RECIPIENTS BY FORTY-SIX WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS

Methods	N of Organizations	Percentage
Personal interview with other methods	18	39%
Personal interview exclusively	5	11%
Pre-determined budget with other methods	33	72%
Pre-determined budget exclusively	42	52%
Total	98*	174%*

\* more than one method indicated by some organizations

Hypothesis No. II

The second hypothesis of the study was that the information considered beneficial by the majority of the participating administrators that

was related to clothing needs of the recipients did not go beyond the age and sex of the individuals.

Question three of the questionnaire was designed to identify the types of information received from the recipients which the administrators considered beneficial in meeting the clothing needs. The types listed were physiological and sociological. The types of physiological information listed were (a) age, (c) number of people in the family, (f) occupation or previous occupation of the head of the family, (i) the sex of the individual or individuals, and (j) physical handicaps. The types of sociological information listed were (b) what social acceptability means to the recipients and/or his family, (d) how important the fit of the garment is to the recipients, (e) what the recipient means when he says a "garment fits," (g) how important clothing is to the individual or individuals, and (h) the recipient's shopping habits for clothing.

The study was limited to the identification of the types of information received by and considered beneficial to the organization. The study was not designed to appraise the information in any way.

The data in Table II were tabulated on the types of information considered beneficial by the administrators. The data showed that thirty-three of the forty-six organizations (71.74%) participating in a clothing program for the low-income recipients considered the age of the individual and that twenty-three (50%) considered the sex of the individual beneficial. Twenty-two of the forty-six administrators (47.83%) indicated that age and sex exclusively or with other types of information were beneficial. Three of the twenty-two administrators indicated that age and sex exclusively were helpful. Fourteen of the twenty-two administrators considered age and sex with other physiological information. Five of the

twenty-two considered age and sex with other physiological and sociological information. Five of the forty-six administrators (11.87%) indicated that age was the only information beneficial to the organization. Six of the forty-six administrators (13.04%) indicated that age and other physiological information were beneficial. Seventeen (36.97%) marked sex with other physiological information. Six administrators (13.04%) considered sex with some sociological information beneficial and thirty-two organizations (69.57%) indicated only physiological information beneficial in

TABLE II

PERCENTILE RANKING OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM RECIPIENTS AND  
CONSIDERED BENEFICIAL BY FORTY-SIX WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS

Information	N of Organizations	Percentage
Age with other information	33	72%
Sex with other information	23	50%
Age and sex exclusively	22	48%
Age exclusively	5	12%
Age with other physiological information	6	13%
Sex with other physiological information	17	40%
Sex with sociological information	6	13%
Physiological information exclusively	32	70%
Size of the family exclusively	3	7%
Sociological information exclusively	2	4%
Total	149*	329%*

\* more than one type of information indicated by some organizations

meeting the clothing needs. Three of the forty-six administrators (6.52%) considered the size of the family exclusively, and three other organizations (6.52%) considered a collection of physiological and sociological information useful clothing information. The collection did not include the age or sex of the individual. Two administrators (4.35%) marked sociological information exclusively. One of the forty-six (2.17%) considered the occupation of the head of the family the only beneficial information concerning clothing. Three of the forty-six (6.52%) did not respond to question three.

Write-in information received from the recipients that five state welfare administrators found useful in meeting the clothing needs were (1) adequacy of clothing at the time of application, (2) years of anticipated wear - replacement value, (3) activity, employment, unusual needs, (4) special circumstances, and (5) employment needs and school needs.

#### Hypothesis No. III

The third hypothesis of the study to be tested was information considered beneficial by the majority of the participating social welfare administrators concerning clothing needs of the recipients were physiological.

Question number three and number five were designed to test the hypothesis. Question three dealt with information received directly from the recipients. Question number five dealt with information that was presumably not available to the administrator. One of the purposes of the study was to identify information considered beneficial to the administrators in meeting the clothing needs of the recipients. Again,

the study was designed to identify the information, not to evaluate the information.

The sociological types of information that were selected for the list in question five were:

- A. Ideas of the recipient's meaning of "Social Acceptability."
- B. Clothing shopping habits of the recipients.
- C. Importance of clothing to the individual.
- D. The recipient's meaning of the fit of a garment.
- E. The importance of the fit of the garment to the recipient.

A space was provided for the administrator to write in additional information thought to be beneficial to the organization in meeting the recipients' clothing needs.

The data shown in Table III revealed that five of the forty-six administrators (10.87%) thought that all the information listed would be beneficial to the organization. One of the five administrators stated that "a low cost clothing wardrobe developed on an up to date [sic] objective basis" would be useful. Five of the forty-six administrators (10.78%) indicated that the majority of the sociological information would be beneficial to the organization. The five identified considered the information as follows:

- 1. Four of the five as A is stated.
- 2. Three of the five as C is stated.
- 3. Two of the five as D is stated.
- 4. Two of the five as E is stated.

The data further revealed that eleven of the forty-six participating administrators (23.91%) indicated that none of the sociological information listed would be beneficial to the organizations. Eleven others (23.91%) thought that the majority of the listed information would not benefit the organizations. The eleven administrators considered



the information as follows:

1. Nine of the eleven as A is stated.
2. Two of the eleven as B is stated.
3. Eight of the eleven as C is stated.
4. Ten of the eleven as D and E are stated.

Fourteen of the forty-six administrators (30.43%) did not mark any section of question number five. One of the fourteen administrators indicated that "current information or lists of clothing items needed by the individuals according to age, sex, and activity" would be useful to the organization.

TABLE III

PERCENTILE RANKING OF FORTY-SIX ADMINISTRATORS CONCERNING  
SOCIOLOGICAL TYPES OF INFORMATION

Answers Concerning Information	N of Organizations	Percentage
Answered all statements 'YES'	5	11%
Answered majority of the statements 'YES'	5	11%
Answered all statements 'NO'	11	24%
Answered majority of the statements 'NO'	11	24%
Answered none of the statements	14	30%
Total	46	100%

Hypothesis No. IV

The fourth hypothesis of the study was stated as follows: Money was given to the recipients by the majority of the participating organizations to help meet the clothing needs of the recipients. Question four of the questionnaire was designed to test the fourth hypothesis.

The purpose of the question was to identify the methods used by the organizations in meeting the recipients' clothing needs. The study did not attempt to evaluate the methods used by the organizations. The methods listed on the questionnaire were as follows: (1) money was given to the recipients; (2) the recipients charged the clothing to the organization at a specified store or establishment; and (3) the recipients received clothing directly from the organization. If the third method was employed, the administrator was asked to identify the source of the clothing. Space was provided on the questionnaire for the administrator to state additional methods used.

The data as shown in Table IV indicated that twenty-eight of the forty-six participating organizations (60.80%) used exclusively the method of giving money directly to the recipients. Twenty-six of the twenty-eight organizations were state welfare organizations. Eight of the forty-six organizations (17.39%) used the method of giving money with other methods. Of the eight identified, five administrators permitted the recipients to charge clothing to the organization's account at a specified store or establishment. Three of the eight organizations gave clothing directly to the recipients. The clothing was usually donated to the organization. Six of the eight organizations were state welfare organizations. Two of the forty-six organizations (4.35%) used the charge account method and the direct clothing method conjunctionally. Eight of the forty-six organizations (17.39%) gave clothing directly to the individual. The ten organizations that gave clothing directly to the individual indicated that the clothing was donated. One of the organizations sometimes purchased the clothing. Eight of the

ten organizations identified gave clothing exclusively. The ten organizations were "other" social welfare organizations.

TABLE IV

PERCENTILE RANKING OF METHODS USED BY FORTY-SIX ORGANIZATIONS  
TO MEET CLOTHING NEEDS

Method	N of Organizations	Percentage
Money given exclusively	28	61%
Money given with other methods	8	17%
Clothing given exclusively	8	17%
Clothing given with other methods	2	4%
Total	46	100%

The following chapter includes the summary of the analysis of the data, the conclusions, and the recommendations for further study.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A questionnaire was formulated after an extensive perusal of secondary data and consultations with several authorities in home economics and related fields. The purpose of the questionnaire was to collect data to test the hypotheses of the study. The hypotheses of the study were:

1. The majority of the selected social welfare organizations participating in a clothing program for the low-income recipients accepted a pre-determined clothing budget to identify the clothing needs of the recipients.
2. Information considered beneficial by the majority of the participating administrators that was related to the clothing needs of the recipients did not go beyond the age and sex of the individuals.
3. Information considered beneficial by the majority of the participating social welfare administrators concerning the clothing needs of the recipients were physiological.
4. Money was given to the recipients by the majority of the participating organizations to help meet the clothing needs of the recipients.

The validity of each hypothesis was tested by the percentage position of the answers to the section of the questionnaire related to the hypothesis.

The data related to the hypothesis concerning the identification of the clothing needs disclosed that 71.74 percent of the organizations participating in a clothing program for the low-income recipients used a pre-determined budget exclusively or conjunctionally with other methods.

Thirty-one of the forty-six participating organizations employing the pre-determined budget were state welfare organizations. Two organizations were "other" social welfare organizations. Twenty-six of the thirty-three organizations based the pre-determined budget on age and/or sex of the individuals. The hypothesis was sustained.

The data related to the hypothesis concerning the types of information received from the clients indicated that age and/or sex were not considered exclusively as beneficial clothing information. Thirty-two of the forty-six administrators (69.70%) considered the physiological types of information exclusively. Therefore the conclusion was drawn that the administrators considered the physiological information from the recipients more beneficial than the sociological information. The data indicated that only seventeen percent considered age and/or sex exclusively as beneficial clothing information. Thus the second hypothesis of the study was not sustained. The majority of the administrators did consider information beyond age and/or sex beneficial clothing information.

The data analyzed relating to the hypothesis concerning the types of information considered beneficial to the organization was from question three and question five of the questionnaire. The data from question three indicated that 69.57% of the forty-six administrators considered physiological information exclusively and that 8.69% of the forty-six considered sociological information exclusively. The data from question five revealed that 21.74 percent of the administrators thought that all or most of the sociological information listed would be useful to the organization. Of the forty-six administrators 47.82

percent thought that all or most of the information listed would not be useful in meeting the clothing needs of the recipients. Almost one-third (30.44%) of the organizations did not mark any section of question five. The conclusion was made that the data supported the third hypothesis of the study. The information from the recipients and information about the recipients considered beneficial by the majority of the administrators were physiological.

The data analyzed for the hypothesis concerning the methods used to help meet the client's clothing needs showed that the method used by the majority of the organizations was the first method listed on the questionnaire. The first method was that money was given to the individual or a responsible member of the family. Of the forty-six organizations 78.26 percent gave money exclusively or with other methods. Therefore the conclusion was made that the data supported the fourth hypothesis of the study.

In conclusion, it may be stated that the data sustained the first, third, and fourth hypotheses of the study. The data seemed to indicate that the attitudes of the administrators were related mainly to the physiological satisfaction of the clothing needs of the recipients. The restrictive structure of the second hypothesis did not seem to be supported by the data.

#### Recommendations

It is the recommendation of the writer that the findings presented in the preceding chapters be used to initiate other research in the field of low-income clothing. It is recommended that the proposed study

be reconstructed after a common agreement in the prevalent attitudes among administrators is established. It is further recommended that the definition of the attitudes be directed by a researcher with a strong collaboration in psychology.

The exploration of the problem raised several questions that seemed to indicate further study in the field of low-income clothing. Some of the areas of concern were:

1. The standards used to establish the pre-determined budgets used to identify the clothing needs by the welfare organizations.
2. The physiological and sociological effectiveness of the methods used by the organizations to help meet the recipients' clothing needs.
3. The present and future roles of the home economist in the field of low-income clothing.

The writer recommends that the above areas be explored as well as the proposed study in Appendix A. It is the recommendation of the writer that the population for the study in Appendix A be a controlled group so that the data will not be biased by a question of annual income.

Further research in the area of clothing for the low-income group might broaden the understanding of the problems faced by the individuals in the group. A better understanding of the issues might facilitate more effective solutions to the problems.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Baker, Hazel Bennett. "The Psychology of Clothing as a Treatment Aid." Mental Hygiene. XXXIX (1955), 94-8.
- Barber, Bernard. "'Fashion' in Women's Clothes and the American Social System." Social Forces. XXXI (December, 1952), 124-31.
- Belding, Harwood S. "Clothing for Cold Weather." Journal of Home Economics. XLIII (March, 1951), 200-3.
- "Better Dress Code... 'A Perfect Fit' for U. S. High Schools?" Senior Scholastic. LXXXII (April 3, 1963), 14-15.
- Book of the States 1962-1963. Chicago: Council of State Governments. 1962. 89-90.
- Collier's Encyclopedia. New York: P. F. Collier and Son Corporation. 1963.
- Ebeling, Maloa and Mary Lou Rosencranz. "Social and Personal Aspects of Clothing for Older Women." Journal of Home Economics. LIII (June, 1961), 464-65.
- Economic Abstracts. Number 3 through 22, Volumes 8 through 11.
- Gallemore, Glenna Lee. "Council Clothing Bank Keeps Children in School." National Parent-Teacher. LII (November, 1957), 31-2.
- Hall, Katherine B. "A Study of Some of the Factors That Contribute to Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction in the Clothing of 92 Urban Families." Unpublished Doctoral Thesis, University Park: Pennsylvania State University. 1955.
- Hall, Olive A. Research Handbook for Home Economics Education. Minneapolis: Burgess Publishing Co. 1962.
- Hickey, Margaret. "Gifts of Clothing Freely Given Keep Children in School in Albuquerque, New Mexico." Ladies' Home Journal. LXXVI, (October, 1959), 37-9.
- Hillway, Tyrus. Introduction to Research. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1956.



- Hoult, Thomas F. "Experimental Measurement of Clothing as a Factor in Some Social Ratings of Selected American Men." American Sociological Review. XIX (June, 1954), 324-38.
- Hunter, Marjorie. "Johnson Seeks Aid for Nation's 'Forgotten Fifth'." New York Times. (January 21, 1964), 17.
- Jacobi, John E. and S. George Walters. "Social Status and Consumer Choice." Social Forces. XXXVI (March, 1958), 209-14.
- Lynch, John M. Monthly Cost Standards for Basic Needs Used by States for Specified Types of Old-Age Assistance Cases and Families Receiving Aid to Family with Dependent Children, January, 1963. Washington, D. C.: United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. (March, 1964).
- Nystrom, Paul H. Economics of Fashion. New York: The Ronald Press Co. 1928.
- Oklahoma: Compilation of Social Security Laws. Oklahoma City. 1963.
- Pollock, Josephine. Report of Seminar: Cooperative Extension Service Work with Low-Income Families. Washington, D. C.: United States Department of Agriculture. June, 1963.
- Psychological Abstracts. Volumes 27 through 36.
- Ryan, Mary S. Psychological Effects of Clothing, Part II. Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, Technical Bulletin 898. Ithaca, New York. July, 1953.
- Rosencranz, Mary Lou. "Sociological Aspects of Clothing Studies." Journal of Home Economics. XLII (March, 1950), 206.
- Sherif, Carolyn W. "Establishment Reference Scales and Series Effects in Social Judgment." Unpublished Doctoral Thesis, Austin: University of Texas. 1961.
- Sociological Abstracts. Volumes 1 through 9.
- Tate, Mildred T. and Oris Glisson. Family Clothing. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 1961.
- Titles of Completed Thesis in Home Economics and Related Fields. United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Education. 1953-1962.
- United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Monthly Cost Standards of Basic Needs Used by States. Washington, D. C. 1964.

## APPENDIX A

### PILOT STUDY NO. I

The problem investigated was concerned with the methods used by the low-income recipients to acquire clothing for the mother and children of the family. The two methods considered in the study were the acquisition of ready-made garments and the garments made at home by the mother of the family.

There were two purposes underlying the pilot study. One purpose was to refine further a questionnaire for a study of the sources of clothing for the low-income family. The other purpose was to develop an approach to the mother that would not bias the answers received.

The pilot study was limited to the randomly selected families in single family dwellings in a section of Stillwater, Oklahoma, that appeared to be occupied by low-income families and methods used to acquire dresses or dress substitutes.

The assumptions of the study were the basis for the formulation of the study. The assumptions pertinent to the study were:

1. Tax money was allocated to help meet the clothing needs of several hundred low-income families.
2. Private money was contributed to help meet the clothing needs of some low-income families.
3. Clothing was donated to some low-income families to help meet the clothing needs.

The hypothesis of the pilot study was that the majority of the low-income recipients acquire the majority of the dress or dress substitutes ready-made.

A questionnaire was developed for the purpose of testing the hypothesis of the pilot study. The questionnaire was developed to identify (1) the number and age of the family members, (2) the educational level of the mother, (3) the number of semesters completed in home economics, (4) the type of sewing machine in the home, if any, (5) the percentage of dress or dress substitutes made for the family by the mother as approximated by the mother, (6) the sources of ready-made dresses or dress substitutes for the family members, and (7) the types of services the mother thought the merchants and/or community could make available to her that would help her use the clothing dollar more efficiently.

The population for the pilot study was determined by a random method. First, an area was blocked off on a map of Stillwater, Oklahoma, where the houses indicated low-income occupancy. (See Fig. 1) These indications were dirty, trashy, junky yards around houses that seemed to be in need of repairs. The streets in front of the houses were poorly paved or dirt roads. The area was to have not less than ten blocks which joined each other on not less than two sides of each block. An area so described was located in Stillwater, Oklahoma, from Twelfth Avenue south to Fifteenth Avenue and from Perkins Road west to Lewis Street. There were twelve blocks in the defined area. Second, all single family dwellings were numbered. The numbering started at the southeast corner of a block, and the first house west from that corner was numbered one. Each single family dwelling house was numbered consecutively from house number

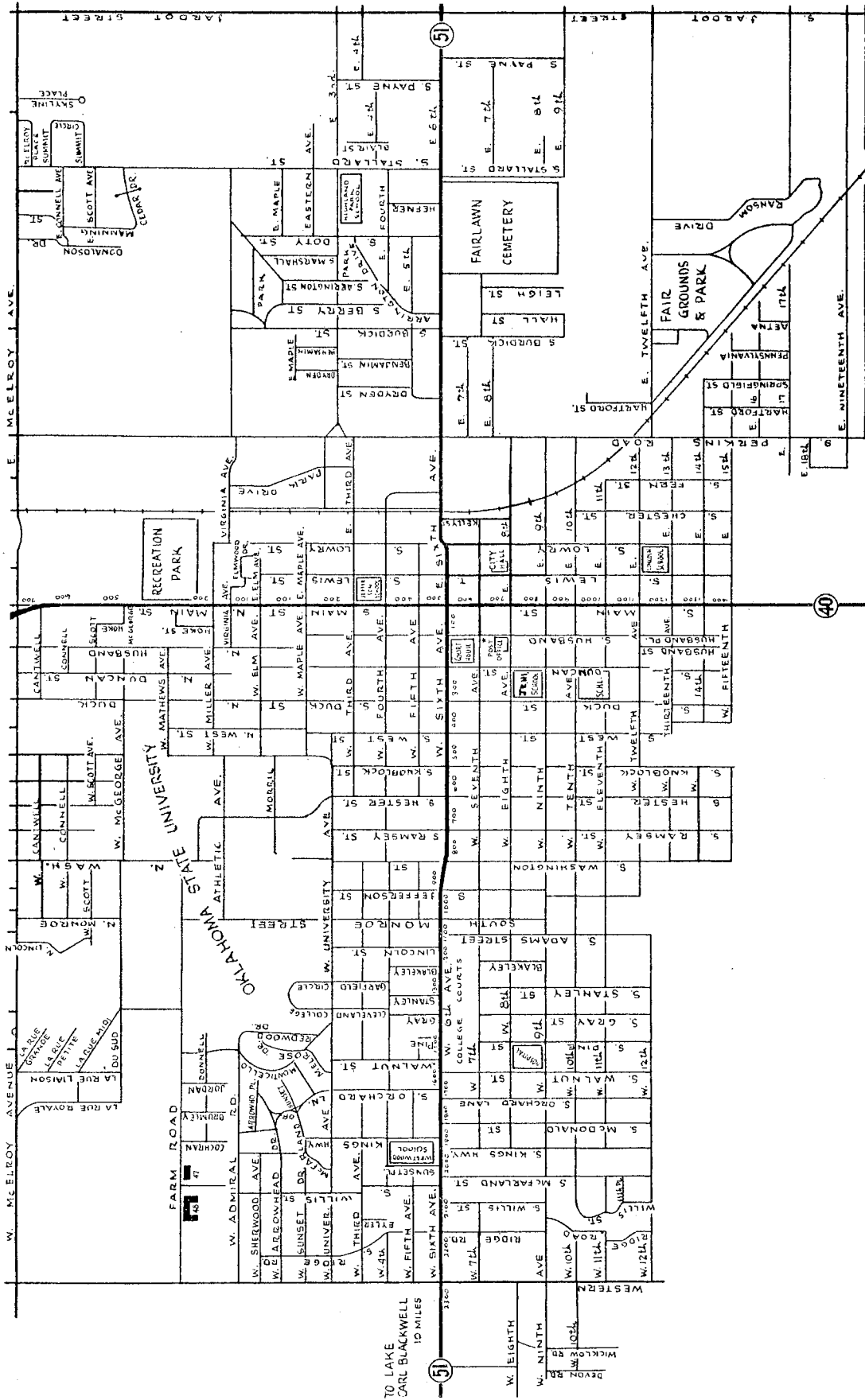


Fig. 1. Map of Stillwater, Oklahoma

one to the southwest corner, north to the northwest corner, east to the northeast corner, and south to the southeast corner. Third, two blocks in the twelve-block area were excluded from the study to give the ten-block area prescribed for the study. One of the blocks was occupied by an elementary school. The second block excluded had the smallest number of single family dwellings of all the eleven blocks. Fourth, a random method was used to select one house to represent each block and two alternates for each block. The random method employed was the drawing method. The number assigned to each house in one block was placed on a slip of paper. Each slip of paper was uniform in size. Each slip of paper was folded once and placed in a container. The container was shaken well, and one slip was drawn from the container. The first slip drawn was the representative house, the second slip drawn was the first alternate, and the third slip drawn was the second alternate. This procedure was followed for each block in the designated area. Fifth, each block was sketched on graph paper with the names of the streets and the approximate location of each house. The number assigned to the house was written in the sketching of the house. (See Fig. 2) Sixth, the number on

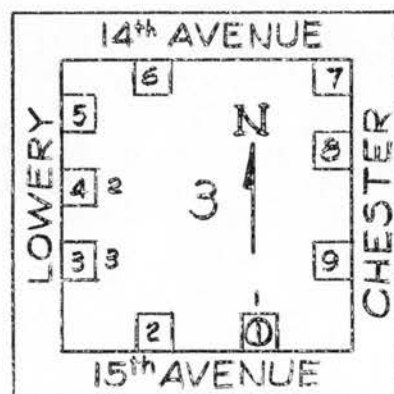


Fig. 2. Sketching of Block

the slip of paper drawn as the representative house for each block was given a red one; the second one drawn was given a red two; and the third one drawn was given a red three. These numbers were placed outside the sketchings of the houses.

The questionnaire (See pp. 45-47 ) was administered in an interview situation to the population selected for the pilot study. The interviewer used a loose-leaf notebook in which to carry the questionnaire and the answer sheets. The pages of the questionnaire and the answer sheets were typed so that the questionnaire pages lay on the left-hand side of the notebook and the answer sheets on the right-hand side of the notebook. Only one set of answer sheets was in the notebook at a time. The answer sheets were changed between interviews. The completed answer sheets were marked for identification in the upper right-hand corner. The identification marks were the word "block" and the number that was assigned to that block. (See Fig. 3) The answer sheet and the identification marks were written in a color that had been assigned to that

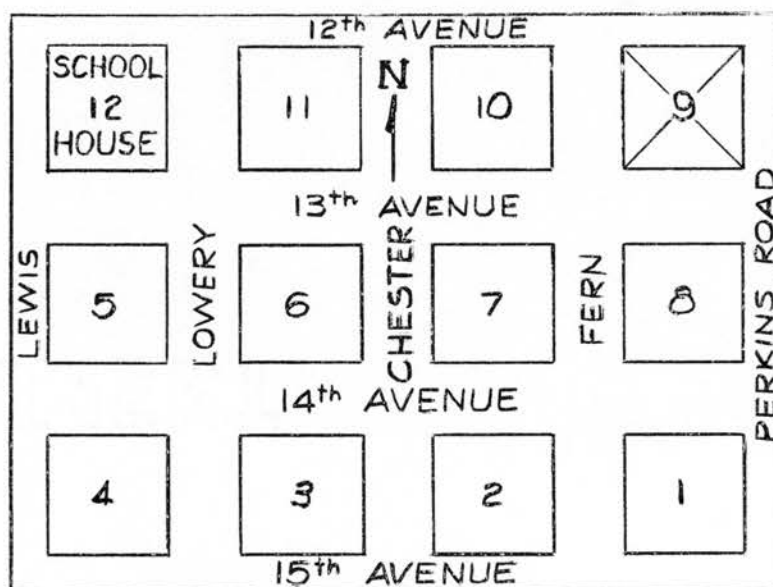


Fig. 3. Sketching of Designated Area

block. A dot in the color code was placed on the graph paper block, and the number of the house interviewed was circled in the color code. (See Fig. 2) The length of time given to the interview was determined by the number of children in the family. The time varied from five minutes to fifteen minutes of actual interview time. More time than indicated was spent at each house because the interviewer either engaged the mother in conversation or the mother engaged the interviewer in conversation.

The data were usually stated in the number tabulated because the population was limited to not more than ten families. Some of the data seemed to be large enough to calculate a percentage position. When the data so indicated, the calculations were done.

Seven mothers were interviewed in seven of the ten blocks designated. Questions were asked concerning a total of twelve people. Seven of the twelve people were mothers, and five were children. Two of the children were girls aged fourteen and seven years. One of the three boys was twelve years old, and the other two boys were two years old. Fifty-four years was the average age of the mothers. The oldest mother was seventy-six, the youngest twenty-one years.

Education of the mothers ranged from seventh grade to one semester in college. The average educational level was nine and a half years. One of the seven completed high school. Three of the seven had had no home economics in school. One had completed three years, and one had completed four and a half years of home economics in school.

Three of the four mothers who had had home economics in school owned a sewing machine. The sewing machines that were in the homes were predominantly the treadle type. Five mothers had the treadle, and

two mothers had the electric type. One mother had both the treadle and the electric type of sewing machine. Two mothers did not own a sewing machine.

The five mothers who said that they owned a sewing machine made all or some of the family's clothing. Three mothers made all of their own dresses and all of their daughters' dresses. One said that she made three-fourths of her dresses, and one indicated that she made about one-fourth of hers. The two mothers who had boys said they made less than one-fourth of the boys shirts and none of the trousers.

The department store seemed to be the store most often used by the women when shopping for themselves and for the children. Four mothers indicated that they usually purchased clothing from the department type of store. Three mothers said that they purchased clothing from mail order houses. The mothers with boys said that the specialty shops were sometimes used.

The question was asked "What aids and services would you like to have made available to you that you feel would help you use your clothing money better?" Three of the mothers said "none". The other four gave the following answers:

1. How to get them cheaper.
2. Sewing classes through the school.
3. Sewing classes through the department store.
4. Nursery in the stores.
5. Fabrics advertised in ready-to-wear made available in yard goods.
6. Mail order service send fabric samples.
7. More time to buy special school clothes.
8. Economical clothes but not cheap ones for children.

The two mothers that had children at home gave the majority of the answers listed. Neither of the mothers identified, however, knew



whether a home demonstration club was available to them. One of the other five mothers knew that a club "had been but was not now."

The data were tabulated, and the observations of the interviewer were noted. When the results were considered, the questionnaire was revised.

(See pp. 48-50)

## APPROACH STATEMENT

"Good Morning (Afternoon),

"I am Dora Howell, a student from Oklahoma State University. For one of my classes I am doing a survey in Stillwater about clothing for mothers and children. Your house was chosen to represent this block in the survey. Would you spare a few minutes to answer some questions for me, please?"

## Questionnaire No. 1

1. How many children live with you today?
2. How many of the children living with you today are girls?
3. How many of the children living with you today are boys?
4. How old is each girl living with you today?
5. How old is each boy living with you today?
6. How old are you today?
7. What was the last grade you completed (finished) in school?
8. (If the last grade was in junior high or higher ask)  
How many years of home economics did you complete (finish)?
9. Is there a sewing machine in your house?
10. (If the answer to No. 9 is yes, ask)  
Is your sewing machine a treadle or an electric?
11. Do you make all of your dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts?
12. (If the answer to No. 11 is no, ask)  
Do you make any of your dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts?
13. (If the answer to No. 12 is yes, ask)  
Do you make three out of four of your dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts?
14. (If the answer to No. 13 is no, ask)  
Do you make fifty percent or one-half of your dresses, blouses, slacks, skirts, and shorts?
15. (If the answer to No. 14 is no, ask)  
Do you make one out of four of your dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts?
16. (If the answer to No. 15 is no, ask)  
Do you make less than twenty-five percent or one-fourth of your dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts?

Ask questions 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 for each girl child. Complete the series for one child before asking a question for another child.

17. Do you make all of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl's dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts?

18. (If the answer to No. 17 is no, ask)  
Do you make any of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl's dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts?
19. (If the answer to No. 18 is yes, ask)  
Do you make three out of four of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl's dresses, skirts, blouses, slacks, and shorts?
20. (If the answer to No. 19 is no, ask)  
Do you make fifty percent or one-half of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl's dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts?
21. (If the answer to No. 20 is no, ask)  
Do you make one out of four of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl's dresses, skirts, blouses, slacks, and shorts?
22. (If the answer to No. 21 is no, ask)  
Do you make less than twenty-five percent or one-fourth of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl's dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts?

Ask questions 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 for each boy child. Complete the series for one child before asking a question about another child.

23. Do you make all of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy's shirts, slacks, and shorts?
24. (If the answer to No. 23 is no, ask)  
Do you make any of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy's shirts, slacks, and shorts?
25. (If the answer to No. 24 is yes, ask)  
Do you make three out of four of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy's shirts, slacks, and shorts?
26. (If the answer to No. 25 is no, ask)  
Do you make fifty percent or one-half of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy's shirts, slacks, and shorts?
27. (If the answer to No. 26 is no, ask)  
Do you make one out of four of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy's shirts, slacks, and shorts?
28. (If the answer to No. 27 is no, ask)  
Do you make less than one-fourth of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy's shirts, slacks, and shorts?

As the person answers No. 29, 30, and 31, identify the source with one of the categories and place the letter A, B, C, D, E, F, or G on the answer sheet.

- A. Department store (any store that carries other items and clothing)
- B. Second-hand store
- C. Rummage sales
- D. Mail-order houses
- E. Gifts from family
- F. Specialty shops
- G. Gifts from others not considered family

29. From where do you usually get (acquire) ready-made dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts for yourself?

Ask No. 30 for each girl child

30. From where do you usually get (acquire) ready-made dresses, blouses, skirts, slacks, and shorts for the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl?

Ask No. 31 for each boy child

31. From where do you usually get (acquire) ready-made shirts, slacks, and shorts for the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy?

32. When you buy dresses, skirts, blouses, slacks, and shorts for yourself, do you shop for sale items?

Ask No. 33 for each girl child

33. When you buy dresses, skirts, blouses, slacks, and shorts for the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl, do you shop for sale items?

Ask No. 34 for each boy child

34. When you buy shirts, slacks, and shorts for the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy, do you shop for sale items?

35. (Tell the mother: "I would like for you to take a couple of minutes to think about this question before you answer.")

What aids or services would you like to have made available to you that you feel would help you use your clothing money better?

36. Do you know if there is a home demonstration club available to you?

## Questionnaire No. 2

1. How many children live with you today?
2. How many of the children living with you today are girls?
3. How many of the children living with you today are boys?
4. How old is each girl living with you today?
5. How old is each boy living with you today?
6. How old are you today?
7. What was the last grade you completed (finished) in school?
8. (If the last grade was in junior high or higher, ask)  
How many years of home economics did you complete (finish)?
9. Is there a sewing machine in your house?
10. (If the answer to No. 9 is yes, ask)  
Is the sewing machine a treadle or an electric?
11. Do you make any of your own
  - A. dresses?
  - B. blouses?
  - C. skirts?
  - D. slacks?
  - E. shorts?(Ask No. 12 for the part answered yes)
12. Would you say that you make 100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, or less than 25% of your
  - A. dresses?
  - B. blouses?
  - C. skirts?
  - D. slacks?
  - E. shorts?
13. Do you make any of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl's
  - A. dresses?
  - B. blouses?
  - C. skirts?
  - D. slacks?
  - E. shorts?(Ask No. 14 for the part answered yes)
14. Would you say that you make 100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, or less than 25% of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl's
  - A. dresses?
  - B. blouses?

- C. skirts?
- D. slacks?
- E. shorts?

15. Do you make any of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy's
- A. shirts?
  - B. slacks?
  - C. shorts? (Ask No. 16 for the part answered yes)
16. Would you say that you make 100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, or less than 25% of the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy's
- A. shirts?
  - B. slacks?
  - C. shorts?

As the person answers No. 17, 19, and 21, identify the source with one of the categories listed below and place the letter A, B, C, D, E, F, or G on the answer sheet by the number.

- A. Department store (any store that sells clothes and other items)
  - B. Second-hand store
  - C. Mail-order houses
  - E. Gifts from family (used or new clothes)
  - F. Specialty shops
  - G. Gifts from others not considered family
17. From where did you get (acquire) your last ready-made dress, blouse, skirt, slacks, or shorts?
18. Do you usually get (acquire) your ready-made clothes from there?
19. From where did you get (acquire) the last ready-made dress, blouse, skirt, slacks, or shorts for the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl?
20. Do you usually get (acquire) her ready-made clothes from there?
21. From where did you get (acquire) the last ready-made shirt, slacks, or shorts for the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy?
22. Do you usually get (acquire) his ready-made clothes from there?
23. Do you buy sale items when shopping for dresses, skirts, blouses, slacks, and shorts for yourself?
24. Do you buy sale items when shopping for dresses, skirts, blouses, slacks, and shorts for the \_\_\_\_\_ year old girl?
25. Do you buy sale items when shopping for shirts, slacks, and shorts for the \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy?

Tell the mother: "I would like for you to take a couple of minutes to think about each of the following questions before you answer."

26. What aids or services would you like to have made available to you that you feel would help you use your clothing money better?
27. Could the stores or schools do anything to help you use your clothing money better? If so, what?
28. Do you know if there is a home demonstration club available to you?



## APPENDIX B

### PILOT STUDY NO. II

A questionnaire was formulated for the purpose of testing the hypotheses proposed for the study. The purpose of the pilot study was to determine whether the questions were positionally or structurally advantageous. The questionnaire was tested by a sample of the population of the study.

The population of the study included the fifty state welfare departments of the United States. The name of each state was written on an individual slip of paper of equal size. Each paper slip was folded once and placed in a container and shaken well. Ten slips (ten percent of the total proposed population) were drawn from the container. The name of the administrator of each state welfare department and the address of each organization was taken from The Book of the States 1962-1963.

A packet was prepared for each of the ten randomly selected organizations. The packet included a cover letter, a questionnaire, and a self-addressed stamped envelope. When the packets were mailed, one was inadvertently misplaced. Therefore nine of the ten questionnaires were mailed to the intended receivers.

The ninth questionnaire was returned one week and one day after the mailing date. Since only nine of the original ten were mailed, the percentage of return was one hundred.

The data from the questionnaire was tabulated. From the figures the percentage position was established for each section of the questionnaire.

The administrators of fifty-five percent of the organizations marked YES to question one and completed the questionnaire. Eleven percent of the administrators marked NO and completed the questionnaire and eleven percent of the administrators marked NO only. Twenty-two percent of the administrators wrote letters to explain why the questionnaires were not answered. One administrator wrote that the "questionnaire does not seem applicable to our situation." The other one stated that the "questionnaire may be more appropriately sent" to another department that was not located in the capitol of that state. This department was included in the proposed study population.

The administrators indicated by marking YES to question one that the organizations were participating in a clothing program of the low-income recipients. Of the five organizations participating in a clothing program, twenty percent stated that the personal interview was used "in some situations." Of the five identified organizations, one hundred percent used the pre-determined budget to identify the clothing needs of the recipients. (The total percentage is greater than one hundred because some organizations used more than one method.)

Question number three was designed to determine the methods used to help meet the recipients' clothing needs. Of the five organizations, one hundred percent indicated that money was given to the individual or a responsible member of the family for clothing needs. None of the other methods listed on the questionnaire were marked. None of the administrators wrote in other methods in the space provided on the questionnaire.

Question four was formulated to identify the types of helpful information received from the recipients. The five participating administrators expressed their beliefs as stated in Table V.

TABLE V

PERCENTILE RANKING OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM RECIPIENTS AND  
CONSIDERED BENEFICIAL BY FIVE STATE WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS

Information	N of Organizations	Percentage
Age	4	80%
Size of the family	2	40%
Sex	1	20%
Physical handicaps	1	20%
Other information	3	60%
	11*	220%*

\* more than one type of information indicated by some organizations

The information written in were "eligibility for assistance" and "whether person is employed."

Question five was designed to identify the type of information that the administrators thought would be beneficial to the organizations. The data revealed that two of the five administrators (49%) thought that the majority of the types of information listed would be beneficial. Two of the five administrators (49%) indicated that none of the information would be useful in meeting the clothing needs of the clients. One administrator did not mark any section of the question but wrote that "this

information is available to some extent to the agency through the case-worker's interviews but since allowance is pre-determined it does not effect the amount of money available to the person. Clothing allowances in ... have not been adjusted except for the aged and blind for years. They are not realistic for families and children on ADC but as you must be ..."

The pilot study was used to identify the weaknesses in the questionnaire. The data seemed to indicate that question one should remain in the position of question one but should be expanded to read "Does your organization help meet the clothing needs of the welfare or the low-income groups? ... (Please check YES, NO, or Both)

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ Both \_\_\_ If the answer is YES or Both, please answer the following question."

Data obtained from question two and three indicated no change in statement of the questions. Logical sequence, however, indicated that the position of question three should be changed to position four.

The data indicated that the structure of question four was biased in its relationship to the third hypothesis of the study. (See Fig. 4) It appeared that the sociological type of information should be listed with the physiological type of information in question four. It further appeared that the position of question four should be changed to position three. No positional or structural changes were indicated for question five.

The changes indicated by the analysis of the data were incorporated into a revised questionnaire. (See Fig. 5) Therefore the pilot study served its purpose.

1. Does your organization help meet the clothing needs of the low-income groups? (Low-income is a family receiving less than \$3,000 annually or an individual receiving less than \$1,000 annually)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If the answer is YES, please answer the following questions.

2. How does your organization identify the clothing needs of the individual or family?

Check the ones which are applicable to your organization.

- A. personal interview  
 B. hearsay  
 C. pre-determined budget  
 D. others (please name) \_\_\_\_\_

3. After your organization has identified the clothing needs of the individual or family, what procedure is followed to meet the needs?

Check the ones which are applicable to your organization.

- A. Money is given to the individual or a responsible member of the family.  
 B. The individual or a responsible member of the family charges the clothes to the organization's account at a given store or establishment.  
 C. 1. The recipients receive the clothes directly from the organization. (If this procedure is employed, please answer the following question.)  
 2. From where does the organization receive the clothes which are distributed to the recipients?  
 a. clothes are purchased by the organization.  
 b. clothes are donated to the organization.  
 c. others (please name) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 D. Other procedures used. (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What type of information does your organization get from the individual or family that you find helpful in meeting the clothing needs of the recipients?

Check the ones which are applicable to your organization.

- A. age of the individual or individuals.  
 B. number of people in the family.  
 C. size of garment required by the individual or individuals.  
 D. previous occupation of the head of the family.  
 E. sex of the members of the family.  
 F. physical handicaps  
 G. others (please name) \_\_\_\_\_

5. What type of information do you feel would be beneficial to your organization that is not presently available to you?

Please check yes or no.

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ A. Ideas of the recipient's meaning of "social acceptability".  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ B. Clothing shopping habits of the recipients.  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ C. Importance of clothing to the individual.  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ D. The recipient's meaning of the fit of a garment.  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ E. The importance of the fit of the garment to the recipient.  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ F. Others (please list)

Fig. 4. Original Questionnaire

## ATTITUDES TOWARD CLOTHING NEEDS

1. Does your organization help meet the clothing needs of the welfare groups or the low-income groups? (Low-income is a family receiving less than \$3,000 annually or an individual receiving less than \$1,000 annually) (Please check Yes, No, or Both.)

Yes  No  Both  If the answer is YES or BOTH, please answer the following questions.

2. How does your organization identify the clothing needs of the individual or family? (Check the ones which are applicable to your organization.)

- A. personal interview  
 B. hearsay  
 C. pre-determined budget  
      1. based on age and/or sex of the individual or individuals.  
      2. per individual regardless of age and/or sex.  
 D. others (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What type of information does your organization get from the individual or family that you find helpful in meeting the clothing needs of the recipients? (Check the ones which are applicable to your organization.)

- A. age of the individual or individuals.  
 B. what social acceptability means to the recipient and/or his family.  
 C. number of people in the family.  
 D. how important the fit of the garment is to the recipient.  
 E. what the recipient means when he says a "garment fits".  
 F. occupation or previous occupation of the head of the family.  
 G. how important clothing is to the individual or individuals.  
 H. the recipient's shopping habits for clothes.  
 I. sex of the individual or individuals.  
 J. physical handicaps.  
 K. others (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

4. After your organization has identified the clothing needs of the individual or family, what procedure is followed to meet the needs? (Check the ones which are applicable to your organization.)

- A. Money is given to the individual or a responsible member of the family.  
 B. The individual or a responsible member of the family charges the clothes to the organization's account at a given store or establishment.  
 C. 1. The recipients receive the clothes directly from the organization.  
     (If this procedure is employed, please answer the following question)  
     2. From where does the organization receive the clothes which are distributed to the recipients?  
          a. clothes are purchased by the organization.  
          b. clothes are donated to the organization.  
          c. others (please name) \_\_\_\_\_  
     \_\_\_\_\_

- D. Other procedures used. (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What type of information do you think would be beneficial to your organization that is not presently available to you? (Please check yes or no.)

- Yes  No  A. Ideas of the recipient's meaning of "social acceptability".  
 Yes  No  B. Clothing shopping habits of the recipients.  
 Yes  No  C. Importance of clothing to the individual.  
 Yes  No  D. The recipient's meaning of the fit of a garment.  
 Yes  No  E. The importance of the fit of the garment to the recipient.  
      F. Others (please list)

Fig. 5. Revised Questionnaire

APPENDIX C

ADDRESSES OF THE "OTHER" WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS

The organizations are arranged alphabetically by states.

1. Elyton Village Community Center  
465 West 1  
Birmingham, Alabama
2. Alaska - not mailed
3. Urban League  
1515 Osborn Road  
Phoenix, Arizona
4. The National Foundation  
501 Woodline  
Little Rock, Arkansas
5. El Santo Nino GYP Center  
601 East 23  
Los Angeles, California
6. Colorado Conference of Social Welfare  
1375 Del  
Denver, Colorado
7. Diocesan Bureau of Social Services  
244 Main  
Hartford, Connecticut
8. Welfare Council of Delaware, Inc.  
1203 Gilpn Avenue  
Wilmington, Delaware
9. Protestant Social Welfare Service  
7210 Red Road  
South Miami, Florida
10. Jackson Day Nursery  
438 Frazier S. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia

11. Salvation Army  
Booth Memorial Home Office  
3624 Waokanaka  
Honolulu, Hawaii
12. Children's Home Society of Idaho  
740 Warm Spring Ave.  
Boise, Idaho
13. Pioneer Women Midwest Area  
220 S. State  
Chicago, Illinois
14. Luthern Child Welfare Association  
1525 Ritter  
Indianapolis, Indiana
15. Mr. Conrad Nathan  
Executive Director  
Jewish Social Service  
315 Second Building  
Des Moines, Iowa
16. Maude Carpenter Children's Home  
1501 N. Meridian  
Wichita, Kansas
17. Louisville Lutheran Home  
10615 E. Watterson Road J'Town  
Louisville, Kentucky
18. Louisiana Society for Mental Health  
Hibernia Building  
New Orleans, Louisiana
19. Mr. Victor H. Taylor  
Executive Director  
341 Cumberland Avenue  
Portland, Maine
20. U. S. O.  
Cathedral and Sartoga  
Baltimore, Maryland
21. House of the Good Shepherd  
841 Huntington Ave.  
Boston, Massachusetts
22. Blind Service Center of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc.  
7336 Woodward  
Detroit, Michigan



23. Minnesota Soliders Home  
Minniehaha Ave. and East 51 St.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota
24. Alcoholics Anonymous Club  
201 North Lamar  
Jackson, Mississippi
25. Cleaning Plant Employee Welfare Fund  
5615a Delmar  
St. Louis, Missouri
26. YMCA  
220 2nd  
Great Falls, Montana
27. South Omaha Youth Center  
4601 S. 24  
Omaha, Nebraska
28. Rev. Lawrence O. Bourrie, Director  
Catholic Community Welfare  
1622 Commerce  
Las Vegas, Nevada
29. Catholic Charities of New Hampshire, Inc.  
286 Concord  
Manchester, New Hampshire
30. Youth Research Rehabilitation Organization  
156 Washington  
Newark, New Jersey
31. Martineztown House of Neighborly Service  
808 Edith Blvd. N. E.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico
32. National Council of Jewish Women  
7 West Burnside Ave.  
Bronx, New York
33. Family and Children's Service  
121 East 3  
Charlotte, North Carolina
34. The Salvation Army  
304 Roberts  
Fargo, North Dakota
35. B\*Nai B\*Rith Youth Organization  
3505 Mayfield  
Cleveland, Ohio

36. Men's Social Service Center  
2041 N. W. 7  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
37. Union Gospel Mission  
326 N. W. 3 Ave.  
Portland, Oregon
38. Philadelphia Mental Health Clothing Depot  
3046 Janney  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
39. Mr. Raymond E. O'Dowd, Executive Director  
International Institution  
104 Princeton Ave.  
Providence, Rhode Island
40. United Cerebral Palsy of South Carolina  
Universal Building  
Columbia, South Carolina
41. Mr. R. A. Guderyahn, Director  
McCrossan Boys Ranch  
R. R. 4  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
42. Alcoholics Anonymous Family Group  
1605 Madison Ave.  
Memphis, Tennessee
43. Travelers Aid Society of Houston  
412 Main  
Houston, Texas
44. Catholic Charities of Salt Lake  
333 East South Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah
45. Vermont - not sent
46. Salvation Army - Portsmouth  
305 6th  
Norfolk, Virginia
47. Council of Aging for Seat and King County  
1823 Terry  
Seattle, Washington
48. West Virginia Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc.  
Berman Building  
Charleston, West Virginia

49. Jewish Welfare Fund  
710 North Plankinton Ave.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
50. Wyoming Society for Crippled Children and Adults  
Hynds B.  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

VITA

Dora Belle Howell

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF CERTAIN ATTITUDES OF SELECTED SOCIAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL RELATED TO THE CLOTHING NEEDS OF THE LOW-INCOME RECIPIENTS

Major Field: Clothing, Textiles, and Merchandising

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born near Ochlochnee, Georgia, May 21, 1933, the daughter of Charlie D. and Estell Owen Nixon. Married to Paul Norman Howell, May 23, 1959.

Education: Graduated from Ochlochnee Consolidated School, Ochlochnee, Georgia, received the Bachelor of Science in Education from Central State College, Edmond, Oklahoma, with a major in Home Economics Education, in May, 1957; completed requirements for the Master of Science degree in August, 1964.

Professional Experience: Home Economics and English teacher in Woodward Junior High School, Oklahoma, 1957-59; Home Economics teacher in Bay View High School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1959-60; Home Economics teacher in Northeast Junior High School, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1960-62.