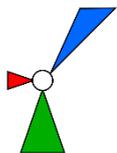


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<1709/c>	. A priori it might have seemed logical that as these increase and spread, they would render the state pension superfluous and enable the system of compulsory redistribution which finances it to be discontinued progressively. In practice, the state scheme contributions pre-empt a slice of incomes which would otherwise be available for saving through pension schemes, and thus to that extent would be expected to slow down the growth of non-state provision. The great obstacle, however, to a withering away of the state pension is the fact that, although in economic reality current pensions are paid from current contributions and other taxes, the state pension scheme has been institutionalised as a structure of vested rights or expectations stretching forward over half a century. Compared with the social services we have been examining, the residue present the institutional problem only in a comparatively mild form. Even the family allowances, though based in their present form upon the experience and conditions of the inter-war years - when Seebohm Rowntree's surveys in York suggested that one male in four earned less than was necessary to maintain a man, wife and two children above the poverty line - consist of a simple system of payments and enter into budgetary habits and expectations no more and no less than the fiscal allowances, of which I once suggested to a CPC conference they might be regarded as an extension. Coping with Crime So let us turn from the obstacles to applying in practice the theoretical truism in the first proposition of the Plowden Committee - that 'there may now well be excessive social services for some purposes' - and consider the second proposition - that there may now well be ' <u>inadequate</u> ones for others'. If we have blind spots, in what sectors will they lie? What social services ought this generation to be constructing which the next or next but one will erect when the need for them is already yielding place to others? Can we catch up, by a little clairvoyance, on <u>the persistent tendency of state provision to come thirty years late</u> ? I will offer two guesses, in as many words - crime and age. Ten years ago I remember I used to think that it was our mental hospitals which later generations would regard as the most staggering and incomprehensible blind spot of our time, on which they would look back as we do upon the generations which burnt witches or tried by ordeal. Thanks mainly to two or three key discoveries in the field of medical science, we now have it in our power and, I hope and believe, in our will, to expunge this blind spot. <u>Treatment of the delinquent</u> claims today the place which treatment of the lunatic but lately occupied, as
 <p>Key: Footprint ConEn1 Footprint ConEn2 Footprint ConEn3</p>	<p><u>a gross example of society's inadequacy to cope with its members</u></p>
	<p>. I am not referring to the debate on methods: <u>the disagreements of the floggers and anti-floggers are dwarfed by the appalling facts of prison provision and the deficiencies of our penal system. It may not be a popular view, but I would dare to say that prisons are our most important, and also our most deficient, social service. Here, whatever else is obscure, the need for a much greater commitment of resources is indisputable: without, for example, a massive renewal and expansion of physical provision, men and methods will not avail,</u></p>

though men are the essence of the service and methods cry out for more and more exploration. New methods will come, no doubt, with the fruition of that research which the Home Secretary has urged and supported; but we can not even claim to be using existing methods, when 7,550 prisoners are sleeping tonight three in a cell, and when policies which, but for the war, would have been on the statute book in 1939, and have already been on the statute book for half a generation, have hardly begun to be carried into effect for lack of premises. Responsibility for the Old It the maintenance of law and the management of delinquency are fundamental to any ordered society, responsibility for the old is scarcely less so. It seems as certain as anything can be that the absolute numbers of the old, and for a long time also their number relative to the whole population, will be far higher in future than anything experienced in the past. This large and increasing number of old, and very old, people will contain a high proportion of individuals who have either no family setting and connections, or at any rate none that is of practical relevance to their way of life. The altered structure of society - the small family size, the small dwelling unit, the substitution of mechanical aids for domestic service - has contributed as much as the mere increased expectation of survival to this striking phenomenon of a large and increasing number of aged and isolated individuals. The problem which it presents is not primarily a financial one, but a physical one. It is not a problem which is solved, or even touched, by another 10s. or £1, or £2, on the pension. It is the problem of how the necessary support, in a physical and environmental sense, which in different circumstances the old would obtain in the setting of a family or a closely-knit village community, can be available to these millions of ageing individuals isolated in a modern industrial society. I mean no disrespect to the geriatric branch of the hospital service nor to the domiciliary services or the