

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#1

May 12, 1987

DEAR FRIENDS,

HERE IS SOME MORE INFORMATION FOR YOU:

HUNGRY KIDS

For over a month the TV, radio and newspapers have been full of stories about kids who go to school hungry.

The government could raise minimum wages and welfare to prevent this problem. Instead they have decided to assign one social worker to every 2 to 3 schools.

If you have difficulties with any workers and need help in trying to argue for more money from GAIN, call ELP at 321-4355. One of our member groups will try to help.

c/o #104-2005 E. 43rd, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 3W8 Telephone 321-4355

ILLEGAL SUITES

Do you live in an illegal suite? There are more than 20,000 of them in Vancouver.

Often they are in basements. The city has threatened to close these suites down. End Legislated Poverty, the Tenants' Rights Action Centre, DERA, and other groups have been fighting to make these suites legal.

If your landlord or an official from the city tells you to move because your suite is illegal, the Tenants' Rights Action Centre may be able to help you. Call them at 682-6343. They will also try to help you if you live in a legal suite and have problems with your landlord.



TV PROGRAM

If you get Cable 4 on TV, tune in at 1:30 on May 19th. That's when you'll see many groups giving Claude Richmond, the Minister in charge of welfare, some good advice on how to change the system to actually help low income people.

LABOUR CHANGES HURT POOR

End Legislated Poverty is fighting Bills 19 and 20. These are the new laws that will make unions weaker.

If unions get weaker, union wages go down. Workers who aren't in unions usually get less money too. And when people get less pay, they get poor.

The average worker has lost about \$500 per year in purchasing power over the last five years. Weak unions mean that workers will lose buying power even faster. More people will become poor.

Bill 19 will make it harder for women on welfare to get jobs that pay decently. That's because it will be harder to organize into a union, and

harder to get equal pay.

As wages go down, more people will have to join the food lines.

Rally against Bills 19 and 20

May 20th at 1pm

Queen Elizabeth Theatre
(close to B. C. Place)
march to Robson Square



11-27 © 1977 Herman Press Syndicate
"Do you always have to buy the cheapest cuts of meat?"

JOB MATCHING PROGRAM

In January, the Ministry of Social Services and Housing started a program in Kamloops and Surrey with the Hewett Group. The Hewett Company wrote letters to people on GAIN asking them to register with their computer for jobs that might be available.

Hewett said he would report people who refused jobs or didn't use the program.

This program may have spread to Vancouver.

If it has, you should know this:

--it's against another law (the Canada Assistance Plan Act) to make you take part in this program.

--ELP has a letter from Claude Richmond, the man in charge of welfare. He says: "Mothers will not be forced to accept employment."

If you have any problems with this program, or if you are asked to register for it, give ELP a call at 321-4355.

GROUPS IN THIS COALITION INCLUDE

Fort Nelson Advocate and Anti-Poverty Group	First United Church	Federated Anti-Poverty Group
Downtown Eastside Residents' Assoc.	New Westminster Unemployed Action Centre	B.C. Teachers' Federation
Vancouver Unemployed Action Centre	Organization of Unemployed Workers	Branching Out Dawson Creek
Unemployed Teachers' Action Centre	Vancouver & Dist. Public Housing Tenants' Assoc.	Downtown Eastside Womens' Centre
Tenants' Rights Coalition	Vancouver Status of Women	B.C. Association of Social Workers
Little Mountain Tenants' Assoc.	Single Mothers' Action Committee	Dandelions
		White Rock Food Bank Advisory Board