

FND**LEGISLATED****POVERTY****N E W S L E T T E R**

#6

Oct. 20, 1987

TWO FIGHT WELFARE CUTS



(LEFT TO RIGHT)
Heide Maria Alvarez, Loyd Cheshon, Margaret Mitchell, and Sue Harris from DERA.

Heide Maria Alvarez and Loyd Cheshon are helping to fight the \$7 welfare cutback.

They are two of over 130 people who signed a letter to Jake Epp, the federal minister in charge of health and

welfare. The letter asked Epp to "put pressure on our B. C. government to stop the cuts to welfare."

The federal government pays half the costs of welfare. A federal law

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

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



TWO FIGHT WELFARE CUTS

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says that provinces must take into account a person's "basic requirements for food, shelter, clothing, fuel, utilities, household supplies, and personal requirements when they set welfare rates. The amount that people in B. C.

get is not nearly enough to cover these things.

On Oct. 1st, Alvarez and Cheshon delivered their letters to MP Margaret Mitchell. Mitchell said she'd take the letters to Epp in Ottawa and work for higher welfare rates.



Justice
not
Charity
End Legislated Poverty

SWIM AND SKATE FOR FREE

If you are on welfare, you can go swimming or skating for free.

Here's how: Ask your worker for a special letter to the Park Board. Make sure that the worker lists the names of all family members on the letter.

Take the letter to the community centre where you want to skate or swim. Ask the person at the front desk to give you a free pass for each family member. You can then skate or swim during public sessions.

The adult rate for swimming or skating is \$2.10 and the child

rate is \$1, so the pass can save quite a bit of money.

The bad news is this: the pass won't pay for skate rental or sharpening.

Tenants



**Tenants Rights
Action Centre**

682-6341

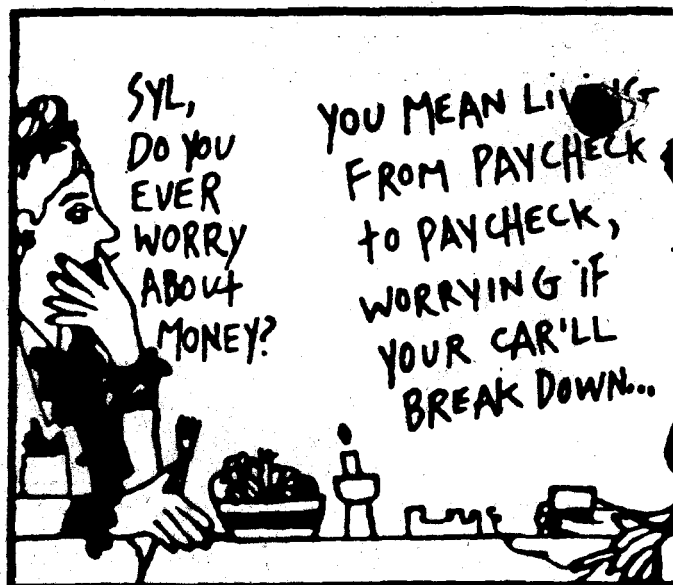
Ste. 203 1104 Hornby St., Vancouver
Mon. to Thur. 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

THE \$7 CUTBACK: ● V

The September welfare cheque was cut by \$7 for for 35,000 childless, "employable" people. Here are some comments about this cut that you probably didn't see in the newspapers.

FROM MARGARET MITCHELL, MP: "This kind of anti-human, punitive policy should not be subsidized by the federal government which pays 50 per cent of welfare costs. I call upon the federal government to review and reform the Canada Assistance Plan to ensure that welfare rates across Canada are at least equal to the poverty line."

FROM THE B. C. CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH: The \$7 cut was "cynical, ill-considered, and unworthy. It will create difficulty for people already operating on a marginal basis."

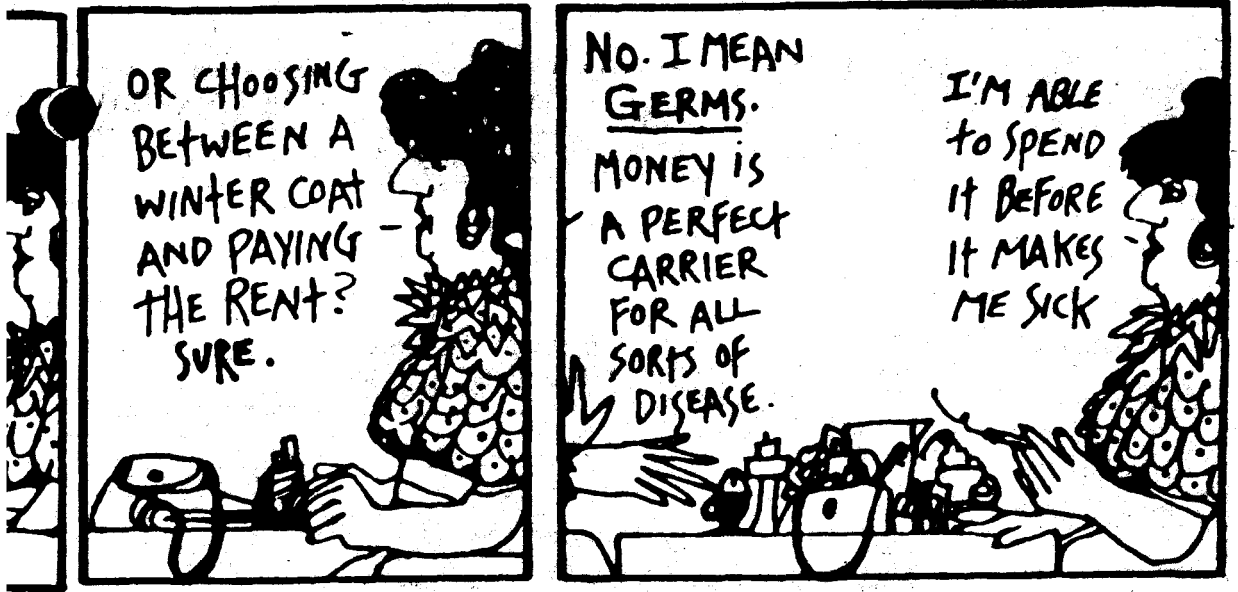


HOT OTHERS SAY

FROM JOHN SHIELDS,
PRESIDENT OF THE B. C.
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
UNION: "By cutting
social assistance rates
the Minister of Social
Services and Housing
is penalizing the vic-
tims of his government's
failure to create jobs..

..it is a mean-spirited
act by a government
that is maintaining its
long record of indif-
ference to the plight of
those who need help."

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WHAT YOU SAID

In the last End Legislated Poverty newsletters, we asked you two questions. This is how you replied:

1. Do you think B. C. should have a Good Samaritan Law?

aritan Law? This is a law that means people who donate to food banks aren't responsible if the food is bad.

Four people wrote or



WHAT YOU SAID continued...

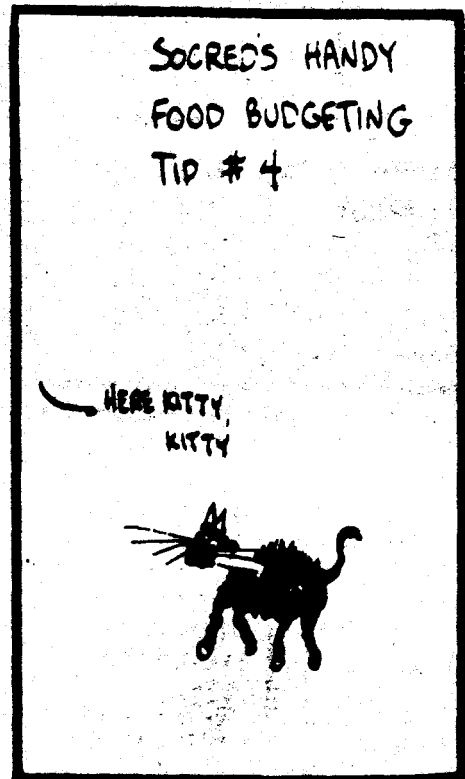
called in their answers. All were against the law. "We should cut out food lines all together and put more money on welfare cheques," said one man. "We should raise minimum wage to a liveable level," said another.

2. Does the Hewett Group really help you find a job? Welfare is telling people to call this company about getting help in finding a job.

Two people wrote or phoned with their answers. Neither was impressed. "The sad thing is that young people are going in thinking they have a hope and they don't. It

just reinforces failure," explained James Favell after his experience.

Thank you to everyone who answered our questions.



These groups will help you with welfare problems:

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, 9E. Hastings. Phone 682-0931. Open 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

LITTLE MOUNTAIN TENANTS ASSOCIATION, 125 E. 37th. Phone 324-0555. Open 10 to 3 Monday through Friday.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH, 320 E. Hastings. Come Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:30 am.

UNEMPLOYED ACTION CENTRE, 146 E. Broadway. Open 9:30 to 3 pm Monday through Thursday. Phone 875-8311.

VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS ASSOCIATION, 246 E. Broadway. Phone 872-8648. Open 9 to 4 Monday through Friday.

GROUPS IN THIS COALITION INCLUDE

First United Church

New Westminster
Unemployed Action
Centre

Branching Out,
Dawson Creek

Fort Nelson
Advocate and Anti-
Poverty Group

Vancouver and Dist.
Public Housing
Tenants' Assoc.

Downtown Eastside
Womens' Centre

Downtown Eastside
Residents' Assoc.

Vancouver Status
of Women

B. C. Association
of Social Workers

Vancouver
Unemployed Action
Centre

Single Mothers'
Action Committee

Dandelions

Unemployed Teachers'
Action Centre

Federated Anti-
Poverty Groups

Little Mountain
Tenants' Assoc.

Tenants' Rights
Coalition

B. C. Teachers'
Federation

Carnegie Centre
Community Assoc.

B. C. Yukon Assoc.
of Womens' Centres