

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#8

Jan. 19, 1988

What is the City doing with illegal suites?

Vancouver City Council is planning to close down thousands of illegal suites over the next ten years. More than 20,000 homes are at risk.

In the past City Council has let people stay in these suites if the landlord needed the money or if the tenant needed a place to live. These were called hardship cases.

Last month the City voted to end the hardship policy. This means that up to 1000 people might lose their homes soon.

David Lane works at

the Tenants' Rights Action Centre. He says: "Closing down these suites will wipe out every single vacancy in the Lower Mainland. Rents will go up. More people will be forced to use food banks."

make
housing
a right

Do you live in an illegal suite?

Illegal suites are usually in basements. They are illegal because they are in areas of the city where the law says that only single family homes without suites can be. This law is called a zoning law.

Some suites are illegal because of other reasons. Maybe they are not safe from fire. Maybe the ceiling is

too low.

Do you want to know if your suite is legal? Call the Tenants' Rights Action Centre at 682-6341. They will help you figure it out.



You still have rights

If you live in an illegal suite, you still have rights.

You have all the legal rights of tenants. Your landlord has to give you a written notice to raise your rent or to evict you.

Your landlord cannot take away your fridge or stove. Your landlord can't tell you to close the curtains or to lie to inspectors.

If this happens, call the the Tenants Rights Action Centre at 682-6341.



City Council tackles
the affordable
housing crisis.

Free will things re



In the short run, free trade may make certain things a bit cheaper.

They would be cheaper because the tax on goods coming across the border would be gone and Canadians might buy more U. S. products.

But for every cheaper product, there would

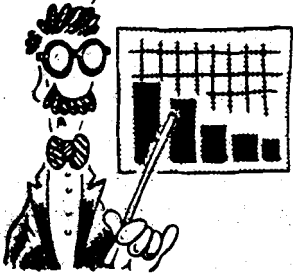
be a lost Canadian job.

For example, golf clubs are supposed to be \$34 cheaper according to one politician. But that means that Canadians who make golf clubs will lose their jobs because other Canadians are buying American instead of Canadian golf clubs.

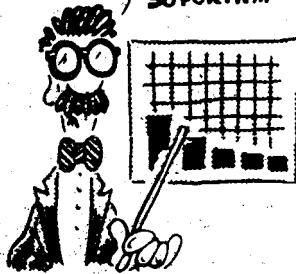
While golf club buyers may save \$34, all of us still have to contribute to the UI and welfare for the family of the laid off worker. If we're also looking for a job, we'll have to compete with more laid off workers to find one.

Trade: really be cheaper?

**NATIONS MUST CUT WAGES
TO STAY COMPETITIVE
IN THE WORLD
MARKET...**

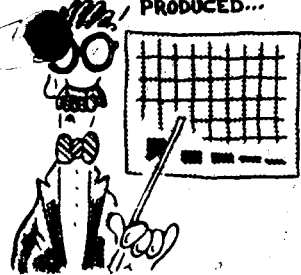


**CANADA CUTS WAGES
TO COMPETE WITH JAPAN,
WHO CUTS WAGES TO COMPETE
WITH KOREA, AND SO ON AND
SO FORTH...**

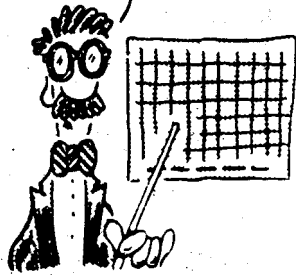


the government will have two choices. It can raise taxes to make up the difference. A tax on food is already being considered. Or, it can cut expenses. This creates pressure on medicare, family allowance, and other social programs.

**...UNTIL WORKERS EVERYWHERE
EARN NEXT TO NOTHING
AND CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY
THE PRODUCTS
PRODUCED...**



**... THIS IS KNOWN
AS
FREE TRADE!!**



Also, taxes on things going across the border bring in about \$2 billion a year to the government. With this money gone,



Homeless Conference

Margaret Mitchell is president of the Vancouver and District Public Housing Tenants Association. Last year she went to the International Conference on the Homeless in Ottawa. While she was there, she went to a demonstration put on by Ottawa's low income people who want more public housing. This is part of her report:

Down Rideau Ave. came hundreds of Montrealers who joined the Ottawa group in an effort to get back the flats for housing. My placard read: "House people, not fish."

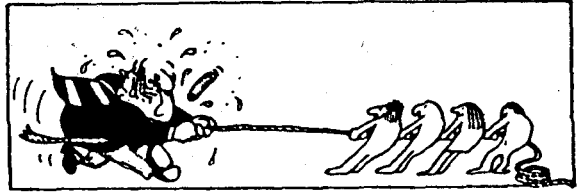
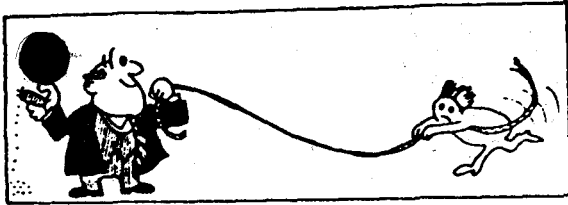
We saw street performers, heard speakers, sang songs, and shouted slogans....

I will never forget as long as I live. The

flats are needed as a "bridge to fill the housing gap." The land they want is the Lebreton Flats, needed for people, not the proposed "aquarium, offices, and recreational facilities."

Sound familiar to you?

The homeless won't be forgotten said Stephen Lewis, Ambassador from Canada to the United Nations at the conclusion of the conference. This doesn't help Dan and Bonnie Terixia of Toronto, awaiting a birth while living in a van or the many in Winnipeg, sleeping in halls, parks, and dumpsters, or the many in Vancouver who shuffle between the slim offerings of the private market.



A Time to Stand Together

Low income people have an important role to play in working for a better society.

And in the better society of the future, we should have jobs for all who want them, living wages, welfare payments up to the poverty line, and better social programs.

That's what a new document called Social Solidarity says. The document was written by a group of Canadians active in churches, unions, and anti-poverty groups.

It says that government and corporations often try to divide working people and low income people and to play them off against each other. They use selfishness, greed, individualism, racism, sexism and anti-union sentiments to do this.

The group invites anyone interested to study the declaration and to give their own ideas.

Call 685-5599 if you would like a copy of it.

