

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#11

April 19, 1988

WELFARE CUT FOR SOME SINGLE MOMS

If you are a single parent who is "unemployable", watch out.

The Socreds may try to chop \$50 off your welfare cheque.

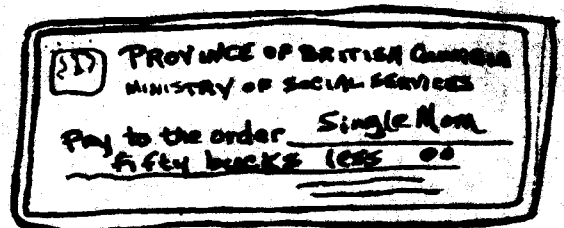
The government says it is going to change the definition of the word "unemployable." Single parents will not be included unless they have a baby less than 15 weeks old.

"Unemployable" people get \$50 a month more than others. So the government was planning a sneaky way of cutting \$50 from thousands of people.

But groups like End Legislated Poverty, DERA, and others have already put up a big fuss. As a result, the government is backing down a little.

Now they say that cases will be decided on an individual basis.

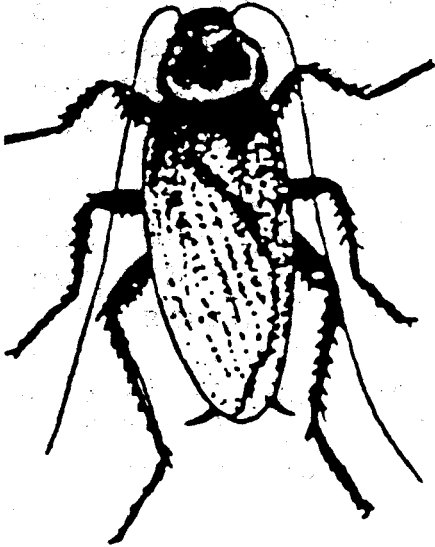
If your cheque is chopped call End Legislated Poverty or one of the groups on the back page. We'll see if we can help.



THE BALMORAL COCKROACH

BY SHEILA
BAXTER

In a Balmoral room
The cockroach creeps
In and out of cracks.
Looking for a place to lay
Her many tiny eggs.



She climbs into the pocket
of a John getting tricked,
and returns with him
To Shaughnessy
To live with his wife and kid



COUNCIL SAYS "NO" TO HUNGRY KIDS

On April 12th, City Council refused to put aside \$200,000 to feed hungry kids. The vote was 7 to 3 in favor of the food. But Council rules say that a grant needs 8 votes to pass.

On April 11th, many groups, including ELP, the Child Poverty Action Committee, teachers, and others, asked Council for the \$200,000. That would be enough to feed children in four schools.

The School Board has already put aside \$200,000 for food but more is needed because 13 schools are in great need.

But Alderman Bruce Eriksen thinks it may

still be possible to get food money from the city. He is working on a way to declare hungry children an "emergency". We'll tell you what happens in the next newsletter



Patty, the girl who never eats in the school lunchroom, gets up from her chair and slumps on the floor.

Teacher: (bending down and feeling her pulse)
"Oh my God. She's fainted!"

"Welfare Wally": "She is my neighbour. She is poor. Her mother is on welfare."

Teacher: "And we were not aware of what was going on. I'm so sorry this had to happen."

Rich girl: "I didn't know she was really poor."

We are a new group called the Dignity Players. We put on short plays about poverty and the social problems that arise from it.

On April 6th we

presented a play focussing on hungry children. The scene you just read is the conclusion of the skit which introduced the Forum on Children and Poverty held at Britannia Secondary School.

The play lasted about 15 minutes and consists of three scenes. In the first scene, a hard working single mother with three children is suddenly laid off.

In the second scene, the audience meets her again a few months later, at the breakfast table with her children.

One of the children is seen again in the third scene as "Welfare Wally." He is being taunted by two rich girls because his clothes are shabby and he doesn't have a

AND POVERTY

"decent lunch." A sympathetic teacher intervenes by telling the girls and the audience: "There are many people in Vancouver who cannot give their children a decent lunch. There are even some who can't give them any lunch at all."

This leads to the dramatic scene mentioned earlier.

It was not easy to compete with the two panels which followed our play. One consis-



ted of those who deal with poor children every day like teachers and school principals.

The other panel consisted of politicians who attempted to answer the questions raised by the first panel. Many important things were said by these experts.

However our play also made a significant contribution. We are not professional actors but we can draw on our own experience and tap our own feelings. We can point out things politicians are often not aware of. For example, we showed that older children and teenagers are usually too embarrassed to admit that they are hungry.

We can show this in a different, efficient, and enjoyable way. We look forward to putting on more plays.

By Heidi Alvarez

WILL BUS FARES GO UP?

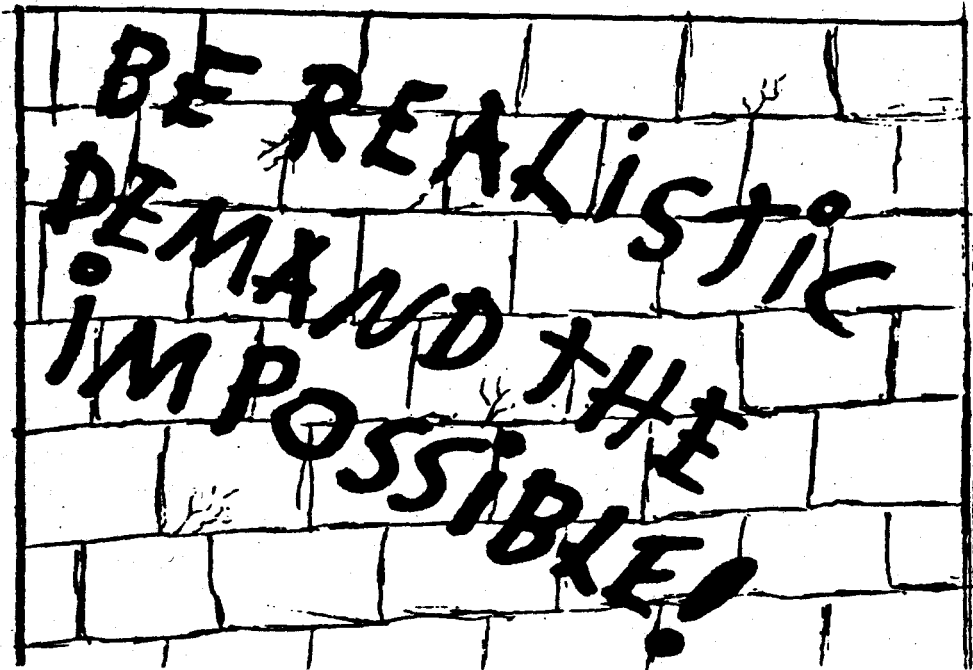
Busfares might not go up on May 1st.

On April 7th there was a public meeting on bus fares. The Regional Transit Commission wanted to raise the fare from \$1.15 to \$1.25. But about 20 people spoke against fare increases. They were students, seniors, and low income people.

End Legislated Poverty said that fares are already so high that tens of thousands of people can't use the transit system.

No one spoke in favor of a bus fare increase.

The Transit Commission will make its decision on April 28th. We'll keep you posted.



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

The City of Vancouver will have an election this November.

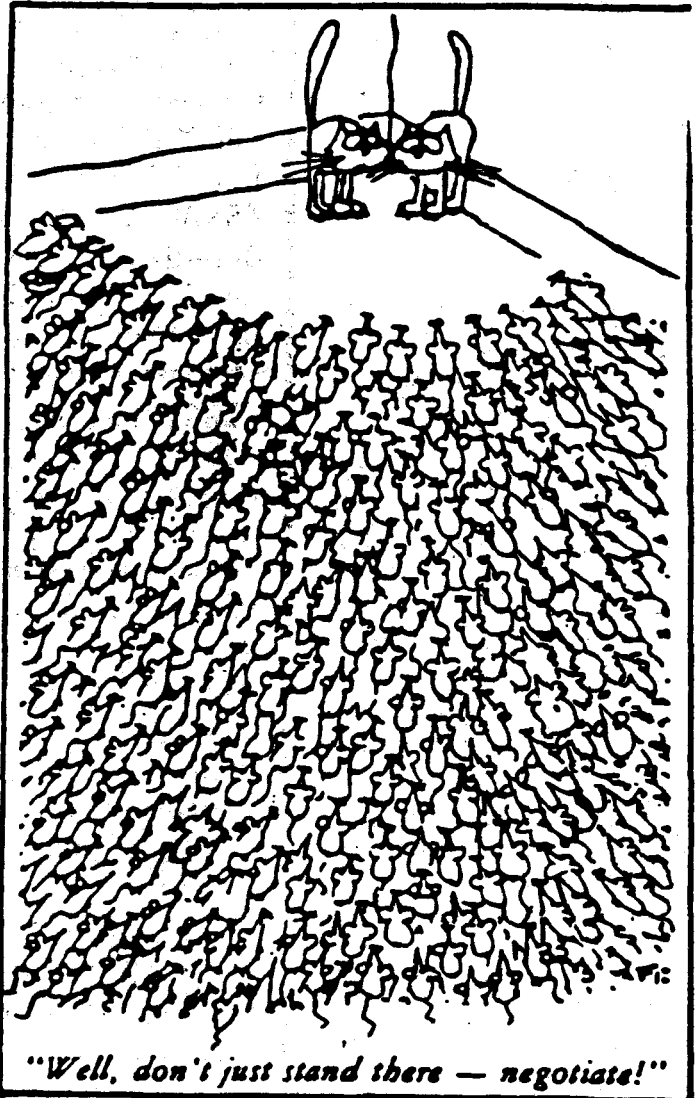
City government can do many things to help low income people IF the right people are on city council.

The City could contribute to food for hungry kids. They could stop kicking people out of illegal suites. They could make landlords fix up crummy housing. They could help get affordable housing built. They could fight for lower bus fares.

In order to vote, you have to register first.

To register, fill out the form that comes to your home. If a form didn't come to your home, you can get them at community centres, 7-Eleven and Mac's

Van City Credit Union, and banks. Or, call 873-7681 for information.



These groups will help you with welfare problems:

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

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

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

VANCOUVER 1988

Walk for Peace

Saturday

April 23

Assemble 11 a.m.

at Kitsilano Beach

Peace Rally 1:30 p.m.

at Sunset Beach

END THE ARMS RACE

1708 W. 16th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 2M1 736-2366

Co-sponsored by Vancouver City Council,
Vancouver School Board and Parks Board.



WALK for PEACE

Take a step towards international policies that can prevent nuclear war!

1987 brought us one step closer to our goal –

The I.N.F. Treaty signed by the United States and the Soviet Union is *removing* intermediate range nuclear weapons from Europe.

There will soon be another Summit meeting at which President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev will agree to cut in half stockpiled long range nuclear weapons.

There is still a long road ahead.

Planning is underway for even more deadly weapons so expensive that they are robbing us now of funding for the basic things needed for life all over the world.

People could live together in peace on this planet – if governments will help end the arms race.

By walking for peace in April we can send a message to the governments of this world that we care about the future.

To the government of Canada we say:

1. Take Canada out of the arms race now.
2. Encourage the United States and the Soviet Union to continue talking and reducing stockpiles of nuclear weapons.
3. Work vigorously to end all nuclear weapons tests anywhere in the world, by any country.

Together We Will End the Arms Race!

April 23 Assembly Site

