

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

13

June 21, 1988

SURVIVAL FIGHTBACK

By Irene Schmidt

Our day for the single parents and children who planned to descend on the Legislature began when we met at the Vancouver Bus Depot at 8:30 am.

We had a great send off by Jean Swanson and media from CKVU. They interviewed us extensively before we boarded the bus heading for Victoria.

The next item on the agenda occurred on the ferry. All of the single parents planned their strategy for the schedule at the Legislature. We also planned how we would respond to media questions.

At 2 pm we were introduced in the House.

John Cashore announced Pat Chauncey while Wayne and I were introduced by Emery Barnes.

It was absolutely disgusting to see how heartless, callous and rude the government members were when the subject of the fifty dollar cutback was discussed. We could easily see what a low opinion the socred's have of single parent families. One of their members responded to our introduction by saying "oink, oink." We would like to give them lessons in common courtesy.

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MOTHERS IN VICTORIA

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The most difficult part of the day was when we gave our testimonies during our meeting with the NDP. Each one of us has had a very painful experience and everyone cried when Lorraine told her story about how she was worse off when working at a job.

Lorraine told us about the empty cupboards and about often being late for work because she had to scrounge for bus fare.

Michelle stressed the point that society feels that we have every opportunity while the opposite is true. We are kept down by the continuous barriers placed in our way.

Darlene Marzari of the

NDP told us that the same problems occurred 20 years ago but the people are much better organized now. Many thanks to the NDP caucus for their support, and also to the people who made our trip possible by donating food and money. We could never have managed to get to Victoria on our own.



HUNGRY CHILDREN

WE'LL KEEP TRYING

End Legislated Poverty
and the Child Poverty

Action Committee are
going back to City
Council.

Wayne's story

By Irene Schmidt

I would like to share Wayne's summary of the Legislature proceedings. He just could not get over not being able to respond to the government. Wayne asked me,

"Do you mean to tell a person they cannot talk back to these issues?"

Wayne has been spoiled at Carnegie because he has been able to voice his opinion at every meeting. This is a twelve year old boy's observation of the Legislature and the comparison between it and a community centre.

They will try again to get Council to spend money for a food program in the schools.

Last month Council defeated a motion to spend \$200,000 on a food program. That would have been enough for food in four schools.

"We really need the money now," said Pat Chauncey of the Child Poverty Action Committee. The socreds are still planning to cut \$50 a month from some mothers of school children." The cut is scheduled to take effect in October.

ELP and CPAC plan to go to Council at the end of June.

THE FREE TRADE DEAL: WHAT DOES IT

WILL IT BE EASIER TO GET A JOB?

Everyone, even the government, admits that Canadians will lose jobs with the trade deal. B. C. could lose 60,000 jobs.

Most of the people who will lose jobs are already low income people.

Thousands of people who work in fish canneries may lose their jobs. People who work on farms and food canneries also stand a good chance of losing their jobs.

People who work in clothing, fine paper, furniture, and other areas also risk losing their jobs with the trade deal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO WAGES AND WELFARE?

Under the trade deal, there will be no taxes

on things coming across the border from the U.S. That means that Canadian companies will have to compete fiercely with U. S. companies--or lose their customers.

Wages are very low in some states. In Texas, the minimum wage is \$1.40 an hour. Nine states have no minimum wage at all. Canadian companies will want their workers to work for less so they can compete with U. S. companies in places like Texas.

Welfare in B. C. is \$430 a month. A person working full time at the minimum wage in Texas makes only \$224 a month. Do you think Canadian corporations will want to keep our welfare rates?

WHO WILL RUN OUR COUNTRY?

This is the most imp-

MEAN FOR LOW INCOME PEOPLE?

Important question about the trade deal.

Right now our government can:

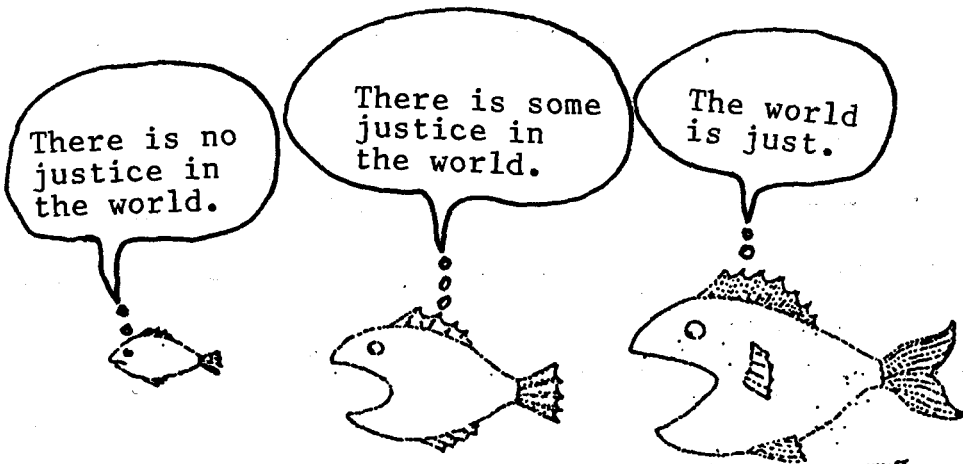
- *help a Canadian company create jobs by letting it buy cheap power;
- *protect jobs in fish canneries by passing a law saying that fish caught in Canada have to be processed here;
- *keep investment in Canada by passing a law saying that profits have to stay here to create jobs here;

*set up a denticare program without asking the Americans.

With the trade deal, our government won't be able to do any of these things. Big corporations will make these decisions and there will be little we citizens can do about it.

So the trade deal is really a way of taking the democratic voice out of the economy.

That's why we have to stop it. That's why we need an election.



CHEAP CULTURE

Would you like to get some cheap tickets for plays, for dance performances, or for the opera?

A group called Distix is trying to help low income people get cheap tickets to cultural events. Tickets will cost around \$3-4 each.

Most of the performances will be for Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday nights.

If you would like to be on the list for cheap tickets, fill out the form at the bottom and send it to:

Vancouver Cultural
Alliance
1693 W. 7th
Vancouver, B. C.
V6J 1S4

After you are on the Distix mailing list, they will send you a letter every two months or so. The letter will tell you what events are available, and how to order the tickets.

DISTIX APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

ORGANIZATION DISTIX
INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED THROUGH END LEGISLATED POVERTY

YOU CAN APPEAL AND WIN!!!

Under the GAIN Act, you have the right to appeal decisions made by your worker, or the worker's supervisor, if you do not agree with them.

You can appeal even if you don't know if you will win.

But many people who appeal do win.

Lately, for example, a woman won an appeal and got to keep \$200 a month in maintenance payments from her ex-spouse.

In another case, two people won the right to get welfare to pay for cable TV and tenant insurance.

Some reasons for making appeals are: being turned down for GAIN, having a GAIN cheque stopped; refusal of a crisis

grant; refusal of any other special grant; being called "transient", or "employable." Many other things can also be appealed.

Ask your worker for an Appeal Kit that explains how to appeal.

You have a better chance of winning if you get an advocacy group behind you. These groups are listed on the back page.



These groups will help you with welfare problems:

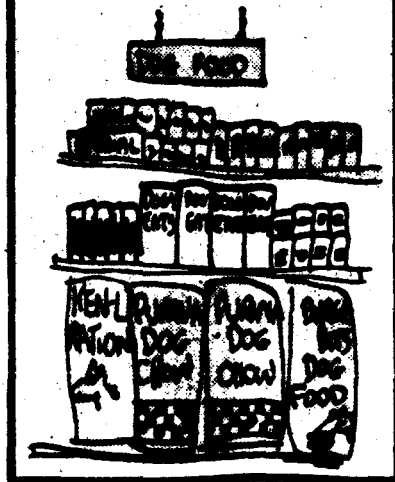
DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, 9E. Hastings. Phone 682-0931. Open 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

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.

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

SOCRED'S HANDY
FOOD BUDGETING
TIP # 1



SOCRED'S HANDY
FOOD BUDGETING
TIP # 2

HERE KITTY,
KITTY

