

# END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#16

Sept. 20, 1988

## NEW RULES MEAN LESS MONEY, MORE HASSLES

Does it seem like you're getting a bigger hassle than usual in the welfare office? It's not your imagination.

Welfare advocates and even Financial Aid Workers are getting fed up with changes in the Ministry. If you add up the changes that are happening, two things become clear:

**THE SOCREDS ARE SNEAKILY CUTTING BACK ON WELFARE. THEY ARE CREATING MORE AND MORE BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES FOR PEOPLE TO JUMP THROUGH.**

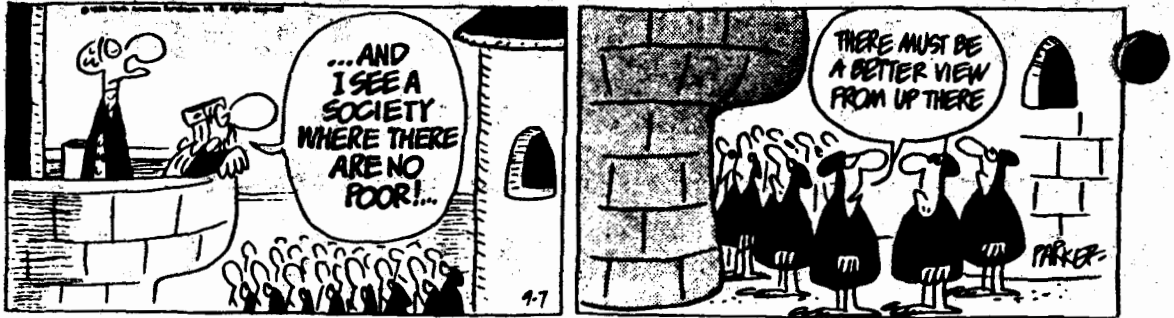
Here are some examples:

1. Many women with school aged children will be cut back by \$50 on their next check. The socreds think this will give them an "incentive" to look for work.

2. Workers are no longer allowed to say that a person is "unemployable" unless they have a letter from a doctor. Some doctors are billing patients for these letters.

3. Workers are no longer allowed to grant GAIN payments for a full month if the person

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## MORE HASSLES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

applies in mid month.

4. Workers are being told to encourage people on GAIN who are 60-64 years old to apply for early CPP. This is then deducted from welfare and the person gets nothing extra. The provincial government pays less, but the person on welfare gets 30% less CPP when they reach 65.

5. There is a new home visit policy. Every new applicant must be visited within the first

month. Some workers are rebelling at this and refusing to do it.

Some Financial Aid Workers are getting so fed up with these changes that they had a meeting to discuss the problems.

The FAW's say that the government is taking away their ability to help people on welfare. They say they are becoming clerical workers whose job is to save the government money.

# WHITE SPOT WORKERS ON STRIKE

Workers at White Spot restaurants are on strike. End Legislated Poverty is supporting their strike.

That's because most of the workers are trying to get out of poverty. Their wages start at the minimum wage which is below poverty. The average person works only 25 hours a week so they don't bring in enough money to live on.

single mothers this month? Why are they saying that this is an "incentive" to work? The socreds want wages that are below poverty-- like the wages paid by White Spot--to look good to people on welfare.

White Spot is owned by Peter Toigo. Toigo is so rich that he offered to buy all of B. C.'s crown lands that were for sale. He said he would pay \$500 million.

Why are the socreds cutting \$50 off of

## Dignity Players

Presents:

"WE ARE FAMILY TOO!"

PLACE: St. Mary's South Hill Church  
808 E. 50th Ave.  
(1 block east of Fraser)

DATE: Wed., Sept. 21st, 1988

TIME: 7:00 pm

THE PLAY IS ABOUT: How lower income families have to struggle for a decent living.

PRICE: Free admission.

Bus fare will be provided if you need it.

# MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Socreds have a new program. It is called the Family Maintenance Program. The Socreds claim that this program will "strengthen families".

But lawyers and welfare advocates think that the program may be a big headache or worse for some single moms on welfare.

Under this program, welfare officials will go after your ex-partner to get support money for you and your children. You will have to provide the Ministry with information about your finances. You will also be asked about your ex-partner. After the Ministry gets a court order, your ex-partner will pay support money to the program and then the money will be passed on to you.

But here are the problems: Your worker may tell you that you **MUST** take part in these programs or you will be cut off welfare. You may have a good reason for **NOT** taking part.

Maybe you have finally got things settled and you don't want to stir up trouble. Or you are still having problems around custody or



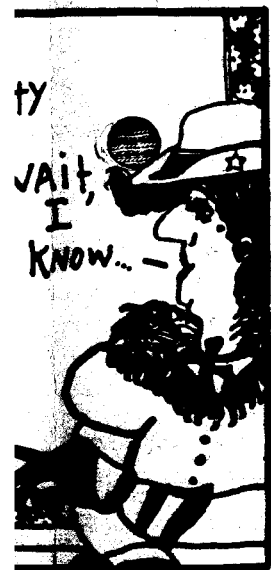
# RAM HAS PROBLEMS

property division. Or your ex-partner has been violent with you and your children. Maybe your ex-partner doesn't have any money.

Tell your worker your reasons for not wanting to participate in the program. If you are cut off of welfare, you can appeal. Your benefits must be continued until

your appeal is heard.

You can get help with an appeal at the Legal Services Society, 191 Alexander St. (Hours: 9am to 3:30 Mon., Tues. Thurs., Fri. and 12:30 to 3:30 on Wed.) First United Church, 320 E. Hastings (Hours: 9 to 11:30 am Mon. to Fri.) will also help.



NICOLE HOLLANDER

# NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN

I would like to say something about a play I saw. It was organized by the Chilean Community Association of B. C. The play consisted of stories of Latin American Immigrant Women and it was called "I wasn't born here."

The play was about women who were very happy in their life when suddenly a dictatorship swept their country. Some hid and fled to Canada for their lives; for safety from torture, death, hunger, and constant terror. They arrived here with nothing and were faced with the language barrier, a new lifestyle, and a colder climate. They also faced job problems because they couldn't understand the simple things we take for granted.

They have no family or friends and are homesick, lonely, confused, frustrated, terrified, and embarrassed.

Some families become stronger and cling to each other for support. Other families fall apart. Some women go to transition homes to escape beatings and fights within the home. And they are forced to start their life again from rock bottom.

Lower income Canadian people can empathize with them because we are also struggling for a decent living. And though we hang on to whatever dignity we have left, our problems are not our own fault.

By Anita Gingrich

# RALLY FOR FOOD

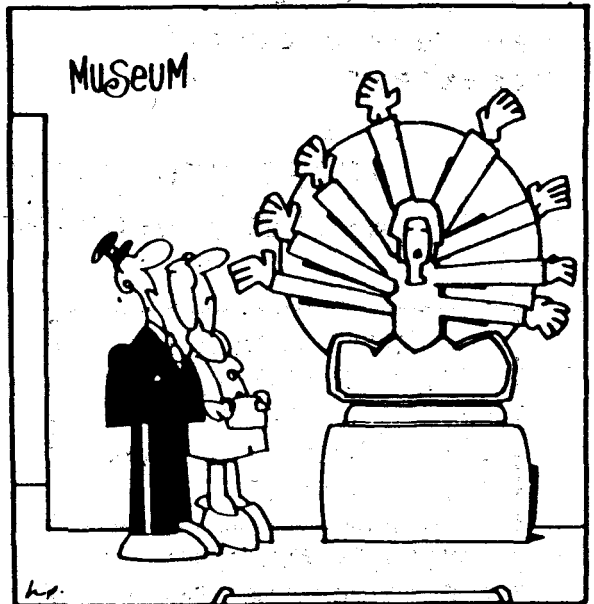
We still need more money to feed hungry children in Vancouver schools. On Sept-9th, about 100 low income people and their supporters started a march at Pat Carney's office. Carney is a federal MP. She is also President of the Treasury Board. The federal government is planning to spend \$8 billion on nuclear submarines. So End Legislated Poverty thought she should have some money for hungry children.

Then we went to the Provincial Government offices. The province has spent hundreds of millions on highways. Surely they should have a few hundred thousand for hungry children.

Then we went to Robson Square. Our supporters from the teachers and

parents associations and churches spoke. Low income people read poems about Hungry Children.

We plan to keep up the pressure until we get proper food programs in all the schools where they are needed.



--WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT SHE REPRESENTS--BUT WE SUSPECT SHE WAS A WORKING MOTHER--

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# BREAKFAST IN LITTLE MOUNTAIN

It is quite apparent that the government is choosing to ignore its hungry children. Should we have to be thankful for such small mercies as the breakfast program being put on by the Little Mountain Neighbourhood House? For 25 cents your child can have a decent breakfast.

The three schools that are involved are General Wolfe, General Brock, and David Livingstone. Financial assistance is available if required. For further information, call 879-7104.

By Jackie Cowell

These groups will help you with welfare problems:

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DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, 9E. Hastings. Phone 682-0931. Open 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.  
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VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS ASSOCIATION, 246 E. Broadway. Phone 872-8648. Open 9 to 4 Monday through Friday.  
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FIRST UNITED CHURCH, 320 E. Hastings. Come Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:30 am.  
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LITTLE MOUNTAIN TENANTS ASSOCIATION, 125 E. 37th. Phone 324-0555. Open 10 to 3 Monday through Friday.  
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