

# END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

Dec. 20, 1988

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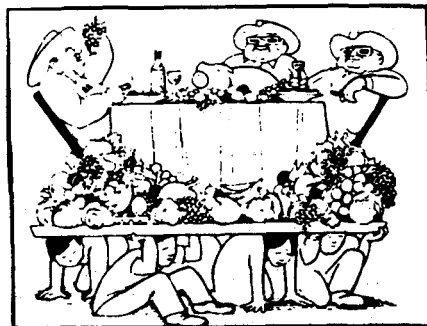
## MORE HUNGRY KIDS TO GET FOOD

Vancouver City Council has finally voted to help feed hungry children. Alderman Libby Davies made the motion at the first meeting of the new City Council.

Eight votes were required to pass the grant. The NPA Council defeated the motion twice before because it only got seven votes. But newly elected alderman Harry Rankin made the difference this time! He voted for the food, and the motion passed.

\$200,000 will be granted to the School Board. That should be enough money to put food in four more schools.

End Legislated Poverty and the Child Poverty Action Committee have been working to get food in the schools for over a year.



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# PEOPLE ON WELFARE

This organization to fight the welfare cutbacks managed to get off to a good start with thirty members. Just recently we drew up a petition against the cruel and unjust reduction in Social Assistance rates. It is inserted in the middle of this newsletter and the Dec. Carnegie newsletter.

The problems brought up at the People on Welfare meetings are all tied in to poverty. One young mother has been denied a crib or any other necessities. This single mom has a special needs child and there have been four attempts to force her to give up the boy even though this woman is an excellent mother.

To top everything off, this single mother has

had her cheque reduced. I have offered to do emergency babysitting when mothers need time out to fight back with an advocate.

Handicapped pensioners are also the victims of this cold and callous government's actions. A senior friend of mine had one hundred and fifty dollars docked from her cheque. This means when her rent is paid, nothing is left for food. If it weren't for caring people bringing her food, I certain she would starve.

People on Welfare meetings are held every Tuesday at 4:30 in the Carnegie Community Centre.

By Irene Schmidt

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# ● SINGLE PARENTS TO GET \$50 BACK

Single parents will get to keep the \$50 that the socreds cut from welfare checks in November. But the \$50 will not be put back on cheques until January or February.

The announcement was made on Dec. 15th by Social Services and Housing Minister Claude Richmond.

Richmond said that "public attention" to the problem caused the government to review the needs of single parents. "That means that all the people who worked to stop these cuts should

pat themselves on the back," said End Legislated Poverty co-ordinator Jean Swanson. People have been writing letters, going to demonstrations, meeting with the government, attending vigils, signing petitions. This isn't total victory, but it shows that our work has paid off for thousands of people on welfare.

Single "employable" people with no children will still be cut back if they don't get a doctor's letter.



# THIS LETTER MAY HELP

Did you get \$50 cut off your GAIN cheque because the government says you are "employable"? If so, you may need a letter from your doctor to help you get the \$50 back.

This is the form letter that is used by the Downtown Community Health Clinic. If your doctor doesn't know what to say in the letter, this form seems to work pretty well.

## SOCREDS TAKE MORE MONEY FROM KIDS

For the last couple of months advocates have been winning a little extra money for some single moms. They found a loophole in the GAIN Regulations. In the past mothers could only keep \$100 a month per family. But with the

loophole, mothers could keep \$100 per child.

But the socreds were quick to close the loophole. They changed the Regulation. Now single mothers can only keep \$100 a month from fathers--even if they have six children.



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# TO GET YOUR \$50 BACK

Date:

Address it to your worker

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

RE: \_\_\_\_\_ (your name)

The above patient is unable to seek or maintain employment at this time due to his/her medical condition:

The anticipated duration of the above condition is:

He/she is presently being treated with:

His/her condition is likely to be ongoing, persistent and/or permanent. Remedial treatment will not assist the individual to obtain employment. Retraining is not a realistic option at this time.

Yours truly,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(doctor signs here)

This is my authority to release medical information to the Ministry of Social Services.

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(you sign here)

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# A CANADIAN MOTHER ●

Brought up  
 Brought up to believe  
 In Glorious Canadian  
 equality  
 Caught up  
 Caught up in hushed up  
 poverty  
 The monetary poor  
 We are the Poor  
 Remain Faceless  
 No voice  
 United we stand  
 Today, Together  
 To be counted  
 Our quiet Protest  
 For the children  
 All of our children  
 Rich or Poor they grow  
 up  
 But the poor suffer  
 Malnutrition, inadequate  
 housing, social  
 inequality, insecurity.  
 Taking \$50 from them  
 Taking fruit from their  
 mouths  
 Forcing mothers to leave  
 six month old babies  
 At six months they ARE  
 babies  
 Work or Starve  
 Work or Beg

Work and be Separated  
 Trusting innocent  
 miraculous children  
 Give us back the \$50  
 Excuse me, we'd like the  
 \$50.  
 Mommy, where's the juice  
 Mommy I'm cold  
 Mommy my shoes hurt  
 Mommy....  
 Son, we have no juice  
 today.  
 Daughter, put on another  
 sweater, you know it  
 costs money to keep the  
 heat on  
 Son, I'm sorry your  
 shoes hurt  
 Daughter, no darling we  
 can't afford Ballet  
 My son, My daughter,  
 mommy's sorry.  
 Oh! Families are the  
 strength of the future  
 Families need adequate  
 support  
 Rob \$50 from the poor  
 Punish our children  
 Our Canadian children  
 By Katheren Szabo

# GET WELFARE HELP FROM THESE GROUPS

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

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

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, 9 E. Hastings. Phone 682-0931. Open 9 to 4 Monday through Friday.

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



# MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

MORE PUBLIC HOUSING

NO MORE POVERTY

BETTER EDUCATION

DECENT WAGES

HUMAN RIGHTS

MORE JOBS

UNION RIGHTS

PEACE

HEALTH CARE

WELFARE

EQUALITY

JUSTICE

HONEST POLITICIANS

Thanks to Margaret

