

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

#20

NEWSLETTER

January 18, 1989

BUS SERVICE: COMPLAIN TO THE GOVERNMENT

Are you fed up with waiting for late buses? Is \$1.25 too much for you to pay for a bus ride? Are you tired of standing on crowded buses?

Bus drivers do not cause these problems. The government causes these problems by cutting service and raising fares.

In April the Transit Commission will probably try to raise fares again.

You can do something. Write to Rita Johnston, the Minister Responsible

for Transit, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B. C. Or call her at 590-1441. Tell her you ride the bus. Tell her you want better, cheaper service. Demand an answer.



#3-5608 Victoria Dr., Vancouver, B. C. V5P 3W4 Phone 321-1202

● TRY FOR A BUS PASS IF YOU ARE DISABLED

Are you a disabled person who is not getting GAIN for the Handicapped? If so it still might be possible for you to get a bus pass that costs only \$36 a year. There is a new GAIN policy on this.

First United Church, or

the B. C. Coalition of the Disabled have advocates that will try to get the bus pass for you if you are on GAIN as "unemployable," or on some other kind of income (CPP, UI, WCB, for example). See the back page for addresses.



BIG BUSINESS GROUPS WANT FREE TRADE

What can we expect now that the free trade deal is passed?

Over the Christmas holidays, powerful groups representing big corporations gave us a hint.

The Canadian Manufacturer's Association wants a Royal Commission into social spending. Social spending is money spent on things like old age pension, childcare, and welfare.

In 1984 the Manufacturer's Association wrote a report. They said that most of the programs we have now should be abolished. Some of these include welfare, old age pensions, UI,

veterans allowance, social assistance to Indians. Then they want to use the money spent on these programs to pay for another program. They call the new program a Guaranteed Annual Income. But anti-poverty groups call it Guaranteed Poverty.

The corporations have stolen the Guaranteed Annual Income and are changing it to help themselves, not low income people. They want it to be used as a wage top up so that



STAGE TWO: TO CUT SOCIAL PROGRAMS

minimum wages won't have to go up. In other words, the government would help corporations pay wages. That way the corporations would have more profits and pay lower taxes.

Over the holidays, another Big Business group called for cuts to unemployment insurance. In the U. S. UI is much worse than in Canada.

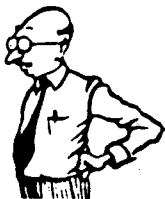
For example, farm workers and fishermen can't get UI in the US.

Here they can. UI is paid for by workers and business. But business doesn't want to pay its share.

Canadian Big Business thinks these changes would help them "compete" with U. S. business that pays lower taxes for worse social programs.

End Legislated Poverty has been fighting against free trade because we thought social programs were at risk. Business didn't

DEMOCRACY
OF COURSE.



WHAT'S IT CALLED WHEN
THE MINORITY RULES?



FREE
ENTERPRISE.



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ON THE NEXT
PAGE)

FREE TRADE, STAGE TWO

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

wait long to confirm our programs. We can't let fears. Now that we the Big Business groups have free trade, we have get their way. to fight to preserve and improve our social

A WELFARE BUM (A Heroine)

By Sheila Baxter

WELFARE BUM THEY called her

As she struggled to raise

three kids.

She baked, she sewed, she tried

so hard to make a little

money.

The house she cleaned at the

top of the hill only earned her twenty dollars.

Just 35, but she looked so old

her face so lined and wrinkled.

She worked and worked, that welfare bum, and raised those tiny children.

And I believe the time has

come For society to "honour" such

WELFARE BUMS.



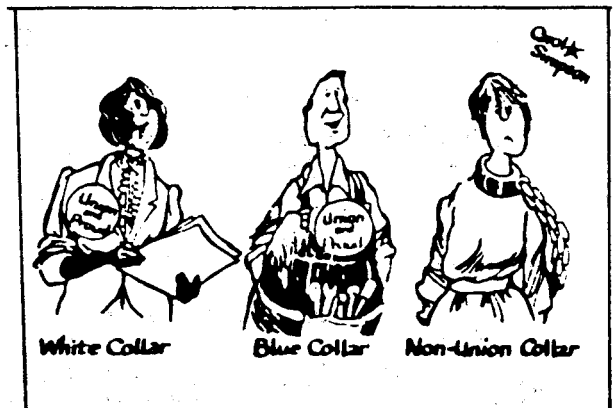
● UNION DOES GOOD DEED

The BC Government Employees Union may have saved a few women and children from getting beat up over the Christmas holidays. Here's how: SS&H sent out a letter to women on GAIN who have maintenance orders from their ex-partners. The letter gave women only a few days to tell the Ministry where they wanted to have their maintenance cheques sent. The letter said that if SS&H did not receive this information, they would automatically give the woman's address to the ex-partner.

A BCGEU member alerted ELP and the union to this problem. ELP immediately contacted Leslie Arnold who had

signed the letter. The BCGEU immediately sent a letter by FAX to Ms. Arnold. The GEU said it was extremely concerned at the short time period and that women and children were at risk. ELP demanded that no addresses be given to ex-partners unless the women authorized it. Ms. Arnold immediately apologized and took steps to extend the date to the end of January.

Wouldn't it be nice if all problems with SS&H could be dealt with this easily?



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.

B. C. COALITION OF THE DISABLED, 456 W. Broadway. Phone 872-1278. Open 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

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

