

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

#21

NEWSLETTER

Feb. 14, 1989

SELLING EXPERT IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC HOUSING

Is the provincial government planning to sell public housing?

We know that the socreds sent a Cabinet Minister to Britain to study privatization.

Claude Richmond is in charge of public housing for the socreds. We know that he wrote a letter saying that he would consider privatizing management of public housing.

We know that a three year plan for re-organization of the Ministry calls for "self-directed purchase of housing" by 1990.

Now the socreds have appointed a new chairman to B. C. Housing Management Commission. This is the Commission that controls public housing and social housing and housing policy in B. C. The new chairman is Peter Thomas. He is Chairman of the Board of Century 21 Real Estate. He has written books on the "Art of Selling," the "Joy of Selling," and "21 Steps to Successful Selling."

Let's hope that Mr. Thomas does not intend to use his enthusiasm for selling to sell off our homes.

#3 5608 Victoria Dr., Vancouver Phone 321-1202

TRY TO GET A DIET ALLOWANCE

Do you need more money to survive on welfare? You might be able to get an extra \$20 a month for a dietary allowance. This is not a sure thing, but you may have a chance.

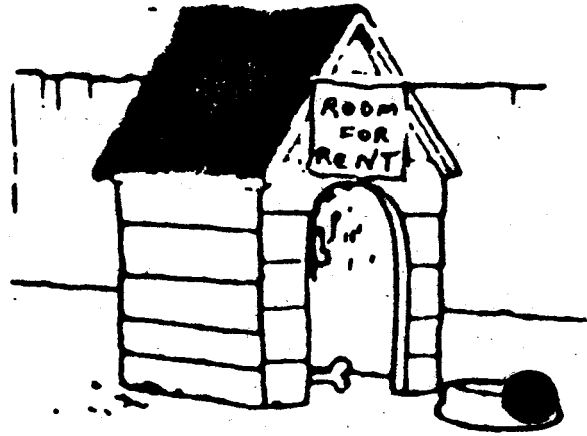
If you are overweight, underweight, diabetic, or need special help with your diet that you can't afford on welfare, ask your doctor or a dietician for a letter.

The letter should state:

1. The physical condition requiring the diet.
2. The therapeutic diet required, and
3. The duration of the treatment (for example, three months).

Give this letter to your worker. If you are denied the diet

allowance, you may want to get help from one of the groups on the back. They will help you appeal and you might win.



GET \$70 FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Don't sell your tax and
lose money.

If you earned less than
\$16,000 last year, you
can get a federal sales
tax credit of \$70 for
yourself and \$35 for
each child.

If you need help filling
out the form, one of
these groups will help

First United Church
320 East Hastings
Tues. and Thurs.
1pm-3pm
By appointment only.
681-8365

Carnegie Centre
Main at Hastings
Mon.-Thurs.
11am-3pm
665-2220

DERA
9 East Hastings
9:30 - 3pm.
Mon.-Fri.
682-0931

you.

All you need to do is
bring along your T4
slips and the income tax
forms which you can pick
up at your local post
office.

Some groups may require
at least one piece of
ID.

Vancouver and District
Public Housing Tenants'
Association
246a East Broadway
10am-3pm
Call ahead first
872-8648

Little Mountain Tenants
Association
125 East 37th Avenue
Call ahead first
10am-3pm
Mon.-Fri.
324-0555

MAN ON WELFARE TAKES ON

A Manitoba man on a disabled pension took the government to court and won!! His name is Robert James Finlay. He has been fighting the government for 14 years.

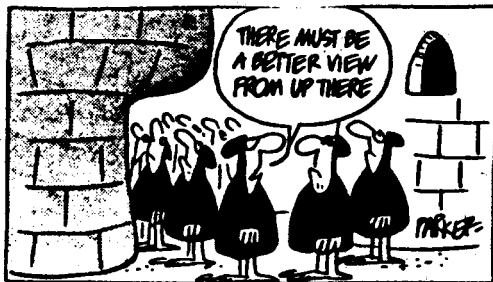
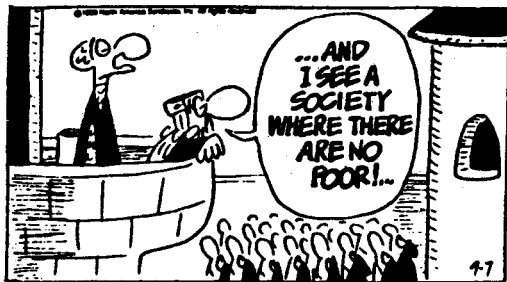
His victory may help other people on welfare.

This is what happened: The Manitoba government was taking money off Mr. Finlay's disability cheque. The government said Mr. Finlay owed them money. Mr. Finlay appealed 23 times and lost every time. Then he got a lawyer and took the government to court.

The case took years. But finally Mr. Finlay won.

The judge ordered the Government of Canada to stop paying Manitoba \$14 million a month if Manitoba does not stop deducting money from people on welfare.

The decision may help people in B. C. in two ways. It may be illegal for SS&H to deduct money from cheques for overpayments. Lots of people on welfare have to pay back money for security deposits or food vouchers.



GOVERNMENT--AND WINS!!!

Sometimes they have to pay back money if their cheque is stolen and SS&H pays extra money for rent or food.

Some lawyers are looking at this question for End Legislated Poverty. We are not sure that we will be able to use the courts to stop these deductions. But we have a chance.

Also, Mr. Finlay's court case may help us get governments to raise welfare rates. Several times End Legislated Poverty has asked the socreds to prove that a person could live on the amount that welfare pays. The socreds didn't answer. But the judge said that Manitoba has to stop deducting from Mr. Finlay's cheque because he didn't have enough money to meet his "basic requirements."

End Legislated Poverty may be able to start a court case about this. We could argue that welfare of \$430 per month doesn't meet "basic requirements". This is not a sure thing. But it is a possibility, thanks to Mr. Finlay.



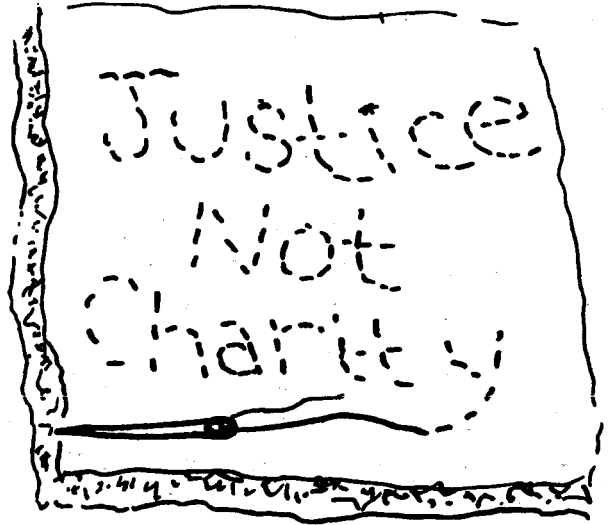
"None of your excuses !
We helped you here last
month, you know.!"

IN STITCHES

End Legislated Poverty
is making a quilt
celebrating our
struggles and victories.

The quilt will be made
from 12" X 12" squares
stitched together. Each
square can be made from
any design or material
as long as it has a one
inch cloth border.

Call Patricia Chauncey
at 321-1202 if you want
to make a square.



YOU CAN GET HELP

at the

TENANTS RIGHTS CLINIC

Free legal advice
and legal information
Every Saturday morning
9 am to noon
No appointment necessary
191 Alexander Street
Vancouver

*Co-sponsored by the Tenants Rights Coalition
and Legal Services Society Gastown Office*

LUNCHEES IN FOUR MORE SCHOOLS

Four more schools will be getting a lunch program by March 1st.

a lunch program in 13 Vancouver schools in low income areas.

They are Mount Pleasant, MacDonald, Carleton, and Nightingale.

So far lunches are being served at Strathcona, Queen Alexandra, Brittanica, Seymour, Queen Victoria, and Queen Alexandra Annex.

End Legislated Poverty has been fighting to get

COLD CHARITY

From a book called the "Protected Place" by Gilean Douglas:

shines so in the sun of our expectation that we stretch out our hands to its blaze, only to have them seized and frozen.

The air is, as my grandmother used to say, as cold as charity. But I disagree with her. Nothing could be as frigid or bleak as the raw, piercing air of a charity that masquerades as love. Its icy smile

Its glittering words fall tinkling to the ground. Frost-bitten and perished, we draw back into the burrows of our pride and block them with our bitterness.



YOU'RE INVITED TO A CONFERENCE ON FIGHTING FREE TRADE

How can we keep fighting free trade, now that the deal is signed? End Legislated Poverty and groups representing millions of other people think that free trade will make Canadians poorer. What can we do about this now?

On Feb. 25th, there will be a conference to figure out what we can do. You are invited. If you need childcare, call 321-1202 to reserve a space. It is free. The conference will be at King Edward Campus, 1155 E. Broadway. from 9am to 4pm.

GET WELFARE HELP FROM THESE GROUPS

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

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

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.

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