

# END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#25

Aug. 23, 1989

## SOCREDS CRACK DOWN ON "EMPLOYABLES"

The socreds have sent a letter to 49,000 so-called "employable" people on welfare. The letter says that they have to fill out a job search form by Aug. 18th. If they don't, and don't have a good reason, they won't get their cheque.

You might have some questions about this.

HAS THE LETTER BEEN SENT TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE CHILDREN? No.

IS IT LEGAL FOR THE SOCREDS TO REQUIRE A JOB SEARCH? Yes, the law says a "reasonable"



"List your desired salary. . . .  
The job goes to the lowest bidder."

effort to search for a job can be required.

(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)

## SOCREDS CRACK DOWN



**...AND WHERE EVEN  
THE EMPLOYERS NEED  
UNDERPAID HELP, YOU'LL  
BE THERE...**

**WHAT DOES REASONABLE  
MEAN?** If you ask your  
worker for bus fare and  
clothes and phone money,  
that's reasonable. If  
you ask people you know  
for jobs, put their  
names down. Call any of  
the groups listed on  
page 5 and ask them  
for a job. You probably  
won't get one, but they  
won't hassle you and you  
can put it on the form.  
Write down the names of  
other places where you  
apply..

**WHAT IF I AM ILLITERATE?**  
(If you know someone who  
can't read very well,  
read this part to them.)  
Tell your worker that  
you can't read or write  
very well. That should  
be a good reason for not  
being able to find a  
job. You might want to  
ask for some courses to  
help you learn how to  
read.

**HOW MANY JOBS DO I HAVE  
TO APPLY FOR?** This is

**"EMPLOYABLES"**

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going to be left up to your worker. It will be different in different parts of the province.

**WHAT CAN I DO IF I GET CUT OFF?** If you go to pick up your cheque and it isn't there, say immediately: "I want to appeal this. I want an appeal kit. I want you to fill out the Ministry's part of the form." Then, get one of the groups on page 5.

to help you. These groups have a good record of winning appeals. The government has to give you your benefits until the result of the appeal is known.

**WHAT IF I'M SICK OR INJURED?** Get a letter from your doctor saying that you can't work. Give it to your worker and say that you want to be "unemployable."

**WHAT IF THESE THINGS DON'T WORK?** Get help from a group on page 5.

You are much stronger with a group behind you and they are experienced in dealing with the welfare system.

**HERMAN**

5/30

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**You know what they say, "Two can starve as cheaply as one."**

Claude Richmond sent a news release to the media. It said that "employables" would have to fill out a job search form.

Then, to make the government look good, Richmond added a list of services that people on welfare can get to help them get work. Twelve services are listed. But only 8 of the "services" apply to "employable" singles and couples without children.

Anyway, in case you want to try to get these services, here is what the government says you can get. If you want any of these, tell your worker.

--Enhanced earnings exemption: This is for people who get a job after they have been on welfare for 3 months or more. If the job is part time, or pays less

## WORK AND

than welfare, you can keep \$50 a month plus 25% of what you earn above the \$50.

--Transportation Allowance: If you are training or looking for work, you may receive assistance with transportation costs.

--Confirmed job: If you have a confirmed job, you may get assistance with transportation cost and work clothing.

--Referral to jobs: Staff in welfare offices have a computerized system and can tell people on welfare where to apply for available jobs and training. (This is what the news release says).

--Training: You can take an upgrading or



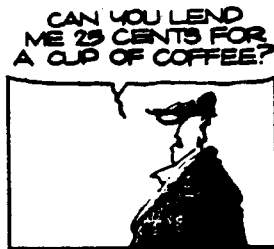
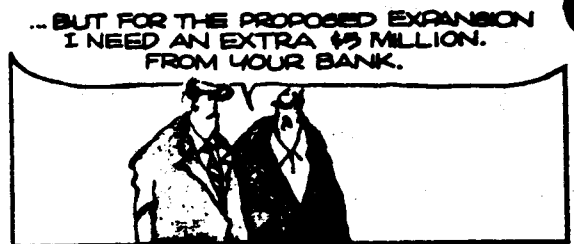
# TWELVE SCHOOLS GET LUNCH PROGRAM

Twelve Vancouver elementary schools will have a school lunch program in September. The lunch will cost \$1 for parents of children who can afford it. It will be free for other children. All the children in the school can eat together as equals. No stigma will be on children whose parents can't pay.

Victoria, Seymour, MacDonald, Mt. Pleasant, Strathcona, Carleton, Nightengale, Thunderbird, and Tillicum.

End Legislated Poverty and the Child Poverty Action Committee and many other groups fought hard for these programs starting in 1987.

The schools with lunch programs are Britannia, Grandview, Queen Alexandra, Queen



# WILL THE CITY CLOSE YOUR SUITE?

If you live in the Riley Park area, your home may be in danger. There are over 1000 so-called illegal suites in that area.

A neighbourhood committee chaired by Hardial Johal wants the suites to stay. Margaret Mitchell of Vancouver and District Public Housing Tenants is on this committee. She wants the suites to stay too. The Tenants Rights Coalition and End Legislated Poverty also want the suites to stay. All of these people say that there is no place for people to go if they are evicted.

Soon, probably on Sept. 25th, there will be a public hearing about the suites. The city will decide what to do. It

may allow some or all of the suites. It may decide that all the suites have to be phased out.

At public hearings anyone who thinks they are affected can speak to the Mayor and aldermen. Anyone who is a tenant in Vancouver will be affected. If people are evicted, the vacancy rate goes down, and rents for everyone tend to go up. Besides, if we let suites close in Riley Park, which neighbourhood will be next?

You can go to the public hearing and speak out.

Call City Hall at 873-7011 to find the date and place. If you want help deciding what to say, call Margaret Mitchell at 324-0555.

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# LAW STUDENTS LEGAL ADVICE PROGRAM

Law students at UBC have a program to provide free help to people who need it. This is how their program can help people on social assistance:

1. Students can help people who have problems with welfare. They can help people with appeals. Some students may be able to represent people on GAIN before an appeal board.

2. Students can also assist people in

- small claims matters
- landlord/tenant problems
- wills
- first criminal offences
- workers' compensation problems

Staff at the law clinics are LAW STUDENTS who may not be familiar with a

particular area of law. However the students are enthusiastic to research various areas of law and are advised by a supervising lawyer at UBC. The supervising lawyer does an excellent job of preparing students to appear before various tribunals.

The clinic will be closed from Aug. 18th to mid Sept. After that, call 228-5791 to find the clinic nearest you.

