

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

#25

October 18, 1989

DOWNTOWN DEPOSIT PROJECT

Since March, 1988 the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association has been involved in the Downtown Deposit Project. Funding comes from MSSH.

The goals of the project are:

- to reduce the time residents spend in line-ups on cheque days;
- to cut down on crime by reducing chances for muggings and strongarmings;
- to make cheque cashing less of a problem for local residents;
- to assist residents in getting proper identification.

with attitudes and communication problems on the part of bank staff which have hindered local residents in their dealings with banks.

The project deals mostly with people who get their cheques from the Yaletown, Harbour Centre, Dockside, Waterfront, and Strathcona MSSH offices. But we can help people get proper I.D. even if you get your cheques from other offices.

The project office is located at 328 Carrall St. Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

Project staff have been successful in dealing

BY SAM SNOBELEN

#104, 2005 E. 43rd, Vancouver, B. C. V5P 3W8

WHAT IS THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ANYWAY?

Lately, the socreds have been bragging about the economy. They say that the unemployment rate is down. For September, the official unemployment rate in B. C. was 8.3%. That is 132,000 unemployed people in B. C.

But who does the government say is "employed?" Each week Statistics Canada does a phone survey. They call 48,000 households. They ask if the people in the household did ANY work. That means ANY paid work. Mowing a lawn is work. Babysitting for an hour is work.

If a person says that they babysat for an hour, then the government says they had a job. It says they are employed. They could

still be on welfare. They could be living in dire poverty. But the government says they are employed.



BISHOPS FIGHT UI CUTS

The Tory government in Ottawa wants to pass a new law about unemployment insurance. The new law is called Bill C-21. If it is passed, poor people will get poorer. We will have to work more weeks to get UI. We won't be able to collect it for as many weeks. And, if we quit our jobs, we'll have to wait longer before our UI cheque comes.

The government held hearings on this bill. Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is opposed to the UI cuts. This is what they said at the hearings:

"In our view, one of the disturbing assumptions of Bill C-21...is the notion that...working people are commodities to be bought, sold, retrained, relocated or

discarded in the market place. [The bill] treats workers as 'objects' whose worth is determined by the market. By treating workers as commodities, the value and dignity of the human person is violated. And when economic policies put more pressure on unemployed men and women to accept low wages and precarious (risky and insecure) employment, a climate of fear sets in."



"I need a raise. I can't live on my celery."

If you are handicapped but not getting the handicapped pension, Legal Services has just the booklet for you. It's called: GAIN for Handicapped, how to apply..

The booklet has a little pocket in it that says: "For your doctor." In the pocket is a letter to your doctor. It explains that the handicapped pension could make a big difference to you. It shows the doctor how to fill out the form to help you.

The booklet also has a list of groups that will help you get the handicapped pension. Since people often get turned down by the Ministry on their first try, it is important to get one of these groups to help you out.

A handicapped person gets \$658 per month

GAIN for Handicapped

H o w t o a p

which is a lot more than the \$518 for an "unemployable" person on welfare, so the handicapped pension is worth a bit of running



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GET MONEY FOR CLOTHES

Are you on welfare and looking for a job? If you get a job, you may be able to get money from welfare for clothes. Ask your new boss for a letter saying that you need new clothes for your job. Many non profit employers write letters like this. Profit making employers can do it too.

Recently a single mother on welfare was hired by a non profit group. The employer wrote a letter to the employee's worker. The letter said that the new employee needed money for clothes and shoes. The woman got \$500. The worker even apologized that it wasn't more!

around and getting forms filled in.

To get your free booklet, fill out the form below and send it.

es of *GAIN for Handicapped: How to apply*
tion on other LSS publications

e t Community groups. For-profit
at Legal Services.)

Postal code

Legal Services Society, Suite 300, Box 3,
E 4G1

A POEM BY SHEILA BAXTER

Workers Unite
 Workers fight
 Slogan after slogan
 'Workers' "Workers"
 How noble the sound.

SO WHO ARE WE?

The non-workers for pay
 The sick and the old
 The resisters of Minimum
 Wage
 The battered and beaten
 The skid row bum
 The native asleep on the
 street
 The corner hooker
 BEING JOBLESS CAN HAPPEN
 TO YOU!

Most elderly and sick
 were once workers too

The skid row bum
 for years was a
 logger
 The native, we stole
 their land
 The corner hooker could
 be
 your daughter
 The list goes on and on

So let us unite
 Not just the workers
 But all of us people
 Go hand in hand
 Supporting and sharing
 Fighting corruption
 Of Corporate Governments
 who destroy the land
 of our future children
 Unborn and starving
 in their mother's
 womb.
 THE FUTURE POOR

YOU'RE THE BOSS--WRITE TO YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Are you fed up with UI cuts? Are you mad about having to pay a new tax when we can't afford the old ones? Do you think we should keep VIA Rail to tie our country together?

If so, remember, we are the people who are supposed to be in charge of our government.

Write to your Member of Parliament and tell him/her what you think. This is your right. The Members of Parliament for Vancouver are Kim Campbell (Tory), Margaret Mitchell (New Democrat), John Fraser (Tory), John Turner (Liberal), and Svend Robinson (New Democrat). You can write to them at this address:

Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

You don't need a stamp. When you get a reply, show it to your friends. Sometimes they are quite interesting. Also, lots of letters can make a difference.



"That's a good question which demands some real evasion."

GET HELP WITH WELFARE FROM THESE GROUPS

Having a hard time getting by on welfare? Ask your worker for what you need. If the worker says no, appeal. Tell your worker: "I want to appeal your decision. Please give me an appeal kit and fill out your part of it."

Tell the worker that you will get a group to help you with your appeal. You can ask one of the

groups listed here. These groups have quite a good record at winning more money for people on GAIN. For example, First United Church has won about 92% of the cases that go to Tribunal. Here's another example: The B. C. Coalition of the Disabled has done 127 cases in the last nine months. Only 7 were lost.

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
to 11 am.

VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT
PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS
ASSOCIATION, 246 E.
Broadway. Phone 872-

8648. Open 9 to 4
Monday through Friday

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

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