

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

#27

Nov. 21, 1989

SOCREDS CHANGE LAW TO STOP APPEAL VICTORIES

Claude Richmond is not in charge of welfare anymore. On Oct. 20th, just before he left, Richmond signed new laws. These laws will make life harder for people on welfare.

One of the new laws will make it harder for poor people to get what they need. The old law said that the Minister could give people in need "any other allowance" that he thought was necessary. Advocates at the BCCD, DERA, Vancouver and District Public Housing, First United and other places used this old law a lot. It helped many people win appeals and

get more money. But Richmond took this part out of the law. So we can't use it anymore.

Another part of the law helped us get \$36 bus passes for handicapped people on UI or CPP or WCB. Richmond changed this too. Now handicapped people have to be getting GAIN in some form in order to get the bus pass.

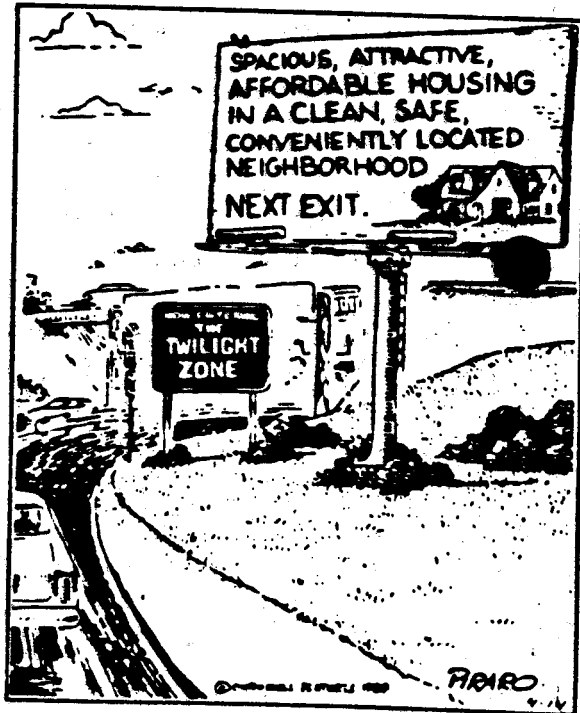
But the advocates are determined to keep winning cases for people. They'll just have to be more creative. If you need help, be sure to contact a group on the back page.

OLD AGE PENSION AND FAMILY ALLOWANCE SNEAKY CUTS

Earlier this year, the Tory Government in Ottawa changed family allowances and old age pension. They said that people with incomes over \$50,000 would have to pay them back. This is called the "clawback." But the Tories didn't tie that \$50,000 to inflation. So by the year 2000, people with incomes worth only \$28,000 will have to pay back their old age pension and family allowance.

The Tories have set up a sneaky system to destroy old age pensions and family allowances. Our children will live in the next century. They will have to pay back old age pension and

family allowance even if they live in poverty. One Tory MP is named Don Blenkarn. This is what he admitted about the clawback: "While the clawback may be unfair and sneaky, it is there."



DIAL•A•LAW

In Greater Vancouver Toll-Free Area:

687-4680

WHAT IS DIAL•A•LAW?

DIAL•A•LAW is a library of pre-recorded tape messages prepared by lawyers to provide practical information on specific topics of law as they apply in British Columbia. It tells you about the law and the justice system.

WHAT DIAL•A•LAW IS NOT

DIAL•A•LAW provides information only. It is not intended to give you legal advice on your particular problem. If you have a legal problem, you should consult a lawyer.

WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT

DIAL•A•LAW provides information that may clear up questions in your mind. The DIAL•A•LAW operator, if requested, may be able to refer you to other organizations which can provide further information or assistance.

A printed copy of a recorded message will also be mailed to you on request.

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE
TAPES YOU CAN ASK TO
LISTEN TO:

(You can ask for the
number beside the title

- 20. Protection Against
Discrimination
- 120. Harassment by Deb
Collectors
- 260. Victims of Crime-
Getting Compensated
- 275. Minimum Employment
Standards--Wages
- 290. Minimum Employment
Standards--Termination
of Employment
- 393. Family Court
- 555. Raising the Rent
- 570. Low Cost and Free
Legal Services

There are lots more
tapes. Tell the
operator what you want
to learn. She'll try to
connect you with the
right tape.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

WHO SHOULD BE PAID

We've all heard a lot about the GST. It would be a disaster for poor and middle income people. It would make nearly everything cost 9 per cent more. It would cause unemployment. Big Business Lobby Groups want to cut back on things like health, education, and social spending. Then Government could reduce the tax, they claim. But this would be another disaster for poor and middle income people.

Who should be taxed?
The Pro Canada Network has some great ideas. Here are some ideas for taxes that don't hit the poor:

A NET WEALTH TAX: Net wealth is bank accounts, bonds, stocks, real estate, vehicles, businesses. A wealth tax wouldn't have to tax



family homes and farms. The Pro Canada Network estimates that a net wealth tax on wealth above \$75,000 could make over \$10 Billion dollars for the government. West Germany, Austria, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark already have taxes like these.

RESTORING CORPORATE TAXES to the level they were in 1984 would bring in \$2 Billion.

REDUCING INTEREST RATES by 4% over 4 years would bring in \$6 Billion.

AYING TAXES?

COLLECTING A PORTION OF UNPAID CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL TAXES would bring in \$5 Billion.

REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT TO 4% would bring in \$4 Billion.

REQUIRING COMPANIES TO PAY FOR THEIR OWN JOB TRAINING would add \$3 Billion.

PUTTING A TAX ON CORPORATE MERGERS could bring in \$1 Billion.

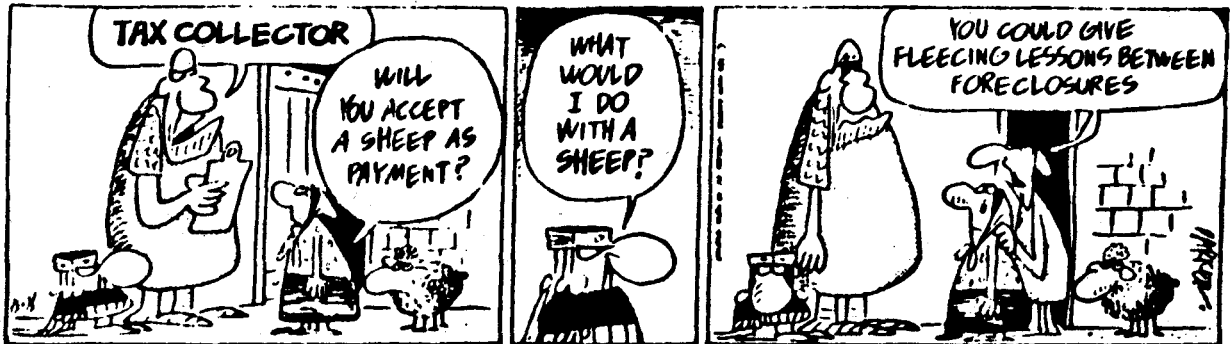
TAXING CAPITAL GAINS at the same rate as wages could bring in \$1 Billion.

RESTORING THE OLD 34% RATE ON UPPER INCOME people would raise \$600 Million.

RESTORING THE FEDERAL TAX ON INHERITANCES would raise \$1 Billion.

RESTORING THE MILITARY BUDGET TO 1984 LEVELS would raise \$3.3 Billion.

Together all of these would raise \$40.9 Billion. The government could reduce the deficit and improve social programs without more taxes for poor and middle income people.



POSTAL WORKERS NEED HELP

The Postal Workers have asked End Legislated Poverty and other groups to help them. The government wants to sell off Canada Post. They have already sold Air Canada and plan to sell Via Rail.

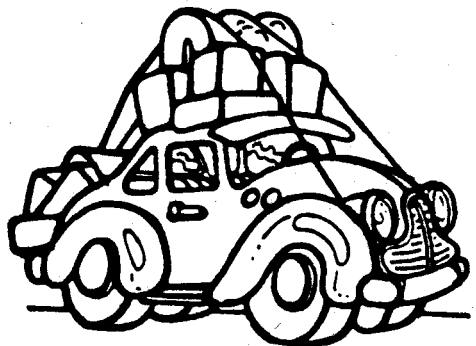
Selling the Post Office would hurt the general public and the postal workers. It would hurt workers who could be laid off, harassed, and have terrible working conditions. It would hurt people who use the mail too. There would be cuts in services, longer line ups, less door to door delivery, and more Super mail boxes.

The Union asks us to write letters about this. We should say that we think that the post office should stay public. We want it to

negotiate an agreement with the post office union that gives a good future to both postal workers and the postal service. Write to :

Harvie Andre,
Minister in charge of
the Post Office
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6 (no stamp
needed)

Solving the Housing Crisis
Solution No. 471



THE SOCRED GOVERNMENT WANTS YOUR CANADA PENSION



This information is important to you IF

- *you are on GAIN and
- *you are 60 to 64 years old

WARNING

Your worker may ask you to apply for your retirement Canada Pension before you are 65. He or she may ever hand you the CPP papers to fill out.

You should know this: If you are on GAIN and get CPP before you are 65,

*ALL of your Canada Pension could be deducted from you GAIN cheque;

*You will get less money from CPP when you do turn 65. If you start getting CPP at the age of 60, you will get 30% less when you turn 65.

In short, if you are on GAIN and 60 to 64 years old, the socred government will benefit from your CPP. You won't.

If you don't want to apply for early CPP, tell your worker: "I would like to discuss this with an advocate group before signing anything."

If you need help, call one of these groups: DERA, 682-0931; BCCD, 872-1278; Public Housing, 324-0555; or First United Church, 681-8365.



NEW ADVOCATE IN WEST END

Jonene Bicket is an advocate in the West End in Vancouver. Jonene used to be a social worker so she knows the MSSH system! If you need her help with problems you are having with welfare, call Jonene at 693 2944.

"YOUR POLICY STINKS!"

Some people on welfare at Carnegie got together to make this funny video about welfare rights. You can see it, along with live theater by the Dignity Players on: Dec. 3 7-11 pm at Carnegie center, 401 Main St. Live music and free refreshments too! It will be fun and you're invited.

GET HELP WITH WELFARE FROM THESE GROUPS

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.