

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#30

February 28, 1990



*"We have always believed in home-ownership—
I personally own over a hundred and fifty."*

FROM—"WHO NEEDS HOUSING?"

POLITICIANS COULD END HOMELESSNESS

Thousands of people will be sleeping in the street if governments don't do something soon. That's what Stephen Learey told a meeting at Carnegie Centre on Feb. 11th. Learey works for the Downtown Eastside

Residents Association which builds housing for low income people.

At the meeting, Karen O'Shaughnessy also spoke. She works at Lookout, an emergency shelter.

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POLITICIANS COULD END HOMELESSNESS

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She said that Lookout turns away 8 to 12 people every night.

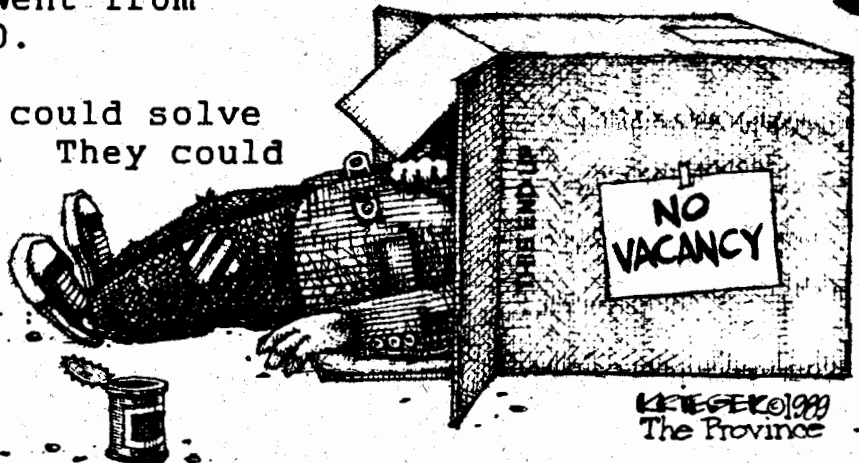
One problem is that developers are tearing down hotels and rooming houses in the downtown area. Learey said that many hotels are for sale. "If even half of them are sold, 1000's will be out on the street."

Owners are also putting up rents. Learey said that people who live in the Granville Hotel just had a rent increase. Their rent went from \$280 to \$320.

Politicians could solve the problem. They could

make developers replace the housing they destroy. They could spend more money on decent public and affordable housing. We need politicians who will put in rent control and rent review.

REMEMBER THIS WHEN THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION COMES: The latest Tory budget did the opposite of what we need. They TOOK 15% OF THE MONEY AWAY FROM HOUSING.



ROOMING HOUSE RESIDENTS GET NEW RIGHTS

Sixteen years of fighting for hotel tenants' rights has paid off. As of August, 1989, if you pay less than \$15 a day rent per person, to a hotel or rooming house, you are probably covered under the new terms of the Residential Tenancy Act.

****EVICTIONS** must be official written notices saying when you have to be out (either 10 days, 1 month, or 2 months).

YOU CAN FIGHT EVICTIONS and not move until your case is heard.

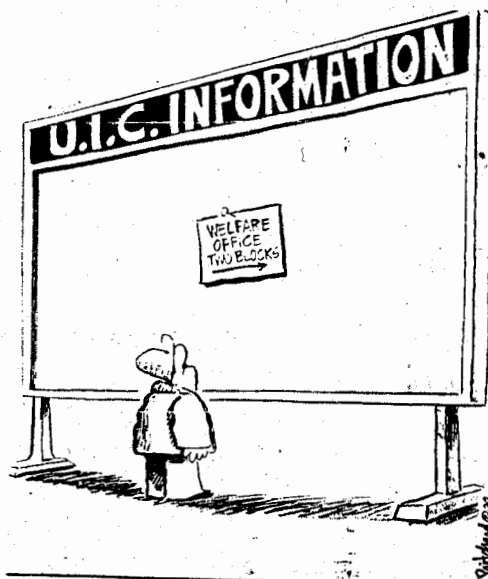
****RENT INCREASES** need 3 months written notice and can only be done once a year if you stay in your place.

****LANDLORDS** cannot take your things or lock you out of your room.

****ROOMS** must meet health and safety standards.

****DEMOLITIONS** can be delayed by tenants for 6 months.

IF YOU NEED HELP with a landlord/tenant dispute, or want more info, contact DERA at 9 E. Hastings--682-0931. Or call the Tenants Rights Coalition, 255-3099.



WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Why should we care about the budget? The budget tells people who the government is going to take money away from. It also says who the government is going to give money to.

If we had a good government, it would use the budget to end poverty.

Needless to say, that isn't what happened when the government in Ottawa told us about their latest budget on Feb. 20th.

The budget will take a lot of money away from poor people and middle income people.

WELFARE: The government in Ottawa gives provinces half of the money they spend on welfare. This budget says that Ottawa won't give B. C. all of the

money it needs for welfare. They will just give B. C. 5% more. This will be a good excuse for the Socreds to cut back on welfare. They could cut back on childcare too.

HEALTH: This budget says that the government in Ottawa will give less money to B. C. to pay for health. This means that the Socreds might bring in user fees or cut health services even more.

EDUCATION: This budget says that the Ottawa government will give less for education. Tuition fees are already so high that poor people can't go to University. This will make that worse.

JOB: This budget says that unemployment will get worse. It also shows that the

ABOUT THE BUDGET?



government doesn't care.

WAGES: Low wages mean more poverty. The Budget speech said that the government wants wages to stay low.

WOMEN'S CENTRES: Some womens' centres have had all their funding wiped out. Others have had their funding cut by 20%.

NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS: Funding for Native

Indian papers and communication has been cut back.

THE GOVERNMENT DIDN'T HAVE TO CUT BACK EVEN ONE DOLLAR OF SPENDING ON PROGRAMS THAT HELP US. Instead of cutting programs, it could get more taxes from rich people.

WEALTH TAX: Wealth is bank accounts, bonds, stocks, real estate, cars, and businesses. A wealth tax could be set up so that a family's home and car wouldn't be taxed. But if a person had wealth worth over, say \$100,000, they could be taxed at 1% or 2%. This would raise \$4 to \$8 Billion a year. This could make up for all the cuts the Tories made and more. West Germany, Austria, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden have wealth taxes.

HELP ELP FIGHT POVERTY

Can you help us with your ideas ?

End Legislated Poverty is a coalition with 23 member groups. We have had some victories. We got a food program in 12 Vancouver schools. We stopped the \$50 welfare cut last year. But the victories are small. The problems are big, and the Socreds and Tories are making them bigger.

We think that we need to get lots more people involved in fighting poverty. We need more people who will fight for better housing, for higher welfare, for jobs, for decent wages, for lower taxes for the poor and higher taxes for the rich. You can probably think of other things that we need to fight for.

Do you ever think about

trying to get our country on the right track? Do you ever think of becoming part of a large movement that would work to end poverty?

What do you think needs to be done? What would you do to help? What do you need that would help you get involved?

Call Pam Fleming or Jean Swanson at 321-1202. Or write to us at #104 2005 E. 43rd, Vancouver, B. C. V5P 3W8. We'll send you a dollar to for the stamp or the phone call.



● LAW STUDENTS LEGAL ADVICE

The Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP) helps people with welfare rights, UIC appeals, landlord/tenant rights and more.

Here are a few of the clinics in Vancouver. There are more. To see if there is a clinic in your area, call 228-5791. (Legal advice is not given over the phone).

CARNEGIE CENTRE
401 Main St.
Tues. 7pm-9pm
Drop-in

**MOUNT PLEASANT
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE**
535 E. Broadway
Tues. 7pm-9pm
phone 879-8208 for an appointment

**SOUTHLAND VANCOUVER
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE**
Victoria & 49th
Every 2nd Tues starting
Jan.16
Call 324 6212 for an appointment

**GORDON NEIGHBORHOOD
HOUSE**
1019 Broughton
Mon. 7pm-9pm
Drop-in



GET HELP WITH MEDICAL PAYMENTS

If you made less than \$17,000 last year you do not have to pay full monthly rates for your BC Medical. You could pay as little as \$1.55 per month, if your net income was less than \$9,000.

Phone BC Health Care at

683-7151 and tell them how much you made in the last year. They will send you a form. If you need help filling in the form, go see one of the groups on the back page. Or you could just go down to #279-800 Hornby St. to fill out the form.

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.
