

# END LEGISLATED POVERTY

NEWSLETTER

#33

June 5, 1990

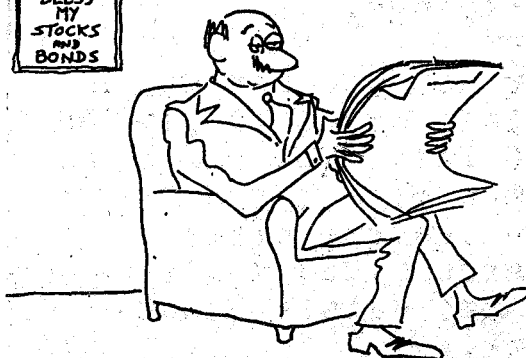
## CARNEGIE VOTE HELPS GET \$\$ FOR EDUCATION

On May 5th, a vote was held in Vancouver. The vote decided \$7.7 million more can be spent for education in Vancouver. One of the voting places was the Carnegie Centre on Main St. Most of the people who live in this areas have very low incomes. But they know that education is important. Seventy nine people at the Carnegie Centre voted "yes" to more money for schools. Only 7 voted "no".

In some cities the vote was defeated. In Surrey a school lunch program may be cut out of the budget. Other programs for special needs

children will be wiped out in Surrey.

In all of Vancouver, just over half the voters (52%) voted "yes". But at Carnegie, nine out of ten voters voted "yes". The vote at the Carnegie really helped get the money we need for our schools. It IS important for low income people to vote.



# CRISIS GRANT CAN HELP YOU WITH LANDLORD PROBLEMS

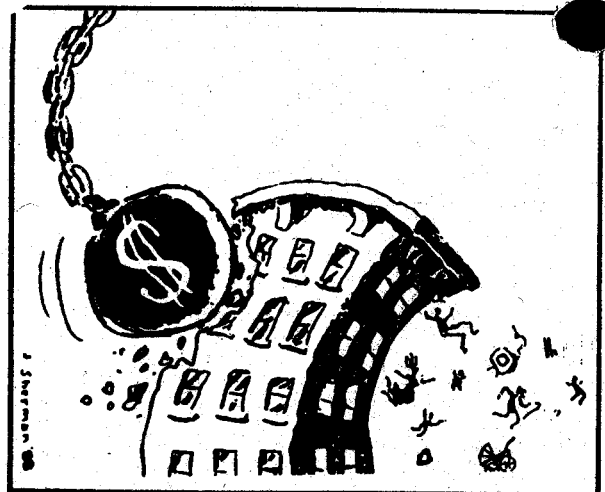
MSSH will now help you out with certain fees if you have a problem with your landlord.

A government office called the Residential Tenancy Branch has people who try to solve problems between landlords and tenants. But there is a \$30 fee to use this service. Sometimes tenants also have to pay a fee for a title search. This is the only way to figure out who owns certain buildings.

But now you can get a crisis grant to pay the \$30 fee. You can also get a crisis grant to pay for the title search. You don't have to pay crisis grants back.

The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association fought for this change and won.

If you need help with a tenant problem, call the Tenants Rights Coalition, 255-3099, or DERA at 682-0931, or one of the groups on the back page.



# PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS MEET

Vancouver and District Public Housing Tenants Association held their annual meeting on April 4th. About 100 people who live in public housing participated in the meeting.

The president of the Association is Margaret Mitchell. Margaret gave her report to the meeting. She listed some of the problems that poor people face:

--Free trade is pushing our jobs to the U. S. The jobs of U. S. workers are going to Mexico because of low wages.

--Seniors are being robbed at every turn by high rents and expensive medicine.

--People who are mentally ill are told to ask for help themselves.

But sometimes they can't do this.

--Housing is being used to make profit, not to provide places to live for the poor.

Mitchell said we need more public housing.

She said we must not resort to attacking people because of their background or what country they are from. It's not their fault that they are wanted as exploited labour here. She said that government policies are increasing poverty. "We must all do our share and try to end poverty."





# CHILDCARE

MSSH has a new program that deals with childcare. It's called the Daycare Support Program. With this program community groups will give short training courses to women on welfare who provide childcare. Then the Ministry will refer potential customers to these people.

Many people are afraid that this program is part of a plan to pressure single mothers on welfare to babysit even if they don't want to. We are also afraid that women on welfare who get jobs will be pressured into accepting childcare arrangements that they are not happy with.

End Legislated Poverty wrote to the Minister in charge of this program. His name is Peter Dueck.

We asked him to do these things:

--Write us a letter stating that no women will be cut off welfare because she refuses to take the training course;

--Write us a letter stating that all parents, including parents on GAIN, have a right to be satisfied with their childcare arrangements and won't be forced by the Ministry to accept arrangements they are not comfortable with;

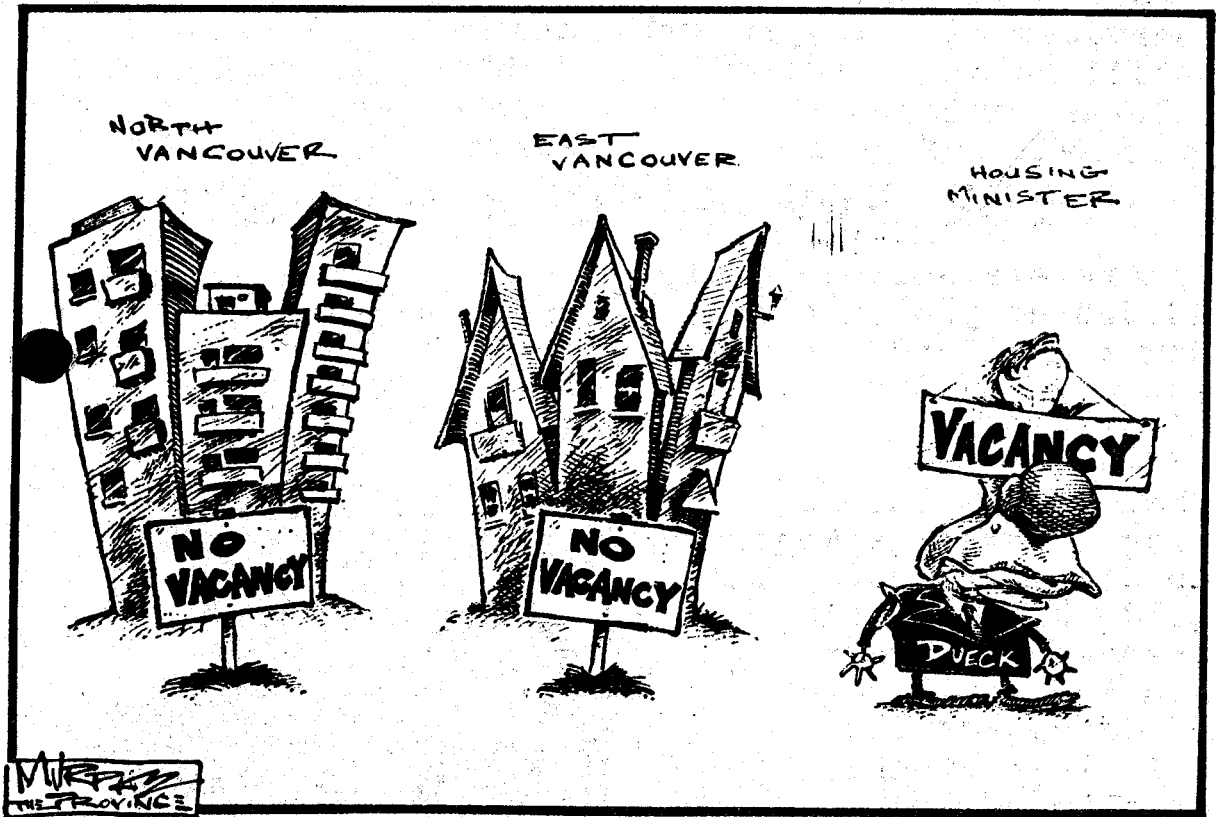
--Change GAIN regulations so that all women who decide to do childcare, get to keep all the money they make, just like foster parents do;

# OB WORKFARE?

--Create more good quality childcare spaces with trained workers who get decent wages.

Are you feeling pressured to provide

childcare? Are you being pressured to accept childcare you aren't happy with? If so, give ELP a call at 321-1202.



# MORE PEOPLE CAN GET LEGAL AID

More people can get legal aid now. The guidelines for who is eligible have been changed. This is the question that is used to decide if you are eligible:

"Can you afford the services of a lawyer and still be able to feed, clothe, and house yourself and your

children?" If the answer is "no", then you are eligible.

If you think you need legal aid, come to 191 Alexander St. These are the hours that the legal clinic is open:

Mon., Tues., Thur.,  
and Fri.: 9 to 3:30

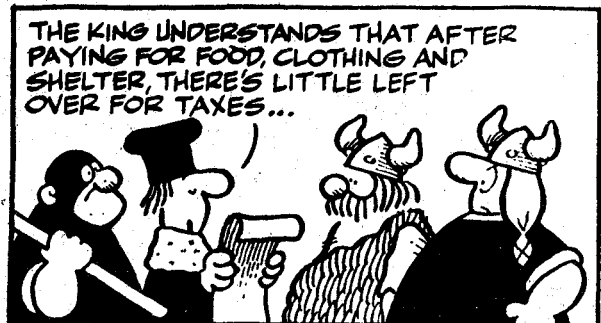
Wed.: 12:30 to 3:30  
First come, first  
served.

## GUIDE FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

"There are approximately 40,000 of you in the Lower Mainland, in case you are feeling all alone."

To get your copy, call Debra Woods at 255-5511. She will be there from 5 to 5 pm Monday through Thursday.

That is how the new Single Mother's Resource Guide starts out. This guide has lots of information about housing, childcare, welfare, services, political groups, and free things.



# NO RESPECT FOR PERSON ON WELFARE

MSSH doesn't miss a trick. One of our key computer room volunteers at the Carnegie Learning Centre went to pick up his June cheque. His worker thrust a form at him: "no signature, no cheque."

Steve had made the mistake of telling her that he was taking action to get off welfare. He was learning computer skills as a volunteer at Carnegie. Rather than encourage this initiative, MSSH now is

trying to force Steve to spend the summer in a profit making organization called BVZ. This company "guarantees" to place Steve in a job--the Employment Plus--slave labour--at taxpayer's expense--scam.

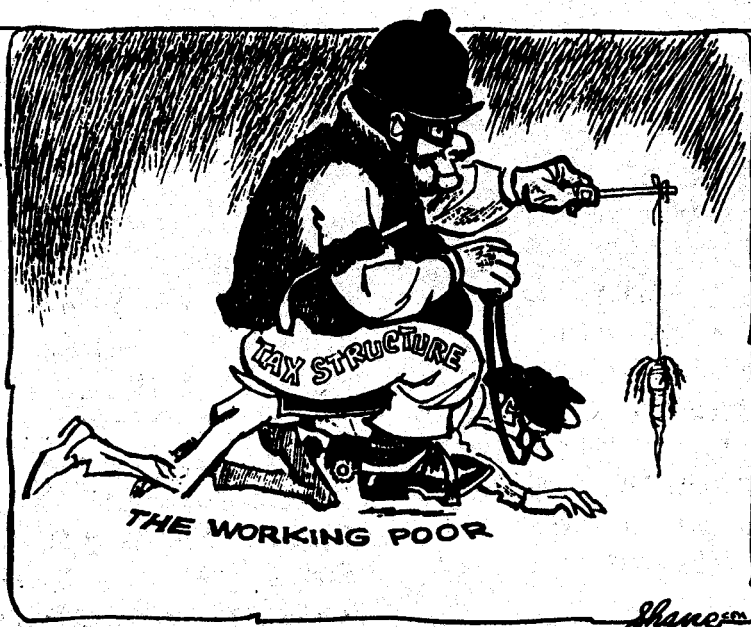
No consultation. No warning. No respect for an individual's life--the usual. We at Carnegie will fight this all the way. We're sick of this crap.

Do you know anyone else in a similar bind? Please share the information with ELP. Call 321-1202. We can try to put an end to this abuse.

By Mike Kramer

SO, FROM NOW ON, YOU HAVE TO  
PAY YOUR TAXES FIRST.





## 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 to  
Friday.**

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