

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

#34

July 3, 1990

MORE HOPE FOR FOOD PROGRAM

Low income women asked City Council to help put the school lunch program in more schools. They went to Council on June 14th.

The women were from the Child Poverty Action Committee and End Legislated Poverty. It was the first time at a Council meeting for Georgina Isaacs. She told the Mayor and Councillors that "children should be a priority for government action."

Debby Pelletier told Council that the lunch program should be

expanded to all areas of the city."

Anita Archambault said: "It is very important that the children who don't pay for the food are not identified. Poor children face too much discrimination as it is."

Council passed motion to approve in principle a grant of \$200,000 for the food program.



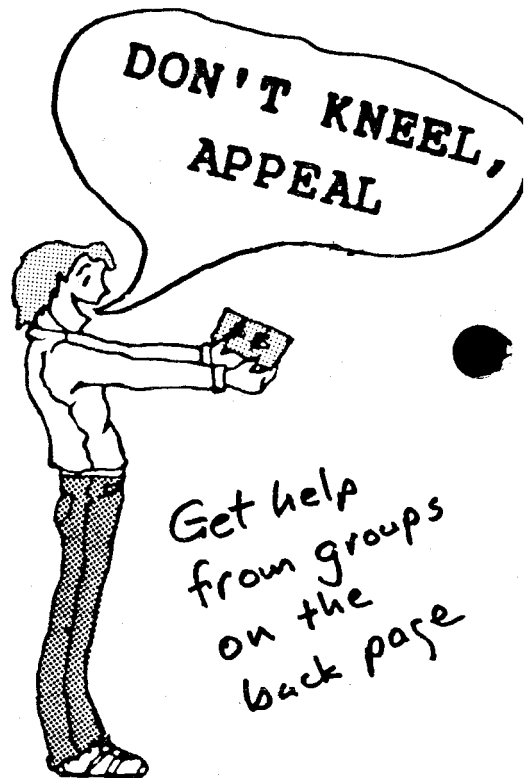
END LEGISLATED POVERTY MEETS WITH HARCOURT

Fourteen people from End Legislated Poverty met with Mike Harcourt on June 11.

We told him that we want the government to end poverty. We said that we wanted welfare raised to the poverty line. The poverty line for a single person is about \$1050 a month. We told him that we want minimum wage raised to \$7.90 a month. This is what it would be now if it had the same buying power as it did in 1975.

Harcourt said that welfare and wages are too low. "They'll have to increase. The amount depends on how much money is in the treasury and on the impact on small business."

ELP is still trying to get a meeting with Bill Vander Zalm. So far all we have is a letter from his "scheduling secretary". The letter says that Vander Zalm is too busy.



RICH DINE ON CRAB CLAWS; SEND LEFTOVERS TO POOR

A group in Toronto gives left over food from banquets to poor people. They had a dinner for rich people in June. People paid \$45 each. They dined on stuffed crab claws, spiced pork with cashews, and beef tenderloin.

This story was in the "society" column of the Globe and Mail newspaper.

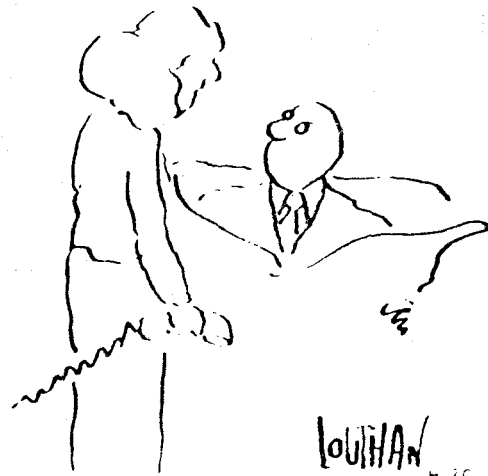
The writer for the "society" column says, "The most recent bounty promised to the charity is all the food left over from the events surrounding the Molson Indy car race..."

In 1989 Molson made a profit of \$87,119,000. They have assets like property, buildings, machines, etc. worth over a billion dollars.

Poor people get the leftovers from Molson's race. "Society" people brag about it!!

We need jobs, decent wages, higher welfare rates and housing we can afford. How can rich people feel good about giving the poor the crumbs off their tables?

BRIEFCASE



Its a fund raising dinner for the needy. Hopefully none of them will be there.

A Royal Commission is going to study health care in British Columbia. It will hear from people about the health system starting in Sept.

Many people are afraid that the Socreds want to have a two-tier system in B. C. One tier would be for the rich and would be good quality care. The other tier would be for the rest of us, and would be poor quality care.

Alberta just had a Commission on health care. Some of the recommendations from that Commission are pretty scary. They suggest higher fees for people with so-called unhealthy lifestyles. This could be people who smoke. Or even people who are poor. Poverty is unhealthy.

The Alberta Commission also suggested that

WHAT'S IN ST HEALTH CARE

"consumer use of services should be electronically monitored..." If people used the service too much, they would be counselled. Even worse, they "may have to have



MORE FOR OUR SYSTEM?

their access to the service constrained." Translation: If people get sick too much, the government may stop paying for doctors or hospitals.

Alberta is also considering a profit making health insurance system.

If you have concerns about health care in B. C., call ELP. We may be able to help you write a brief to the Commission or put your concerns in our brief. Our phone number is 321-1202.

ASK YOUR WORKER FOR CONDOM MONEY

People on welfare shouldn't have to use their food money to buy condoms. Especially when condoms are one way to prevent spreading AIDS. That's what Robin Loxton says. Robin is an advocate at the B. C. Coalition of the Disabled.

If you need money to buy condoms, ask your worker for it. If the worker turns you down, call

Robin. Robin's number is 872-1278. Robin wants to help someone do an appeal on this issue. He thinks there is a good chance of winning.



WELFARE CAN'T FORCE WOMEN TO BABYSIT

Women on welfare have a teensy victory.

Last month we told you about a Socred plan on childcare. Non profit groups would provide training to women on welfare. Then these women would do daycare in their home.

End Legislated Poverty didn't like this plan. This is what is wrong with the plan:

- Women could be forced to take the training even if they don't like kids;

- Other women could be forced to accept the childcare, even if they didn't feel it was good childcare;

- Women would be slave labour, since they can only keep a little bit of what they earn;

- This plan gives the

government an excuse for not funding good childcare centres where people get decent wages.

ELP got a letter from Norm Jacobsen. He is the government person in charge of this childcare. He said: "referrals to employment and training opportunities are based on a person's vocational aptitude and interests."

Translation: if you're not interested in doing childcare, you shouldn't have to.

He also said:

"recipients will not be required to use day care arrangements that do not meet their families' needs."

If you want a copy of this letter, call ELP at 321-1202.

ARE YOU BEING FORCED TO TAKE JOBS OR TRAINING ?

Is welfare forcing you to take a job or job training that isn't right for you?

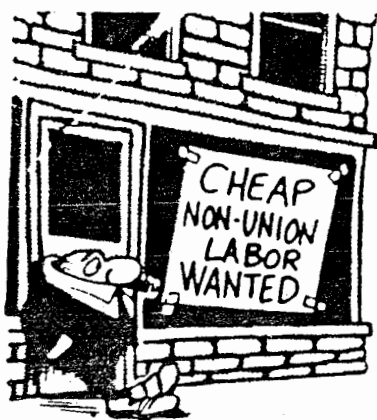
A government law called the Canada Assistance Plan Act may be on your side.

This law says: "no person shall be denied assistance because he refuses or has refused to take part in a work activity project."

The law says that a work activity project is: "a project the purpose of which is to prepare for entry or return to employment persons in need..."

One of the advocates listed on the back page may be able to help you with this.





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.