

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

#35

August 1, 1990

WELFARE RATES GO UP A PALTRY AMOUNT

There must be an election coming. Welfare rates went up, effective August 1st.

But not by much. The table below shows what the new rates are.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN FAMILY	SUPPORT	MAX. SHELTER	TOTAL
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"EMPLOYABLE"

1	\$200	\$300	\$500
2	352	485	837
3	423	560	983
4	494	600	1094

"UNEMPLOYABLE" OR SINGLE PARENT FAMILY

1	\$250	300	550
2	402	485	887
3	473	560	1033
4	544	600	1144

HANDICAPPED

1	394	300	694
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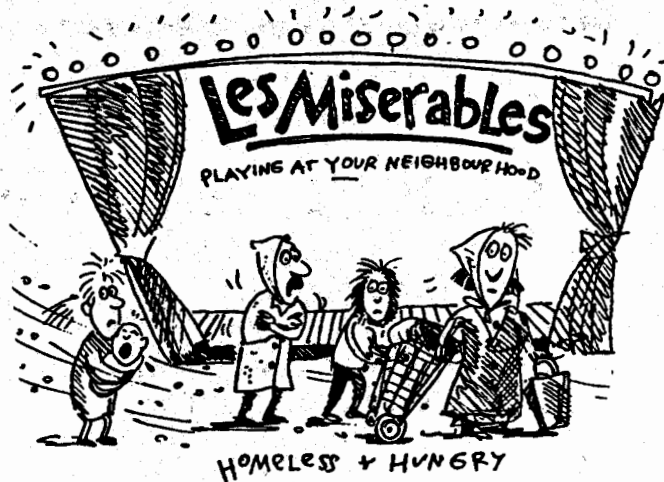
ELP LEAFLETS LES MISERABLES

On July 19th about 10 members of End Legislated Poverty handed out leaflets to people who attended the musical play, Les Miserables.

The play is a musical about poverty in the 1800's. Tickets cost \$31.75 to \$58.75. So poor people in Vancouver can't afford to go.

The leaflets said that poverty is still miserable in 1990. They asked the people who attended the play to help us end poverty.

Some people who were going to the play were very nice. They seemed to agree with the leaflet. Others



said ELP was ruining their evening.

We had a lot a fun handing the leaflets out--especially to people who arrived in limos.



WOMAN ON WELFARE WINS BACK MAINTENANCE PAYMENT

A woman on welfare won an amazing appeal in June. The woman's ex-partner owed her back maintenance payments. Finally he paid in a lump sum. Naturally, welfare tried to take the money, and let the woman keep only \$100.

The woman appealed and won!! Now she gets to keep the usual \$100 a month PLUS an extra \$100 until the back payment is used up.

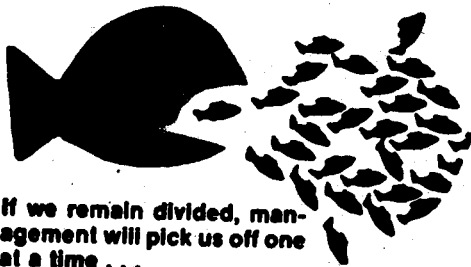
A young lawyer presented the case for the woman. Margaret Ennenberg of the Unitarian Church was on the Tribunal. The lawyer said that the Family Maintenance Act is part of the GAIN ACT. The GAIN act

says that the purpose of income assistance is to "relieve poverty, neglect and suffering."

If you have a problem like this with maintenance payments, see one of the groups on the back page. They may be able to help you win.

SCHOOL START UP FUNDS INCREASE

Are you on welfare? If you have children in school, make sure that you get the school start up money for them. The new rates are \$35 for children aged 6 to 11; and from \$47 to \$50 for children 12 and above.



If we remain divided, management will pick us off one at a time . . .

AN OPEN SINGLE PARENT WELFARE STAY HOME CHILDREN

If you have made the choice to stay home with your children, we support your right to having this choice.

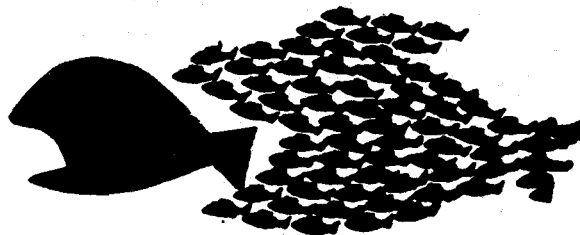
MSSH declares a single parent with children over 6 months to be "employable" no matter how many children they have.

Single parents with as many as 7 children have been ordered to find a job.

Child raising is WORK, VALUABLE, HARD WORK. Trying to raise children on welfare is a full time job in itself.

We feel that the PRESSURE SHOULD BE TAKEN OFF YOU.

LETTER TO
PARENTS ON
WHO WANT TO
WITH THEIR



But if we stick together, we can really turn things around.

We understand how unfair and unjustly you have been treated.

If you crack up under this strain, you could be made "unemployable", but lose your kids. If your kids get disturbed or sick, you can stay home with them. This creates a system where the only way out is to become sick.

We have a committee in End Legislated Poverty that is working to change this.

If you would like to tell us how you feel, please call 321-1202 or 324-5801.

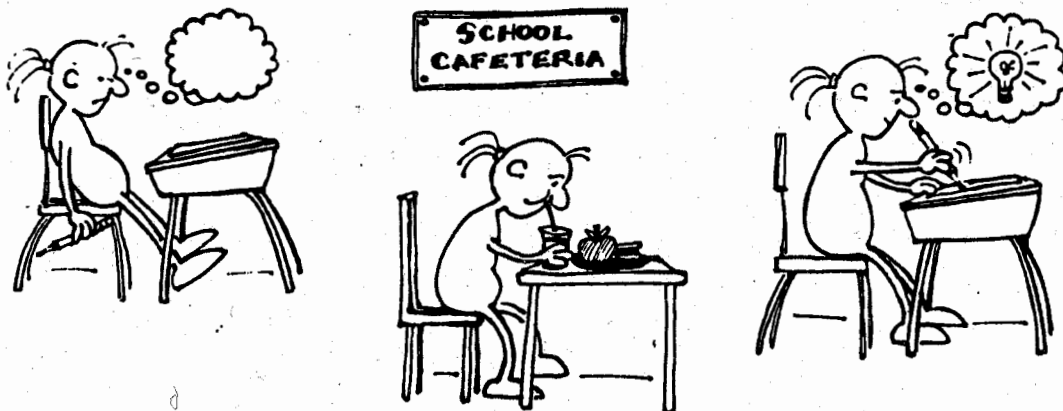
--Sheila Baxter, on behalf of ELP's committee to stop forced employment of single parents

SCHOOLS GET \$200,000 MORE FOR FOOD

On July 12 Vancouver City Council passed three motions. They agreed to give the School Board \$200,000 to expand the food program to a high school. They set up a committee to work on getting higher welfare and wages and more money for food programs. They agreed

to appoint a representative of End Legislated Poverty to the committee.

Several weeks before, a group of low income women had asked council to expand the food program. They also wanted higher welfare and wages. Now we'll see if City Council really acts, or if it just passes resolutions.



GET YOUR OWN FIGHTING POVERTY KIT

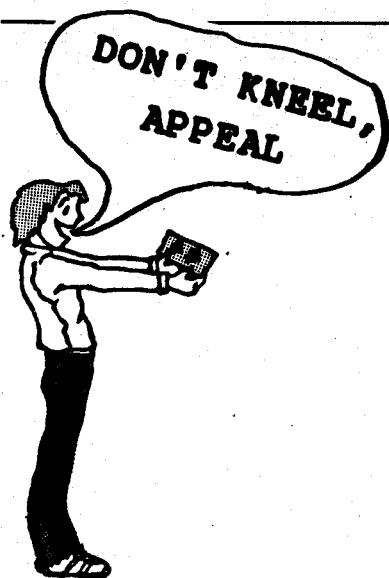


the Voter Office.

The kit also has information about how to fight against poverty. It has a sheet on how to run meetings. There is information on fighting for a food program. One page tells you how to write a letter to a politician. Addresses of B. C. politicians are included. There is information on the corporate agenda, and a little envelope of strings. Each string is cut to show the wealth of one fifth of Canadians. The string for poor Canadians is less than an inch long. The string for rich Canadians is nearly 69 inches long.

To get your free kit, call ELP at 321-1202.

Ed Legislated Poverty has produced a new Fighting Poverty Kit for low income people. The kit has two kinds of information. It has information about your rights. Pamphlets on welfare and tenant rights are in the kit. It also has pamphlets from the Ombudsmans Office and



GET HELP WITH WELFARE FROM THESE GROUPS

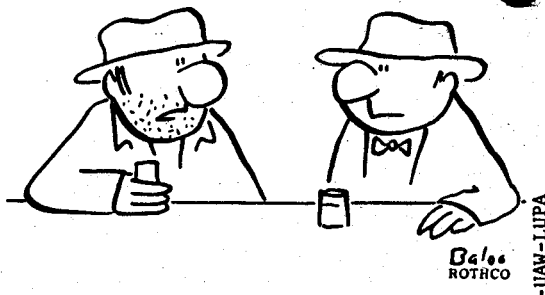
**DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION,**
9 E. Hastings. Phone
682-0931. Open 9 to 4
Monday through Friday.

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.



"I always said I'd never go on welfare, but my boy insisted."