

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

#37

Dec. 4, 1990

JOBTRAC AND EMPLOYMENT PLUS ARE "VOLUNTARY"!!

Have you ever had a hold put on your welfare cheque because you didn't attend a Jobtrac course? Has a worker ever told you to take an Employment Plus Job?

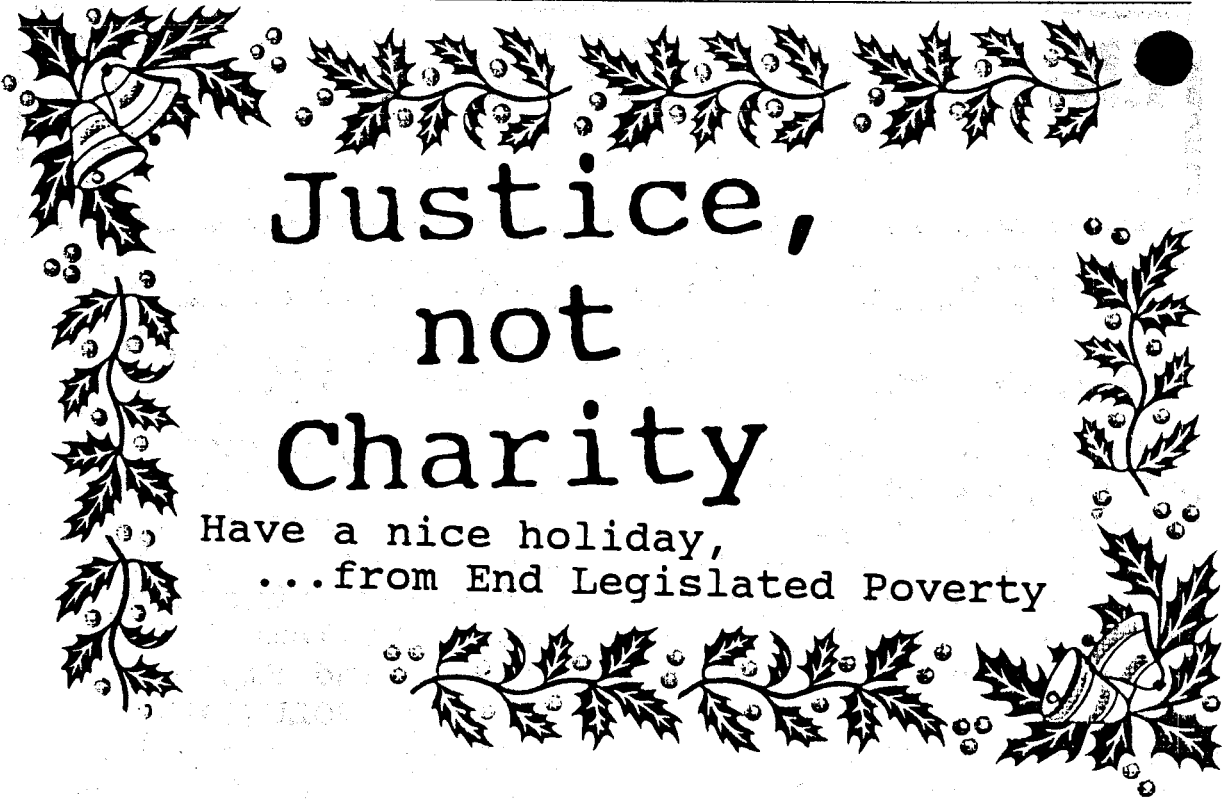
Jobtrac is a job training and finding course that SS&H uses to try to get people off welfare and into low wage jobs. You attend a course and learn how to write resumes.

Employment plus is a government program. The government pays employers up to \$3.50 an hour to hire people on welfare for 6 months.

On Nov. 6th Jean Swanson

of End Legislated Poverty attended a meeting. Ron Willems, the manager of Income Assistance attended also. Willems said that Jobtrac and Employment Plus are VOLUNTARY programs. Jean asked him to repeat this and he did--in front of 35 witnesses.

This should mean that people on welfare have a right to refuse to participate in Jobtrac or Employment Plus and not have their cheques stopped. If you are having a problem with this, see one of the groups on the back page.

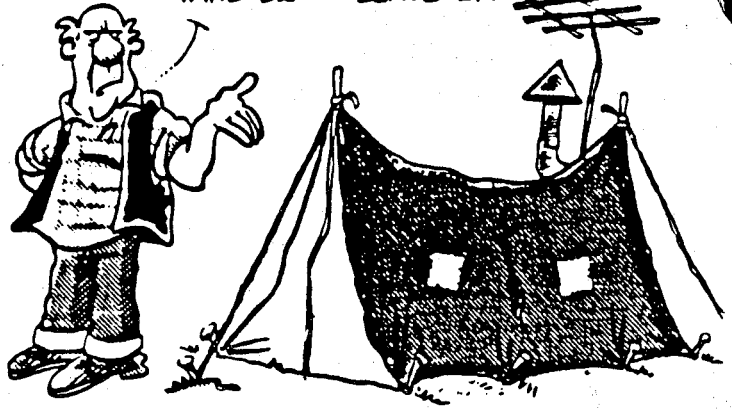


Justice, not Charity

Have a nice holiday,
...from End Legislated Poverty



\$700 A MONTH...
TAKE 'ER OR LEAVE 'ER



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR IN ENGLAND?

I talked with a single mother with three children. She was from London, England. Gladys was here for a literacy conference. Her airfare had been paid. She told me she lives in Council Housing (social housing). Her rent is 126 pounds (about \$290). The Tory Government wants to sell public housing. Gladys would have to pay a mortgage of about 300 dollars a month. On top of that would be taxes and interest, but Gladys doesn't earn this much a month. Another problem

is the Poll Tax, 475 pounds or about \$1092 a year--she and everyone has to pay this. If her apartment is sold on the market, she will have to pay the market rent.

Gladys knows she may become homeless.

Millions of dollars are being spent in England to keep homeless people in rooming houses.

Nothing is being spent on public housing. The Poll tax costs more if you live in a poor area where there are more social needs. Poor people pay more.

Thatcher, Mulroney, Bush--and right-wing politicians like Vander Zalm and Campbell have thinking disorders.

They probably come from dysfunctional families.

By Sheila Baxter



MOTHER ON WELFARE TAKES

Theresa Tresidder is a single mother on welfare who is taking the B. C. Government to court. End Legislated Poverty is helping her. David Mossop of Community Legal Assistance is her lawyer. Theresa and ELP want the government to change GAIN regulations. We believe that parents on welfare should have choice about whether they do paid work or not.

On Nov. 15th there was a news conference about this court case. This is part of what Theresa said at the news conference:

Single I already work full time in my home I don't understand why the B. C. Government wants me to seek employment outside the home.

I am the mother of 3 children, Vanessa (5),

Karla (3) and Amanda (2). I honestly believe that the best person to raise my children, and I'm sure they would agree, is myself.

A typical weekday starts at 7 am. We eat, dress, and get ready for our day. Vanessa attends kindergarten at Livingstone Elementary School at 9 am. Karla attends Riley Park Pre-School 2 days a week, also at 9 am. Only a mother can be in 2 places at once. On the mornings that Karla is at school Amanda has me all to herself, which is a rarity, being the youngest of 3. We pick up Karla at 11:30, Vanessa at 12, then go home for lunch. Vanessa goes back to school from 1 to 3, and in that time Karla and Amanda have a nap and I clean house and prepare supper.

GOVERNMENT TO COURT

When Vanessa is home from school, nap time is over and we play.

supper time is at 5:30. After supper we play some more. From 7 to bedtime at 8 I bathe and dress the girls. We have milk and cookies, then brush our teeth. We read a story, have a hug and kiss and say goodnight. Once the girls are in bed, I have

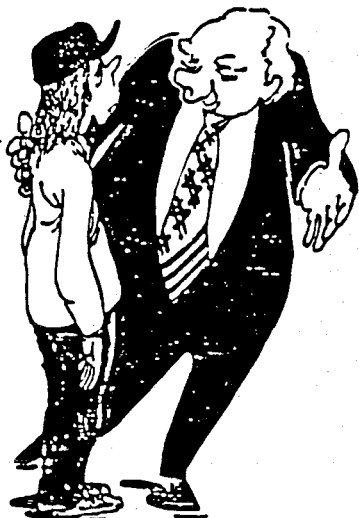
an opportunity to unwind.

During the course of a year I will probably spend up to 60 days nursing my children through various ailments. This would undoubtedly be an unacceptable attendance record for any employee.

Amanda is at the potty training age, and I don't want a stranger to deal with my child's personal hygiene.

When I got pregnant with Vanessa, I had a good paying job. I quit that job because I chose to be a full time mother.

Now, because of unfortunate circumstances I had to apply for welfare, and they told me that I may no longer have the choice to be a full time mother.



Nobody expects you to live on minimum wage, Fitzgerald
- only to work for it.

The rich are getting richer.

...and the poor are getting poorer.

That's the way it is after six years of Brian Mulroney: more and more tax breaks for the wealthy and the large corporations. Harder and harder times for low income earners, the middle class and small business.

Between 1984 and 1988, Michael Wilson and Brian Mulroney:

- Reduced the corporate tax rate from 36% to 28% - a gift of \$7 billion a year to the wealthiest corporations.
- Reduced the tax rate for the wealthiest Canadians from 34% to 29%, giving them a bonus of \$600 million.
- Reduced the number of audits done on

large corporations' tax returns. In 1983, audits were carried out on 7.3% of corporations. The Mulroney government has reduced this to 1.8% even though each dollar spent on such audits nets the government \$17 in return.

- Changed personal income tax rates, raising taxes for low income earners by 44% and middle income earners by 10% and lowering the tax on the wealthy by 6%.
- Introduced a \$500,000 lifetime capital gains exemption (later lowered to \$100,000) benefitting the wealthiest Canadians.

Brian Mulroney's tax reforms have taken billions of dollars out of government coffers and put them into the pockets of those who call his tune: the richest and most powerful Canadians and corporations.

Now he must find those dollars somewhere else.

Where? From your pockets. With the GST.

We say NO
to the GST
...YES to Fair
Taxes!



Pro-Canada Network

251 Laurier West, Suite 904, Ottawa K1P 5J6



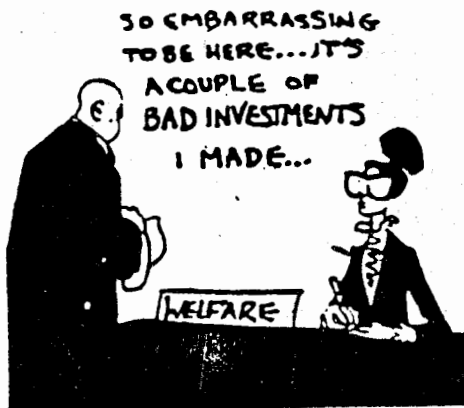
MORE KIDS FED

Victoria and Surrey will have small cold lunch programs starting in January because of the efforts of low income parents. The lunch programs are similar to the ones in Vancouver schools because no one will know who can't afford to pay for the program.

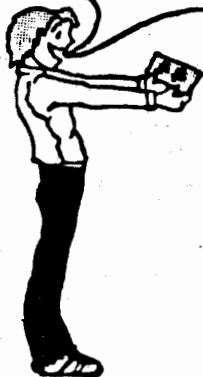
Lunch will be served in Vic West and Blanshard School in Victoria and to a school yet to be determined by the Surrey School Board.

Low income parents are responsible for getting the program in Victoria and Surrey. They went to the school board meeting after meeting and provided the expertise needed for a good program in place. They made a commitment to continue pushing the Boards to expand the programs and to make sure they work.

If you are interested in organizing low income parents to get food programs call Linda or Patricia at 879-1209.



**DON'T KNEEL,
APPEAL**



GET HELP WITH WELFARE FROM THESE GROUPS

**LITTLE MOUNTAIN
TENANTS
ASSOCIATION, 125 E.
37th. Phone 324-0555.
Open 10 to 3 Monday to
Friday.**

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

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

