

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

#39

March 6, 1991

VANCOUVER CITY AND SCHOOL BOARD PASS ELP RESOLUTIONS

Support is growing for these three things:

- *raising welfare rates to the poverty line;
- *increasing minimum wage;
- *ending forced employment for single parents on welfare.

On Feb. 4th the Vancouver School Board passed three resolutions from End Legislated Poverty. The resolutions were about raising welfare and minimum wage and ending forced employment of single parents on welfare. All of the school trustees agreed with the resolutions.

Then, on Feb. 21st, people from lots of community groups asked Vancouver City Council to pass the resolutions on welfare rates and minimum wage. The city already passed a resolution asking the province to end forced employment for single

parents on welfare. The City agreed that welfare rates should be at the poverty line. They are going to collect more information on the minimum wage.

Paul Taylor of Carnegie spoke on behalf of ELP at the City meeting. Roneen Marcoux of The Tenants Rights Coalition, Sam Snobelen of DERA, Pat Chauncey of the Child Poverty Action Committee, Robin Loxton of the B. C. Coalition of People with Disabilities, Karen Tully of the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, and John Fitzpatrick of the Vancouver and District Labour Council all supported the ELP resolutions.

Now we have to use this support to get the Government in Victoria to increase welfare and minimum wage and stop forcing single parents to work outside the home.

WELFARE RIGHTS AND GAIN

Need to know more about your rights if you are on welfare? Welfare Rights and GAIN tells you a lot. Its a good idea to read this book before you apply for welfare. Then you can get an idea of what to expect. If you would like a copy, call the ELP office at 879-1209. We'll mail one to you.

TENANT CLINIC

Do you have a problem with your landlord? If you need help, call the Tenant Hotline at 255-0546. If you still need more help, you can go to the tenant clinic at the Britannia Information Centre, 1001 Cotton (just off Commercial). The Clinic is open from 6 to 9 pm on Thursdays.



THE FEDERAL BUDGET-- MAKING THE POOR POORER

Each year governments have budgets. The budgets are usually quite thick and hard to understand. The government person who is in charge of budgets is the Finance Minister. He gives a budget speech when he brings the budget to parliament.

Who will the government take money from? Who will the government give money to? That is what the budget is about.

On Feb. 26th Michael Wilson gave the budget speech for this year in Ottawa. He did a lot of talking about competition. This is the new buzzword of politicians and corporations. They want people in Canada to compete with people in Mexico and other developing countries. They want competition based on lower wages, higher unemployment, and trashed social programs. The budget will make Canadians poorer in these ways:

*Unemployment will grow to over 10%. Unemployed people are generally poor people.

*The government will continue to lay off people who work for it.

*The government will have a wage freeze on public workers. Some public workers are already living in poverty because their wages are so low.

*The government is trying to end medicare by cutting the amount of money it gives to provinces for health.

*The government is also cutting money it provides for education. It will be even harder for poor people to go to University.

*The government cut funding for social housing by 15% when homelessness is growing in the country.

*The government put limits on the amount it will pay to provinces for welfare. Will this mean cuts to welfare?

Does this seem like a good government to vote for in the next election?

TAX HELP FOR SINGLE PARENTS

If you are a single parent and need help filling out your tax form, come to a meeting on March 27th between 7 and 10 pm. The meeting is in room L3 at Britannia, 1001 Cotton (off Commercial). Call 687-8966 to register for childcare.

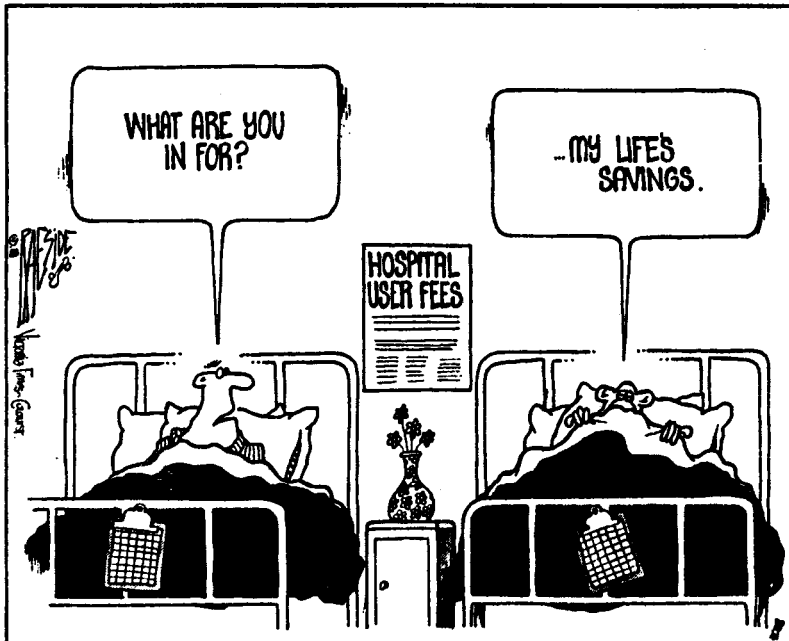
This meeting is sponsored by SCRAPs, Society for Children's Rights to Adequate Parental Support.

SINGLE MOTHERS DROP IN SUPPORT GROUP

The Vancouver Status of Women is having a new drop in and support group for single mothers on welfare.

It will be from 1:30 to 3:00pm every second and 4th Tuesday of the month (March 12th and 26th). It will be at #301, 1720 Grant St. (just off Commercial).

Child care can be arranged. Call Trisha at 255-6554 to register your kids





DO YOU HAVE A HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINT?

This is a leaflet you can get from the Legal Services Society. It is free. It will tell you how to get legal aid if you have a complaint about discrimination.

To get the leaflet, call the publications clerk at 660-4600.

LEGAL HELP

The Law Students' Legal Advice Program has a new phone number: 822-5791 or UBC-5791. If you need a student to help you with your legal problem, call this number.

GST FARCE

By Irene Schmidt

First of all, the majority of Canadians do not buy the bologna Prime Minister Scrooge and Grinch Wilson are peddling concerning the reason for inflicting the Grief and Suffering Tax on us.

Canadians would not be in this debt situation if the federal government did not waste money like a drunken sailor. And the biggest waste of all was giving the Members of Parliament an increase in salaries for the New Year.

Furthermore, giving Scrooge money for the GST is like pouring it down a bottomless pit or flushing the tax down the toilet. The Grief and Suffering Tax will only give the Prime Minister the green light to waste more.

It is not too late to fight the Gouge and Screw Tax. This poverty causing tax must be

stopped. Let us have a tax revolt and keep a daily journal of what we spend on GST. I intend to send monthly bills to Prime Minister Scrooge and Grinch Wilson.

At the recent Community Relations meeting I brought up the problems concerning the Grief and Suffering TAX. We decided to work with ELP on a workshop with prospects of producing a GST Survival Guide.

The tax is far too confusing and I will give you an illustration. If you buy a paper in the store, you pay four cents GST. But if you get it from a box on the street, there isn't any tax.

Come on Canadians, show us your fighting spirit and make the Liberal Senators' episode look like a Sunday School Picnic.



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
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES, 456 W.**

**Broadway. Phone 872-1278.
Open 9 to 5 Monday through
Friday.**

FOR HELP WITH LANDLORD TENANT PROBLEMS:

**Call the TENANTS RIGHTS
COALITION Hotline: 255-
0546.**

FOR HELP WITH SERIOUS CRIMINAL PROBLEMS OR URGENT FAMILY PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE LAW:

**Go to the Legal Services
Society, 191 Alexander St.
Open Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, and Friday from 9
to 3:30, and Wednesday from
12:30 to 3:30. Legal Services
may be able to help with child
custody and restraining
orders.**

