

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

N E W S L E T T E R

#43

July 24, 1991

The five biggest tax loopholes

Here are the five biggest tax loopholes allowed by the federal government. Have any of you ever collected them?

Capital Gains Lifetime Exemption and preferred rates. This is the loophole that makes money for people who buy things that go up in value like real estate or paintings. When they sell the things, the government doesn't tax part of their profit. This loophole costs the federal government \$2.8 billion.

Business and Entertainment Deduction. Corporate executives go out for business lunch or buy special seat at sports events. With this loophole, they can deduct the cost from their income. This loophole costs the federal government \$1.1 billion.

Divident Tax Credit. This is for people who get money from owning stocks. They don't have

to pay tax on some of it. This loophole costs the federal government \$1 billion.

Manufacturing and Processing Tax. This loophole costs the federal government \$1 billion.

Interest Deductibility Tax. This is for corporations that buy up other corporations. When they borrow money to do this, they can deduct the interest they pay from their income. This loophole costs the federal government \$800 million.

That's a total of \$6.7 billion dollars that the government gives to the rich. It could be used for better welfare, health, education, and cleaning up the environment.

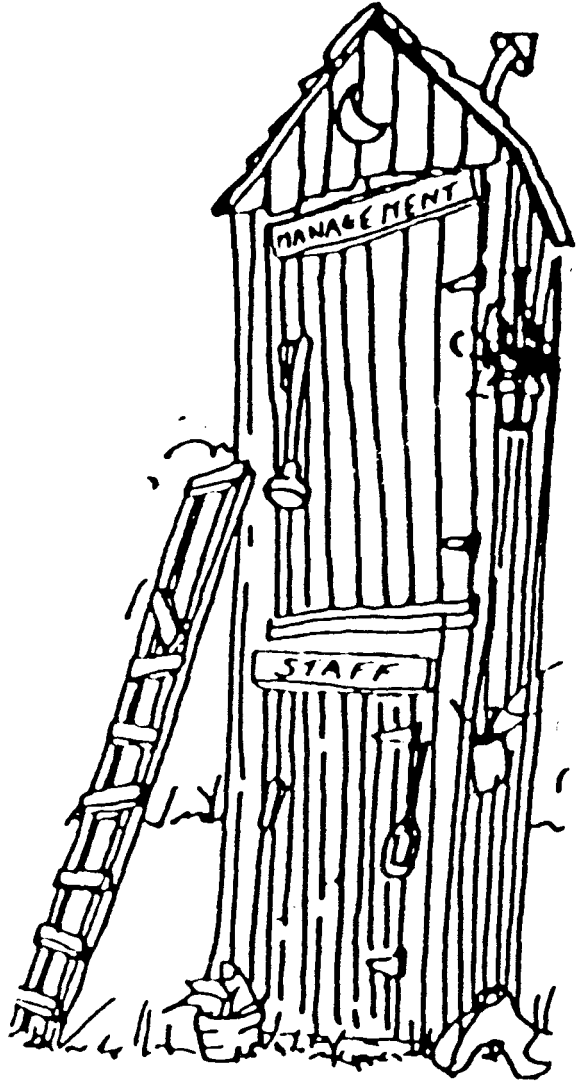
"That's our problem, Charlie, the more we get, the more we want."



Welfare list says "no" to medical equipment and supplies

The Ministry of Social Services and Housing has put a list of medical supplies and equipment in its computer. The list is three pages long. It includes things like emergency response systems, communication boards, special clothing for people with disabilities, special communication aids for people with disabilities, special household equipment for people with disabilities, oxygen, food for special diets, special aids for people who can't see well, vitamins, and allergy pills.

If you ask your worker for these things, the computer will tell the worker to say no. BUT, you can appeal this decision. The list is not law, only policy. If you need things like this, ask your worker. If your worker says "no", go to one of the groups on the back page.



The two bums

The bum on the rods is hunted
down
As the enemy of mankind,
The other is driven around to his
club
Is feted, wined and dined.

And they who curse the bum on
the rods
As the essence of all that's bad,
Will greet the other with a
winning smile,
And extend the hand so
glad.

The bum on the rods is a social
flea
Who gets an occasional bite,
The bum on the plush is a social
leech,
Blood-sucking day and night.

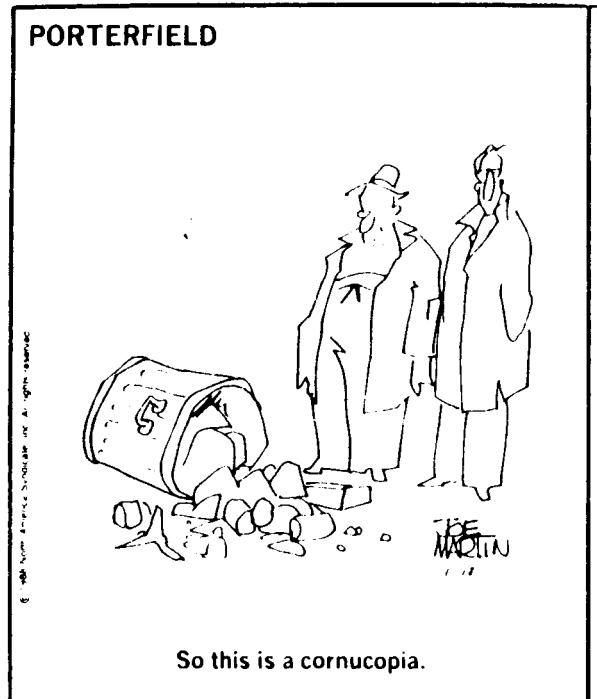
The bum on the rods is a load so
light
That his weight we scarcely feel,
But it takes the labor of dozens of
men
To furnish the other a meal.

As long as you sanction the bum
on the plush

The other will always be there,
But rid yourself of the bum on the
plush
And the other will disappear.

Then make an intelligent,
organized kick,
Get rid of the weights that crush.
Don't worry about the bum on the
rods,
Get rid of the bum on the plush!

*By George Milburn in The Hobo's
Hornbook, 1930*



Do you have medical coverage?

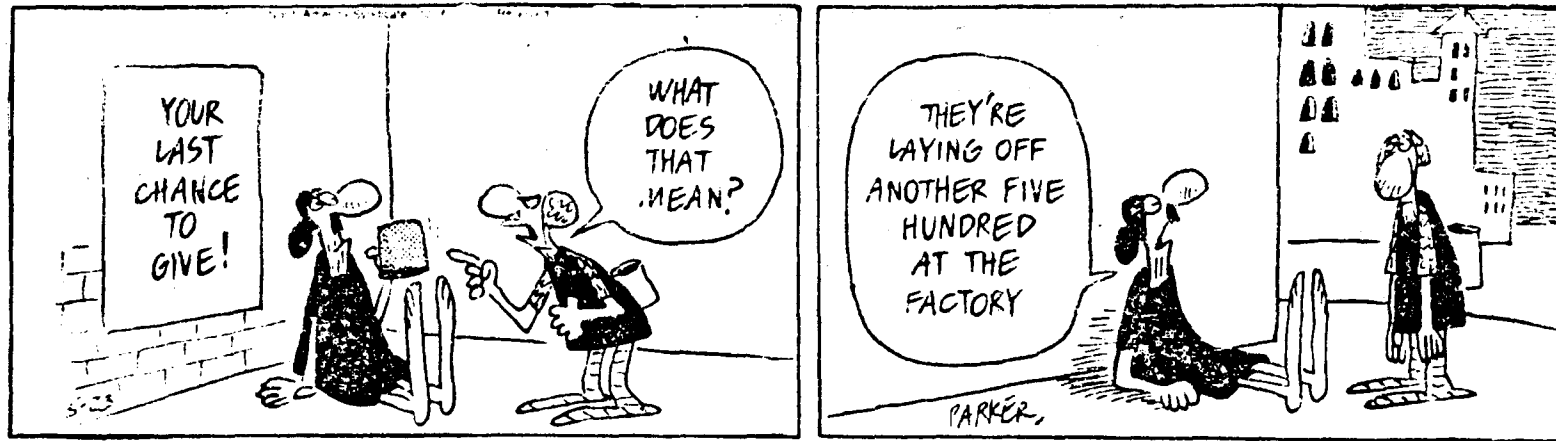
Are you one of 50,000 British Columbians who has no medical coverage? Did you know that B. C. and Alberta are the only two provinces that require people to pay medical insurance premiums? In B. C. it costs \$35 a month for one person and \$70 a month for a family of three or more.

But, if your income is under \$17,000 a year, you can get "Premium Assistance". You have to fill out a form, but it might be worth it. There are five different rates of premium assistance. If you are a single person on welfare, the rate is \$1.75 a month.

To get a form, write to Medical Services Plan, P. O. Box 1600, Victoria, B. C. V8W 2X9. Tell them you want a premium assistance form.

Meanwhile, we should be bugging our politicians to end premiums altogether. The money for health care could be raised by taxes on people who can afford to pay more.

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Is welfare still forcing single parents to look for work?

In late May the Minister of Social Services and Housing wrote a letter to so-called "employable" people on welfare. The letter tells people that they have to look for work.

But that letter did not go to single parents. Does this mean that the Ministry is not forcing single parents to work?

The Front Line Advocacy Workers is a group of people who stick up for people on welfare. They wrote a letter to the Minister to ask him: have you stopped forcing single parents to look for work? So far he hasn't answered. We'll let you know if he does.

Need to find a place to rent?

The Vancouver Housing Registry helps people looking for places to rent. They provide

- * lists of vacant suites;
- * use of telephones and newspapers;
- * counseling;
- * information about subsidized housing;
- * advocacy for people with special needs;
- * presentations to groups.

Their phone number is 873-1313. They are located at 501 E. Broadway (between Main and Fraser). Their hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. On Thursday their hours are 2 pm to 8 pm.

MY APARTMENT'S
INFESTED WITH
LANDLORDS.



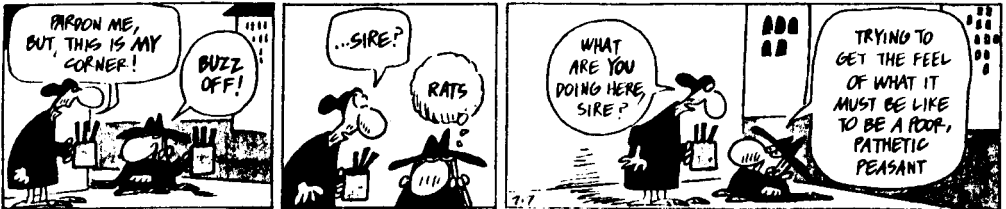
Tent City going up in Toronto

The Ontario Coalition Against Poverty and some other groups are building a Tent City in Toronto. The Tent City will happen during the Tory Convention there in early August. Different organizations are sponsoring tents. Streets will have names like "Welfare Avenue." A large sign at the entrance will say "Welcome to Mulroneysville."

Toronto actually agreed to let the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty use the land. And the council is going to spend \$2200 for police protection at the site. The vote was 10 to 5. One alderman, Howard Levine, said that council normally doesn't do that sort of thing. But we'll make an exception for this "loathsome" Tory government, he said.

The Tent City will be at the base of the CN Tower. The City of

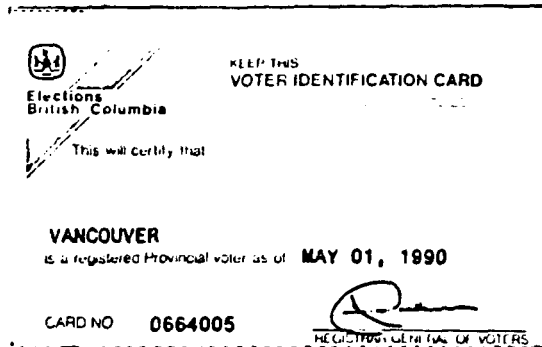
WIZARD
OF ID
by parker and hart



WOND



**You
can't
vote**



Unless you've received this card.

If you have a Voter Identification Card, you're all set to vote in the next provincial election.

That card means that you are on the provincial voters list.

If you don't have a voter identification card, then you're not on the list. You won't be able to vote in the next provincial election.

Here's how to get your card:

- 1.** If you don't have a card, call 660-6848 (in Vancouver). Ask them to mail you a voter registration form.
- 2.** Fill in the application and mail it back.
- 3.** Wait for your Voter Identification Card to be sent to you.
- 4.** Remember to make sure that your entire family gets registered.

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.

