

The LONG HAUL

Speaking out about Poverty

Volume I Issue 5

End Legislated Poverty's Newspaper

July 1994

Feds plan to take from the poor to give to the poor

Bad news for low income people. That's the gist of a leaked report on social security review that ELP obtained in July.

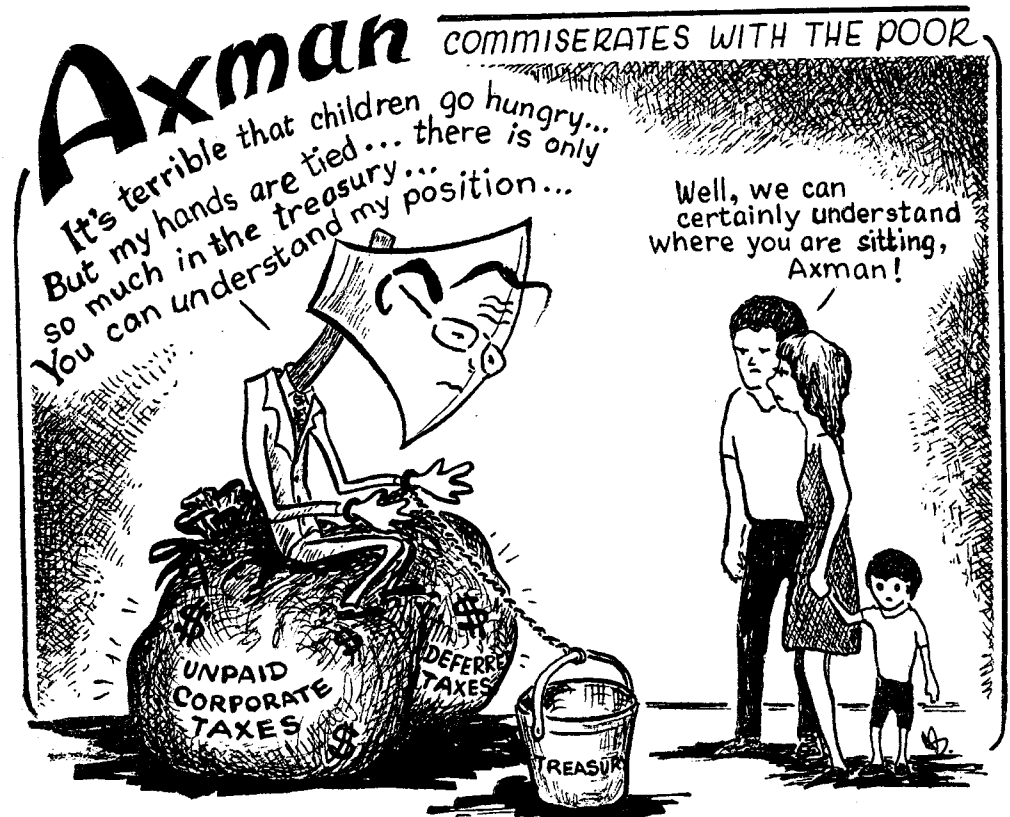
The document is being discussed secretly by federal and provincial officials.

The report suggests dividing UI claimants into two groups: people who rarely use UI and people who use it three or more times in five years. The frequent users ("chronic users" in the drug lingo of the document) would probably have their UI cut and might not be able to get any UI unless they participated in "Employment Development Services" (sound like workfare?). The paper also says that the federal government wants to reduce UI premiums paid by employers. It assumes that this would create jobs even though this has not been proved. This measure could save billions for employers but cost the unemployed their benefits.

Increasing the child tax benefit, having earnings supplements for working poor, or a "GAI for kids" are also being looked at. They would evidently be funded by taking money away from UI and welfare, not from the rich.

The Canada Assistance Plan is also on the government's chopping block. This Act provides rights for low income people and money from the federal to provincial governments for welfare. The paper says that CAP money could go to child care and development, increased income support for children, and people with disabilities, or used for training services for people on social assistance. In other words, money now spent for welfare would be directed at the so-called "deserving" poor, and taken from other programs for poor people, not from programs for the rich.

If you would like a copy of the leaked document, call ELP at 879-1209. □□□



ELP Board wants justice for low income people

What do low income people want? After discussing the federal government's cheap labour strategy at the ELP board meeting on June 24th, members agreed that we want justice for low income people. That includes job creation at decent wages, a minimum wage of \$9-10 an hour, welfare rates at the poverty line, accessible good quality social programs, affordable housing, a democratic economy, taxation based on ability to pay, justice not charity, an end to poverty, the rights for poor people that are in the Canada Assistance Plan (the right to income when in need, the right to an amount of income that meets basic requirements, the right to income regardless of which province you are from, the right to appeal, the right not to have to work or train for welfare), and fair (not free) trade.

Board members also traded ideas on how to lobby, organize forums, and get allies.

New End Legislated Poverty officers are president, Sam Snobelen, secretary Irene Schmidt, treasurer Paul Taylor. □□□

Leaked paper means bad news for students

College and University students could face debts of up to \$80,000 when they graduate. That's what Kathy Conroy, president of the College Institute Educators Association says.

Conroy was commenting after seeing a leaked copy of the Federal Action Plan on social policy. This document is being discussed in secret by provinces and the federal government. ELP obtained a copy of the document and circulated copies to several groups.

According to the paper, there are three options for dealing with federal payments to provinces for higher education: **Terminate** cash transfers in 1996; **reduce** cash transfers starting in 1996; or **phase out** cash transfers more gradually. These are listed under the heading,

"how to improve federal support to post secondary education."

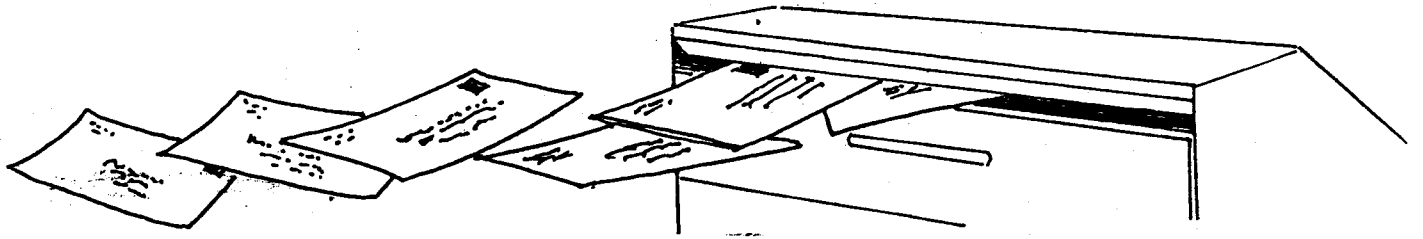
The paper proposes a 4-tiered system of student assistance: grants for the most needy; loans for living costs; loans for tuition; personal and family resources including tax measures. This last tier could be tax write offs for people who are rich enough to save for their child's education. There is no explanation of who would get the grants or how much they would be.

"It all sounds terrible for students. It would be devastating for poor students. Universities and even community colleges would be out of bounds for poor people," said ELP volunteer Dave Jaffe, responding to news of the plan. □□□

Contents

- Page 2--Letters
- Page 3--B. C. Poverty News--No poor in Harcourt forum
- Page 4--Organizing around the province--Commercial Drive, human rights
- Page 5--Around the globe--Quebec, Great Britain
- Page 6--Low income people speak out
- Page 7--ELP job posting
- Page 8-9--FLAWline--Darlene McBain interview
- Page 10--Juicy info on corporations
- Page 11-12--ELP help for low income people--Wages and Welfare committee

Dear ELP,



Working for social justice

I would like to thank you for the issues of *The Long Haul* that you sent and will be using the information in the struggle to reverse the deterioration of social services happening under the federal and provincial governments. We are determined to work with all organizations committed to social justice in this fight.

Karen Cooling, Confederation of Canadian Unions

Job of her dreams

Just imagine growing up and getting the job of your dreams!

Imagine getting that job because you are poor, uneducated, experienced with injustice and slightly touched because of a gnawing political commitment and life.

That happened to me in 1987 when I was hired by ELP. I was pissed off at poverty, trying to raise young kids on part time work, welfare, UI, screwed up daycare and odd jobs. I was also grieving the meningitis death of four year old Christopher Chauncey, my beloved nephew.

Here is my attempt to describe the experience. I saw community workers and advocates so committed that it was common to find them in offices early in the morning and late at night, digging holes in deep water to solve people's problems with laws that don't recognize the right to a decent standard of living.

Working for a board so demanding and visionary meant that there was never a dull moment. Falling in love with all of them was easy. Accomplishing every task was impossible. Thank the stars for the beautiful and bone determined staff to share the work with--like Rose, Linda, Sonia, Pam, Mildred, Jose, Don, Ruth, Jean, Jacquie, Joanne and all the other workers paid and unpaid.

Discovering allies out there was a surprise. The community workers, union folks, churches, the schools came out of the woodwork to share ELP's work.

Facing down politicians, the media, an unending stream of

bureaucrats, and rude right wing idiots was fun. Witnessing the devastation created by the corporate sector and trying to explain it was grueling. Realizing that problems are caused by unequal distribution of wealth make it easy. I still get tied up in the strings.

The hardest times were when I got called in the middle of the night by someone attempting suicide or finding out that their children had died or had been apprehended. Watching these people continue to work was miraculous.

Other miracles happened. Watching Sheila finish her first book. Watching Debbie. Getting hard lessons from both women and learning them well. My partner Tim and my children Dane and Brendan worked hard to let me do this. They did it too. One day I knew it was time to mosey on! How thankful and humbled I feel for getting to spend time at ELP. Now I will always be just another slut for social justice (for the long haul). Imagine that?

Love always,

Chaunc (Patricia Chauncey)

Angry that rich are getting richer

I was surprised and a little shocked to see a change in the format of the ELP newsletter. It is a great change. I find it is not as structured and business like, but is more informative and easier to read. I feel comfortable and happy with the change.

I am writing due to the anger I feel on the following issues. I am a single female, an empty nester with invisible disabilities. When people see me they wonder why I don't work because I look healthy.

How come people on CPP disability have to pay income tax? Let's get the big corporations to pay their share of tax and leave the poor alone.

Why are the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer? What has gone wrong?

Yes I feel threatened when welfare says they are going to crack down on welfare recipients. This makes me feel like I have no rights to see this help.

I would like to encourage Social

Service workers to be trained to have compassion and empathy instead of treating us like dirt or like bad people. We deserve to be treated with respect and dignity and not by power and control.. We are just as good as the big shots and have a lot more understanding.

Name withheld

Why are the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer?
What has gone wrong?



Long Haul shouldn't slander pigs

Hi. I have just read *The Long Haul*. I find your articles pretty easy to understand but I'd suggest you guard against being too big wordy. I'm encouraged that so many people care about low income people and that there is some global focus mentioned also. One important point could be included in every issue. That is what lifestyle is sustainable on this planet and how we need to change. It's not enough to get richer and have a cruel and stupid lifestyle to go with it.

Could you also consider a change in you cartoons? Under "need and greed" you show a giant pig at the trough. Pigs don't grow bigger than people and are quite smart and good to their young and probably eat only as much as they need. So please, no more slander to animals, OK?

Thanks again for caring about the "least" of us. But it's not the

least really, its the "all" of us.

Joan Macmillan

Editor's note: Your wish has been our command. Check out the new "Need and Greed" logo on page 10.

People fear poverty

Thank you for sending the newsletters which I find very interesting. Congratulations! Also, well done. I talked to two of you on the phone and you invited me to your Wednesday sessions.

As you can see, I was so apathetic in response I seem invisible. Let me say, "You are on my mind."

I wonder if any other people called you or showed up. I referred them to you. My mind is filled to overflowing. I want to go in the right direction for me.

The War is always on. The War on the Poor. Only being poor does one understand. Most people fear poverty more than any other condition. People will really do almost anything to maintain their level of living: tell lies, pretend all is well when it isn't.

Name withheld



Published monthly by:
End Legislated Poverty
#211, 456 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3

Vancouver (604) 879-1209
fax line (604) 879-1229
Surrey (604) 583-7363

ELP is a coalition of BC groups that want governments to reduce and end poverty.

Editors:

Jean Swanson
Joanne Shaw
(FLAWline)

Layout & Design

Jean Swanson
Joanne Shaw
Dave Ross

Regular contributors:

David Jaffe
Anne Miles
William Kay
Sandra Asiegbu
Sandy Cameron

Cartoons:

Maureen Davis
David Jaffe

Printed in a union shop.



Harcourt excludes poor people from committee

By David Jaffe

Poor people, teachers, and students got the shaft when Premier Mike Harcourt named the new forum that is supposed to review B. C.'s social safety net.

Out of 30 people chosen for the positions, none was a poor person or represented an anti-poverty group. No students were chosen even though the feds are planning massive changes to post secondary education.

"Forum members will be challenged to take a good hard look at new ways we can review our social safety net so it is relevant, equitable, and affordable," said Harcourt in a news release.

One promising note came out of Harcourt's announcements about the Forum. Harcourt stressed that the Forum's work is not "an exercise in cutbacks." This contrasts sharply with the federal government's review of social services which promises to cut programs.

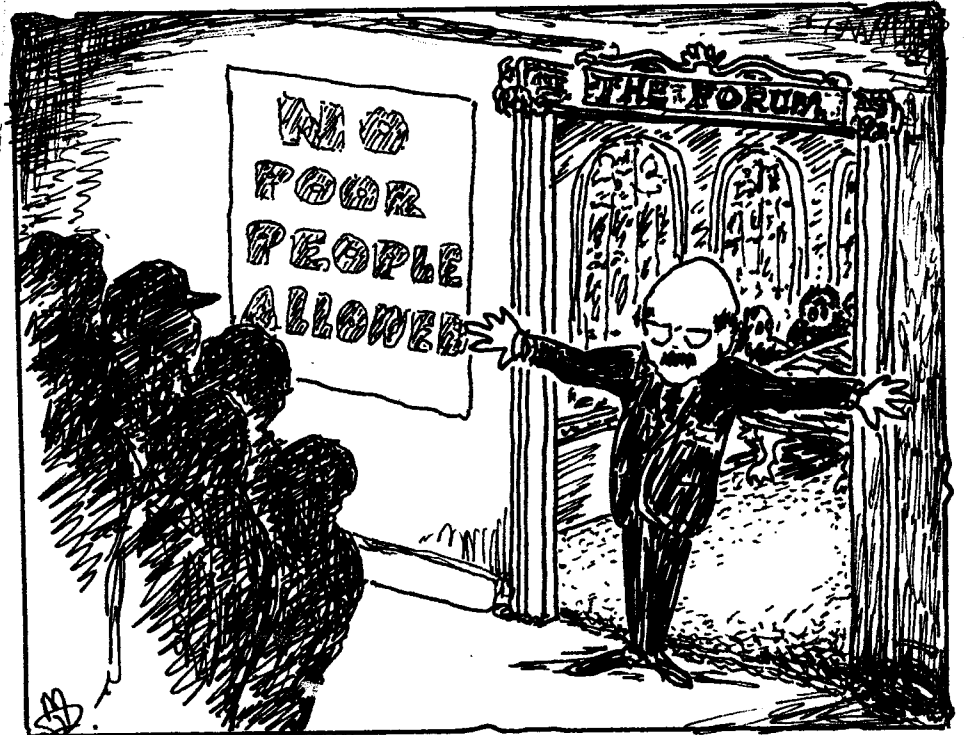
The Forum was set up by Harcourt to co-operate with the federal government's review as well as shape the future of B. C. programs.

But some of the committee's members have very conservative views on social programs.

John Richards, a former left-leaning Saskatchewan MLA, now teaches at SFU. Richards has been an outspoken advocate of cutting the deficit by slashing social programs. He also advocates ending the Canada Assistance Plan which includes money and rights for low income people.

Blair Nelson and Keith Gray are big business reps on the Forum. For the past 10 years big businesses and their lobby groups have been pushing the corporate agenda which advocates cutting social programs.

"You can't have a committee that deals so much with things that affect poor people and not have our representatives," said ELP spokesperson Rose Brown. "That's total discrimination against low income people. It's a sort of arrogance that they don't have to consult with us, that they know better, that they want control. It's suspicious right away when you don't get to be part of something that affects you." □□□



Poor children need more money even when their fathers are poor

By Linda Marcotte

On June 20, Joanne Shaw and I presented End Legislated Poverty's perspective to the touring federal task force examining taxing child support payments. We started by thanking Susan Thibideau and Brenda Shafe for bringing this issue up for public debate with their court cases in Quebec and B. C.

We said it's not fair that a mother has to pay taxes on child support payments. Many of the other speakers, as well as Sheila Finestone, the MP chairing the task force, spoke from the perspective that the problem was fathers who didn't want to take responsibility for their children. They argued that giving fathers a tax break would encourage them to pay support more eagerly.

Joanne and I thought there were two problems. The first was the problem of well-off parents who don't pay child support. We concentrated our comments on the other problem, the group of poor mothers and fathers who either do

or don't get support payments from the other non-custodial parent.

Joanne said if Canada had a fair tax system, with the millionaires and the big corporations paying taxes they don't now, poverty would end. "Even though the non-custodial parent is responsible to pay support if they are able, whether or not children can eat should not depend on the behaviour of another person," said Joanne. "The government has to take the biggest responsibility to make sure children aren't in need."

Some of the ideas the task force has heard and liked are from Alberta. There child support would have to be paid before you renew your fishing or drivers license.

It seemed to us that the government was considering putting all the responsibility on individual parents, when it is government's corporate agenda policies that have impoverished many parents so they can't provide for their kids well. □□□

Promoting hate against people on welfare should be illegal

(This is part of a speech given by Gael Mariotte at End Legislated Poverty's demonstration for Human Rights for low income people, held in front of UTV on June 23rd.)

My name is Gael Mariotte, Handicapped Low Income Person's Society director and a proud member of End Legislated Poverty's board of Directors.

Media bashing of Social Assistance recipients is not the way to get higher ratings. Yes, under the Human Rights Act, you can promote the hatred of certain groups of people such as Social Assistance Recipients. All people receiving government help deserve respect. The B. C. Human Rights Act is being reviewed now and we want the promoting of hatred of certain groups stopped now, and made illegal, not sloughed off.

UTV and other media, learn the meaning of real reporting. Leave the crap to the National Enquirer. We of End Legislated Poverty demand Human Rights for all people. □□□



On June 23 ELP members and friends picketed CKVU TV to draw attention to the fact that it is now legal to promote hatred against people on welfare. Pictured (left to right) are Mildred Mac Lellan, Antoinette Saleh, and Kevin McNamee-Annett.

Reform Party wants homeowners to repay welfare

The Reform Party of B. C. wants to make welfare a loan for people who own their own homes.

Party House leader Jack Weisgerber said last month that over 7000 people on welfare in B. C. are getting welfare to make their mortgage payments. B. C.

Reform wants to make these people repay their welfare if they sell their house and make a profit. □□□

Organizing around the province

Sunshine Coast

Fashion addiction pushers ignore human needs

By Anne Miles

A woman we've done advocacy for was recently approached to

Unemployed meet on Commercial Drive

By William Kay

ELP's second meeting on Commercial Drive was held on Thursday evening June 16th. The body count: 18, all inclusive, which is three more than last time we met, meaning we should overtake the city around the turn of third millennium. My theory is that we could have had several more bodies had not the sign-up list from the previous meeting disappeared over the Bermuda Triangle of paper located in the centre of ELP's Vancouver office only to re-emerge from the vortex in some alternative universe.

But seriously folks, once again we had a smashing meeting with a lively and humorous discussion. I was impressed by the level of the discourse as it establishes that there are many in the city who are not buying the media propaganda and who are quite willing to work for change.

Kim Campbell was pilloried in the press in the last election campaign for stating that double digit unemployment will continue to the end of the century, but she was absolutely correct. Moreover, no economist can predict the unemployment rate several years in advance, which means it's common knowledge that unemployment will continue at least at these levels forever. In fact, it will probably get worse. Soon every urban centre in the country will be the site of a mass of restless unemployed adults constituting on average a third of the able bodied adult population. The ability to contact, congregate and progressively motivate the members of this group in your community is the only measure of a serious and authentic "anti-poverty" group.

The group will meet again on July 21st at 7:30 at the Britannia Centre. □□□

The Long Haul, July, 1994-
-page 4

questionnaire for something called the Self Sufficiency Project. She agreed to complete the questionnaire but asked that two of us be present while she did so. The interviewer assured us that the aim of the project was to "help" single parents. I'm skeptical. It did not sound like there was input from poor single mothers when the questions were formulated. My perception was that they were leading questions, and that the statistics thus gathered could be used to justify further reductions in benefits to single mothers. However, after here initial suspicion, our client began to believe that the program could be helpful to her. Perhaps it can, but, personally, I cling to my skepticism. I'd like to know how other advocates, and ELP perceive the Self Sufficiency Project.

I want to talk about the glimpse into the corporate mind I got after I left the ELP annual meeting last month. I was in a well know department store. I needed to find a ladies washroom so I went up to the third floor where there had always been a washroom for as

long as I could remember. However, stepping off the escalator, I found myself disoriented by a maze of mirrors and track lighting. If I could find the margins of the room I could make my way to the washroom, I decided. But everything seemed designed to keep one away from the walls, to maintain the illusion that this vast hall of mirrors had no edges! Sales clerks were few and far between. Those I saw were busy talking to the customers at the racks of expensive clothing that blocked my way at every turn. It took me about ten minutes to find the ladies can! What if I were elderly, had a bladder condition, had a small child in tow who was going to pee her/himself? I wondered. The answer came to me immediately. "They don't care." They don't care about people, only about the entities they call "consumers." Why should the pushers of fashion addiction make it easy for non-consumers to rip off their washroom facility? I can remember when this store took pride in service to everyone. Now they are only interested in those

with money for luxury products. A sign of the times?

Low income people want more control

By Linda Marcotte

On June 30 End Legislated Poverty had a workshop at Carnegie Centre with 20 people. We started by being in small groups of 4 or 5 people and talking about and writing down our vision of economic security.

Here are some of the things people want: more control over the policies and goals of corporations; more power over government spending; a wealth tax; creating employment paying \$10 - \$12 an hour; building buildings the old way (wheel barrows, shovels etc.); no taxes for poor people; no waiting period and no judgments for getting UI; pension plans for welfare recipients; work for those well enough to work; respect and real recognition of people's contribution, monetary and otherwise; a supportive free health care system that acknowledges alternative therapies; an end to policing of welfare recipients; more money for social programs instead of a big casino/hotel; viable economic system with communal kitchens, gardens, support mechanisms, recycling, safety for everybody; increasing the welfare rate to the poverty line.

We talked about our fears about the federal social security review and how it might make our lives even harder.

The ideas of what to do included: make a list of people at the meeting and meet again; stop welfare bashing and racism when you hear it; have a poor peoples' festival and invite all kinds of people to take over some place big like B.C. Place, charging rich people to come. □□□



Human Rights Review helps us educate about poor people's rights

By Linda Marcotte

On June 29 Joanne Shaw and I represented End Legislated Poverty at a discussion about possible changes to the B.C. Human Rights Act. I was heartened by the suggestions by the other people in the room. All together we represented people with AIDS, gays and lesbians, immigrant women, domestic workers, people with disabilities, Aboriginal people, university and college teachers, people of colour, sexually harassed students, and

impoverished people. Bill Black, a law professor at UBC will be writing his report to the government about updating the Act this summer.

Even if we don't win human rights for low income people this time around, we have been able to use the Review as a tool to educate people about their (very limited) rights, to educate people about discrimination against people who are poor, to help people learn about the Human Rights Act and be part of the legislative change process. □□□

Thanks for video

Thanks to the folks at the Nelson anti-poverty action group for your video. ELP will use it as part of our submission to the Human Rights Act Review.

Organizing around the province

ACTIVE KASAP busy fighting poverty

By Liz J. Makortoff

We're back!! In case you are wondering who we are, we are Kamloops Active Support Against Poverty Society. -- and the operative word is ACTIVE.

We have been busy, busy, busy:

- KASAP received its society status in December, 1993
- We have completed, with the assistance of Legal Services Society, an advocacy training session. We ran this session on Thursday nights for six weeks. Ten advocates graduated and are being kept busy assisting clients with their appeals. I am happy to say that three women attended from the Clearwater Access Centre and they never missed or were late for a session!
- KASAP took an active role in the Annual Peace Walk and we thank Darlene McBain for speaking on our behalf.

- June 18 was the Stop Child Support Taxation Rally. A petition has been circulating and we have been actively seeking signatures for support. Thanks, Pat, for undertaking this effort.
- KASAP is submitting funding proposals to agencies and we thank the fapg mailout for the timely information. Any other funding information that you could provide us with would be appreciated.
- We hope to have an office open in the very near future depending on funding. Anyone out there have office space for rent? gratis?
- KASAP participated in and had representation at the Rent Protection Review Legislation in February.
- KASAP participated in the Human Rights Review with Bill Black in June.

- We were very active with SHOE (Secure Housing Options for Everyone) in trying to make sure that accessible housing is available. With the summer holidays upon us, we will be suspending our regular monthly meetings. This is not to say that we will not be active over the summer. Oh, yes, we will. There are funding meetings, housing meetings, fun meetings. As you can see, we are ACTIVE, as our name implies. A pot luck dinner meeting will be held in August--a little bit of fun before we get down to serious business in the fall. □□□



New group possible in Grand Forks

By Pam Espenheim

I have been spreading the word, sharing the information you send, encouraging services in the area to become members, and assuming my own letter writing campaign.

Through my involvement with Women's Support Services, Cyndi Garnett and I will be facilitating Video Evenings at the Women's Centre. Our summer session will include Human Rights in Canada, Feminization of Poverty, Workplace Discrimination, and Environmental Issues.

We also plan on facilitating information sessions in Grand Forks and the West Boundary area on changes to Canada's Social Programs.

I have been networking with others and it's quite possible that a new group will be formed in the near future. □□□

Great Britain

British PM attacks beggars

British Prime Minister John Major said this month that beggars are offensive and could drive tourists and shoppers from cities.

According to the *Guardian Weekly*, Major said, "It is a very offensive problem to many people who see it...its damaging to everybody if that sort of activity continues." People should be "rigorous" in reporting beggars to the police, Major said. "I think the law should be used. It is there...It is an offensive thing to beg. It is unnecessary. So I think people should be very rigorous with it."

In 1988 the government ended benefits for 16 and 17 year olds. Nick Hardwick, the director of a centre that houses young people in London responded, "The reason young people beg is simple--they don't have any money. What does the Prime Minister expect them to do?" Hardwick continued, "What offends people is not the beggars themselves but that in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, so many young people and others...should be forced to beg." □□□

Clinton plan trashes people on welfare

By David Jaffe

Two years and then you're off welfare. That's U. S. President Bill Clinton's heartless message to his country's welfare recipients who were born after Dec. 31, 1971.

Young single mothers will face a lifetime limit of 24 months of cash assistance.

Clinton said his plan would mean nearly one million Americans who would otherwise be on welfare would be off it or working on government subsidized jobs by the year 2000.

Robert Scheer in *The Nation* pointed out that people are living on welfare because well paid jobs are shrivelling in the U. S.

He also said the U. S. government should raise minimum wages and make sure that the working poor are covered by government backed medical plans, instead of blaming welfare recipients.

"The minimum wage shrank 23% in the last 15 years," Scheer says. Sources: *Financial Post/The Nation* □□□

**The Long Haul, July, 1994-
-page 5**



Quebec

Are separatists postponing the destruction of Canadian social programs?

It's ironic. If the Parti Quebecois is elected in Quebec's upcoming provincial election, the federal Liberal's cheap labour agenda (social policy reform) could be dead. That's what Rosemary Speirs of the *Toronto Star* speculated in an article on June 30th.

Evidently, the theory is this: if the feds release an action plan

calling for massive cuts to unemployment insurance and welfare, and more federal control of what remains of these programs, it would hurt the re-election chances of Quebec Liberal Premier Daniel Johnson. The Federal Liberals want Johnson and his Liberals in power, not the Parti-Quebecois. □□□

Language hides real dislike of decent social programs

By Dave Jaffe

The right wing British daily, the *Daily Telegraph*, now owned by Canadian magnate Conrad Black, used to have a slogan on its front page. "Times change," it said. "Values don't."

As far as social programs go, that's still true. Most wealthy people don't value them. They detest them, just as they did 70 years ago.

You can see this clearly if you check the history books. In 1926 then Prime Minister Mackenzie King had a problem. His government Liberal Party was a minority government that needed votes to survive in power.

Under pressure from Labour Members of Parliament A. A. Heaps and James Woodsworth, King brought in a bill that gave seniors a niggardly monthly pension of \$20. When the bill was introduced in the Senate, the wealthy Senators, who would receive a pension of \$4,000 a year, just about foamed at the mouth.

"If this bill passes, the obligation of the children to look after their parents goes by the board," said Senator C. P. Beaubien. "Is it judicious for us to impose upon

our county such socialistic legislation as this?"

Senator John McCormick accused Woodsworth and Heaps of being part of the working class that didn't practice thrift.

But it would be political suicide to utter these thoughts in public today.

So today politicians use different language to hide their real aims which are to destroy social programs.

Welfare programs will be changed, says a recent report from the federal Ministry of Human Resources, "to reduce rather than perpetuate dependency."

When Brian Mulroney's Tories were running Canada, government, we were told, should give people on welfare, "A hand up, not a hand out."

Most welfare recipients, and even many people on UI, as the government's phrase suggests, can barely survive from cheque day to cheque day. They are not addicted to welfare or UI. They have no choice but to apply for a government cheque, because if they didn't, they'd starve.

All of the cuts to welfare and UI are being planned by wealthy people in power. They and their

big business allies want to force hundreds of thousands of jobless Canadians back into the workforce where they can compete with other jobless Canadians for low paid jobs.

In this way Canadian wages will be driven down to third world levels.

Just like those Senators of 1926, they don't give a toot for the jobless or the poor. But unlike those senators, they won't say that.

So maybe that old *Daily Telegraph* slogan should be rewritten. "Language changes," it might read. "Values don't." □□□

ELP meets around immigration policy

The federal government paid groups, including ELP, to organize a meeting to get feedback around Canada's immigration policy. Sixteen low-income people met July 14 to discuss the topic.

People were concerned that their feedback would not have any impact on government policy, so the group also used the time for other purposes. Some came to discuss immigration. Some came interested in how racism and classism affect the immigration process. Others advocate for immigrants and wanted to learn more details about the law.

The level of discussion was pleasing. Some of the comments:

- "It seems like if you're rich, you can buy your way into the country. But not if you're poor."
- "Racism is a red hearing to keep us from thinking about classism. Immigrants are often allowed in to feed a pool of cheap labour. If anyone questions the number of people allowed in, they are automatically accused of racism."
- "We need more jobs. It's difficult being new to Canada and looking for work while you don't speak English."

- "I hate it when I hear people blame immigrants for their poverty."
- "I'd like to see more education, on all levels, around what its like to come to a new country."
- "We need more money into Social Services and other social programs. Not less."

ELP meeting includes songs, poetry

By Linda Marcotte

On June 24 a small group of people from End Legislated Poverty's annual meeting had a magical evening of music, poetry and prose reading. Thank you to Andrew Larcombe, Margaret Ennenberg and Anne Miles for your poems, Joanne Shaw, Michelle Richard and Robin Bajer, Rick Keating and Earle Peach for your music, and Rose Brown for your story. Some of us were so lifted up by the performances, we sang and played music while Don, our administrator finished some accounting, and didn't stop until we closed off the lights and left the building. □□□

The Long Haul, July 1994--
page 6



Job Posting--Vancouver Organizer

End Legislated Poverty will be hiring a Vancouver organizer. The organizer's job will be to involve and empower low-income people and their groups in building support for reducing and ending poverty in Vancouver among groups of people who are poor and people who aren't.

The organizer will:

Help existing anti-poverty groups and develop new ones that can do anti-poverty work; meet with other staff and board as required; coordinate activities with other staff and related committees; liaise with local contacts; help local groups develop an ongoing anti-poverty operation; organize meetings and workshops in Vancouver; work with non-poor groups; speak on poverty at meetings and conferences; facilitate workshops on poverty issues; help low-income people bring their message about poverty.

Desirable experience:

Understanding the economy and the causes of poverty; doing any or all of the things listed above; living as a low income person; writing well; using MS Word; facilitating and organizing groups; working on anti-poverty campaigns; working with anti-poverty groups; working with the media; lobbying.

Salary: \$15.38 per hour plus benefits. This is a four day a week, 7.5 hour per day job. Some evening work will be required. Funding for this position will last until April, 1995, with a possibility of continuing.

Send resume to ELP, #211, 456 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B. C. V5Y 1R3. Please include a half page essay on what causes poverty. **Deadline is August 11th. Start date: Sept. 1 to 15th.**

Affirmative action: People of colour, Aboriginal People, women, low income people, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

There is a possibility that this position could be combined with a one day per week job as volunteer co-ordinator.

Low income people speak out on federal policy changes

Low income people in Kamloops and Nanaimo don't think training is the answer to poverty. In video tapes made by the Association for Better Communities in Nanaimo and Kamloops Active Support Against Poverty, people speak out about their concerns with the federal government's cheap labour strategy (social policy reform).

The video tapes were organized by and have been given to ELP to use with their presentation to the federal government on social policy.

In the Nanaimo video a woman said that training programs would be useful if there was work at the end of them. "But there isn't any work," she said.

Another Nanaimo woman explained, "I'm a product of UI training and I don't have a job. I've taken two courses. Obviously,

"People come out of training programs with high expectations and hope and then, because there are no jobs, they are even more discouraged."

the problem is lack of jobs, not lack of training."

In the Kamloops video, Sheila said that training is often the answer for "those who are doing the training, but not for those who take it. People come out of training programs with high expectations and hope and then, because there are no jobs, they are even more discouraged."

"Training puts the focus on the individual, not on the system -- the economy that's not providing enough jobs for people."

Pat in Kamloops said that her family's poverty had cost the government thousands in medical costs, since they were laid off.

"I've been hearing Lloyd Axworthy say they're going to cut UI to relieve child poverty," said Karen Shillington of Nanaimo. "It's time for federal politicians to realize that poor children have parents. You don't solve poverty by keeping parents poor. It's a really low thing to do to divide people in the trade union movement and people who don't have jobs."

Another important point was made by George in Nanaimo.

"People on welfare don't have enough to live on."

"How can we bring up young people to respect the system if the system fails them every time they try," asked the single parent father?

"How can we bring up young people to respect the system if the system fails them every time they try?"

Low income people in both towns also stressed the need for true medicare, affordable housing,

good UI, higher minimum wages, and job creation.

"We have more than enough wealth to eradicate poverty in Canada. Instead of that, government is looking at cutting the very programs we need," said Darlene McBain in Kamloops.

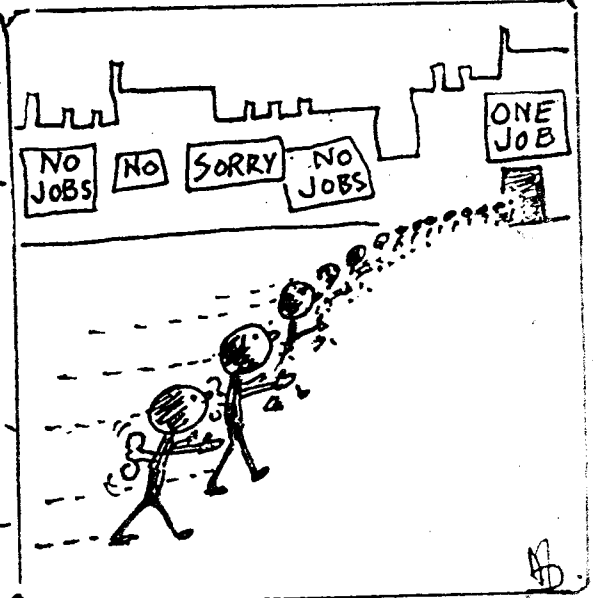
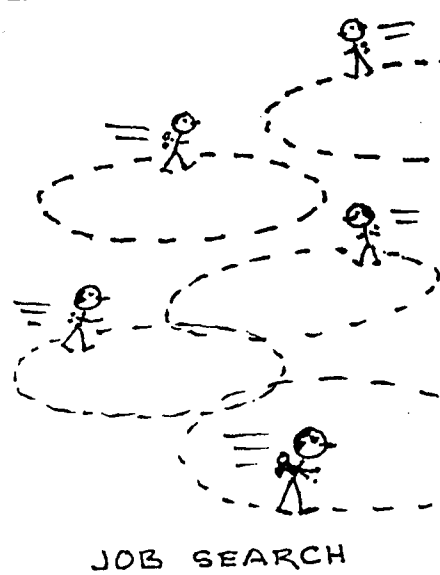
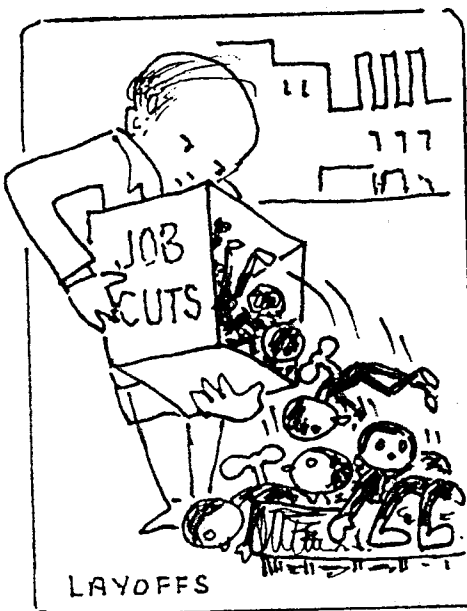
"Those people who have the least are being asked to pay the debt and being blamed for the debt," said Sheila, "while the wealthy corporations don't pay." Sheila challenged all the politicians who are thinking about cutting programs to play the Poverty Game. □□□

More Videos Please

ELP's video presentation to Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy will be enriched by the intelligent and thoughtful responses on these tapes. A sincere thank you to the people in Kamloops and Nanaimo who put them together.

The message we want Ottawa to have is loud and clear on the videos we've received. We have had training, we have our own natural desire to work....But, hell, we haven't got the jobs. Good jobs just aren't a priority with the government.

We would like more video tapes from anti-poverty groups. There is still time. If your group wants to put on tape what you think about the social security review, what makes you angry or afraid, and just as important, what you would like to see social policy look like in Canada, please do it. Call ELP at 879-1209 and ask for Rose or Mildred if you need any help.



Skills now or later?

By Liz Makortoff

By now we should have all received the *Skills Now* brochure sent to all households by the Ministry of Trades, Skills, and Labour. I read it and came up with many unanswered questions.

After only 4 calls to their 1-800 number, I got through to their machine. The good news is that they do return their calls, even if it takes 10 days. A very pleasant lady returned my call. I was concerned about *Moving from welfare to the workplace*. This will concentrate on vocational

training and upgrading. Workplace training will give the employer 50% government reimbursement to a maximum of \$10,000 per employee. What does the employee get? Exploited in another low paying job.

The client will meet with a training consultant who will determine the skill and training the client requires. This is to customize the client's needs with the employer's. If required the client can partake in community based training in job skills, self esteem, communication skills, etc.

For those who want more than upgrading, funding is approved for degree programs to cover tuition, books, and other program costs. What are the other program costs? She could not answer. These programs will be put into effect in October '94. I asked what a person was supposed to do for the fall semester since it starts in September and *Skills Now* programs would not be in effect until October. Sit on welfare for another four months. Post secondary training will not start until January, 1995.

I asked when the *Skills Now* Training Centre would be opened in Kamloops. Guess what--the Centre in Kamloops is open! It is located at 1255 Dalhousie Drive, phone 371-4401. Don't expect information from this office, they have none. They have contacted *Skills Now* in Victoria and asked them to no longer give out their office address as they cannot handle the questions. A classic case of the right hand not knowing what the left is doing. □□□

The Long Haul, July, 1994-
-page 7

FLAWLINE

FRONT LINE ADVOCACY WORKERS

Interview: Darlene McBain

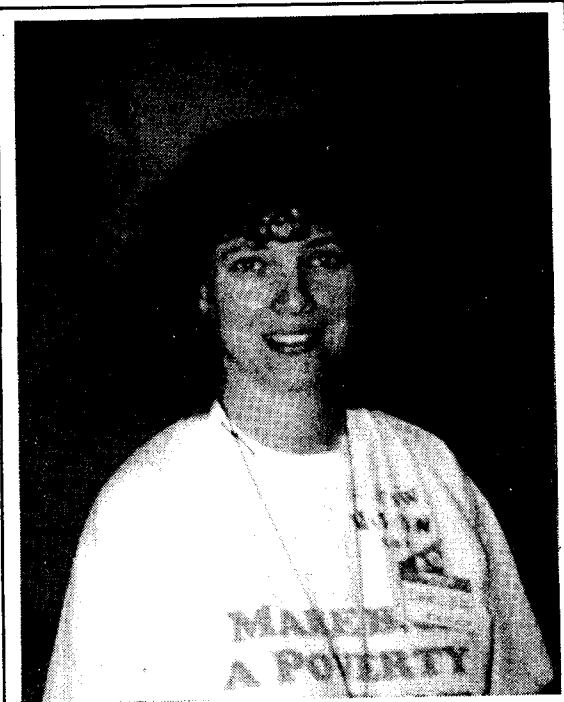
Advocate & Activist, Kamloops Legal Services & Kamloops Active Support Against Poverty

~ by Joanne Shaw

Darlene McBain started with Legal Services in Kamloops in 1984 as a Secretary Legal Assistant. She was doing family law work, helping people get into the court system.

She liked helping people do the work for themselves, instead of simply doing the work for them. She still gets to enjoy seeing her clients empowered this way. But now Darlene is a paralegal at Legal Services and she advocates in more areas of the law, such as welfare, UI, pensions, and small claims court.

She founded an anti-poverty action group called Kamloops Active Support Against Poverty Society (KASAP) in 1990. Former ELP employee, Pam Fleming worked with Darlene to get this started. ELP's influence is still evident in KASAP, with much of their focus and analysis based on



ELP's.

Darlene works hard — which is typical of an advocate. She does advocacy at Legal Services during the day, and then does her community work with KASAP on her own time in the evenings. "But I don't consider myself unusual.

[Front-line advocacy] isn't just a job - it's a lifestyle. I see a need and do the work."

Since Darlene became involved in ending poverty. She's witnessed an increased awareness in

Kamloops. City Planners and MLAs approach her for advice, wanting to know how to make services and housing accessible to

low-income people.

"City Planners and MLAs approach her for advice, wanting to know how to make services and housing accessible to low-income people."

Darlene is involved in a new group that has started in Kamloops: Secure Housing Options for Everyone (SHOE). It's a coalition of people concerned that there isn't enough affordable housing. This is still a real problem in Kamloops which has about 90,000 people.

"Individual advocacy is not enough for Darlene. She also gets a charge out of changing the bigger poverty picture."

Housing is not the only concern in Kamloops. Lately Darlene has had an increase in welfare appeals, especially for people being refused GAIN for Handicapped. She also has a lot of crisis-grant appeals.

Individual advocacy is not enough for Darlene. She also gets a charge out of changing the bigger poverty picture. She does educational workshops, attempts to change legislation and organizes protest rallies such as the one on June 18 in Kamloops to protest taxation of child support.

Darlene told me she gains a lot of personal satisfaction in helping people. According to her reputation, and remarkable list of accomplishments, she's managed to do just that.

□□□

Welfare tribunals recorded on computer

The Advocacy Centre in Nelson is creating a computer data base of recent welfare tribunals.

It will be available to people across BC through computer modem. The long term goals of the three month project are:

- To make legal resources and information regarding welfare tribunals more available to advocates, particularly those in rural areas.
- To produce a central resource of all available information, arguments and resources to assist advocates and volunteers in preparing for welfare tribunals.
- To enhance a province-wide network of advocates and volunteers working on welfare tribunals.
- To increase public understanding and awareness of the welfare tribunal process.

For more information contact The Advocacy Centre by phone 352-5777 or fax 352-6928. □□□

Do the MSS social workers in your area intervene when there is reported child abuse in a custody dispute?

We at The Advocacy Centre are trying to get an idea of what the practices are around the province - can you help?

Please let us know the usual practice for Social Workers in your area. We are trying to get a province-wide sense of whether what is going on in our area is a normal practice or just specific to this region.

Call us or write to us at the address below. We'll let everyone else in the province know what we find out.

Thank you for your help with our research!

**The Advocacy Centre Phone: 352-5777
560 Baker Street, suite #4, Nelson, BC V1L 4H9**

**THE LAW
FOUNDATION
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

The Law Foundation of British Columbia funds the FLAWline section of The Long Haul.

FLAWLINE

FRONT LINE ADVOCACY WORKERS

Another way to collect child support

~ by Tor Rognmo

As a single parent, I was in the fortunate position for many number of years of receiving regular and adequate monthly child support payments. The reason for that was probably the fact that I was not

living in Canada, but in one of the Scandinavian countries. The system there is first of all based on recognition of the fact that if the non-custodial parent doesn't pay, some one else will have to. And often as not, that 'some one' will be the taxpayers, through increased

welfare, housing subsidies or by having to cover other costs that would have been covered by the child support. Child support has therefore been given the same legal status as tax revenues. That means that if the payee is delinquent, a government office will automatically garnish wages, seize their assets, throw a lien on their car, purge their bank accounts and generally do what tax people in any country do when folks owe them money. That is generally bad news for the non-custodial parent who attempts to avoid paying.

diligently as taxes.

"The support payments are sent to the custodial parent, monthly from a government office whether the other parent is paying or not."

The system means really bad news to lawyers. Child support rates are set automatically based on a preset scale. The rates are approximately 10% of the payee's gross income, for each child. The support payments are sent to the custodial parent, monthly, from a government office, whether the other parent is paying or not. The government also guarantees a minimum child support of about \$300 a month per child, which is forwarded even if the other parent does not have any income.

Applying and getting an order for child support, takes about ten minutes and is done, free of charge, at a government office.

Finally, with regard to something that is under debate in Canada right now, the Scandinavians determine that for tax purposes it is the child and not the custodial parent who is the beneficiary. A separate income tax form for the child, with all the basic deductions, is filed and is not, like here, combined with the custodial parents income.

If you think that system sounds simple, cost-efficient and fair, you are quite right. The question then is why it as of yet has not been adopted here in Canada. □□□

"Applying and getting an order for child support, takes about ten minutes and is done, free of charge, at a government office."

The good news for them is that if visitation rights are violated or sabotaged by the custodial parent, they can file a complaint which may lead to day fines being levied - i.e. a fine of say \$200 per visit with the child that is sabotaged or denied. Those fines are also collected as

TIP

Remember that if you want to receive welfare, you have to fill out an appointment form at most offices before you can get to see a Financial Aid Worker.

Write to:
Victories & Problems
c/o Joanne Shaw
#211, 456 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1R3

VICTORIES & PROBLEMS

Dear FLAWline:

I can't afford to go to the dentist. I'm working part-time and am not eligible for welfare. After rent I barely have enough for food let alone dental care. My tooth hurts. Help!

~ *Pained and Broke*

Dear Pained:

ELP gets a lot of calls from the employed poor. Many people have inadequate paying jobs and after working all week aren't much better off financially than if living on the GAIN rates. That's why we have been asking for the minimum wage to be increased to around \$10 an hour and the welfare rates up to the poverty line.

But, I do have good news about your tooth. Glen Bradford from AIDS Vancouver has had good luck using Section 29(3) of the GAIN Regulations which reads "...in situations where an employable person receiving basic premium free Ministry-sponsored MSP (Medical Services) or an individual whose income or assets are marginal faces extraordinary medical costs, consideration may be given to providing some relief from those costs if no alternative resources are available."

Go to your social services office and tell the receptionist you need to see a Financial Aid Worker (FAW) Ask the FAW for "medical services only". It's important to word it this way. Many people ask for welfare and get refused because they aren't eligible and they never get to ask for their medical needs.

It doesn't matter if you earn more than GAIN rates. You just have to document your expenses (the more receipts the better) and prove that you don't have enough left over for dental bills or whatever the health expense is.

Assets are taken into account, but this does not include your living room sofa; it means stocks, bonds, RRSPs etc.

A doctor's letter helps. You may get one that says that if you don't get dental care, there will be other health problems such as infections.

For people not receiving GAIN, the district supervisor may authorize dental services and/or medical supplies and equipment up to \$250. The Director, Assistant Director or a coordinator of the Health Services Division may authorize such spending over \$250. An FAW can authorize payment for prescription drugs

In Glen's experience, what MSS will likely do is give the person the same dental and health care services for a six month period that an "employable" GAIN Recipient would receive. After six months, you can repeat the process if necessary.

"Its a lot of paperwork, but it may pay off," says Glen.

Glen advises that people may phone Health Services directly with questions: 1-800-663-7202.

Finally, DON'T let them yank your tooth if it doesn't need it just because its cheaper than a filling.

~ *FLAWline*

THE  LAW
FOUNDATION
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Law Foundation of British Columbia funds the FLAWline section of The Long Haul.

The Long Haul, July, 1994-
-page 9

Justice

Here are the words of an unnamed peasant woman from Piana dei Greci, in the province of Palermo, Sicily, speaking to an Italian journalist during an 1893 peasant uprising:

"We want everybody to work, as we work. There should no longer be either rich or poor. All should have bread for themselves and for their children. We should all be equal. I have five small children and only one little room, where we have to eat and sleep and do everything, while so many lords have ten or twelve rooms, entire palaces...It will be enough to put all in common and to share with justice what is produced."

Source: E. J. Hobsbawm - *Primitive Rebels: Studies in Archaic Forms of Social Movement in the 19th and 20th Centuries.* □□□



"Please don't turn the page yet. I haven't finished that article!"

This month's thanks

Thanks to these people who helped End Legislated Poverty in the last month: Nida Abulail, Anne Miles, Sandy Cameron, Liz J. Makortoff, Tor Rognmo, Ronaye Bardell, Dave Ross, Lynne Melcombe, Tekla Hendrickson, Patti, Julia Brook, Denise Brown, Sandra Pronteau, David Jaffe, Maureen Davis, William Kay, Sandra Asiegbu, Terrie Hendrickson, Antoinette Saleh, Barb Sutherland, Mary Ann Cantillon. Thanks also to the Hospital Employees Union, the Vancouver Public Library, and the Vancouver Folk Festival Society.

ELP's column on



Getting juicy info on corporate profits

By Jean Swanson

I love June. Not because its summer. But because June is the month that the *Globe and Mail* puts out its Top 1000 list of corporations and tells us juicy things like how much profit they made and how much assets they have.

When the Top 1000 comes out in June it inevitably follows a year in which we hear all about how the government can't afford social programs, education, health, and no one, of course, can afford to pay more taxes.

Unfortunately the *Globe* neglects to tell us how much corporate taxes the various corporations pay. I wonder why? They do tell us that Bell Canada, the top earner, made a mere \$871 million in 1993. The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, number 2, made \$730 million and had assets worth over \$141 billion. Why do I think these corporate giants could afford to pay more taxes--at least more than the person I know who lives on \$9,000 a year, \$6000 below the poverty line, and still had to pay over \$900 in taxes?

You know how we're always told that profits create jobs? Two of the 38 most profitable corporations, Gaz Metro, and Trans Alta Corp, had zero employees. Trans Alta made over \$183 million and Gaz Metro made over \$111 million with no employees!

You know how we're always told that corporations would create more jobs if they didn't have to pay those pesky UI premiums? Bell Canada made over \$17,000 profit per employee, after the wages and benefits were paid. The Bank of Nova Scotia made almost \$24,000 profit per employee. Great West Lifeco made over \$34 million profit per employee! Imperial Oil, with a profit of \$279 million, over \$29,000 per employee, just announced that it would lay off 500 staff. What makes the government think that companies that make tens of thousands per employees, or even millions, would hire more people if their costs were reduced by about \$1000 a year in UI premiums? I think they'd pocket the difference, not hire.

If anyone wants to see more juicy corporate details, ask your local library for the *Globe's Report on Business* for July, 1994. Or give me a call at 879-1209. □□□

"Give me a home", the 90's version

Oh give me a home
Where the government don't
roam
And welfare workers are
human
And unemployment don't
exist

Oh give me a home
Where the cost of living is
down
And wages do exist

Give me a home that is
actually normal
And bugs don't live in the
house

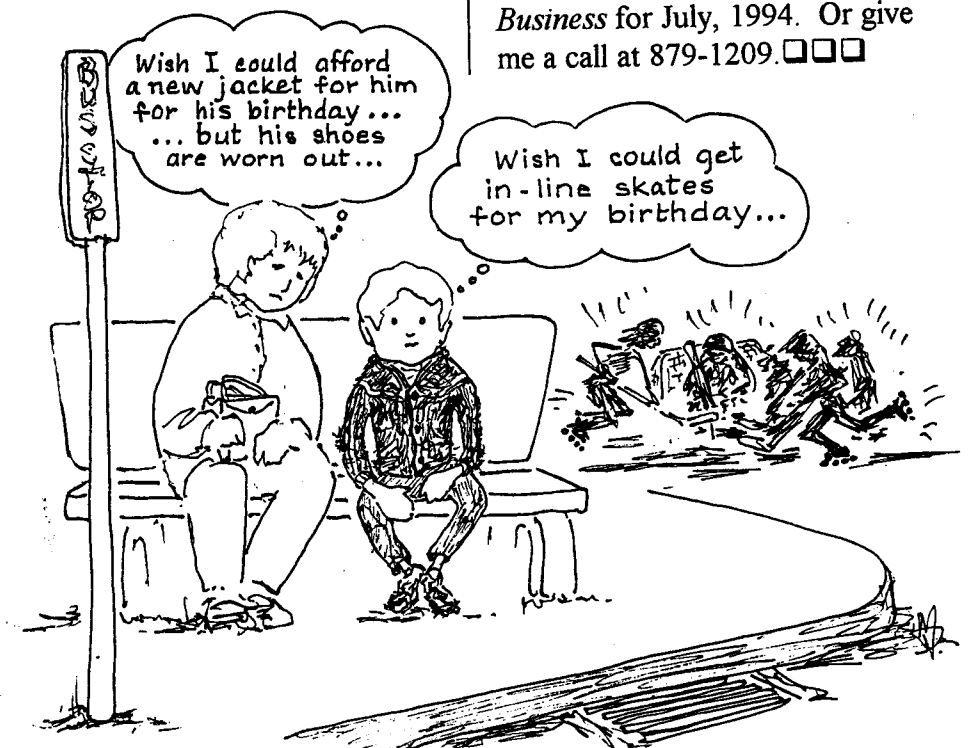
--a fed up person on welfare

Wanted: your help for *The Long Haul*

The Long Haul needs your help to make it a more exciting paper. Do you have any poems to send in? Any ideas about how to save our social programs? Any jokes? Any fun things to liven up the paper? We're even working on a poverty crossword puzzle, but it's proving harder than we thought at first. Can you help us out? We need letters to the editor, reports on what actions your anti-poverty group, or you as an individual have taken to fight poverty.

Right now we are printing 5000 copies of *The Long Haul*. They are sent to a mailing list of about 900 throughout B. C. and Canada. In Vancouver they are delivered to public libraries, food banks, agencies that deal with low income people, and some stores on Commercial Drive. They are also mailed out in batches to anti-poverty groups throughout B. C. If you would like to distribute a batch of *Long Hauls* every month, please call Joanne at 879-1209.

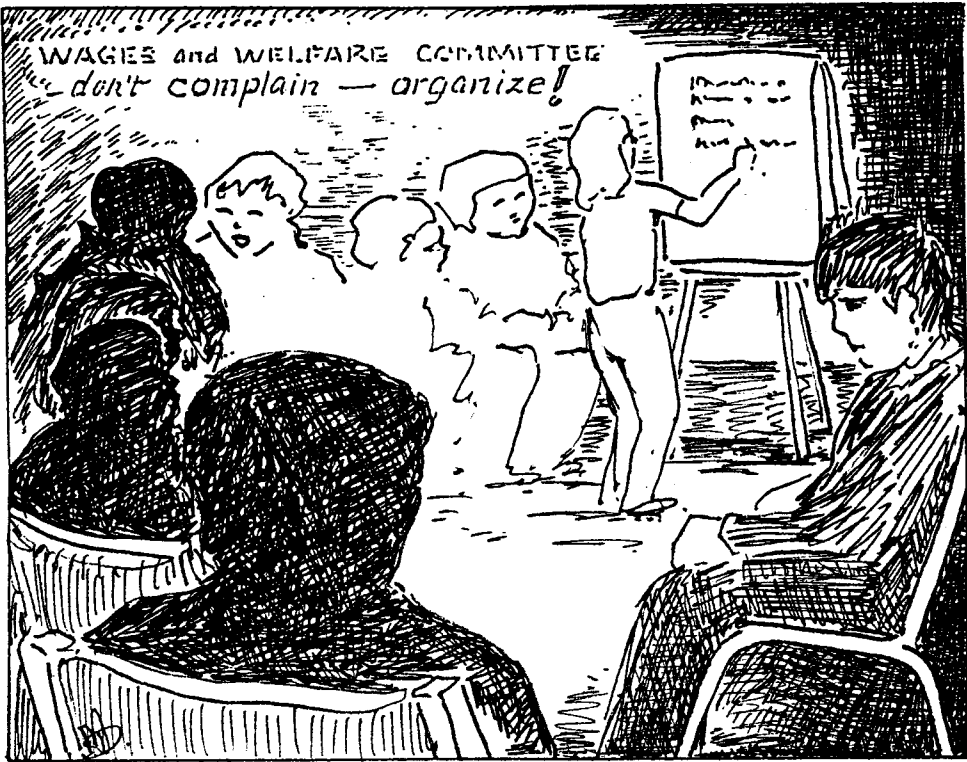
The Long Haul, July, 1994-
page 10



ELP HELPS - information for low income people

ELP's wages and welfare committee

Get involved in fighting poverty



By Linda Marcotte

End Legislated Poverty's Wages and Welfare committee started three years ago. It is the action wing of ELP in the Lower Mainland. It plans events, demonstrations and lobbies politicians. We usually meet every second Monday afternoon. Low income people in the Lower Mainland are welcome to join us.

We organized a demonstration outside CKVU TV on June 23. We had a meeting last fall with news editors and reporters about the way they were reporting the issue of welfare fraud. We were frustrated with the way they seemed to be promoting hatred against people on welfare. The B.C. Human Rights Act is under review. We used the demo to let

people know it's legal to promote the hatred of people on welfare in B.C. right now, but it shouldn't be.

In an otherwise sunny and warm week, the hours that we paraded outside the station poured rain on us. Someone phoned me later to thank me for organizing this. She said it was the first demonstration she'd been to. It hadn't been so scary and she'd think of doing it again. "It was a way to get my feet wet," she said.

The Wages and Welfare committee is meeting B.C. Social Services Minister Joy MacPhail in August to talk about what she and Premier Harcourt will be saying to federal politicians about the social security review.

If you'd like to get involved in the Wages and Welfare Committee, call me or Rose at 879-1209. □□□

Homesharing for single mothers

The YWCA has a new Homesharing Network at the Vancouver Housing Registry. This is a free, self-help service for single mother families interested in living together.

Single mothers who use the service decide how and with whom they want to share a home. The Network brings families together but does not find housing. For more information call the Network at 873-1313. □□□

Welfare Tip

Don't wait till you're totally broke before applying for welfare. According to the rules, you can have some money and still get welfare.

If you are under age 55, and not supporting anyone, you can have \$2,500.

If you are under age 55 and supporting one person under 55, you can have \$5000 and \$500 for each additional dependent.

If you are a person with a disability and not supporting anyone, you can have \$3,000.

If you are a person with a disability, with one dependent, you can have \$5,500 and \$500 for each additional dependent.

If you are 55 or older with no dependents, you can have \$3,000.

If you are 55 or older with one dependent, you can have \$5,500 plus \$500 for each additional dependent. □□□

Coming Attraction

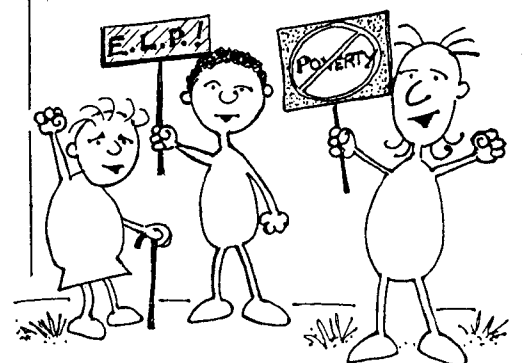
ELP plans creative fall program

ELP is discussing a program which will be offered in the fall. We hope to offer a series of workshops which will focus on working towards ending poverty. At the Wages and Welfare meeting Linda from ELP and the volunteers responded to this idea with an enthusiastic discussion. Here are some of the topics which volunteers expressed interest in:

- Grassroots organizing: how to organize a meeting in your community, lobby groups and strategy sessions.
- Alternative economics: working economy, not theory; labour groups and unions.
- International picture: examples of social assistance programs, education, etc. in other countries.
- Patterns and models: how they trap you; how our society is set up to make it appear that poverty is a necessary outcome of economics.
- Media influence: working with the press, awareness of media biases and how to counter them; how information can be altered; how false beliefs can be presented as truth. We could use the Noam Chomsky video.
- Cultural experience: community through poetry, song, dance.
- Classism (discrimination against poor people): how groups of different wealth face different issues and opportunities.
- Women's issues: particular issues facing women in poverty.
- Language: how it is used and misused.

- Language: how it is used and misused.

For those attending the classes, on site daycare will be provided as well as a meal. The purpose of this program is to increase awareness of poverty issues and provide skills, support and confidence for dealing with these issues. If you have ideas, or want to get involved, call Linda or Rose (879-1209). □□□



ELP HELPS - information for low income people

These groups have advocates who will help you with legal and other problems. The advocates are people who will stick up for you. They are not lawyers, but they have experience getting people their rights.

In the Lower Mainland

Downtown Eastside Residents Association. 9 E. Hastings, Vancouver. Phone 682-0931. Open Monday through Friday.

First United Church. 320 E. Hastings. Come on Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:30 am. Phone 681-8365.

B. C. Coalition of People with Disabilities. #204 456 W. Broadway, Vancouver. Phone 872-1278. Open 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

Law Students Legal Advice Program. For help with a wide variety of legal problems. Locations throughout the Lower Mainland. Call 822-5791.

Tenant's Rights Coalition Hotline. Phone 255-0546.

Legal Services Society. 191 Alexander St., Vancouver. Open 9 to 3:30 weekdays except Wednesday. Open 12:30 to 3:30 on Wednesday. For help with welfare, serious criminal problems or urgent family problems related to the law.

Federated Anti-Poverty Groups of BC. Phone 533-4818 for information and referral.

Battered Women's Support Services. Crisis line is 687-1867. Support groups, legal advocacy, counseling.

Langley Legal Assistance Centre. Phone 530-5811. Appointments preferred. Drop-ins welcome. Welfare, landlord-tenant, small claims, wills, etc. #204 20189 56th Ave., Langley.

United Native Nations. Phone 688-1821. Appointments preferred. Help Aboriginal People apply for status, get documents, medical services. Help with welfare, child apprehension, etc.

Welfare and Handicapped Persons Rights. Welfare, UI, CPP, etc. Call 852-3744 for

appointment or drop in at #61 2800 Allwood St., Clearbrook.

Downtown Granville Tenants' Association. Tenant, CPP, UI, welfare rights. Drop in at 1067 Granville, Vancouver. Open 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

Outside the Lower Mainland

Victoria: Together Against Poverty. Phone 361-3521. Appointments preferred. Help with welfare, UI, tenant problems. Public education and organizing on poverty issues.

Vernon: Vernon Women's Centre. Welfare, UI, family and legal problems. Operates in Vernon, Armstrong, Lumby. Phone 542-7531 for appointment.

Terrace: Terrace Anti-Poverty Group. Drop in to Room 200, 4721 Lazelle Ave. Welfare, UI, tenant, etc. Phone 635-4631.

Gibsons: Sunshine Coast Advocacy Action Group. Welfare, UI, and other advocacy and education about poverty. Phone 886-2425. Open Monday and Wednesday 10:30 to 12:30.

Smithers: Bulkley Valley Anti-Poverty Group. For welfare advocacy. Contact Ruth Milne at 847-2840 or Vince or Diana at 847-8959.

Pt. Alberni: Pt. Alberni Women's Resource Society. Call 724-7111. Prefer appointments. Help with family court, women and children's counseling, transition house.

Nelson: The Advocacy Centre. Phone 352-5777.

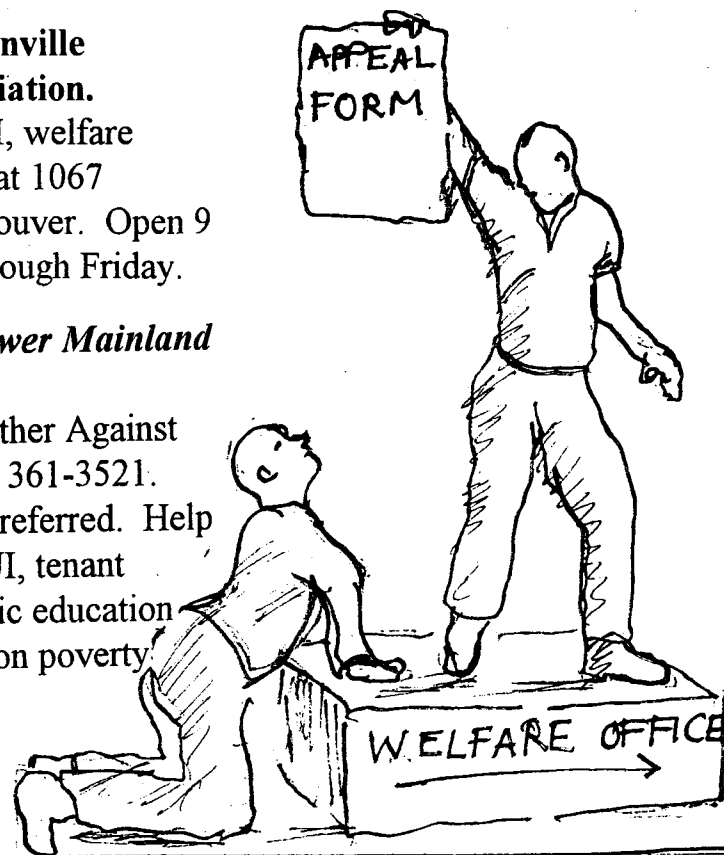
Prefer appointments. Open Monday through Thursday 9 to 4 at #4 560 Baker St., Nelson. Welfare, handicapped, custody and access, separation and divorce, child apprehension, sexual abuse, wife assault, etc.

Penticton: Legal Services. Legal info, assistance with welfare, pensions, small claims, etc. #103 304 Martin St. Phone 493-0210.

Prince George: Active Support Against Poverty. Phone 562-6112. Welfare, resumes, filling out forms. Tenant drop in clinic. Free clothing.

Tenant's Coalition Hotline: 1-800-665-1185.

B. C. Coalition of People with Disabilities Hotline: 1-800-663-1278.



DON'T KNEEL: APPEAL!



If your group would like to be listed in this section, call ELP at 879-1209.

Justice, not charity!