



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



EMMAUS HOUSE

1017 CAPITOL AVENUE S.W.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

Vol. 1, No. 2

September 11, 1970

HELLO AGAIN!

This is the second copy of the Poor People's Newspaper. We have received many, many requests from people all over Fulton County and Georgia to receive FREE copies of this newspaper, telling them about their rights as welfare recipients, as poor people, and as citizens of Georgia and the United States. If you have a friend who would like to get this newspaper, have him send his name, address and zip code to the Poor People's Newspaper, 1017 Capitol Ave., S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30315, and we will be glad to put him on our mailing list. REMEMBER, this is a FREE NEWSPAPER FOR POOR PEOPLE.

Because so many people have had questions about their rights and other welfare information, we have gotten a new phone and an office, which will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The new phone number is 523-2856. We will also be having a question and answer section in this newspaper, so if you have questions, call us at 523-2856, or write the Poor People's Newspaper, 1017 Capitol Ave., S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30315.

NATIONAL WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

Many people have asked about the NWRO. The National Welfare Rights Organization is a group of people on welfare who have gotten together to let the welfare department know what they want and what they think. We must remind the caseworkers and the Welfare Department that we have just as many rights as other people who may be richer or have more education than we do. We have these rights because we SUPPORT OUR COUNTY, STATE AND COUNTRY WITH OUR MONEY, just as much or more than anyone else - We pay MORE of our income in taxes than rich folks - This means that when we receive welfare or go to clinic at Grady, or get surplus food, we have already paid for these things, because the money for these services is paid for out of OUR tax money. SO REMEMBER:

WELFARE IS A RIGHT!

AND WE SHOULD BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT WHEN WE EXERCISE OUR RIGHTS BY APPLYING FOR WELFARE!

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WELFARE RECIPIENT STANDS UP FOR RIGHTS

Mr. Ennis Lovett, active member of NWRO, decided to ask for a fair hearing when his check was cut because of the Social Security increase last April. After a long hearing, the Hearing Officer said that his check had been unjustly cut, and recommended that Mr. Lovett get the back money from the months when his check had been cut, and an increase in his monthly check. Mr. Lovett hasn't gotten his back money yet, but he is keeping on the Welfare Department until he does get it. Congratulations to Mr. Lovett in standing up for his Welfare Rights.

NEW GARNISHMENT LAW

Georgia has passed a new law for people whose wages are garnished.

NEW GARNISHMENT LAW (continued)

creditor at a time.

Also, the new law says that only a PART of your wages can be garnished. If your take-home pay - that is, wages less local, state, federal and social security taxes - is \$48 per week or less, then your wages cannot be garnished at all.

If your take-home pay is over \$48 per week, then all that you make over \$48 per week and up to \$64 per week may be garnished.

If your take-home pay is over \$64 per week, then only 25% or one-quarter of your check may be garnished.

The rules above do not apply when the court has ordered you to pay child-support or alimony - in that case you must still pay all of what the court orders you to pay.

SO REMEMBER: If your employer tries to fire you because your wages are garnished, you may go to court and stop him from doing this. If this happens to you, or if your wages are garnished more than you think they should be, you should contact a lawyer or the Atlanta Legal Aid Society at 524-5811. Or if you have any questions about this new law, call us at 523-2856 (from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and we will try to answer your questions.

PROFILE OF A WELFARE FIGHTER AND A WELFARE MOTHER

I am Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews, President of the Emmaus House Welfare Rights Organization.

First I will give thanks to God for giving me the strength to do the kind of work I like to do, and to help all poor peoples like myself, that is why I must continue on and help someone other than myself. So my friends and supporters I need your support if we are to change the System under which we must live. Will you join with us and help change this System, because what hurts one poor person, it hurts another poor person. That is why we must close the link and join hands together and stand up for what we want. My job is to work for the peoples. Some of the Welfare Rights members are having fair hearings about their checks which was cut the first of April, and we are winning the case, and we will stay on the case until Justice is given to all of us. Since Welfare Rights have been organized we have accomplished a lot and we are going to accomplish a lot more. We are planning on a fall demonstration for the things that we need. So with God's help I will continue to work for Poor People's Rights ** Democracy - Dignity - Justice - Freedom - and an adequate income for all poor peoples. We must have \$500 for a family of four to live decently or WE WILL FIGHT!

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POWER TO THE POOR!

USE YOUR POWER AT THE BALLOT BOXES!

TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDICAID PATIENTS

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) told the states, including Georgia, to make a plan to provide transportation for Medicaid patients to and from hospitals and doctors by July 1, 1970. Georgia is not yet giving this service, and the regional office of HEW has given them until October 1, 1970 to make their plans. Meanwhile, all Medicaid patients (this does not include Medicare patients) should keep a record of their travel costs of hospital and doctor visits since July 1, 1970, and they may be paid back later. If you have any questions about this, call us at 523-2856.



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Vol. 1, No. 3

October 30, 1970

ELECTIONS - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD BE SURE TO VOTE!!

Poor people must stick together. They must show their power at the ballot box. Show your power.

ELECT SOMEONE WHO WILL HELP POOR PEOPLE!

If you have any questions about voting or where to vote, call us at 523-2856.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are glad so many of you have called the POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE. We hope we have been able to help you. You can help us do a better job. Call us at 523-2856 and tell us how we can help you better. Call and tell us how you like the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER. Tell us what you don't like about it. Tell us if you have some news. Our phone number is 523-2856.

Tell your friends and neighbors about this FREE newspaper. They can get FREE copies by calling us at 523-2856. The POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE is open from 9:30 to 3:00, Monday thru Friday.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Mrs. Pinkie Stinson lives in Summerhill. She has been on welfare since 1961. In 1968 Mrs. Stinson joined the National Welfare

Mrs. Pinkie Stinson lives in Summerhill. She has been on welfare since 1961. In 1968 Mrs. Stinson joined the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO). This is a Union for people on welfare and other poor people. She has been the treasurer of Emmaus NWRO since 1968.

Mrs. Stinson worked for 15 years. She paid her money into Social Security. Now she gets her Social Security Benefits. Mrs. Stinson says, "I have earned the right to my Social Security Benefits." The welfare check that Mrs. Stinson gets is very small. It does not help her very much. She says, "The Welfare Department should give people enough money to live on."

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (continued)

She got a \$1.00 increase in her check. Mrs. Stinson does not think this is enough. So she is going to go to court to try to get more money. She is not afraid anymore. Now the people in NWRO stand together, and fight for their rights. They know that if they stick together they don't have to be afraid!

Congratulations to Mrs. Pinkie Stinson for standing up for her rights!

Poor people all over Atlanta are standing up for their rights. If you know of a friend or a group who are standing up - call us at 523-2856. We want to put their stories in the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: I live in a housing project. The lock on my door is broken. I can't get anyone to fix it. What can I do?

Mrs. E. W.

Answer: Anyone who has trouble getting things fixed in a project should do these things:

1. Try to be sure your rent is paid

Answer: Anyone who has trouble getting things fixed in a project should do these things:

1. Try to be sure your rent is paid up. Then you don't have to be afraid.

2. Talk to the manager of your project. If he won't help, then-

3. Call downtown to the Atlanta Housing Authority. The phone No.

is 523-6074. Ask for Mr. Dickens or Mr. Crittendon. Ask them to help. If they won't help, then-

4. Call Mr. Alex Killingworth. His phone numbers are 525-5948 or

681-0691. Mr. Killingworth lives in a housing project. He is on

welfare. He is on the Atlanta Housing Authority Board. He was

chosen by the tenants. Mr.

MR KILLINGWORTH (continued)
 association in their project."
 You can find out by going to the
 Family Consultants Office in your
 project. Find out when the
 tenants association meets. Ask
 who the president is.

When a tenant has a problem, he
 needs help. He needs other
 tenants to stand behind him. Mr.
 Killingworth says, "Tenants can
 make a project a good place to
 live. They should get together
 and work together." Join your
 Tenants Association. Make sure
 the Atlanta Housing Authority
 works for you!!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

To my fellow welfare fighters.
 First of all, I am giving thanks
 to God for giving me the strength
 and knowledge to help someone who
 are in need. We have come a long
 way, but we still have a long way
 to go. We must keep building our
 membership and at the same time
 build our political power. We
 have to begin to look around us
 and see what is happening to us
 and keep fighting. Welfare

fighters cannot stop to rest. We
 must continue to fight for an
 adequate income for all poor
 peoples. We must fight for an
 adequate wage for the working poor.
 We must fight for little ones
 money to be spent on school clothes
 so our children can get the kind of
 education that they need. We do
 not want our children to become
 welfare recipients in the future
 as we have become. We do
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 welfare recipients in the future
 as we have become.

We had our statewide meeting of
 the National Welfare Rights
 Organization in Atlanta, October
 15th through the 18th and it was
 a great success. Our meeting was
 held at the Georgian Terrace
 Hotel on Peachtree St. The peoples
 at the Hotel gave us a great big
 welcome, and they treated us with
 much respect and dignity. I want
 to thank all of our NWRO members,
 friends members, and supporters
 for the good work they did for
 making it possible for the state-
 wide meeting to be held here. So
 once again I say thanks to you all.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE
 WHO NEEDS A WELFARE CHECK
 BUT DOESN'T GET ONE?

If that person can answer yes to
all these questions, maybe we can
 help:

1. Is the person disabled or sick?
2. Is the person a mother with
 children to care for?
3. Is the person too sick to care
 for her children, but there's
 no one else to do it for her?
4. Does the person not have enough
 money to feed and clothe herself
 or her children, even though she
 already gets welfare for the
 children?

If you or someone you know answers
yes to these questions, call us at
 523-2856. We will try to help you.

OR

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE
 WHO ANSWERS YES TO THESE QUESTIONS?

1. Is the person disabled because
 he cannot stop drinking, even
 though he has tried?
2. Is the person unable to support
 himself because of his drinking?
 Does he have to ask his friends
 and family to help him, because
 he can't work?
3. Has the person tried to stop
 drinking before? Has he gone to
 a doctor, but that didn't help?

If you know this person, maybe he
 should get welfare and maybe we
 can help. Call us at 523-2856 and
 tell us about him. We will do
 what we can to help.

MOTHERS GET TOGETHER

Some mothers at Grady Homes
 Housing Project have gotten together

MOTHERS GET TOGETHER

Some mothers at Grady Homes
 Housing Project have gotten together
 and they are trying to do something
 about school lunches. They meet
 every week. They are talking to
 the people who run the school.
 They are demanding good lunches for
 their children. They are demanding
 free lunches or cheaper lunches
 for poor people. Now they are
 beginning to get what they want.

Congratulations to the Grady
 Homes Mothers for standing up for
 their rights.

HAS YOUR WELFARE CHECK BEEN CUT?

If your check is cut or cut off,
 you have the right to a hearing.



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Vol. I, No. 4

December 11, 1970

WELFARE FIGHTERS SLEEP IN

"We're tired of our raggedly houses, and the rats and roaches." This was the complaint of 50 poor people, who camped out in the Model Cities offices on Mon., Nov. 9th. Mrs. Ethel Mathews, president of the local chapter of the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), organized the Sleep-In to protest bad housing in the Model Cities area.

NWRO members demanded that adequate housing be built in the Model Cities area. They said, "We demand that you make the Model Cities program a program to help people instead of what it is now, a program to clear land. We will stay here all night, until you meet our demands."

The Welfare Rights Fighters did spend the night. Finally, Mr. Johnny Johnson, Model Cities Director, agreed that these demands were fair and just. The Welfare Fighters then demanded PROOF that Mr. Johnson would act on these demands. They asked Mayor Sam Massell to agree to their demands. And at 3:00 on Nov. 10th, Mayor Massell met with the Welfare Rights group. He said, "I will work to see that your demands are met." Only then did the Welfare Fighters agree to go home.

Mrs. Mathews, NWRO president, says, "The Mayor and Mr. Johnson must live up to their promises. Today was a peaceful protest, but we are getting desperate. We WILL have decent places for our children and ourselves to live." "The Mayor and Mr. Johnson must live up to their promises. Today was a peaceful protest, but we are getting desperate. We WILL have decent places for our children and ourselves to live."

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

First of all, I give thanks to God for giving me the strength to work where I am needed. And many thanks to my Welfare Rights fighters. It has been sometime since I had the opportunity to say hello to you, and to let you know that you play a great part at the Sleep-in. We had great support in our struggle, and I want to thank all of our supporters for their help. But the fight is not over. We must continue to fight harder to achieve our goals. The fight have

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT (cont)

stop now in this struggle for Justice and Democracy. There is a part for everyone and everyone has a part. So reach out and lend a helping hand. Help us to cut the red tape that binds us. We have made some progress getting Poor Peoples on welfare. Poor peoples have to help Poor Peoples, because the rich peoples are never concerned about the Poor. Some peoples talk about freedom. In my opinion nobody knows what freedom really is. But to the Black Poor Peoples freedom is everything, and Poor Peoples have a right to everything. First of all, they have a right to freedom of SPEECH * FOOD * CLOTHING * ADEQUATE HOUSING * EDUCATION * BETTER MEDICAL CARE * TRANSPORTATION * AND A ADEQUATE INCOME TO LIVE A DECENT LIFE AS ALL AMERICANS LIVE.

* Don't forget *

POOR PEOPLE HAVE POWER!

Welfare Rights mothers have power. So let's all get together and fight for the rights of all Poor Peoples regardless of race or color.

Yours in the Struggle,
Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews

IMPORTANT WELFARE RIGHT

People on welfare have a RIGHT to understand why their welfare check is the amount that it is. Your worker should

IMPORTANT WELFARE RIGHT

People on welfare have a RIGHT to understand why their welfare check is the amount that it is. Your worker should always explain your check to you.

When your check is cut, your worker should write and tell you why. If you don't understand, call your caseworker RIGHT AWAY. Ask her to explain. If you still don't understand, tell your caseworker you want a HEARING.

If you think your worker does not understand the facts in your case, or is being unfair, you have a right to a hearing BEFORE YOUR CHECK IS CUT. But, you must ask for this hearing, AS SOON AS YOU FIND OUT THAT YOUR CHECK IS GOING TO BE CUT.

Don't be afraid of the welfare. You should always ask for a hearing if you

CHANGES AT H. R. BUTLER SCHOOL

Things are happening at H. R. Butler School. School lunches are better. There is a new steam table in the cafeteria. Two extra janitors have been hired to keep the school cleaner.

These things didn't happen by magic. A group of concerned parents made them happen.

It all began this fall. Children complained to their mothers about the bad food. A group of 25 concerned parents got together. They decided to do something about the bad food and other problems at the school.

This group of parents talked to the principal of their school. They talked to Mrs. Anderson, in charge of food programs for Atlanta schools. They talked to Assistant Superintendent Cook and to Superintendent John Letson, head of all Atlanta schools. They said, "We are tired of bad conditions at H. R. Butler School. We want some changes."

School officials listened. The Concerned Parents got their changes. But now they will continue to meet. They will fight to get more improvements in their school.

Mrs. Carolyn Cooper is president of Concerned Parents. She invites any interested people to come to their meetings. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Mon. of each month. Call Mrs. Carolyn Cooper at _____ for more information.

HOUSING PROJECTS ARE FOR THE PEOPLE!

Do you live in a housing project? If so, do you know what your rights are? Your taxes help pay employees of housing projects. These employees are supposed to HELP you. They are NOT supposed to so, do you know what your rights are? Your taxes help pay employees of housing projects. These employees are supposed to HELP you. They are NOT supposed to BCSS you.

Each project has a manager and a family consultant. They are supposed to help you. When you have a problem, tell them. When something is wrong with your apartment, tell the manager. He is supposed to get it fixed. New projects often need repairs. If your apartment needs repairs, call the manager.

The Tenants' Association belongs to YOU. The manager and family consultant are not supposed to run the Tenants' Association. Use your Tenants' Association to get what you want done. Don't let the Housing Authority boss you around. They are supposed to help

HOUSING PROJECTS (cont)

If you have a problem with your manager or with the Atlanta Housing Authority, call Mr. Alex Killingworth at 525-5948. He is a public housing tenant who is on the Atlanta Housing Authority Board. He will try to help you.

RECEIPTS FROM THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

ALWAYS get a receipt from the Housing Authority. They are ALWAYS supposed to give you a receipt:

1. When you pay your rent.
2. When you apply for an apartment.

The person who takes your application should give you a receipt. This protects you if your application gets lost.

3. Anytime you move from an apartment in a project. Get a receipt from the manager or maintenance man. This receipt should say what you owe for damages. Then later they can't get more money from you for damage to the apartment.

HELP US

TO CHANGE

WELFARE RULES

A disabled mother has the right to two kinds of welfare. She can get money for her children. But she also has the RIGHT to get money for her disability. She could use the money to get help in taking care of her children, or in other ways. But the welfare usually will not give disability money to a mother. THIS IS NOT FAIR! We want to change the welfare rules for these mothers. If you are this kind of mother, call us at 523-2856. Let's change the welfare rules.

The welfare is not fair to people who drink too much. Alcoholics are sick. Let's change the welfare rules.

The welfare is not fair to people who drink too much. Alcoholics are sick. They cannot help themselves. But Alcoholics cannot get welfare. Even alcoholics who have tried to stop drinking cannot get welfare. Many alcoholics should get welfare. Their families should not have to take care of them. If you are an alcoholic and you want welfare, call us at 523-2856. This welfare rule should be changed.

TRIP TO REIDSVILLE

Is a member of your immediate family at Reidsville? Would you like to visit him? A trip by school bus is being planned for sometime in January. For a FREE trip to Reidsville, please call us at 523-2856,