

This is your chairman speaking to you. . . .

First I will thank God for allowing me to work for the rights of all poor peoples, regardless of race, creed or color. I am not concerned about color, but I am concerned about peoples and their everyday problems. Especially poor peoples who get hurt the most. We get hurt sometime by our own black sisters and brothers who have the power to help us out of our struggle. But they are not concerned enough to sacrifice what they have to help us fight the system under which we must live.

If you are a welfare recipient, and if you are just plain poor, you know there is a struggle going on. We are in that struggle trying to survive. Poor people are under attack as never before. Our struggle over the past five years is for adequate income, fair treatment, decent housing to live in, and equality of opportunity for everyone.

Therefore we must come together. We must think together, teach one another, decide together, act together, and demand out rights to a decent life from birth to death. Only the strong survive. Join us in this struggle. Let your voices be heard.

Yours in the struggle,
Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315 February, 1972

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SELECTED

March 11th, 1972 will mark an important day in history for Georgia voters. For the first time, VOTERS will be able to choose the people from Georgia who will select the Democratic presidential candidate for 1972.

How is this different? In the past, the Governor has selected these people. Now, you, the voter, can select them.

How can YOU take part?

First, you must be over 18 years old.

Second, you cannot support in public any candidate other than the Democratic presidential candidate.

Third, you must come to a meeting on Saturday, March 11, 1972, at 11:00 a.m. At this meeting, YOU, the voter, will choose the people you want to go to the Democratic National Convention.

Where will these meetings be?
For Voting District #4, which includes most of DeKalb County, the meeting will be at:
DeKalb College School of Nursing
555 Indian Creek Dr.
Clarkston, Ga.

For District #5, which includes most of Fulton County, the meeting will be at:
O'Keefe High School
151 Sixth St., NW
Atlanta, Ga.

For District #6, the meeting will be at:
Coweta County Courthouse
Newnan, Ga.

If you want to find out which voting district you are in, call 572-2581. If you have any other questions, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

COME AND MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

DOES YOUR LEGISLATOR WORK FOR YOU?

If your legislator doing a good job? Does he represent you? If you are on welfare, he probably doesn't.

The Welfare Coalition has asked many legislators for help. We asked them to request welfare reforms from the Georgia legislature. But no legislator would do it. Your representatives don't think they have to represent you. They think you don't know what they do.

You can make your legislator represent you. You are the only one who can do it. Call him or

SOCIAL SECURITY IS YOUR PROTECTION

Do you do day work? Are you a yard man? Or a maid?

People who work in private homes are entitled to Social Security. If your employer isn't paying Social Security, he is breaking the law. If he won't do it, you can report him. He will have to pay a fine.

Maybe you are afraid you will be fired if you ask for Social Security. If you're afraid, keep a record of who you work for. Write down how much they pay

write him. Ask him why he would not bring our welfare reforms to the legislature. Get other people to do this, too. REMEMBER: Legislators from places like Vine City, Cabbagetown, Pittsburg, and Summerhill were NOT elected by rich people. They were elected by YOU! They should remember that. You should make them remember.

We will tell you how to find out who your legislator is. Call us at 523-2856.

you. Write down how long you have worked for them. Then, if you quit working for them, you can report them to Social Security. The Social Security people may be able to get the back pay from them.

Remember: Social Security is your protection against old age and disability. If you die, it is your children's protection.

Any questions? Call us at 523-2856. We will try to help.

SUPPLEMENTAL SURPLUS FOOD PROGRAM

Are you pregnant? Do you have children under six?

If the answer to either of these questions is "yes," you may be eligible for a supplemental surplus food program. You do NOT have to be on welfare to qualify for the program.

For a baby under one year old, you could get 30 to 40 extra cans of evaporated milk. For older children and yourself, you could get extra dry milk, corn syrup, farina cereal, and canned meats, vegetables and juices.

Here is how to get supplemental surplus food:

1. Take your children to a public health clinic for regular check-ups. The public health nurses can certify anyone in a regular clinic for the food.

OR

2. Go to the Maternity and Infant Project at Grady Hospital if you are pregnant. The nurses there can certify you for the food.

You can pick up the supplemental surplus food at the regular surplus food warehouse. But you must be certified by a Public Health or Grady nurse. Your welfare worker cannot certify you for this special surplus food program.

Remember: YOU are entitled to this food. Take advantage of it. Go to your public health center and ask about the program. Or call them on the phone.

Call us at 523-2856 to find out where the Public Health Center nearest you is.

Call the Poverty Rights Office BEFORE your gas or electricity gets turned off. It's hard to get utilities turned back on... but not quite as hard to keep them from being turned off, if you make some kind of payment arrangements. Call us at 523-2856.

* * * * *

IF YOU MOVE, be sure to call and tell us your new address.

Tell your friends and neighbors about the newspaper, too.

Have them send their names and addresses to:

1017 Capitol Ave., SW, Atlanta, 30315, or call 523-2856.

HELLO, EVERYONE!

This is your WRO chairman speaking, first giving thanks to God for his blessings.

We have been in this struggle for a long time but we cannot stop now. We have come too far to turn back now. We must stop fighting among ourselves and start fighting the system downtown so that our children will have a better life to live.

We must have a decent life and adequate income for our children to survive.

For too long our children have suffered the evils of slum housing and poorly run schools. We must stop thinking about ourselves and start thinking about our children.

The Children's March for Survival was a great success. Two busloads of welfare mothers and children went from Emmaus House to Washington.

You see, we are poor people fighting for things our children are entitled to. We don't want what the rich man has got. We just want what is rightfully ours. We are welfare mothers, but we are SOMEBODY! And we DO have power!

Bread and justice for all of us!

Yours in the struggle,
Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. II, No. 7

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

May, 1972

WELFARE DEPARTMENT CRACKING DOWN

The Welfare Department is cracking down on welfare mothers. They are trying to get mothers to go to work.

They are saying that mothers whose youngest child is over three must get jobs, unless they are in poor health or needed in the home to care for a sick person.

The welfare department is saying that they have the right to see proof that mothers have been trying to get jobs. They want to see slips showing that you have been to people to try to get a job. If you don't cooperate, they say they can cut off your welfare.

We think the Welfare Department is wrong. We also think what they are doing may be illegal. We are trying to get this changed.

In the meantime, if your caseworker tries to cut off your check, or if he threatens to cut it off, call us at 523-2856. We will try to help.

Are you planning to move?
Don't forget to give us your new address. Call us at 523-2856.

WHAT IS THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE?

The Poverty Rights Office is run by the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER. We are directed by the National Welfare Rights Organization. Our job is to make agencies like the Welfare Department listen to you.

Sometimes we get a lot of calls at one time. Sometimes we are very busy and cannot help you right away. When this happens, call us back. Our number is 523-2856. We will help you as soon as we can.

ATLANTA WRO SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S MARCH IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

People on welfare don't like Nixon's new welfare program. They know that the program is no good for them. On Saturday, March 31, 50,000 welfare children

and parents gathered in Washington, D.C. They told Nixon his Family Assistance Plan (FAP) was unjust for people on welfare.

The march was sponsored by the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO). Many other groups supported it.

Three Atlanta welfare rights groups raised money to send two busloads of children and parents to Washington. The groups were led by Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews, Mrs. Verna Collins and Mrs. Eva B. Davis. Other WRO groups from California to New York also were there.

The Children's March moved from the Washington Monument past the White House. The people waved balloons and signs saying "Nixon doesn't care" and "\$6500 or fight."

Back at the Monument there were puppet shows and free medical clinics for the children. Entertainers like James Brown and Richard Rountree, star of "Shaft," were there. Speakers included Mrs. Coretta King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and Rev. Jesse Jackson. Rev. Jackson really moved the crowd with the chant of "I am SOMEBODY...I may be Black but I am SOMEBODY...I may be poor but I am SOMEBODY."

A good number to remember:

523-2856

Poverty Rights Office

CHISHOLM IS PEOPLE'S CHOICE IN GEORGIA'S 5TH DISTRICT

Can your vote count?

You bet it can!

Just look at the results of the March 11 election for delegates to the Democratic Convention.

Georgia had a true "open" election this year. Before, the governor used to appoint party delegates.

This year, all party members got to choose. And they really made their voices heard!

A major victory for the people was the 5th district. This district includes mainly Atlanta. The people elected 3 delegates and 3 alternates all committed to SHIRLEY CHISHOLM for President.

Chisholm delegates also won three other posts in the state.

What does all this mean? It means that YOU have real power. It means people like YOU decided how this city's delegates will vote for President. It means THE PEOPLE WILL BE HEARD.

THE PEOPLE CARRY OUT SUCCESSFUL RENT STRIKE AT EAST LAKE MEADOWS

The United Concerned Citizens and the Welfare Rights Organization at East Lake Meadows are working together. They combined forces to make the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) listen to them.

The tenants at East Lake Meadows tried for many months to get some changes at their project. They wanted grass, a washeteria, fenced in utility rooms, more street lights and many other things. But nobody would listen to them.

Finally, the tenants picketed the management office. Mrs. Eva B. Davis led the group. They asked to speak to Lester Purcells, head of AHA. He still refused to talk to them.

Then, on February 1st, 285 tenants refused to pay their rent. In three days, Mr. Purcells came out to meet with them. He agreed to do something about their list of 26 demands. He agreed to meet all their demands by May 6th.

The tenants at East Lake Meadows are together. They plan to stay together to get the things they need in their housing project.

Put a big red circle around this date: June 16.

That's the last day you can register to vote for the party primary elections.

September 18 is the last day to register for the November general election.

Register soon. And vote. You CAN make a difference.

HOUSING PROJECT PROBLEMS? DEMAND A HEARING!!!

Has your project manager failed to act on something you have requested? Has your manager done something unfair to you?

There IS something you can do. You can apply for a hearing.

This is what to do: First, send a written notice to the manager of your project. Ask for a hearing before the tenant grievance committee. The Housing Authority will send you a notice telling you when the hearing is. You may take someone with you -- a lawyer or a friend.

If you have any problems, call us at 523-2856.

Do you know anyone who'd like a FREE subscription to the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER? Call us at 523-2856. Give us the person's name and address. We'll send a paper next month.

HI THERE, WELFARE MOTHERS!

This is your WRO chairman giving honor to God and thanking him for his blessing. I hope you understand why I thank God first. It is because he means so much to me. He gives me the strength I need to do the work I am trying to do. Sometimes, it is not easy and the task gets heavier and heavier.

We must unite ourselves together and get the job done. This job is not a one-woman job and it is not a one-man job. So we must understand that it is all our job together.

So let us stop fighting with one another and start fighting for one another.

We must not let jealousy and envy and hate destroy our cause and the things we believe in. From now on, we must think about our children and the life they must live because we are poor.

But we don't have to be ashamed because we are on welfare because we are **SOMEBODY** and we do have power -- Poor Peoples' Power.

Yours in the struggle,

MRS. ETHEL M. MATTHEWS

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. II, No. 8

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

June, 1972

TROUBLE CASHING YOUR WELFARE CHECK? TRY THESE TWO BANKS

If you get welfare, you probably have trouble cashing your welfare check.

Many places will not cash welfare checks at all. Even if you get a grocery store to do it, the store usually charges a lot.

The cheapest place to cash a check is a bank. But sometimes, a bank won't cash your checks, either.

Each bank says it will cash checks for anybody who has a regular account at the bank. They all say they will cash checks for anybody who has proper identification.

Two banks have special rules for cashing welfare checks:

1. C & S will cash checks if you have an account there. You can open a savings account there with \$1.00. After you open your savings account, be sure to take your savings book with

you when you go to cash your welfare check.

2. Fulton National will cash your check if you have two pieces of identification with your signature. One way to get such a piece of identification is to sign a piece of paper with your name. Have your caseworker write a note saying it is your signature. Have her sign the note with her name and title.

Other kinds of identification could be a driver's license or a Social Security card.

Be sure to go to the same bank each time you want to cash your check.

These rules may seem like trouble. But it's the cheapest way to cash your check.

Call us at 523-5826 if you have any questions or any problems.

Spotlight on

MS. EVA BELLE DAVIS

Things are happening at East Lake Meadows. Ms Eva Belle Davis is one of the people who is making things happen. She is President of the combined Welfare Rights Organization (WRO) and United Concerned Citizens of East Lake Meadows.

Ms. Davis is a tenant at East Lake Meadows. She is a welfare mother with 7 children and 1 grandchild. She takes care of her children and her house. But she still has time to work with her neighbors. Ms. Davis says, "I wish I had someone to take care of my 2 babies so I could do more work in the community."

Ms. Davis wants poor people to trust each other and to work together. She says, "I will mop floors or march in the streets. Whatever will help poor people is what I want to do."

Ms. Davis and other East Lake tenants first got together er November 18, 1971. They worked for months to get Atlanta Housing Authority to listen to them. Now, Lester Purcells, AHA

director, comes to many of the WRO-UCC meetings.

The East Lake WRO-UCC is getting many other organizations to listen to them. They are educating the police to poor peoples' problems. They know about welfare rules, so they can stand up to welfare workers.

The East Lake Meadows organization has made demands on the State Highway Department, E.O.A., City Hall and the Recreation Department. All these agencies are listening. Ms.. Davis says, "We are not going to let these agencies put poor people down any longer."

Now, Ms. Davis and the WRO-UCC are working to get recreation for children and adults. They are working to get jobs for East Lake Meadows tenants with businesses in their area. They are starting a clean-up campaign in their project.

Yes, things are happening at East Lake Meadows. Ms. Davis and the WRO-UCC are making things happen! We say: CONGRATULATIONS!!!

NOTICE!

Do you have a child between 16 and 18 who is not in school?

If so, you can now get welfare support for that child.

A new welfare ruling provides this. You must re-apply for this additional welfare.

Call us at 523-2856 if you have any problems.

HOLY FAMILY WORKERS
WIN STRIKE SETTLEMENT

"The Holy Family Hospital victory should say to the power structure of Atlanta that poor people won't take it any more."

That's the way Hosea Williams of the SCLC summed it up. He supported Holy Family workers in their two-month strike.

The strike ended May 1. It began eight weeks before. Workers went on strike after the hospital refused to allow their union.

Striking workers went

for weeks without salary. It was a struggle. But they believed in their cause.

But it took violence to make the hospital administration listen. Two men were shot on the night of April 27. The men were in a tent set up by strikers.

The men were not killed. But the threat of more violence changed the game.

Andrew Young of the CRC stepped in. He got both sides together. He helped get a fair settlement for the hospital workers. The hospital administration listened this time.

The hospital agreed to:
==re-hire all striking workers,
==drop charges against them, and
==abide by the workers' election of a new grievance committee on June 5.

About two weeks after the settlement, police were looking for Lee Nichols, Holy Family administrator. They charged him with the shooting of the two men on April 27.

Poverty Rights Office
number is: 523-2856.

HELLO EVERYBODY!

This is your WRO chairman giving honor to God for his knowledge and understanding that he has given me to work for poor people like myself. Although the task gets harder and harder and our burdens get heavier and heavier to carry, we cannot let this stop us, because we are all fighting for a just cause for all poor people regardless of race, creed or color.

If you are a welfare recipient or a poor working person, come and join with us so that our children will have a better way of life than we had.

You don't have to be afraid to join with us. Your check will not be cut off. Don't let your caseworker scare you. You have the right to join any organization you want to, so come and join with us and learn your rights because you do have rights -- poor peoples' rights and poor peoples' power.

Our meetings are every second and fourth Wednesday. Come and be with us. Power to the people!

Yours in the struggle,
MRS. ETHEL M. MATHEWS

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

July, 1972

NEW RULE ON WORK EXPENSES MAY HELP YOU

Do you work and get welfare?

You should know about some new rules. The rules are about work expenses.

In the past, the Welfare Department figured everybody working had to spend about \$35.00 a month for work expenses.

Now, the Welfare Department wants to know exactly what your expenses are.

You may be able to get more than \$35.00 a month. But you must keep records of all your expenses. The more things you can deduct, the more your welfare check will be.

Keep records of these kinds of expenses:

1. Required payroll deductions -- money taken out of your check like taxes, social security, union dues, insurance.

2. Lunches -- the amount you spend for lunch is deductible, whether you buy a lunch or bring it from home.

3. Transportation -- your bus fare is deductible. So is money you pay to someone to drive you. If you drive a car to work, deduct 10¢ a mile.

4. Special equipment -- You can deduct things like any special tools you need, a license, uniforms, or special shoes.

5. Child care -- You can deduct money you pay for child care or for care of a sick person in your home.

Any questions? Call us at 523-2856.

IMPORTANT!

Protect your child against polio this summer. Polio vaccine is FREE to children under 10. Get it at your nearest health center.

Spotlight on:

DOROTHY BOLTON
National Domestic Workers Union

Maids are joining together to make their voices heard.

Mrs. Dorothy Bolton is helping maids band together through the national Domestic Workers Union. Mrs. Bolton started the union's Atlanta chapter in 1968. She had been a maid for

New Center Cares for Kids While You Wait at Grady

Waiting at Grady is never any fun.

It's worse if you have kids. They get tired and restless. They get hungry. They act up. It makes the waiting harder.

This month the waiting will get a little easier. Grady will open the country's first day care center for children of out-patients.

The center will be at the basement of Hirsch Hall at the corner of Coca Cola Place and Pratt St. Hours will be 7:30 am to 5 pm daily.

The center can take about 60 children at a time. Plans are for a program with art, music, and toys.

40 years and understood the problems of the job. She believed maids would join together in a union to make things happen.

One thing the union does is to help the members find jobs. The union brings together employers and maids. But the employer must agree to pay the maids a minimum of \$15.00 a day.

Mrs. Bolton worked hard to start a homemaking skills program. She hopes to expand the program to take in more people.

Mrs. Bolton is the force behind the union. She worked hard to make it grow. The union welcomes new members. There are no dues.

If you are interested call Mrs. Bolton at 523-5800.

The POOR PEOPLES NEWSPAPER will skip an issue next month. The next paper you get will be the September issue.

Let us know your new address if you move. Call us at 523-2856.

DECENT HOUSING AND TENANTS' RIGHTS UNDER LAW

Believe it or not, tenants have rights!

If you rent an apartment or house, you need to know about your rights. The law guarantees these rights:

--You have the right to privacy from your landlord. He cannot come into your house unless you invite him. He cannot come around hassling you for rent. He cannot have your utilities cut off if your rent is late. He cannot touch any of your belongings. If he does any of these things, you can take him to court.

--You have a right to expect your landlord to obey laws about rent. If he wants to raise your rent, he must give you 60 days notice, unless you have a lease. If you have a lease, he cannot raise the rent until the lease is up.

-- You have a right to expect your landlord to obey the law about evictions. He must give you 60 days notice if he wants you to leave -- unless you have a lease. If you are being evicted because you haven't paid the rent, your landlord cannot move you out himself. He must have you served with a warrant. And

after you are served, a marshall must move you out. The landlord cannot force you out until the marshall comes.

Please call us at 523-2856 if you have any questions or problems.

WHAT THE CODE SAYS

One of the biggest rights you have as a tenant is the basic right to decent housing.

The law says all housing must meet certain standards. These standards for decent housing are in the housing code.

The code says all houses must have these things:

1. Locks on front and back doors,
2. Hot and cold running water,
3. Toilet, sink and shower in good condition,
4. Two electrical outlets in each room,
5. Overhead lights in hall and bathroom,
6. Screens on each door and window,
7. A roof that doesn't leak and walls with no holes
8. Floors with no holes, breaks, or cracks, and
9. Steps in safe condition.

HELLO EVERYBODY!

This is your WRO Chairman. First, I will give thanks to God for his blessings.

It has been some time since I chatted with you. I have missed you very much. I went to the Democratic convention and carried our poor peoples platform. They voted down the demands for \$6500 a year for a family of four. But we are still going to fight for it. We have come too far to stop now. We must let Mr. Milhouse Nixon know that we won't be defeated and that we will keep on fighting until the victory is won. We will fight for an adequate income, better housing, better health care, and jobs for poor people. Poor people are entitled to the good things in life. The only way we can get what is rightfully ours is to stand up and demand that our voices be heard. We must come together and close the gap that separates us from one another. We must understand and not forget that no one is free until everybody is free.

Power to all poor people!

Bread and justice!

Yours in the struggle,
MRS. ETHEL M. MATHEWS

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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September 1972

GEORGIA TENANTS ASSOCIATION FIGHTS FOR DECENT HOUSING

"We want to get everybody involved!"

That is what Mrs. Louise Whatley of the Georgia Tenants Association told the Poor Peoples Newspaper.

GTA is involved in improving conditions in public housing. On July 20, GTA presented a list of grievances to the Board of Commissioners of the Atlanta Housing Authority.

The three main grievances were: (1) that the Board go on record supporting tenant representation on the Board; (2) that the Board set the same rent for temporary employees as for permanent employees; and (3) that the Board resign.

GTA also has urged people who have legitimate complaints

about repairs or bad conditions to withhold their rent. Legitimate complaints are things like rats and roaches, leaky roof, and the like. If you have problems like these, you should call Legal Aid lawyers Antonio Thomas or Floyd Hale at 758-2914. They can give you advice on whether you can withhold your rent.

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Have you had a hassle recently with an agency or store or company?

Often, the Poverty Rights Office can help you.

We can help better if we know the name of the person you talked with -- in person or over the phone.

So, get the name -- and call us at 523-2856 if you need help.

Don't forget: September 18 is the deadline for registering to vote for the November general election. Register NOW!!!

Spotlight on:

JAMES AND SALLY DAY
(Make-believenames of a real couple
who fought the system!!!)

James and Sally Day are plain people -- like you and me. They have grown children who are married. James and Sally are getting old.

Mr. Day has bone TB. He has to wear a leg brace. He has heart trouble. Mrs. Day has diabetes and heart trouble. They have plenty of doctor and medicine bills.

And they have a fight with the welfare department.

Mr. and Mrs. Day can't work any more. They are too old and too sick. They have some income from Social Security. They had some income from welfare which helped them with medical bills because of the Medicaid.

Then, in June 1971, James Day's welfare check was cut off because of a small rise in his Social Security check. His welfare worker told him, "There's nothing that could be done."

The Days didn't believe this was right. They called the Poverty Rights Office. Together, they found out that both James AND Sally should be getting a welfare check.

After a long struggle, Mr.

Day started getting his welfare check again. But Mrs. Day had more stuggling to do. She had to get a lawyer and have a hearing. Now she is getting her check. But she is still working with a lawyer to get the back money she is entitled to.

Mrs. Day said, "I'm too sick to keep this up much longer." Still, she keeps on fighting. She and Mr. Day were determined to make the welfare department do right!

DO NOT LET FINANCE COMPANIES PUSH YOU AROUND - PROTECT YOURSELF

Finance companies are hard on poor people. They charge you a lot to borrow money. If you are late with your payments, they call you and bother you. Sometimes, it seems like you can never catch up. Sometimes, they even break the law.

They charge you fees that are illegal. Or they make your payments last too long. Or they get you fired by hassling you on the job. Or they call you at home and worry your family. A lot of times they get away with this kind of stuff. Don't let them! Don't let finance

***** BEWARE OF DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMEN *****

Beware the friendly door-to-door salesman!

He may be trying to cheat you. He may be trying to pass off bad merchandise.

Two kinds of salesmen to watch out for are those who sell home improvements and those who sell high-priced merchandise like vacuum cleaners, pots and pans, wigs and the like.

Home improvement salesmen often try to cheat you. They say they want to sell you roofing or siding. Then

they tell you they are kaming you a loan to help pay for it. They will ask you to sign a paper for the loan. But what you are really doing is signing a mortgage to your house! If you are late on a payment, they can take your home!

Remember, you have 72 hours to change your mind if you sign a contract giving a mortgage on your home. This "cooling off period" is required by law.

You need to write the salesman a registered letter at his business address if you change your mind. This letter is proof that you changed your mind within 72 hours.

You also have a "cooling off period" when you buy regular mercahndise like vacuum cleaners or pots and pans. You have 24 hours to change your mind if you sign a contract for this kind of merchandise.

A good idea in both cases is just not to sign a contract from a door-to-door salesman in a big hurry. Call the Better Business Bureau to see if the company is okay. Then take the contract to Legal Aid. Lawyers at Legal Aid can give you good advice about the contract. They can tell you if you're really signing a mortgage on your home.

companies push you around. Here are some ways you can protect yourself from them:

1. Never sign a contract with blank spaces.
2. Keep a copy of your contract. Do not lose this copy.
3. If you are threatened with a lawsuit, **DO NOT IGNORE THE LAWSUIT. GO IMMEDIATELY TO LEGAL AID.** Take the contract with you. Legal Aid can tell you the best thing to do about the lawsuit.

Any questions? Call us at 523-2856 for help.

HELLO THERE...

How is everybody?
This is your WRO chairman speaking to you. First, I will give my thanks to God who has been good to me. He has given me love, strength and understanding to work with poor peoples like myself.

We are poor peoples because welfare was not designed to help the poor. It was designed to save money for the states. We have been cheated out of everything our forefathers left us. We are the last to be hired and the first to be fired. So you see, it is very important that we stick together and fight together for the things that we are entitled to. We can do it if we try, because together we will stand divided we will fall. Although we are poor, we have the power. I am talking about peoples power.

Let us not forget Nov. 7th, election day. It will play a big role in our lives in the new year. We have a choice between Nixon and McGovern. If we are democrats, let's be democrats all the way. Let's all of us poor peoples punch No. 2 and No. 16 on the ballot Nov. 7th. Let's all go to the polls and VOTE.
Yours in the struggle,
Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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November 1972

FIND GOOD VALUE IN USED CLOTHES AT THRIFT SHOPS AROUND TOWN

School are colder weather are here already. That means extra clothes.

You can get good value at used clothing stores. Sometimes they are called thrift shops. The list below includes stores which offer used clothes free or at low cost.

Christian Council Clothing Closet at 167 Walton St. NW offers free clothes for all members of the family. They also have some household items like laundry soap. No letter of referral is necessary. Call ahead to make sure they have what you need; call 523-7533. Hours are 9 - 11:30 and 1:30 to 4 each weekday.

Baptist Clothes Closet at the Atlanta Baptist Association Center at 660 Capitol Ave. SW has free clothes too, but you must be referred by a caseworker, nurse, or doctor. Hours are 8:30 to 12 weekdays. The number is 522-4251.

First Baptist Church also gives free clothes but your caseworker must refer you. Address is 754 Peachtree and number is 522-4251.

St. Vincent De Paul at 444 Edgewood Ave. NE also gives free clothes with your caseworker's referral. Hours are 9 to 6 Tuesday-Saturday.

Thrift Shop run by the Atlanta Section, National Council of Jewish Women has good clothes at low prices. Address is 419 Peachtree. Hours are 10 - 4:30 Monday-Saturday.

Nearly New Shop run by the Junior League at 421 Peachtree is open Monday-Saturday. They also have good clothes at low cost.

Don't miss your big chance on November! Please remember to V O T E. Polls are open from 7 to 7.

Public housing is a mess! Most tenants just put up with it. But some people are trying to change things. One of these people is Ms. Louise Whatley.

Ms. Whatley knows how bad it is to raise 2 children in a project. She has lived in Carver Homes for 17 years. During all those years she has worked hard to make things better for the tenants. She has served in tenants' associations. She has even been on the Advisory Council to the Atlanta Housing Authority. But one day a man from the Housing Authority told her, "We don't have to pay attention to you tenants." She knew then that the Housing Authority would never do right unless the tenants made them.

Now Ms. Whatley is helping to lead a rent strike against the Housing Authority. She says, "The Housing Authority will not make repairs. We should not have to pay our rent and keep our part of the lease unless they do what they are supposed to do."

Several tenants' associations have voted to support the strike. And many individuals in the projects are not paying their rent to the Housing Authority. They have

a Legal Aid lawyer to help them pay their rent into court.

Ms. Whatley says, "You should not be scared by your manager or your welfare worker. If your apartment is not kept up and you have the money to pay into court, nothing can happen to you." She says, "The rent strike will work if we all stick together."

Any questions? Call us at 523-2856. Or call Ms. Whatley at 622-6998.

CAN POOR PEOPLE MAKE RICH EMPLOYERS LISTEN TO THEM?

Black workers at Mead Corp. have been on strike since Aug. 18. They were not supported by their union. They were harassed or beaten or arrested. But they kept on asking for these things: 1. Better working conditions for all workers, black and white, male and female. and, 2. Grievance committees to hear about discrimination and other employee complaints.

The strike was settled on Oct. 6. The main demands of the strikers were met. These employees fought for their rights - and won!!

HELP FIGHT GEORGIA POWER COMPANY'S RATE INCREASE

Are you ready for a bigger electricity bill?

Well, ready or not, here it comes --- maybe.

The Georgia Power Company has asked the Public Service Commission (PSC) to approve a rate increase. If the PSC says "yes," your power bill -- already too high -- will go up even more.

Is anybody doing anything about this? Is anyone fighting back?

One group is. The Georgia Power Project is fighting back. They say the Power Company doesn't need the rate increase -- it just wants bigger profits!

The Georgia Power Project is fighting back. So can you! Here are two things you can do:

1. Testify against the rate increase at the PSC hearings.

WHEN: November 8, 9, and 10 from 10 to 5.

WHERE: 244 Washington St. SW (across from city hall).

HOW: It's easy. Just go to the hearings and raise your hand. You'll be allowed to speak then or soon after. Just tell how you feel about the rate increase. Tell how

it will make it harder for you to get along. Tell it in your own words.

2. Get in touch with the officials. Call the officials below. Your opinion will get to them even if you don't get to speak to them personally. Call: ---Ed Hatch, president of Georgia Power, 521-3400. ---Ben Wiggins of the Public Service Commission at 656-4501.

Any questions? Call Bob Hall at the Georgia Power Project: 523-6078.

**NEW LAW SAYS
HOSPITALS MUST
DO MORE FOR
POOR PEOPLE**

Have you ever been turned away from a hospital because you were poor?

A new law says that's a bad scene. The law says most hospitals must treat a certain number of poor people.

If you have ever been turned away from a hospital because you were "too poor," call us at 523-2856. Maybe we can help you get the hospitals to do right. Let us hear from you about this.

HELLO EVERYBODY.....

It gives me great pleasure to take a few minutes out to chat with you. First I thank God for being so good to us down through this year. We have had some ups and downs, good days and bad days, but with God's help we will stand.

We have been together for a long time and we are one big family. Although our burdens get heavier, we must carry on. We have come too far to turn back now. We can be proud of ourselves because we have accomplished some of the things we wanted to do. We have proven to the system that as poor peoples, we do have a right as all other American citizens have.

We have worked hard but we still have much more to do. We want YOU to join us. We need your support. If you are a welfare mother, don't be ashamed to stand tall, walk proud and let your voice be heard. As your chairman, I pray that God will bless all of us that we may have a Merry Xmas and a happy New Year.

Power to all poor peoples!

Yours in the struggle,

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

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AGENCIES HELP YOU FIND TOYS FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS

How can you have any Christmas if you're on welfare or have no money to spend for your kids?

which will try to help you at Christmas.

Here are some agencies

COURT ORDERS
ATLANTA SCHOOLS
TO INTEGRATE

If you're on welfare, your children from 2 to 12 years can get toys from the Empty Stocking Fund. You also may be able to get food if you need it. Call your caseworker for details.

Change happens in many ways. Sometimes a new law changes things. Sometimes a court order brings change.

If you do not get a welfare check, the Salvation Army may be able to help you anyway. They are providing toys for children under 13 and food. They are taking applications from December 1 - 14 only. Do not miss this deadline! Go to the Salvation Army at 452 Spring St. from 9 to 4 any weekday.

Some of the most important changes in civil rights have come from the courts.

The biggest change came 18 years ago. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court said segregation in schools was a bad thing. The Court said that "separate but equal" schools just plain weren't equal. The Court ordered public schools to integrate.

These other agencies also may help you find toys and food for the holidays:

But 18 years later, many schools all over the country
(continued on page 3

Your nearest E.O.A. center
St. Vincent de Paul
Community Council
Christian Council

Any questions? Call us
at 523-2856.

Eight years ago, the area around Bass High School was a bad place to live. Winos and drug addicts were everywhere. People worried about their children. They were afraid to go outside their houses at night.

Most people did not want to live that way. But they didn't know what to do about it. Then, 5 years ago 30 people got together. They said, "We don't have to put up with this. We can change the neighborhood if we want to." They formed the Bass Organization for Neighborhood Development (BOND).

Since then, alot has happened. Now the neighborhood is a good place. There is a neighborhood newspaper, written by residents. There is a neighborhood school, run by people who live in the community. There is a day care center ready to open. And there is a crisis center where people in the community help each other.

One of the people working in the crisis center is Ms. Juanita Borden. Ms. Borden is poor. She and her family moved into the neighborhood because rents were cheap. But after she moved in, she say trouble everywhere. She wanted to help.

Firts, Ms. Borden worked for EOA. But, she says, "EOA did not want to do things the people's way. They did not give us the help we needed."

Then EOA decided to move out of the neighborhood. That was enough for Ms. Borden and BOND. Ms. Borden quit working for EOA. She and BOND opened their own center. Ms. Borden is director. She gets NO pay. The center is totally run by people from the community. The BOND crisis center does many things. They help people raise rent money. They help find food and jobs. They have helped bring lawsuits against slumlords. They help people in jail.

Ms. Broden says, "Anybody can do what we have done. You don't have to be educated or rich. It only takes a few people who really care about an issue to change things. Just make up your mind what you want and decide you won't rest until you get it."

She adds, "People have to care about each other. And they have to be willing to learn from each other. Our work here has helped us do that."

What do you think of the newspaper? Call 523-2856.

McDaniel-Glenn apartments are a bad place to live!

The apartments are only five years old. Already they are run-down and ugly. Some people have trouble with their plumbing. Some people have trouble with their walls. Many apartments had rats before the people ever moved in. Five years later, they still have rats.

McDaniel-Glenn is a bad place for children! No grass grows in most areas of the project. Instead, the ground is covered with broken glass and rusty cans. There's not much equipment in the two playgrounds.

Crime is big at McDaniel-Glenn, too. Apartments are broken into a lot. Some tenants say there are liquor houses all through the project. They say this causes a lot of crime. In some areas of the project there are no street lights, so people are afraid to go out at night. But nothing much gets done about all this. There are no burglar bars on doors or windows. Lights in front of many apartments don't work. Sometimes, it takes the police hours to get there after a tenant calls.

Tenants in public housing

should not have to live like this! Management should do its job. It should --clean up the liquor houses in the project --make needed repairs --maintain playgrounds and plant grass --get the police to come to the project --put up the burglar bars it promised months ago.

The Tenants Association should stand up for the tenants and spend some of its money on improvements.

What can you do? Join the Tenants Association. Make it do right. It meets the 2nd Wednesday every month.

Any questions? Call us at 523-2856.

COURT ORDERS INTEGRATION
(continued from page 1)

are still segregated. Many people feel this is a bad deal for all children.

Earlier this fall, the 5th District Court of Appeals said Atlanta schools must do more to integrate. It gave the Board of Education until Nov. 27 to put a new integration plan to work. This article was written before Nov. 27, so we don't know the School Board's final plan. We will say more about this in next month's newspaper.