



# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Should be 1971

EMMAUS HOUSE

1017 CAPITOL AVENUE S.W.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

Vol. 1, No. 5

January 28, 1970

## - - YOUR RIGHTS AS A PUBLIC HOUSING TENANT - -

The Tenants' Advisory Board represents all the housing projects in Atlanta. They are supposed to advise the Atlanta Housing Authority what the tenants want and need. The Atlanta Housing Authority is supposed to listen to them.

But the Housing Authority does not do what it is supposed to do. The Tenants' Advisory Board asked for security guards in each project. Instead they got Family Consultants. The Family Consultants are enemies to the tenants. They try to run the Tenants' Associations. They do not listen to the tenants.

You should stand up for your RIGHTS AS A TENANT. If the

tenants all get together, we can fight the Housing Authority. We can run our projects the way we want them to be. We should fight to have TENANTS working at the Housing Authority Offices. They can feel the needs of other tenants. The people now at the Housing Authority have safe houses and warm beds. They don't know the needs of the tenants.

JOIN YOUR TENANTS' ASSOCIATION.  
Find out when and where they meet.  
FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT.

If you need help or more information, call me at these phone numbers: 525-5948 or 377-6031

ALEX KILLINGWORTH  
Public Housing Tenant

## \*\*\* A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN \*\*\*

Giveing honour to God and thanking Him for chosing me to be one of his servants and giveing me the strength to do the kind of work I like to do. And the knowledge and wisdom to reach out and help all poor peoples who need help. the kind of work I like to do. And the knowledge and wisdom to reach out and help all poor peoples who need help.

We are poor peoples fighting for our rights and the rights of all other poor peoples, regardless of race, creed or color.

We got a lot done in 1970. But there are still a lot more to do. So will you join us in our struggle and help us get the job done?

Tell your friends and neighbors about the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER. Call 523-2856 if you have any questions about the newspaper.

We need the whole system changed under which we must live, because it hurts all poor peoples. We have much to do. We must keep building our membership. This is very important. We must keep fighting for everything that we are entitled to as human beings. We must keep building our membership. This is very important. We must keep fighting for everything that we are entitled to as human beings. There must be no stopping now.

So with God's help, we'll keep on working for poor peoples' rights:

Democracy Dignity  
Justice Freedom

And an adequate income for all poor peoples.

Our goal is \$5500 a year for a family of four, to live a decent life.

Yours in the struggle,  
MRS. ETHEL M. MATHEWS



--- NEW SCHOOL LUNCH PLAN ---

Do you know that almost all children from welfare families can get FREE lunches at school?

This is a new plan of the Atlanta Public Schools. If one of your children gets a free lunch, then all of your children should get free lunches. Or, if you have children at different schools, they should all pay the same price.

This is how to apply for a free lunch for your child:

- Your child gets a card from school.
- You fill out the card.
- You send it back to the school.

\*\* LOST WELFARE CHECKS \*\*

Have you ever had your welfare check lost in the mail or stolen? If you have, you know it takes a very long time to get another one. Meanwhile, your rent is due and your children go hungry.

THIS IS NOT FAIR!!!

The Welfare Department should get your lost or stolen check back to you MORE QUICKLY! If you have had a welfare check lost or stolen, call and let us know at 523-2856. Maybe enough people can get together and tell the Welfare Department that we don't like this rule. You let us know at 523-2856. Maybe enough people can get together and tell the Welfare Department that we don't like this rule. Then maybe we can get the rule changed. Maybe we can get lost or stolen checks back more quickly. Call us at 523-2856.

Remember, your children have a RIGHT to get a good, hot lunch at school. Many people don't have the money to pay for school lunches.

THIS MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. Your child still has the RIGHT to get a good meal at school. Your child NEEDS this lunch so he can learn better. Make sure YOUR CHILD gets a hot lunch at school.

Do you want to know more about this plan? Do you have problems getting a free lunch for your child? If so, call Dave Morath at 525-5948. He will try to help you out.

-- MORE ABOUT HOUSING RIGHTS --

Some people live in broken-down houses. Maybe their plumbing doesn't work. Or the doors won't close. Or the plaster is falling. Is this the kind of house you live in? You don't have to ACCEPT it!!

LAWS say your landlord must make certain repairs. LAWS say your house must meet certain standards.

If your house or apartment is broken-down, maybe we can help you. Call us at 523-2856. We may be able to help you make a complaint. Maybe we could call your landlord. Or maybe we could help you go to court. We may be able to help you make a complaint. Maybe we could call your landlord. Or maybe we could help you go to Legal Aid, if necessary.

It is time for poor people to make their landlords do right!!

\*\*\* TRIP TO REIDSVILLE A BIG SUCCESS \*\*\*

A bus-load of people will be going to Reidsville State Prison on January 30. They are going to visit their families. There will be lunches for all. It should be a happy trip.

on this trip, don't worry. The bus is going again in about six weeks. If you have a member of your family at Reidsville, call us at 523-2856. We will put your name on the list for the second trip. The bus only holds 40 people, so





# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



EMMAUS HOUSE

1017 CAPITOL AVENUE S.W.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

Vol. 1, No. 6

March 12, 1971

### \*\*\* WELFARE PEOPLE MARCH TO STATE CAPITOL \*\*\*

welfare people marched to the Capitol last month. More than 150 of us marched to the Capitol. We went to tell the Georgia Legislature, "Welfare People need more money."

Governor Jimmy Carter thinks we need a raise in our welfare checks. He told this to the Legislature. But the Legislature doesn't want to give such big raises in welfare checks. Here are the raises the Governor wants:  
--Welfare mothers...\$2.00 per month for mother and each child.  
--Old, blind and disabled... \$5.00 per month.

But the Legislature thinks these raises are too much. It says welfare mothers only need a \$1.00 per month per child raise. It says old, blind, and disabled people need only a \$3.00 per month raise.

Tell your friends and neighbors about the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER. Call us at 523-2856 if you would like to receive FREE copies of the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER.

like to receive FREE copies of the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER.

### FREE HELP WITH INCOME TAX!

It's that time of year again! It's time to fill out income tax returns.

Sometimes, it's hard to fill out the forms. If you need advice, come to the Poverty Rights Office at 1017 Capitol Ave. SW. Someone there will give you FREE help on these days:

- Tuesday: 9 am - 4 pm
- Thursday: 9 am - 4 pm and 7 pm - 10 pm.

If you can't come by, call us at 523-2856

What do you think? If you agree with Governor Carter's plan, let your Legislator know. Here are three ways YOU can help:

1. Register to vote
2. Find out the name of your legislator. Call him up. TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL.
3. Join us the next time we march to the Capitol. Show the Legislature that welfare people are UNITED!!

Call us at 523-2856. We can help you find out the name of your legislator. Also, tell us if you want to join us on our next march to the Capitol.

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### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Hello Everybody,  
Giving thanks to God, who is my life and my strength. Thanking him for the knowledge and the courage to do the work that I am so dedicated to, and the work that I like to do most.

As everyone knows, this is a New Year, and time to start the ball rolling. The NWRO's goals for this year and years to come are:

ADEQUATE INCOME - We ratify New Year, and time to start the ball rolling. The NWRO's goals for this year and years to come are:

ADEQUATE INCOME - We ratify \$6500 a year as the current adequate income goal of the Organization.

The next one is DIGNITY and SELF-RESPECT - Don't feel bad because you are on the welfare. BE PROUD, because the money you receive, you are not getting it for nothing. In the days that you could work, you worked long and hard for it. So have SELF-RESPECT above all.

Now we come to JUSTICE and DEMOCRACY - We believe these form the critical agenda for this administration and this country.

Yours in Justice



### FACTS ABOUT MEDICAID

Know your rights! Know your rights about medical care!

Do you think you have to go to Grady Hospital just because you are poor? It isn't so! Many people don't like Grady. But they go because they think they have to.

But you can get Medicaid, if you are already on welfare. What does Medicaid mean to you? It means you can go to a private doctor. Medicaid will pay your private Doctor's bills.

Here's how it works:

1. Save your Medicaid card. It comes attached to your welfare check.
2. Call a doctor. Ask if he will take Medicaid patients. If he says "No," call another doctor.
3. Take your Medicaid card with you when you go to the doctor's office. Show your card to the nurse. But don't let ANYONE take your card away from you.

Medicaid is a good way to get good medical care. But it won't pay for all medical problems. Medicaid will not pay for glasses, eye exams, hearing aids, and teeth.

Any questions about Medicaid? Call us at 523-2856. We'll try to help answer them.

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### ... A FEW WORDS FROM MR. ALEX KILLINGSWORTH ...

I have a new job. I am Officer of Modernization, Communications, and Relationships for the Atlanta Housing Authority. But I also work FOR YOU, the tenants in public housing. I will be doing what I've and Relationships for the Atlanta Housing Authority. But I also work FOR YOU, the tenants in public housing. I will be doing what I've been doing. I will be talking to tenants, family consultants, and managers. My job is to make things work smoother. I will try to help you solve your problems with the Housing Authority. I will tell the Housing Authority what we want them to do. I will tell them the tenants' main gripes about the projects.

If you have a problem in your project, you should do these things;

1. Make sure your rent is paid up.
2. Go to the Superintendent or

### DRAFT COUNSELING

Are you a young man about to be drafted? Do you know what your RIGHTS are?

We have draft counselors who know the laws. We can explain things to YOU.

Call us or come and see us from 7 pm to 10 pm, Monday through Thursday at these places:

Quaker House  
1384 Fairview Rd. NE  
373-7986

Atlanta Workshop in  
Nonviolence  
253 North Ave. NE  
875-0646

Emmaus House  
1017 Capitol Ave. SW  
525-5948.

4. If the manager won't help, call Mr. Dickens at 525-6621.
5. If you have done all these things and still aren't satisfied, call me at 525-6621.
5. If you have done all these things and still aren't satisfied, call me at 872-6266 or 377-6031.

I have moved into a new project. My project is East Lake Meadows. The management at East Lake Meadows listens to the tenants. We get what we want. This is because of our Tenants' Association. We do not let outsiders run it.

Do you want your project manager to listen to you? Do you want your project to be a better place? Then join your Tenants' Association. Don't let outsiders



PRISONERS' RIGHTS

Prisoners in Georgia do not lose ALL of their rights. Every prisoner in Georgia has these automatic rights:

1. The RIGHT to be considered for Parole.
2. The RIGHT to "Good Time" off, IF his prison conduct is good.
3. The RIGHT to contact the State Board of Corrections or the State Pardon and Parole Board if he feels he has not been treated fairly.
4. The RIGHT for his family to visit him and write him letters.
5. The RIGHT of his family and friends to be heard before the State Pardon and Parole Board. The Parole Board is open for families and friends EVERY TUESDAY from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The address is 822 Trinity-Washington Building, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334.

If you have any questions about prisoners' rights in Georgia, call us at 523-2856. We will help you find the answers.

TRIP TO REIDSVILLE

The trips to Reidsville State Prison are a big success. We will continue to take a bus there every six weeks.

If YOU want to visit a close relative at Reidsville State Prison, call us at 523-2856, after April-1st. The next trip will be at the end of April.

GAS AND LIGHT BILLS

We all have problems paying our gas and light bills. It is best if you can do something about them BEFORE they get turned off. Call us at 523-2856 WHEN YOU GET THE NOTICE THAT YOUR GAS OR LIGHTS ARE GOING TO BE TURNED OFF. Then maybe we can help keep them from being turned off at all. Call 523-2856.

WELFARE CHECK LOST OR STOLEN?

Call 523-2856, RIGHT AWAY, if your welfare check is lost in the mail, or stolen. We are trying to get the welfare department to return lost or stolen checks much quicker.

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It is time for poor people to make their landlords do right!!  
 Is your house or apartment broken down? You don't have to accept it!  
 Call us at 523-2856  
 We will try to help you make your landlord make repairs and do right.  
**STAND UP FOR YOUR HOUSING RIGHTS!!**

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**STAND UP FOR YOUR HOUSING RIGHTS!!**

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RATS!!

Rats are a big problem. Call us at 523-2856, if you have rats. We know about some programs to help get rid of rats.

The City of Atlanta and the Fulton County Health Department shouldn't be letting the People be bitten by RATS. Let's make them clean up the City and get rid of RATS!!

FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES

If you are on welfare, your child should be getting a FREE lunch at school. Your child NEEDS this lunch so he can learn better. So make sure YOUR CHILD gets a good hot lunch at school.

If you have a problem getting a free school lunch for YOUR child, call DAVE MORATH at 525-5948. He will try to help you out.





# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



EMMAUS HOUSE

1017 CAPITOL AVENUE S.W.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

Vol. 1, No. 7

April 22, 1971

## WELFARE RIGHTS MEMBERS TAKE ACTION!!

The Georgia Welfare Department does not obey the law!!

The Federal Government has a law about welfare budgets. It says that welfare budgets should be raised to keep up with prices. Everybody knows that prices have gone way up, yet the Georgia welfare checks stay the same.

SO....On Friday, April 2, Mrs. Ethel Mathews, local NWRO (National Welfare Rights Organization) president, led a march to HEW (Department of Health, Education and Welfare). Over 200 welfare recipients and their supporters protested Georgia's low welfare budgets. They demanded more money for poor people.

The People walked in front of the Hew Building for almost an hour. Then they went inside. They demanded to see the people in charge. They demanded to be heard!! Finally Mr. Frank Rochelle, regional director of HEW talked to them. He said HEW was going to amke Georgia obey the law. HEW has waited two long years, but finally they will make Georgia raise its welfare budget!!

Mrs. Mathews demanded a hearing for poor people before the budgets are raised. Mr. Staninger, an HEW official, promised to do this. This will give people on welfare a chance to speak out. They can tell how much it costs them to live.

Do you want to go to this hearing? Or, would you like to march with us when we demand more money for poor people? Call us at 523-2856. Tell us what you would like to do. Let us know how you feel about the Welfare Department.

### \*\* CUT IN WELFARE CHECKS \*\*

In April and May, the welfare department will be looking at everybody's budget. They may

In April and May, the welfare department will be looking at everybody's budget. They may cut some people's welfare checks. You can do something about it, if the welfare cuts YOUR check.

Here are some things you should know about checks getting cut:

1. IF you request a fair hearing, your check CANNOT be cut, until after the hearing is held. (A conference with your caseworker is NOT a fair hearing.)

2. You may have a lawyer, a friend, or anyone else you want, to help you when you have a fair hearing.

4. The welfare department must tell you why your check is being cut.

If your welfare check is cut or  
4. The welfare department must tell you why your check is being cut.

If your welfare check is cut or cut off, tell your caseworker RIGHT AWAY that you want a fair hearing. If she won't help you, call us THAT DAY at 523-2856. We will try to help you. If you have any problems about your check getting cut, call us right away at 523-2856. Let's make the welfare department obey the law!

To get the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER have your friends and neighbors send their name and address to:  
1017 Capitol Ave., SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30315  
or call us at 523-2856.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

I am Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews. I am coming to you again to say hello. It has been a long time since we have chatted together.

First I want to thank God for giving me my strength so that I may do the work that I like best for my peoples.

I am a mother of 5 children, and I am a native of Loachapoka, Ala. I am a graduate of adult school. My husband deserted me and my children when they was small. That is why I had to get on welfare. I have worked all my life up until 1963, when I fell sick.

I've been in the Welfare Rights Movement since 1967, and I am a dedicated worker. I first heard of the Welfare Rights Organization through Rev. Austin Ford. He stopped me on the street and explained welfare rights to me. I was afraid to join at first because I thought my check would be cut off. Later I joined NWRO (National Welfare Rights Organization). I have been in the struggle ever since. I have led many demonstrations and worked for all Poor Peoples.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT MEDICAID IS?

Medicaid is health insurance. It is free to all welfare recipients. If you are on welfare, you'll see your medicaid stub attached to your welfare check.

It is free to all welfare recipients. If you are on welfare, you'll see your medicaid stub attached to your welfare check.

If you are approved for welfare, your Medicaid begins from the day you first applied for welfare.

This means that if you have to go to the doctor between the time you apply and the time you are approved for welfare, your doctor bills will be paid by Medicaid.

Your doctor has two years to give your bill to Medicaid. This means you can still get Medicaid even if you didn't know about it when you first started going to the doctor. Just explain to your

The welfare organization began with 5 members. Now we have more than 200 members. NWRO is the strongest organization that poor peoples have going for them. We must keep building our membership. This is very important. If you would like to know more about NWRO, call 523-2856.

We must keep fighting for everything that we are entitled to as human beings. There must be no stopping now. So with God's help we will keep on working for Poor Peoples' rights:

\* DEMOCRACY \* DIGNITY \* JUSTICE \*  
\* FREEDOM \*

AN ADEQUATE INCOME FOR ALL PEOPLE  
\$6500 PER YEAR FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR  
BREAD AND JUSTICE FOR US ALL

Yours in the struggle,  
Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews  
NWRO President

LOST OR STOLEN CHECKS

The welfare department has promised to get replacement checks to people more quickly. If your welfare check is lost or stolen you should get a replacement check in two weeks or less. Let us know about YOUR lost or stolen check. We will try to help you get it back more quickly. Call us at 523-2856.

Medicaid pays for many things.  
Call us at 523-2856.

Medicaid pays for many things. Here are some of the things it will pay for:

- Doctor bills
- Tests ordered by your doctor
- Hospital bills
- Nursing home expenses
- Some medicine bills

If you have Medicaid, you probably do not need any other kind of health insurance. Some insurance salesmen try to fool you. They tell you Medicaid is not enough. They tell you that you need to buy other insurance. This is usually not true.



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S U P R E M E C O U R T D E C I S I O N S

The U.S. Supreme Court made two important decisions last month. It is important for poor people to know about these two decisions.

One decision is about divorces.

The other decision is about fines.

The Supreme Court said poor people do not have to pay fees to start a divorce case.

The Supreme Court said a man cannot be put in jail right away because he is too poor to pay his fine.

Usually a person who wants a divorce must pay court costs and filing fees. These fees may come to about \$60. Often poor people cannot afford these fees. NOW they don't have to pay these fees. The Court said the fees were unfair to poor people.

Many courts say "\$30 or 30 days." This used to mean a man went to jail right away if he couldn't pay his fine. But the Supreme Court said this is not fair. It is not fair for poor people. The Court said a person can have the chance to pay his fine in installments.

If you have any questions about divorces or fines, call 523-2856.

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HOW THE NEW EVICTION LAW HELPS YOU

R A T S

Do you have rats? If you do, there are programs to help you. There are laws to protect you. You should use these laws and these programs. NOBODY should have to put up with rats.

Do you know how Georgia's new eviction law gives YOU - The tenant - more rights? Here are two important things the law says:

Do YOU live in an apartment building? Does your building have more than four apartments? If so, your landlord must have an exterminator to kill rats. If you have rats tell your landlord. If he won't do anything, call the Health Department. Ask for Rat Control. The Fulton County number is 572-2116.

1. You cannot be evicted unless you are served with an eviction warrant. An ADULT member of your family must be home to get the warrant. If an adult is not home to get the warrant, you cannot be evicted.

Do you live in a house? Or do you live in a building with 4 or less apartments? If so, the Health Department will help you. Call the Health Department in your County. Ask for Rat Control. The Fulton County number is 572-2116.

2. Even if you GET a warrant, you cannot be evicted, IF you ask for a hearing, and IF you're paying rent to the court.

Do you live in a house? Or do you live in a building with 4 or less apartments? If so, the Health Department will help you. Call the Health Department in your County. Ask for Rat Control. The Fulton County number is 572-2116.

For instance, does your house need fixing up? Your landlord cannot evict you for asking him to fix it up. If he tries to evict you unfairly, ask for a hearing. This is your AUTOMATIC right.

For instance, does your house need fixing up? Your landlord cannot evict you for asking him to fix it up. If he tries to evict you unfairly, ask for a hearing. This is your AUTOMATIC right. Your landlord cannot evict you while you wait for a hearing...as long as you pay rent to the court.

Do you live in Vine City or Lightning? Do you live in Summerhill or Mechanicsville? Do you live in Pittsburg? If you live in one of these areas, there are special rat programs to help you. These programs are supposed to get rid of ALL RATS in your area. The number to call is 688-7683.

Any questions? Call 523-2856. We'll be glad to try to help.

DO YOU LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING?

Do you want more police protection, better maintenance, more activities for your children? Is your manager unfair? Call 523-2856 to find out what YOU can do about these things.



I AM MRS. ETHEL M. MATHEWS  
YOUR NWRO CHAIRMAN

I am coming to you to say hello and chat with you. First, giving honor to God and thanking Him for giving me the strength to work for and help poor peoples like myself. We are poor peoples fighting for our Rights and Justice. There are some people who say poor peoples don't have any justice. That is not true. Poor peoples have justice, but we are discriminated against by the law.

When we are arrested and put in jail, we do not get a fair trial. When our children are arrested, they do not get a fair trial, either. But if you have money, you can buy justice. If you are rich, justice will work for you. People who sit on the jury and determine whether you must live or die get paid for their service.

There are much police brutality around poor peoples. The courts do not take the word of poor peoples, they take the word of the policemen. That is why we resent police.

So, I am saying this to all poor peoples: Let us all stick together and fight the system. Stop fighting one another, and join together.

So, I am saying this to all poor peoples: Let us all stick together and fight the system. Stop fighting one another, and join together.

BREAD AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!

Application to mail at Second Class Postage rates is pending at Atlanta, Ga.

PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER'S NEWSPAPER  
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s House  
Capitol Ave., 101 Ave., SW  
ta, Georgia 30315



# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. I, No. 8

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

May 28, 1971

## WELFARE CHECKS ARE BEING CUT - WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The Welfare Department is making some changes. It is changing the way welfare budgets are figured. This means there are going to be some changes in welfare checks... Some people's checks will go up... But many people's checks will go down. Many people who have other income, from Social Security or because they work, will have their checks cut.

It is not right for the Welfare Department to be able to cut welfare checks like this. We must tell the Welfare Department that it is not fair.

Here are some things you can do:

1. If your check is cut... Tell your caseworker that you want a Fair Hearing. If your

### IF YOU MOVE.

1. If your check is cut... Tell your caseworker that you want a Fair Hearing. If your

### IF YOU MOVE,

be sure to call us at 523-2856. Tell us your new address. Don't miss any issues of your

caseworker doesn't want you to have a fair hearing, call us right away at 523-2856. We will send hearing forms to you. Remember, anytime your check is cut, you should ask for a Fair Hearing. The welfare department makes many mistakes in figuring welfare checks. If you have any questions about these welfare cuts, call us right away at 523-2856.

2. Call Mr. Jim Parham at 656-4403. He is head of the Welfare Department. Let him know that you need ALL your welfare money.

3. Call Governor Jimmy Carter at 656-1784. Tell him that welfare recipients need MORE MONEY - not LESS.

Would your friends and neighbors like to get the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER? Have them send their names

Would your friends and neighbors like to get the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER? Have them send their names and addresses to:  
1017 Capitol Ave., SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30315



This issue of the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER is about the POLICE and the COURTS.

We will have more information on this subject in coming issues. If you have any questions, call us at 523-2856.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS !!

When you are arrested, you have certain rights. You can protect yourself only by using these rights. When you don't use them, your chances of going to prison increase.

These are your rights when you are arrested:

1. Right to silence - You do not have to say anything to the police. Anything you say may be used against you later.

2. Right to one phone call - You may make one phone call after you are charged at the police station. It's best to call someone in your family. Tell them to make other phone calls - to a lawyer or to a bondsman.

3. Right not to sign anything - The police may try to get you to sign waivers. The waiver says you waive (or give up) your right to a hearing or a lawyer. Do not sign a waiver unless you understand what you are giving up.

4. Right to a hearing - You have the right to appear before a judge at a preliminary hearing within 72 hours. The

4. Right to a hearing - You have the right to appear before a judge at a preliminary hearing within 72 hours. The

5. Right to bail - You don't have to stay in jail until your case comes to court. You can go free after you post bail. However, you can't get bail if you are charged with: murder, rape, armed robbery or kidnapping.

6. Right to a lawyer - You have a right to have a lawyer present when the police question you, and when you are in court. **IF YOU ARE POOR**, you have the right to a **FREE** lawyer, **IF** you're charged with a crime besides a City offense (like public drunkenness). **IF** you're charged with a misdemeanor (like drunk driving) **OR** **ESPECIALLY A FELONY** (like car theft or armed robbery), you **CAN GET** a **FREE** lawyer. Ask the judge to get you a **FREE** lawyer.

The police will try to talk you out of using your rights. They will try to make it hard for you. They may keep you in the city jail longer if you ask for a lawyer. They may promise you a lower bond if you confess. They will tell you to waive a preliminary hearing. **DO NOT LISTEN TO THEM.** It is better to spend 5 days in jail than 5 years.

## HOW YOU CAN MAKE BAIL - DOES A BONDING COMPANY HELP YOU?

...Suppose you are arrested... Will you have to stay in jail for weeks waiting for your trial?

Not necessarily. Often you can get out of jail by posting a bond (paying bail).

The amount of bail depends on what you were arrested for. If you cannot pay bail yourself, there are three ways you can raise bail:

1. If this is your first offense, you may not have to pay any bail at all. You or your family should contact the Fulton County Bail Bond Project at 875-7721. If you are approved by them, you won't have to post bond.

2. Do you have any relatives who own property? If you do, they can post a property bond. This will not cost any money.

3. Bail Bonding Companies are in business to loan money to you for bail. They will guarantee you bail. But they charge you for this service. They charge you 10 per cent of the bail. For example, if your bail is set at \$200, you will pay the bondsman \$20.

The bondsman can charge you \$20 to get out of city jail before your hearing. If the judge binds you over, you

The bondsman can charge you \$20 to get out of city jail before your hearing. If the judge binds you over, you

It may be best for you to wait to post bond until you get to the County Jail.

Any questions? Call 523-2856.

## POLICE INFORMERS

The Police pay some poor people to spy on their community...and report back to the police. This is a bad thing. It is bad because it makes poor people suspicious of each other. This makes it hard for poor people to work together.

It is bad because police spies (informers) **USE** their connections with the police department to protect themselves. Often they are involved in criminal activity.

It is bad because police informers often try to get money from poor people by threatening to turn them in to the police. **THIS IS BLACKMAIL.** Someone who tries to get money from YOU like this **CAN GO TO JAIL** for doing it. If this happens to you, **YOU SHOULD TALK TO A LAWYER ABOUT IT.** Call us at 523-2856, we'll help you find a lawyer to talk to.

If you are arrested, and you think an informer gave information to the police...**BE SURE TO TELL YOUR LAWYER.** Call us at 523-2856, we'll help you find a lawyer to talk to.

If you are arrested, and you think an informer gave information to the police...**BE SURE TO TELL YOUR LAWYER.** The Police do not want their informers



A MESSAGE FROM  
YOUR CHAIRMAN

I am your NWRO chairman coming to say hello to you, and to chat with you for a little while. First, I want to thank God for his mercy and his blessing, because without God, we can't do anything.

We have been in the welfare struggle for four years. It is a long, hard struggle, but we must keep on fighting until our victory is won. WE CAN WIN, if we would only stick together and fight the system, and not each other.

Our checks were cut this month, due to the Social Security raise. It is hard for some of us, because we do not have any other support at all. That is why we must build NWRO, and make it stronger.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT  
COME JOIN WITH US.

We need bread and Justice and an adequate income for all poor people.

Yours in the struggle,  
Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews

P.S.

I am inviting you to celebrate the Birthday of the National Welfare Rights Organization. Contact Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews

P.S.

I am inviting you to celebrate the Birthday of the National Welfare Rights Organization. Come and join us on Thursday, July 15th. We will gather at

Application to mail  
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PEOPLE'S WELFARE'S NEWSPAPER  
shes monthly, monthly, except Aug. by  
s House  
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ta, Georgia 30315



# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. I, No. 9

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

June, 1971

## YOU AND THE POLICE

Most of us have been stopped by a policeman at some time. Here are some questions and answers about yours and the policeman's rights.

Q. What should I do if a policeman stops me?

A. You must tell him your name and address (or show him your driver's license and car registration if you are stopped while driving).

Q. Suppose he tries to search me?

A. A policeman may not search you, unless he places you under arrest, or has a search warrant. He may not search your car or your home without a search warrant. Ask to see a copy of the warrant. Make sure it names your car or your home.

Q. What if the policeman searches me anyway?

A. Say to him, "I do not give you permission for this your car or your home."

Q. What if the policeman searches me anyway?

A. Say to him, "I do not give you permission for this search." But do not try to stop him by force. Fighting a policeman will only get

Q. What should I do if a policeman mistreats me?

A. First, try to get his name and badge number. Then, REPORT WHAT HAS HAPPENED to these people:

1. Your lawyer, or a lawyer at the American Civil Liberties Union, Phone No. 523-5398.

2. Capt. R. E. Little of the Internal Affairs Division of the Police Dept., Phone No. 659-1313.

Q. What should I say if I'm arrested?

A. You don't have to answer any more questions. Anything you do say can be used against you in court.

Q. What should I do at the jail?

A. Insist on your right to make one phone call. Get a written receipt if the police take something of yours. You do not have to say anything. You do not have to

A. Insist on your right to make one phone call. Get a written receipt if the police take something of yours. You do not have to say anything. You do not have to sign any papers. You do not have to be in a line-up without a lawyer.



## YOU AND THE COURTS

What happens when you go to court? Know what to expect. Protect yourself.

Different things can happen to you. It depends on the kind of law you're charged with breaking.

1. For a city ordinance, (like public drunkenness or creating a disturbance) you will be taken to City Jail. Within 48 hours, you will go before the City Judge. You cannot get a FREE lawyer. You will not have a jury. The judge will decide whether you are guilty or innocent.

2. For a misdemeanor, (like petty theft or criminal trespass) you will go to City Jail. Within 72 hours, you will go before the City Judge. He will hear both sides of the case. If he thinks there is a case against you, he will send you to the Fulton Co. Criminal Court. You will go to County Jail to wait for your trial. You can get out on bond. If you don't have any money, you can ask the Criminal Court Judge to get you a free lawyer. You may have a jury.

3. For a felony, (like car theft or armed robbery) you will go to City Jail. Within 72 hours, you will go before the City Judge. If he decides there is a case against

3. For a felony, (like car theft or armed robbery) you will go to City Jail. Within 72 hours, you will go before the City Judge. If he decides there is a case against

trial in Fulton Co. Superior Court. You may get out on bond, unless you are charged with murder, armed robbery, rape, or arson. You are entitled to a FREE lawyer, if you have no money. You may ask for a free lawyer at any time after you are arrested for a felony.

Any questions about the courts? Call us at 523-2856.

### POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. - 9:30 - 3:00

1017 Capitol Ave., SW

Phone - 523-2856

Call us for help with welfare, housing, health care, etc.

## WHAT ABOUT

A lawyer can help you if you are arrested. First, he will know if the police have broken the rules they are supposed to follow. Second, he will investigate your case. He will find out if the witnesses against you are lying. Third, he may be able to get the charge against you reduced.

How can you get a lawyer?

If you are charged with a crime, you can ask the judge to get you a free lawyer. You may have a jury.

How can you get a lawyer?

If you can pay for a lawyer, you should call Lawyer's Reference at 521-0777. They

## NEW FACTS ABOUT BAIL BONDS

In the last issue, we told you about making bail. We said you sometimes had to pay two bonds. One, to get out of jail until your preliminary hearing. Two, to stay out of jail until your trial.

Now, this has changed. The Georgia Legislature has passed a new law. You do not have to pay more than one bond for the same offense. If you are sent to another court, you do not have to pay a new bond. This new law takes effect of July 1, 1971.

Any questions? Call us at 523-2856.

SAVE THIS PAPER!  
IT MAY HELP YOU  
IF YOU GET IN TROUBLE!

## LAWYERS?

What if you can't pay for a lawyer?

If you are charged with a misdemeanor, you can get a free lawyer when you get to criminal court. Tell the judge you don't have any money. Ask him to appoint a lawyer for you.

If you are charged with a felony, you may ask to see the Public Defender as soon as you get to jail. Or have money. Ask him to appoint a lawyer for you.

If you are charged with a felony, you may ask to see the Public Defender as soon as you get to jail. Or have someone in your family call him at 572-3286.

Here's another fact you may not know about bail. Many times a bail-bondsman will charge you too much for paying your bail. They are only supposed to charge you these amounts:

For Bonds up to \$500... 10% or \$10 for every \$100 of the bond amount. For instance, if your bond were \$200, you would have to pay a bondsman \$20.

For Bonds over \$500... 5%, or \$5 for every \$100 of the bond amount over \$500. If your bond were \$1000, you would have to pay \$50 for the first \$500, and \$25 for the next \$500, or \$75 in all.

Suppose a bondsman charges you more than this amount? Then you can take him to court to get it back. If this happens to you, call Legal Aid at 524-5811. Or call us at 523-2856. We will try to help.

Would your friends and neighbors like to get the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER?

Have them send their names and addresses to:

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

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER?  
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and addresses to:  
1017 Capitol Ave., SW  
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or call us at 523-2856.

IF YOU MOVE,  
Be sure to tell us your new



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

First, giving thanks to God for his mercy and thanking him for the opportunity that he is giving me to work for and help poor peoples like myself in the name of the Welfare Rights Movement.

I am proud of you. We have been in this struggle since 1967. And we have come a long way. It hasn't been easy for none of us. It is a milestone in the road to equal rights and justice for everyone.

We have had to demonstrate, march and picket for some of the things that we have accomplished. We should know by now that we have strength if we are together and if we are organized. Alone we have no voice, no power at all. Our strength is not strength at all unless it happens from the ground up.

Nobody is going to fight our battles for us. We will have to fight them for ourselves, together. I have had some hard knocks and kicks, but I kept on working and speaking out loud for the benefit of all poor peoples. I will continue to do so, but I need your help. Join me, help me fight for justice and

Second-class Postage  
Paid at  
Atlanta, Georgia

PEOPLE'S NEWSLETTER'S NEWSPAPER  
Published monthly, 1 monthly, except Aug. by  
House  
Capitol Ave., 101 Ave., SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30315



# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. I, No. 10

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

July, 1971

DEMAND DECENT HOUSING! WRITE TO MAYOR MASSELL.

Are you tired of living in a run-down house or apartment?

Do you pay too much rent?

Does your landlord take advantage of you?

Let your voice be heard!  
Go to the top! Tell Mayor Sam Massell what you think!

Call us at 523-2856. We will mail you a letter to send to Mayor Massell. This letter will tell him your rent is too high, or your house is run-down. This letter will ask the Mayor to help lower rents and build new houses for poor people...

Remember, call 523-2856.

\*\*\*\*\*

CHANGE IN WELFARE RULES MAY BE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU

"We can't help you. You make too much money."

Did the Welfare Department ever tell you that?

They might give you a different answer now -- even if you make the same amount of money.

Welfare rules have changed. Now you may be eligible for welfare. The Welfare Department allows you to make more money than before -- and still get welfare.

Welfare rules have changed. Now you may be eligible for welfare. The Welfare Department allows you to make more money than before -- and still get welfare.

Maybe the new rule applies to you. Call us at 523-2856. We will review your budget. We will tell you if you may be eligible for welfare.

Tell your friends to call us, too. At 523-2856.

IMPORTANT!

Tell your caseworker if you move. The Post Office will no longer forward welfare checks. So...be

IMPORTANT!

Tell your caseworker if you move. The Post Office will no longer forward welfare checks. So...be



YOUR LANDLORD MUST GIVE  
60 DAYS NOTICE IN WRITING

Has your landlord ever raised your rent? Do you think he might raise your rent?.

If you answer "yes" to these questions, there is some thing you should know.

Your landlord must give you 60 days notice for a rent raise. He must give you the notice in writing. He can't just come by and say, "Your rent is going up in two months."

Here's another thing you should know. A landlord must give you 60 days notice before he makes you move. If you are paid up on rent, you don't have to move for 60 days, after he gives you written notice.

What if your landlord doesn't live up to these laws? Call us at 523-2856, we'll try to help.

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Would your friends and neighbors like to get the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER? Have them send their names  
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Would your friends and neighbors like to get the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER? Have them send their names and addresses to:  
1017 Capitol Ave., SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Are you over 65? Have you ever had money stolen from you?  
\* Now you can keep your money from being stolen -  
\* You can get a FREE checking account at several banks, if you are 65 or over.  
\* Call us at 523-2856. We will tell you how to get your FREE checking account.  
\*\*\*\*\*

CHANGE IN GARNISHMENT LAW

A federal court changed part of Georgia's law on garnishment. The court said, "No garnishment without a hearing."

Before, the Georgia law listed several ways a person could have his salary garnished without a hearing.

The federal court said this was not constitutional. The court said a man's wages are too important to be taken away without a hearing.

This change in Georgia's garnishment law means more rights for YOU. The court said a man's wages are too important to be taken away without a hearing.

This change in Georgia's garnishment law means more rights for YOU. USE THESE RIGHTS. If your wages are

DRUG ADDICTS MAY HAVE A CHOICE: TREATMENT OR JAIL

Are you a drug addict? If you are and if you get arrested you may not have to go to jail.

Some judges think it is better to give help to an addict. They think an addict needs treatment more than a jail sentence. Perhaps a judge like this will send you to Milledgeville or another treatment center for help.

However, there are no hard and fast rules about this.

It depends on the judge. It depends on the crime you are charged with. It depends on your past record.

But it's worth looking into. If you are an addict, and are arrested, do these things:

1. Talk to a lawyer about being an addict. He will know or find out whether you can get treatment.
2. Call us at 523-2856. We can help you get a lawyer.

\*\*\* BOYCOTT OF FRITO-LAY \*\*\*

Operation Breadbasket is part of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). For 15 months, they have been talking to Frito-Lay -Pepsi Cola officials in Atlanta. They have been trying to get them to hire more Black People. But the Frito-Lay -Pepsi Cola officials have refused to do anything.

Now Operation Breadbasket says, "The Frito-Lay - Pepsi Cola officials have been discriminating against hiring Black People for many years. We want to do something about it."

Cola officials have been discriminating against hiring Black People for many years. We want to do something about it."

So, they are asking everyone NOT TO BUY Pepsi Cola soft drinks, and Frito-Lay

This includes Fritos, Lay's Potato Chips and Peanuts, Doritos, Cheetos, and Fun Yun Onion Rings.

DON'T BUY THESE PRODUCTS!

Help end discrimination in hiring black people.

~~~~~

The Poor People's Newspaper runs the Poverty Rights Office. This office is open five days a week to help you. The hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The number to call is 523-2856. The Poor People's Newspaper runs the Poverty Rights Office. This office is open five days a week to help you. The hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The number to call is 523-2856.

P.S. The Poor People's



\*\*\*HELLO, EVERYBODY\*\*\*

This is your Chairman coming to you.

First, I am giving thanks to God at this time for sparing me and allowing me to be with you. I have been in an accident since you last heard from me. But with God's help I am still with you.

I want you to know that I am proud of you and we must keep up our fight to win this battle. We must work harder to gain our goals. Our goals for 1971 and 1972 is for an adequate income for all poor peoples regardless of race, creed or color.

We can't wait for other peoples to fight our battles for us. We will have to fight them for ourselves. So, come on everybody, and join hands with us and help us get the job done. It is a hard, long struggle, and we have been in the struggle since 1967. So you see we must go on, we can't turn back now. We have come too far to stop now.

Together we have strength. But if we are alone we have no voice and no power at all. So let us stick together and win this fight. There is room for all of us. Come

Together we have strength. But if we are alone we have no voice and no power at all. So let us stick together and win this fight. There is room for all of us. Come help us, We need you.

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PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER'S NEWSPAPER  
Published monthly, except Aug. by  
House  
Capitol Ave., S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30315



# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. II, No. 1

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

September, 1971

## NEW WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

A new Welfare Rights Organization has begun!! It was started by people from three housing projects: Englewood, Leila Valley, and Thomasville. It is open to all people on Welfare and other poor people. Especially invited to join are those in the three projects and the communities around them.

This new Welfare Rights Organization will encourage welfare recipients and other poor people to work together. It will help them to understand what their rights are. It will help them to be proud, and to demand respect from the Welfare Department and other agencies!! It will work to get more money for welfare recipients and other poor people!!

The young Welfare Rights Organization has already begun several activities. Representatives and other poor people!!

The young Welfare Rights Organization has already begun several activities. Representatives have visited the head of the Fulton County Welfare Department. They let him

clothes and shoes for their children. They have talked with governors and other leaders from Georgia and other states. They told them what was wrong with welfare. They told them what poor people need.

The S.E. Atlanta NWRO meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the community center in one of the housing projects. There have been two meetings so far. In October, the permanent officers will be elected. Until then, the officers are: Mrs. Carrie Morris, Acting Chairman; Mrs. Ramona Bright, Acting Secretary; Mrs. Leila Pilot, Acting Treasurer.

If you live in the S. E. Atlanta community, come and join the Welfare Rights Organization. Call 523-2856 for more information.

If you live in the S. E. Atlanta community, come and join the Welfare Rights Organization. Call 523-2856 for more information.

IF YOU MOVE,  
Be sure to tell us your new



**POOR SCHOOLS? SHOULD YOUR CHILD TRANSFER?**

**...MOVING MONEY...MOVING MONEY...MOVING MONEY...**

Many schools in southeast Atlanta are overcrowded. There are not enough books to go around. There are other schools in Atlanta which are not overcrowded. They have plenty of supplies and special programs. THIS IS AN UNJUST SITUATION.

The mothers of 282 children decided to do something about this. They took advantage of a new right. The Federal Courts have ordered the City of Atlanta to provide free transportation for black children who want to transfer to majority white schools. NOW five busloads of children from southeast Atlanta are going to Morris Brandon and E. Rivers Schools in northwest Atlanta.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WE APOLOGIZE !!**

Did you call us with a problem this summer and not get any help?

Did the phone ring and ring and nobody answered?

We lost some of our workers this summer. Some days nobody came to work at all. We are sorry if we let you down when you needed us. We just didn't have enough people to do the work.

Things look better now. We have some new workers.

Beginning in October, we will have regular hours again. We will be open Monday thru Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you need help, or if will have regular hours again. We will be open Monday thru Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you need help, or if you want to complain about our work, call us at 523-2856.

It is not fair for children who are black or poor to have a worse education than children who are rich or white. It is not fair for black or poor children to have to go across town to get a good education. But parents must take advantage of every law to provide a good education for their children. Parents have the RIGHT to take advantage of this new law. We congratulate the parents who took these advantages for their children.

Call us at 523-2856 if you want to know more about these school transfers.

Would your friends and neighbors like to get the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER? Have them send their names

Would your friends and neighbors like to get the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER? Have them send their names and addresses to:  
1017 Capitol Ave., SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

Have you had to move because your house or apartment has been condemned? Or because of Urban Renewal?

If you have, you can get money (up to \$200) from the Atlanta Housing Authority to help you move.

You must apply for this money from the Atlanta Housing Authority at 121 Hunter St. You may choose from 3 plans set up by the Housing Authority.

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*\*\* FREE SCHOOL LUNCHESES \*\*\***

Is your child getting a free lunch at school?

If you are on welfare ALL your children should get a free lunch at school.

Even if you are not on welfare, your children may be able to get a free lunch.

Tell your children to ask their teacher for an application to bring home. Fill out the application and send it back to school.

What if your child gets their teacher for an application to bring home. Fill out the application and send it back to school.

What if your child gets turned down? First, ask your principal for help. If he won't help, call us at 523-

Plan 1...If you move yourself...The Housing Authority will pay you for each room of furniture you move. You could get \$47.50 for 2 rooms, \$60.00 for 3 rooms, \$70.00 for 4 rooms, etc. To get this money, you must file a report to the Housing Authority.

Plan 2...If someone else moves you...Get a bill from the people who moved you. Sign this bill yourself. Then, take the bill to the Housing Authority. They will pay it for you.

Plan 3...If you pay a mover yourself...Keep a copy of the bill, and a copy of your paid receipt. Take both of these to the Housing Authority. They will repay you.

Remember, you can only get this money if you have to move because of Urban Renewal or because your house is condemned by the City.

Need more information? Call the Atlanta Housing Authority at 525-6621. Or call us at 523-2856.

**IMPORTANT!**  
Call the Atlanta Housing Authority at 525-6621. Or call us at 523-2856.

**IMPORTANT!**  
The Post Office will no



This is your Chairman...

First I want to thank God for my knowledge and for letting me work for poor peoples like myself.

We must all work together, regardless of race, creed or color, to get the job done. We have been in this struggle too long to back down now. We must use all our strength and power to get the things that is entitled to all poor peoples.

One way we can use our power is to go to the polls in 1972 and vote. We must vote for someone who understands our needs...someone who will work for us and not against us.

We must get organized to fight for an adequate income for all poor peoples. Alone we have no voice, but together our voices will be loud and strong. The task gets hard and the road is lonely, but I will continue to speak out for all poor peoples.

Will you join me in getting the job done?

BREAD AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Yours in the struggle,  
Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews

Would you like to visit a

Yours in the struggle,  
Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews

Would you like to visit a relative at Reidsville State Prison? There will be a free bus going in

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PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER  
Published monthly, except Aug. by  
House  
Capitol Ave., S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30315



# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. II, No. 2

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

October, 1971

## IT PAYS TO ASK QUESTIONS

Mrs. Mary Strong lives in Capitol Homes. One of her four children is retarded and has to go to a special school. Mrs. Strong is trying to raise her children on a little money from the Welfare Department.

Recently, Mrs. Strong got a raise in her welfare check.. But then her welfare worker and the Housing Authority raised her rent more than her welfare check was raised!

Mrs. Strong knew this was not fair. She decided to do something. She called her welfare worker and the Rent Office at Capitol Homes. She said, "I want my old rent and my old welfare check back. That way I will really have more money to spend on food and clothes." The welfare worker and the manager said, "There is nothing we can do." She called back. That way I will really have more money to spend on food and clothes." The welfare worker and the manager said, "There is nothing we can do."

Then Mrs. Strong called the Poverty Rights Office. They

worker should give her the most money that she is allowed. Her welfare check can be lowered so she can get a lower rent.

After many more phone calls, Mrs. Strong finally won!! She stood up for her rights and made the welfare department treat her fairly.

Welfare workers often make mistakes. If you think your worker has made a mistake...Call her up and make her change it! If she won't listen to you or treats you unfairly, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856. We will try to help.

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you like the Poor People's Newspaper? Does the Poverty Rights Office

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Do you like the Poor People's Newspaper? Does the Poverty Rights Office help you any? Call and let us know what you think. Call the Poverty Rights



We want to send the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER to as many people as possible. We don't want to lose any readers. So, 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.

ALL POOR PEOPLE  
HAVE THE SAME PROBLEMS

Have you waited for hours at Grady? Have your children gone to overcrowded schools? Have you gone without glasses or false teeth for months waiting on a caseworker to get them for you?

All poor people put up with the same things. The Housing Authority, Grady and the Welfare Department make poor people feel small. They act like we are not important. They act like we should be grateful to them for what they do. Sometimes they act mad when we ask questions.

WE NEED DIGNITY AND JUSTICE

But these people are paid to help us. We help to pay them with our property taxes, income taxes, and sales taxes. We should demand that people respect our rights. We should demand to be treated to help us. We help to pay them with our property taxes, income taxes, and sales taxes. We should demand that people respect our rights. We should demand to be treated with dignity and respect. We should demand to be listened to about problems which af-

WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER

But we can get our rights if we work together. We should support the NWRO. We may have to go on marches. But we should always respect each other. We should forget to worry about black and white. Instead we should remember that we all have the same problems. When we stick together,  
WE CAN CHANGE THINGS.

WELFARE CHANGES AGAIN!

The welfare department is changing the budget around again! The changes will be made in December checks. Many people will be getting letters about the changes. Some people will be better off. But many people will be hurt by the changes. If you think the change in your welfare check is unfair, you can ask for a hearing. You should ask your caseworker for hearing forms as soon as you hear about your changes. If you think the change in your welfare check is unfair, you can ask for a hearing. You should ask your caseworker for hearing forms as soon as you hear about your check. Remember, the Welfare Department often makes mistakes. Ask your caseworker about the

NEW WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION ELECTS OFFICERS

Members of the Southeast Community Welfare Rights Organization elected officers last month.

The first officers of the new organization are:

Mrs. Verna Collins - Chairman  
Mrs. Elaine Roberts -  
Vice-Chairman  
Miss Linda Bynum - Secretary  
Mrs. Rosie Waters -  
Assistant-Secretary  
Mrs. Leila Pylant - Treasurer

Members of the Executive Board also presented a constitution to the meeting. Members will vote on the constitution at the next meeting.

All welfare recipients and other poor people are invited to join the new Southeast Community WRO. Especially invited to join are people living in Englewood, Leila Valley and Thomasville Housing Projects. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 3rd, at 8:00 p.m. For more information, call Emmaus House, 525-5948.

The new WRO will work to get welfare recipients and all other poor people to work together. They will learn to demand their rights... The rights to freedom, dignity and respect, education, jobs, and justice.

UTILITIES: GAS AND LIGHTS

It is almost winter. When winter comes, problems with the gas company and the power company come too. You may ask, "If I have problems with my utility bills, what can I do?"

You can do these things...

1. As soon as you get the first notice that you are behind, call to find out how much the company will accept.  
Gas Co. - Call 522-8051  
Power Co. - Call 521-1480
  1. As soon as you get the first notice that you are behind, call to find out how much the company will accept.  
Gas Co. - Call 522-8051  
Power Co. - Call 521-1480
- (Make sure you have your bill, as they will ask for your

2. Once you know how much you must pay, call these agencies to try to get money:

Christian Council - 523-7533  
Salvation Army - 688-2884

If you can't get any cooperation from the utility company, call the Public Service Commission at 656-4501. Explain your problem. Ask them to help you.

If you have any questions, call the Public Service Commission at 656-4501. Explain your problem. Ask them to help you.

If you have any questions, call us at the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856. We will try



Hello...

This is your chairman, giving thanks to God for his blessing and the opportunity to work for poor peoples like myself.

A new year is drawing near, and we must continue to fight for an adequate income, an income of \$6500 for a family of four per year. That is one goal of the Welfare Rights Organization.

The next one is dignity and self-respect. Don't feel bad because you are on welfare. Be proud, because the money you receive is rightfully yours. When you could work, you worked long and hard for it. So have self-respect above all.

Now we come to justice and democracy. We believe these form the critical agenda for this administration and this country. We can't give up. We must fight for the things we want and need. Join with us in fighting the welfare dept. Come with us on Dec. 9th to protest the welfare cuts.

Yours in the struggle,  
Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews

\* \* \* \* \*

protest the welfare cuts.

Yours in the struggle,  
Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews

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IF YOU MOVE

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PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER  
Published monthly, except Aug. by  
House  
Capitol Ave., 201 Ave., SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30315



# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. II, No. 3

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

November, 1971

## DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE WELFARE CHANGES?

Some people have been getting letters from the welfare department, telling about changes in their welfare checks. Here is what some of the changes are all about:

1. Everyone is now given a set amount for rent. This means that there will no longer be a special welfare rent for people in projects. If your landlord pays your utilities, they won't be subtracted from your rent anymore.

2. Each person will only get the set amount of \$35 for work expenses. This means that some people will not get credit for their total cost of taxes, bus fares and lunches.

3. Most people will get only a percentage of what the welfare dept. says they need. Many old, blind and disabled taxes, bus fares and lunches.

3. Most people will get only a percentage of what the welfare dept. says they need. Many old, blind and disabled people's checks will be cut because of this.

5. Everybody in the house has to pay his own way. If you have a child who cannot get welfare, that child is expected to pay for part of the household expenses.

Some people may be helped by the changes, but many people will be hurt. Many of the changes are unfair. People should get money for special diets. People should get everything they need to live on. People should be able to deduct all their work expenses.

What can you do?

If your check is cut, you can ask your caseworker for a fair hearing. If she won't help you, call the Poverty Rights Office. We will help you get forms.

can ask your caseworker for a fair hearing. If she won't help you, call the Poverty Rights Office. We will help you get forms.

You can protest the cut in checks, by joining together



NWRO SAYS WELFARE CHANGES ARE UNFAIR!!

The Welfare Rights Organization thinks the new welfare changes are unfair! And they are planning to do something about it! They are going to tell Mr. Jim Parham, State Welfare Director, that they don't like some of the changes!

The Emmaus WRO is planning a big march and demonstration on Thursday, December 9th. The new Southeast WRO will join them in their protest. Mrs. Ethel Mathews, Emmaus WRO president, says, "We need the support of poor people all over Atlanta for this march. All welfare recipients and other poor people should join with us. We must all stick together and fight for our rights. Even if your check was raised...YOU should come out and support the people whose checks were cut."

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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 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

Final plans for the protest will be made at the WRO meeting on November 24th, at Emmaus House, 1017 Capitol Ave. SW, at 8:00 p.m. All welfare recipients and other poor people are invited to this meeting to help make plans.

If you have any questions, or if you want to help with the protest, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

LET'S ALL STICK TOGETHER  
AND FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS

VOTERS OKAY MARTA PLANS

The MARTA plan won this month...just barely! Voters in Fulton and DeKalb Cos. approved the plan. Clayton and Gwinnitt Voters turned down the plan. But that doesn't change what happens in Fulton and DeKalb.

What will be the effects of the MARTA plan? How will poor people be affected?

1. MARTA will buy the Atlanta Bus System. By April 1st, the bus fares should go down to 15¢ (no charge for transfer)

1. MARTA will buy the Atlanta Bus System. By April 1st, the bus fares should go down to 15¢ (no charge for transfer)

2. New crosstown bus routes will go into effect about May

Children think of presents when they think of Christmas. But welfare checks just barely cover things like rent and food. Who has enough left over for luxuries?

There is often a way to get presents, food and blankets for your family. Here is a list of some agencies and what they provide for people at Christmas:

1. Christian Council...Has a special program to provide new blankets. If interested, apply to your nearest EOA Center.

Thomasville to Lenox Square  
Decatur to Chamblee-Tucker  
South DeKalb to North DeKalb

3. MARTA plant to buy 490 new, air-conditioned buses in May or June, 1972.

4. Poor People will be helping to pay for MARTA, by an increase in sales tax. About April 1st, sales tax will increase from 3¢ to 4¢ on the dollar. Then taxes on \$10 worth of groceries will go up from 30¢ to 40¢.

5. The rapid train system crease from 3¢ to 4¢ on the dollar. Then taxes on \$10 worth of groceries will go up from 30¢ to 40¢.

5. The rapid train system will come later. Construction should begin in 1973. It should

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!

2. Salvation Army...Plans to give toys and offd to more than 4,000 families this year. They are taking applications for help from December 2 - 14. Don't miss this deadline. You can apply through your welfare worker or your nearest EOA Center. Or you can apply to the Salvation Army Center at 452 Spring St. from 9 - 4. Toys are given only to children ages 14 and under.

3. Jaycees Empty Stocking Fund...They give presents through the Fulton Co. Welfare Dept. Children now on welfare, between the ages of 2 - 14 are eligible. Check with your caseworker if you are interested.

4. Marine Corps Reserve... The Community Council of Atlanta (523-1155) helps the Marines choose families to get the toys. Or you may write to Col. Eugene Asher, 151 Ellis St. NE, Atlanta, 30303.

If you have any questions, about any of these programs, or if you have a problem getting toys or food for Christmas, call the Poverty Rights

If you have any questions, about any of these programs, or if you have a problem getting toys or food for Christmas, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856. We will try to help.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

First, I will give thanks to God for his blessing. For the faith and courage to do the work that I am dedicated to. And for strength to work for poor peoples like myself.

Our struggle is hard, but we must keep on fighting for our rights. We must let the system know that we are entitled to a decent way of living, and an adequate income.

I want to thank all my welfare mothers, who took part in the march, on Dec. 2, 1971. I am proud of all of you for a job well done.

We have been in this struggle for five years, working together and getting the job done. Just because we are on welfare, we do not have to be ashamed. The money we get is rightfully ours. We have worked hard down through the years and paid for it.

Listen, Welfare Mothers, Let us be proud and stand tall!! Let us speak out loud, and make our voices heard together. Together we have much power, but alone we have none. A new year will soon begin and we must be prepared to deal with the problems. heard together. Together we have much power, but alone we have none. A new year will soon begin and we must be prepared to deal with the problems.

Happy New Year!!!

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Mrs. Katy Beer  
790 Briar Park Ct.  
Atlanta 30306



# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. II, No. 4

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

December, 1971

## WELFARE DEMONSTRATION A SUCCESS!!

Members of the Emmaus WRO were joined by the Southeast Community WRO in a demonstration on Dec. 2. They marched to the State Welfare Dept. to protest the cut in welfare checks.

their demands for JUSTICE and DIGNITY in the welfare system.

Mrs. E. Mathews, Emmaus WRO President, declared the demonstration a success. She said, "We talked to people from the newspapers, TV and radio stations. We are letting people all over Atlanta and the state know that poor people are demanding their rights. Poor people have to get together and demand to be heard."

After 2 hours, Jim Parham, State Welfare Director, agreed to talk with the WRO members. The whole group sat down with him. Each person had a chance to tell him exactly what is wrong with the welfare system. They said they needed raises, not cuts in welfare. They told Parham that people on welfare need jobs more than caseworkers do. They let him know all the problems poor people have.

Mrs. Mathews also told us the WRO will try to talk to the state legislators in January. She said, "The legislators are the ones who decide how much money to spend on welfare. We must let them know that welfare checks are too low."

Parham then agreed to meet again with other people on welfare. He agreed to listen to

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again with other people on welfare. He agreed to listen to

them know that welfare checks are too low."

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

We don't want to lose any readers!

Tell your friends and neighbors about the newspaper.



C O N S U M E R   S E R V I C E S

Have you ever signed a contract and later found it didn't say what you thought? Are you thinking about buying some new furniture? Have you had trouble meeting your payments? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, there is an agency which may help you.

This is the Consumer Services Agency. Their phone number is 1-800-282-8900.

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ATTENTION!!

What does your Social Security card look like?

Do you have a cardboard card? Then you're J.K.

Do you have an old-fashioned metal Social Security card. Then you're out of luck.

There are some things they cannot do. They do not have money to give you. They cannot get you more money in your welfare check. But they can do the following things:

1. Are you about to sign a contract? They will read it for you and tell you if it's fair.
2. They may be able to help you get out of a bad contract even if you've already signed.
3. They can tell you about good products. They can also tell you which businesses are fair. This will help you know who to trade with
4. If you can't meet your payments, they can sometimes talk to the people you owe. They may be able to get your payments reduced.

CHANGES IN RENTS

If you get a welfare check, and live in a Housing Project, there may be some changes in your rent soon. The Housing Authority has a new way to figure how much your rent is.

They may not refigure your there may be some changes in your rent soon. The Housing Authority has a new way to figure how much your rent is.

They may not refigure your rent right away. If you want your rent refigured NOW, call

The Social Security Office won't accept the old metal card. Other places, like the WIN program, won't accept it.

Here's what to do if you have an old metal card. Go to the Social Security Office (or call them at 526-3161) WIN program. won't accept it.

Here's what to do if you have an old metal card. Go to the Social Security Office (or call them at 526-3161). Give them your Soc. Sec. number. They will then mail you

Would you like to visit a relative at REIDSVILLE STATE PRISON? There will be a free bus going in January. Call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856, for information.

H E A L T H   I N S U R A N C E

Do you need extra health insurance if you're on Medicaid?

The Georgia State Insurance Commissioner's Office says NO.

A spokesman from the insurance office told us extra health insurance is "a waste of money." But, he said, there are many insurance salesmen around who will tell you another thing. They will try to sell you more health insurance. The payments are very high. And you just don't need the insurance IF you have Medicaid.

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N.W.R.O. PRODUCES RESULTS!!

The National WRO filed a suit in court this fall. They said H.E.W. (Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare) must carry out a certain part of the Medicaid program. This part of Medicaid said poor children could get free eye glasses, hearing aids, and dental care.

This part of Medicaid was Medicaid program. This part of Medicaid said poor children could get free eye glasses, hearing aids, and dental care.

This part of Medicaid was the law. But the States said this would cost too much money.

Don't let a salesman talk you into something you don't need. Don't sign anything unless you are sure you understand.

What if you're on Medicare? Medicare doesn't pay everything. You pay the first \$50 of your hospital bill and 20% of the rest of the bill. Often, poor people on Medicare don't have this kind of money. Some insurance policies take care of this. But the payments are very high. It might cost you more in the long run to pay the insurance. Call us at 523-2856, if you have any questions.

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N.W.R.O. said this was not fair to poor children. In court, N.W.R.O. forced H.E.W. to agree.

Now H.E.W. will start the program in February. We will tell you more about it in next month's paper.

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