

HELLO EVERYBODY....

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU....

First I want to thank God for the blessing He has bestowed on all of us. I must say to you that I have alot to be thankful for. We have been together for five long years, fighting in this struggle for our rights and the rights of all poor peoplas. Although our struggle hasn't been an easy one and our job has just begun, we can look back over the years as poor peoples when we didn't know that we had a right. We can see how far we have come. We can say together now that we have this right and we will use it. We can all be proud of ourselves, because with God's help we have fought a good battle.

Although we have come a long way, we still have a long way to go. We must not forget the year of 1972, because it has been a busy year. So, with God's help, let us greet the New Year with love and a great big smile. As poor people let us pray that we will survive.

If you do not know about the Welfare Rights Organization, come join in with us. You will be glad that you did.

Yours in the struggle,
Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Second class postage paid at

Atlanta, Georgia

POOR PEOPLES NEWSPAPER

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1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30315



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. III, No. 3

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

January 1973

DAY WORKERS SHOULD GET SOCIAL SECURITY WITHHELD

Are you a day worker?
Does your employer pay your Social Security for you? Or does she withhold it from your check?

The answer could make a big difference to your welfare check!

If your employer reports to the welfare office that she pays your Social Security, your welfare check will be lower. If she reports she withholds it, your welfare

YOU CAN GET MEDICAID AGAIN!

Were you cut off welfare and Medicaid because of the recent Social Security raise?

If you were, there's good news for you. You will be able to get Medicaid again.

You should get a notice about this in the mail. If you don't, let us hear right away. Call us at 523-2856.

check will be higher.

Legally, your employer cannot pay your Social Security for you. Your Social Security is money you EARN. Legally, it must be considered part of your earnings.

The welfare department has not been figuring this right. As a result, many people who do day work get smaller checks than they should. Legal Aid is trying to change this. If you have any questions, call us at 523-2856.

Do you have a husband, son, or brother at Reidsville prison? Would you like to visit them?

A FREE bus trip to Reidsville is planned for the near future. If you want to go, call 523-2856.

SPOTLIGHT ON..... MS. VERNA COLLINS

Ms. Verna Collins believes in working in her community.

She has lived in the Thomasville Housing Project for 3 years. In that time she has worked on many projects to help her community.

When Ms. Collins first moved to Thomasville, She was elected President of their Tenants' Assoc. She learned about the problems of the tenants. She learned that this new housing project already had many problems, such as rats, poor street lighting, no playground equipment, and bad heating systems, with high excess gas bills.

Ms. Collins and the Thomasville Tenants' Assoc. tried to correct these problems. They sent letters and talked to officials of the Atlanta Housing Authority. But AHA did nothing. Finally, a rent strike was called. 80% of the Thomasville tenants cooperated. After 2 weeks, AHA agreed to make some improvements. They got better rat control and stopped charging excess gas bills.

Ms. Collins is good at getting people together. In 1970 she became ill and had to go on welfare. She joined the Emmaus Welfare Rights Organization. Ms. Collins and other tenants thought Thomasville, Englewood, and Leila Valley housing projects

needed their own WRO. The Southeast Welfare Rights Organization was born in Nov. 1971. Ms. Collins was its first president.

Ms. Collins continues to work for improvements in her community. With others, she worked to get the 3 housing projects included in the Southside Health Center service area. Now residents don't always have to go to Grady. Ms. Collins and others on the Advisory Council to AHA are trying to improve housing problems. Day care Centers are being opened in many projects, including Thomasville. And a new lease, with more benefits for tenants, is being worked out.

"But," says Ms. Collins, "the tenants have to stay on their toes. Agencies like AHA and the Welfare will give you something with one hand and take it back with the other. Poor People have to fight together for everything they get."

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Are you moving in 1973? If you are PLEASE let us know your new address. The Poor Peoples Newspaper can't be forwarded automatically. So we won't know your new address unless YOU tell us. Please do! Call 523-2856.

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EAST LAKE MEADOWS PROJECT HAS PROBLEMS, NEEDS TENANT UNITY.

East Lake Meadows housing project is two years old.

At first, East Lake Meadows did not seem very different from other housing projects.

But about a year ago, something happened! Tenants got mad about conditions. And they decided to stick together to get them changed. They called a rent strike. It was a success. They got: 26 new street lights, new sidewalks, washer and dryer for the senior citizens high-rise, and a day care center.

East Lake still has a lot of problems though. For one thing, the project is too crowded. In some buildings, 16 families are under one roof. About 5000 people are jammed together in the entire project.

There are other problems too. Young people have no after-school program. They don't even have a basketball court. Many of the kids are on dope. They don't have anything better to do.

Little kids aren't much better off. Their play areas aren't fenced in. It would be very easy for a young

child to run into the street and get killed.

What about maintenance? Problems there too. Rats and mice are everywhere. Many apartments leak.

There are problems with police protection too. Often police don't come until hours after they are called.

Probably the biggest problem East Lake Meadows has is the Housing Authority itself. What is the AHA doing to help solve problems? Nothing! They do not supervise the day care center. They make it hard for people to have welfare rights meetings. Instead of encouraging tenants to work together, the Housing Authority seems to want tenants to fight among themselves.

The Housing Authority should remember that East Lake tenants pay taxes. The Authority should do its job!

Tenants should remember something too. When they stuck together they made changes. They got some of the things they wanted. But when the tenants fight among themselves only the AHA gains. The tenants can only lose.

HELLO EVERYONE!

I am your chairman and it gives me great pleasure to chat with you for awhile.

First I must give thanks to God for a portion of my health and the blessing and my strength that He has given me to do His will and the work He has prepared for me to do.

We have been together for quite awhile now and we have fought some good battles together. Some we have won and some we have lost. But we can't stop now because in the next four years, we have some dark days ahead of us. If we as poor people want to survive, we must keep up the struggle and continue to fight for our rights. So let us come together not as black or white or brown or yellow but as poor peoples who are concerned about one another and the things that affect all our lives.

If you have never been to our NWRO meetings, please come and join us in our struggle. We need you. Our meetings are every 2nd and 4th Wednesday night at 8 p.m. at 1017 Capitol Avenue S.W. Come and sit with us. You might like it. For more information, call 525-5948.

Yours in the struggle,
MS. ETHEL M. MATHEWS

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

March 1973

MEDICAID WILL PAY FOR PREVENTATIVE MEDICAL CARE FOR YOUR CHILD

Are you on welfare? Do you have children under 8 years?

and ask to have your child screened. If something is wrong, the health department or your caseworker will help you find someone to treat your child.

If the answer to both questions is "yes," there is something you should know. New rules say that your child's Medicaid now will pay for preventative medical treatment. That means Medicaid will pay for:

1. Eye and ear tests
2. Tests for heart conditions
3. Tests for anemia
4. Glasses, hearing aids, and dental care
5. Shots

Use this service! Preventative treatment can make a big difference to your child. But remember: start with the country health department. Otherwise Medicaid won't pay. Any questions? Call us at 523-2856.

In other words, Medicaid now will pay for a complete physical check-up for your child. Then it will pay to treat him.

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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 in the first place if you make arrangements for some kind of payments. Call us at 523-2856 if you need help.
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How can you get this for your child? You must go through the county health department. If you think something is wrong with your child, go to the health department

LOST AND STOLEN CHECKS

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT HAPPENS TO YOU

Welfare always has taken a long time to replace lost or stolen welfare checks. About two years ago, Legal Aid brought suit against the Welfare Department. They asked the court to make the Welfare Department replace checks in a few days instead of several weeks or even months.

Recently, the court decided that the welfare rules about lost and stolen checks were O.K. This means that the Welfare Department can take as long as they think is necessary to replace checks.

There are a few things you can do to get your check a little faster. Make sure your caseworker knows right away if your check is lost or stolen. She can help you get your check replaced as soon as possible. She also can get you emergency food. And she can help by calling people that you owe money to like your landlord.

If your caseworker is not doing what she should or if you have any questions about lost or stolen checks, call us at 523-2856.

WHO GETS ATLANTA'S SHARE OF FEDERAL MONEY? NOT POOR PEOPLE!!!

Nixon is taking away federal money for many poor peoples' prgorams like day care and OEO. This money is supposed to be returned to cities like Atlanta. Cities then are supposed to use this money for their own programs for poor people.

However, in Atlanta, Mayor Massell and the Board of Aldermen are not thinking about poor people. Instead they voted in January to give federal money to property owners! They will do this by giving about \$5 million in refunds on water and sewer bills. This will not help poor people

since almost all poor people are renters.

However, the City Attorney and the American Civil Liberties Union think this is illegal. They are bringing suit against the Board of Aldermen. They will try to get this money for the people it really belongs to..... the poor people of Atlanta.

Did you miss your Poor People's Newspaper last month? We had to skip an issue because of the ice storm. We are sorry and we plan to be back on schedule every month now.

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Do you know anyone in prison who would like to read the Poor People's Newspaper? We will send a free subscription to any prisoner you tell us about. Call 523-2856 and give us the prisoner's name, number and address.
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REPORT ALL YOUR WORK EXPENSES

If you work and get welfare, there are some things you should know. The amount of your check depends on the amount of work expenses you have. The more work expenses you report, the higher your check will be.

The important thing to remember is this: Your caseworker has to know what your expenses are to count them. Often, she may not ask the right questions. Here are some things you can count:

1. The cost of support hose if you have to be on your feet a lot.
2. Regular hose if your boss wants you to wear them.
3. The cost of having your hair fixed if you have a public job where you have to look nice.
4. The cost of snacks on your job.

You may be spending money on other things that could count as work expenses. Call us at 523-2856 if you have any questions about work expenses.

NEW RULING MAKES ABORTIONS EASIER TO GET IF YOU WANT ONE

It will be easier now for a woman to get an abortion if she wants one.

This change came because of a Supreme Court decision in January. The Court said no state law can interfere if a woman wants to get an abortion the first three months she is pregnant.

Most state laws don't allow an abortion unless the mother's health is in danger. The Court said an abortion is a matter between a woman and her doctor.

This is a big change. Many people believe it is a good change. It gives women more control over their lives.

But it does not mean that women have to have abortions. No one can force you to have an abortion if you don't want one -- no one! Not your husband or boy friend, not your doctor, not your caseworker... no one! It's your body. It's your decision to have an abortion or not.

Call us at 523-2856 if: --You want more information about getting an abortion, or --Your caseworker or anyone else is trying to talk you into an abortion you don't want.

HI.

Fellow workers in this great struggle for survival this is your Chairman coming to you once again with words of importance. First of all, giving glory to God for allowing us and blessing us to see another day.

It's been a long time now since we first started our battle that we as poor people have fought for so long. I know it hasn't been easy for any of us. But we must not stop now. Because this year will be the most trying year of all. And in order for just one of us to survive, we must all stand together in dignity, strength and a true belief that one day God will make a way.

If you have never been and would like to come to our next meeting, we would be more than glad to have you. All you have to do is call 525-5948 for a ride. And the address is Emmaus House, 1017 Capitol Ave. S.W. Meetings start at 8:00 p.m. on every 2nd and 4th Wednesday night. Please come and join us. We need your support in our struggle.

Yours in the struggle,
MS. ETHEL M. MATTHEWS

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

April, 1973

POOR PEOPLE MARCH FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Do you know what the President of the United States thinks about you? He thinks poor people and black people and people who live in cities aren't important. He thinks, "I can take whatever I want to away from these people." He thinks we won't stand up for ourselves. How do we know? Because of what he has done with your money. The President wants to freeze all housing funds. This means no more projects will be built and no poor people can get government loans to buy houses. He wants to stop E.O.A. He wants to cut back Legal Aid. Do these things matter to you? If they do, it's time to say so.

Rev. Ralph Abernathy of S.C.L.C., Rev. Jesse Jackson of P.U.S.H., Ms. Johnnie Tillman of N.W.R.O. and Ms. Ethel Mae Matthews and Rev. Hosea Williams have gotten together with a lot of people and made

a plan. They say, "We won't let this happen to us. We will show the President and the Congress how much we care. We will make them listen. We will march. We will be peaceful, but we will stand up for ourselves."

To do this, they are planning a series of marches all over the country. The first march is April 4, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's death. It will be in Atlanta. The W.R.O. and the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER will be marching on that day. We hope you will too. We need you to march behind the W.R.O. banner with us. This may be our last chance to get the things we need. Come show the world that we stand together.

Want more details? To find out where to go or how to get there, call us at 523-2856. We will try to help you get to the march.

HASSLED BY THE WATER DEPARTMENT?

Have you had some trouble with your water bill? Here are some ideas about clearing up problems with the Water Department.

What if your landlord is supposed to pay the water bill but doesn't pay it? Then it is not legal for the Water Department to turn your water off. If your landlord refuses to pay, you can ask the Water Department to put the bill in your name. Then you can subtract the amount of the water bill from your rent. **IF YOU DECIDE YOU WANT TO DO THIS, GET A LEGAL AID LAWYER TO HELP.**

What if the tenant before you left a big water bill? You do not have to pay a previous tenant's bill. It is not legal for the Water Department to cut off your water because someone else has refused to pay a bill.

What if you think your water bills are too high? You might have a leak in your water line. You can get a plumber to check for a leak. If there is a leak, you can get the plumber to write a letter to the Water Department. He should tell the Water Department how much water you are losing from the leak.

What if you try to talk to the Water Department about your problem and they still

try to hassle you? Then call us at the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856. We will try to help. Or if you have any questions about your water bills, call us. We'll see what we can do.

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.

A NEW PROJECT TO HELP OLDER PEOPLE

A new program will help hundreds of older people in the Atlanta area.

The name of the program is Project Focus. Its purpose is to help older people stay in their own homes as long as possible.

Many old people have to go to nursing homes just because they can't do everything for themselves anymore. Often these old people don't want to go to a nursing home. They want to stay in their own homes. They could, too...if they just had a little help--with meals, or housework or taking a bath, or transportation.

Project Focus will try to

Living on welfare is hard. In the first place, the check doesn't go very far. By the time you pay the bills and the rent and buy food, there's usually nothing left. Doing without things you want and need isn't easy. It's even harder to watch your children do without. Another thing makes living on welfare hard. That's listening to politicians talk about "lazy people on welfare who don't want to work."

You've probably thought about trying to work. But

provide this help. It will bring together many services in the community to help old people. It could make the difference between staying in your own home and going to a nursing home.

You may be eligible for Project Focus if you are:

1. over 65
2. living in Atlanta or Fulton County
3. in need of the kind of help Project Focus offers in order to stay in your own home.

The Golden Age Referral Service is taking applications now. If you are interested, call them at 874-1976.

CHECK TOO SMALL? SOME IDEAS ABOUT WORKING

there are all kinds of problems. Maybe you aren't trained to work. Maybe you don't know where to look for a job. Or maybe you're scared that if you work you'll lose your check. After all, welfare isn't much, but at least it's regular.

Are you in this kind of bind? If you are, maybe we can help. We have a list of places to go to to find jobs. We have a list of places to go for job training. We will tell you all we can.

The most important thing we can do is this. We can tell you what will happen to your check **BEFORE YOU START TO WORK.** We can tell you:

1. whether your check will be cut.
2. how much it will be cut.
3. whether you will be cut off welfare.

Remember. Whether or not you want to work is your decision. You have a right to stay home and take care of yourself and your children. But if you're thinking about it and need some help, call us at 523-2856.

Would you like to visit a relative at Reidsville State Prison? A free bus will be going soon. Call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856 for information.



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



Vol. III, No. 4

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

May, 1973

THE POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER -- WHAT IS IT ?

You get it in the mail every month. You read it (we hope). Maybe you even pass it along to a friend.

Have you ever wondered who puts out the paper? And why?

WHO WE ARE

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
MS. ETHEL MATTHEWS, NWRO PRESIDENT, BLOCKS MAYOR MASSELL'S PLAN FOR FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING FUNDS.

The Poor People's Newspaper is put out by Emmaus House in Summerhill. A group of women and men write the articles, print the paper, and mail it out. None of us get paid for doing this. And we have no connection with any government agency. This paper is nobody's "mouthpiece".

Massell and some Atlanta alderpeople voted to give 4.5 million dollars in federal revenue sharing funds to rich landlords in a water bill rebate. Ms. Ethel Matthews, Welfare Rights president, said this was no help to poor people. She went to court to stop the plan. . . . And SHE WON!

WHY WE THINK THIS NEWSPAPER IS IMPORTANT. Who speaks for the poor people of Atlanta? The big daily newspapers don't for sure. The TV and radio stations don't either. We think it's important to have a newspaper for and about poor people. There's a need for a newspaper that writes about poor people's problems, victories and special programs.

Later on, Massell and the alderpeople voted to spend 2 million dollars on EOA and improvements in city parks. Not many people can say they have educated a city government--AND gained 2 million dollars for poor people at the same time. But thanks to Ms. Matthews, the alderpeople learned that poor people do have power to make changes!

WHERE WE ARE GOING. We'd like to make this paper better. We'd like to have a bigger paper with pictures and longer articles. We're trying to get money to do this. More important, though, we want YOU to help us make a better newspaper.

.... continued on page 2

THE POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER

(continued from page 1)

Give us your ideas for a better paper. Tell us what you like about this paper. Tell us what you don't like. Tell us what kind of articles you'd like to read. More about welfare rules? More about housing? Let us know. Call us at 523-2856 or write us at 1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W. Help us make this a better newspaper.

HOUSE CONDEMNED???

Building inspectors are supposed to make sure your house is a safe and healthy place to live. But if you own your own home and you don't have much money, they sometimes make things hard for you.

After they inspect your property, they write a letter telling you what you need to do to your house. But often people do not have enough money to do all the repairs quickly. Then they're afraid their houses will be condemned.

Maybe we can help. If the inspectors want you to do more repairs than you can, call us at 523-2856. We can help you write a letter to the Housing Appeals Board so you can have time to do the repairs when you can afford to.

MEDICAID RIGHTS

Do you know everything Medicaid will do for you? The caseworkers are supposed to tell you, but most of the time they don't. As a result, you might be missing out on a service you need. For example, did you know that Medicaid will pay for:

1. physical examinations, shots and dental care for children under 9?
2. visits to a podiatrist under certain conditions:
3. special drugs if your doctor writes a letter to the state?

If you want to know more about your rights under Medicaid, call your caseworker. If you don't get satisfaction, call us at 523-2856. Remember, your caseworker should have explained this to you. If she has not, report her. Call the state Medicaid office at 656-4700. Make the welfare department do its job.

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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 *
* OR call us at 523-2856. *
* IF YOU MOVE, *
* Be sure to tell us your new address. *
* Don't miss any issues of the POOR *
* PEOPLES NEWSPAPER. *
*

Would You like to visit a relative at REIDSVILLE STATE PRISON? There will be a free bus going sometime in the next few weeks.

Call the Poverty Rights Office 523-2856 for more information.

HELP FOR DEAF CHILDREN

Do you have a child who can't hear? Do you know someone who does? If so, there's a special school you might like to know about. It is called the Georgia School for the Deaf. It is located in Cave Springs, Georgia, about 80 miles from Atlanta. The school accepts deaf youngsters from 6 to 22. It teaches them all the things normal children learn. How to read, how to write, how to do arithmetic. Best of all the school is FREE !

If you know a child who might be interested in attending school at Cave Springs, call us at 523-2856. We will contact the director of the school for you. He has promised to come to Atlanta to talk to any families who might be interested.

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© DON'T CROSS THE ©
© PICKET AT RICH'S !!! ©
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ARE YOU OLD OR DISABLED? MAYBE "PERSONAL CARE" IS FOR YOU !

A lot of people on welfare are old and sick. Many of them need help around the house. Are you one of these people? Do you get Old Age Assistance or Aid to the Disabled? Do you get a pension like Social Security and a welfare check? If the answer to all three questions is "yes", you may be able to get the help you need.

The welfare calls this help personal care. They will give you money to pay a relative or friend to work for you. They call the person helping you a personal care attendant. The personal care attendant can do things for you like grocery shopping, housecleaning, or going to the doctor with you.

If you already get \$99 from the welfare, this service is not available to you. But if you get less than \$99, you may be able to get this help. If you think you need personal care, call us at 523-2856. We may be able to help.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE HOURS
Mon.-Fri. 9:30 to 3:00
1017 Capitol Ave., S.W.
PHONE: 523-2856

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

HELLO MY GOOD FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS IN THE STRUGGLE

As your chairwoman it gives me great pleasure to sit down and chat with you and to tell you that I love you in a time like this.

It hasn't been easy for any of us. We must go forward as brave soldiers. We must continue to fight for our rights that we are entitled to. As welfare mothers we must protect our children and see to it that they get the education they need so they can be independent and won't have to live the life that we as parents did. Let's pray for a better world and let's give a little more love toward one another.

If you would like to know more about welfare rights meetings, I would like for you to come and join us. We have our meetings twice a month. Every second and fourth Wednesday night at 1017 Capitol Ave., S.W. If you need transportation, just call 525-5948 and you will be picked up.

I want to let you know that I am running for councilwoman in the fourth district. Keep your fingers crossed and wish my luck in my struggle.

Yours in the struggle for freedom and justice,

Ms. Ethel Mae Matthews

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HELLO!

Workers in this Great Struggle for Survival, it's your Chairman coming to you once again with words of knowledge for Survival and about your rights as poor people. We all know that these are hard times and that in the future they will be harder. And most of all it will be hardship and trouble in the land for the poor because the rich will become richer and the poor less fortunate because the System will make life that way.

No matter where you live the first thing you see or read is that some poor recipient is frauding the government. My question is how can you fraud the government when the government is frauding themselves and using poor people as a form of hiding behind them. They say the poor are using the government when it is them, the President of the U.S. is a fraud. The system is no good for me or anybody. That's why we as poor people should join together as people, not as people of different races, but as poor people fighting for a place in society.

If you would like to know more about Welfare Rights, I would like for you to come and join us. I am running for Councilwoman of the 4th District and I am asking for your support and prayers. Any donation would be appreciated to carry on my campaign.

Wish me luck and vote for me.

Yours in the Struggle for Freedom and Justice

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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June, 1973

WELFARE CRACKS DOWN ON WORKING POOR

Recently the Welfare Department has spent much time and money trying to prosecute people on Welfare for fraud. Now they are taking Ms. Eva Davis, head of the WRO in DeKalb, to court. They claim she failed to notify her case worker about income from a temporary job. Ms. Davis says the Welfare is after her because she stands up for her rights and the rights of all poor people.

The Welfare has power to hurt poor people -- but poor people can fight back. Welfare recipients do make mistakes about how much income they have, but caseworkers also make many mistakes that keep people from getting the grant they are entitled to. If you think your case worker has made a mistake, or if you are accused of fraud, call 523-2856. We can help you get legal help if you need it.

BABIES NEED TO EAT RIGHT

Little babies must have the right food. Proper food means health in later years. Poor food can mean suffering for the rest of a baby's life.

Ms. Margaret Griggs directs the baby feeding program at Emmaus House. This program helps provide the food that young babies have to have. There are vacancies on her list.

Here are the requirements for admission to the baby feeding program:

1. The baby must be aged 0-8 months.
2. The baby must live in Model Cities area. This is not, however, a Model Cities program.

If you are interested in entering your baby in the program, call 525-5948 and leave a message for Ms. Griggs, or 523-2856.

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SUPPORT THE RICH'S STRIKERS
DON'T SHOP RICH'S UNTIL THE STRIKE IS OVER & WE HAVE WON.

REIDSVILLE TRIPS OVER FOR SUMMER

There will be no trips from Emmaus House to the prison until next fall.

We should be able to continue our visits to the prison in some other way. But public transportation is not available. Buses do go to the town of Reidsville, but it is 7 miles away from the prison.

If you care to make a complaint about this inconvenience, call the bus companies Or call the state of Georgia at 656-3752 There should be a way for us to visit our families in our largest state prison.

Later issues of this paper will give the fall date for the next trip.

LEGAL AID CAN HELP!!!!

Many people are familiar with Legal Aid Services. You may have used a Legal Aid lawyer in getting a divorce or in getting your welfare benefits. Legal Aid also has a group of lawyers who work on cases that may help lots of people who are being treated unfairly by agencies and agents. For example, last year the Office of Law Reform won a case against the welfare department. This case brought an increase in the welfare checks of thousands of working AFDC mothers throughout Georgia.

people free because of money they receive from the federal government. Some of these hospitals are not doing this. The Office of Law Reform is now working on a suit aimed at making these institutions obey the law.

If you think you are being treated unfairly by some big institution - Grady or the Housing Authority, or the Welfare, or a department store - don't just say "there's nothing I can do" or "Legal Aid doesn't ever help anybody anyway." Some Legal Aid lawyers want to make things better. But if they don't know the problems, they can't do anything. Call us at 523-2856. Maybe we can help you figure out whether your problem is one the Office of Law Reform can help with.

Many things that institutions do to poor people are illegal. For example, under the Hill-Burton Act many hospitals in the Atlanta area are required to treat poor

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@ POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE HOURS @
@ Mon. -Fri. 10:00 A.M. -3:00 P.M. @
@ 1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W. @
@ on the corner of Capitol & Haygood @
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SPOTLIGHT ON: ESTHER LEFEVER

"What we need is a place for the kids, a place that's their place. They need to get off the streets."

Those were the words of Esther Lefever heard over and over again from people in Cabbagetown.

Esther was working as a community liason person with Grant Park Elementary School in the winter of 1970 - 71. She talked a lot with people in the community. She found out people were worried about their kids. The kids were just hanging around in the streets.

Out of this need, the Patch was born.

The Patch, a youth center in Cabbage-town has had its ups and down. It's had to close down twice for lack of funds. But it always comes back --stronger each time--because people like Esther, community people and other volunteers care enough about kids to keep it going.

The Patch re-opened May 1st. It has a fresh look. Lots of the rooms have been painted. There are special reading nooks and a book collection from the Atlanta Public Library. One small room is set aside for teaching guitar and counseling kids. The pool table and ping pong table are still popular. Also there is space and equipment for sewing. In the back is a Rap Room. It's a comfortable room with floor pillows and bean bag chairs. Kids can sprawl and rap with staff folks and other kids.

The Patch people hope adults will start using the place too. Joyce Brookshire, the community liason person, says

"Now that people know we're really here t stay, they'll start coming in. We hope to include whole families here. All along we have had volunteers from the community."

Esther adds, "We want this to be a community center -- we're all learning together. No one is above any other person here. When you walk in that door -- it doesn't matter if you're a staff person or a kid -- you're gonna learn something."

Couldn't we all learn something from the determination and spirit of people at the Patch ?

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@ neighbors like to get the POOR
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@ send their names and addresses to:
@
@ 1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W.
@ Atlanta, Georgia 30315
@ OR Call us at 523-2856
@ IF YOU MOVE
@ Be sure to tell us your new address.
@ Don't miss any issues of the POOR
@ PEOPLES NEWSPAPER
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SUPPORT THE RICH'S STRIKERS

MS. ETHEL M. MATHEWS, WRO PRESIDENT is in Washington, D. C. at the National Welfare Rights Annual Convention. The NWRO represents over 15,500,000 poor people all over this country, and the convention in Washington will spotlight the major concerns of all welfare recipients and low-income people.

For the past five years, the Nixon administration has backed extremely repressive legislation concerning welfare recipients. And the congress has passed restrictive programs such as the Talmadge Amendment. These regulations and proposals show complete disregard of parents' ability to raise their own children and disrespect for personal dignity.

Look for Ms. Mathews column next month. She will have a lot to say about the convention.

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.

IF YOU MOVE

Be sure to tell us your new address. Don't miss any issues of the POOR PEOPLES NEWSPAPER

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

Vol. III, No. 8

JULY, 1973

RADIO FREE GEORGIA IS ON THE AIR!

There is a new radio station in Atlanta. It's WRFG, and it's at 89.3 on your FM radio. WRFG isn't just a new station. It's a new kind of station. The letters WRFG stand for Radio Free Georgia. And that's what this radio station is all about. It's a station with programs for all kinds of people. And because there are no commercials only the people decide what the programs will be about or what they can say.

There will be programs of Gospel music and country music and blues. There will also be programs to help you. Some programs will be about money and how to manage it. Legal Aid will have a program telling you how to get your rights in court. There will even be programs about cooking. Later there will be programs about prisons and health care. One of the best things about WRFG is that different organizations and neighborhoods in Atlanta will have programs about what they are doing. For example, people from Kirkwood will have

their own program of Kirkwood Community news.

Radio Free Georgia is for us. It's a way all of us from all over the city can talk to each other. The broadcasting schedule is in The Great Speckled Bird, or you can call us at 523-2856, and we'll try to tell you what's on. Let's support our station.

DISABLED? NEED HELP?

If you are disabled to work now you should go both to the Social Security and to the Welfare Office and apply for help at both places. If you should be turned down at either place, call us at 523-2856.

TIRED OF GRADY?? TRY

PEOPLE GETTING WELFARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WILL NOT GET CHECKS FROM SOCIAL SECURITY NEXT JANUARY; MOTHERS OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN WILL STILL GET CHECKS AND MEDICAID FROM WELFARE

CHANGE BEGINS FROM WELFARE TO SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people already know that changes are happening in Welfare and Social Security. We don't know the details, but most people should be a little better off next January when the new system begins.

One question has come up from people now on Medicaid. "Who will pay my doctor bill when I get my check from Social Security instead of Welfare?" Medicaid and Medicare will pay your bill, just as they do now for people getting Old Age Assistance. Medicaid will pay Medicare premiums so you will have your bills paid as you always have.

If Social Security has sent a letter you don't understand, or if you want more information, call 523-2856 and we will try to answer your questions.

Most poor people in Atlanta go to Grady. And going to Grady is a hassle. Having to get to the hospital at 7:00 in the morning and sit around until 3:00 to finally see a doctor is a rotten way to spend the day. If you're really sick, the treatment you get is worth the trouble. But going to Grady for something like a sore throat or a skin disease really isn't worth it. Unless they're really sick, most people just sit around and suffer until they either get better or get sick enough to put up with the trouble.

Depending on where you live, there may be another solution. Certain areas of Atlanta have free health clinics. These clinics serve the residents of their areas. Doctors in these clinics usually don't treat serious illnesses. And they don't do operations or fix broken bones. If you are too sick to be treated there, they will refer you to Grady. This referral alone can save you an eight hour wait. Call us at 523-2856 for more information.

Here is a list of some of the free clinics in Atlanta:

Cabbage Town Clinic - Fulton Mills-Reynoldstown Cooperative Health Center
679 Kirkwood Ave., S.E. 577-2942
Hours: Tuesday 6 PM; Thursday 6 PM

NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CLINICS

West End Baptist Center Clinic
950 Cunningham Pl. S.W.
755-1389

Hours: Mon. 7 PM

Beacon Hill Community Center
126 W. Trinity Pl., Decatur

Hours: Mon. 7 PM; Wed. 7 PM

Scottdale Clinic

3218 Tobie Circle
292-2652

Hours: Thurs. 7 PM

Lynnwood Park Clinic

3360 Osburn Rd. 252-3894

Hours: Tues. 7 PM

Plunkettown Health Center

209 Rockwell Rd.

Hours: Every other Wednesday
from 7:30 PM

The Community Crisis Center

40 Peachtree Pl., NE
892-1358

Hours: Mon. 8 PM; Thurs. 8 PM

Bedford Pine Medical Clinic

295-A Merritts Ave., NE
874-8838

Hours: Wed. 7 PM

Central City Clinic

Techwood Dr., NW, 576-578

Hours: Thurs. 6:30 PM

Vine City Health Clinic Neighborhood

Union Health Center

186 Sunset Ave., NW 524-5847
Hours: Tues. 7 PM

Central Presbyterian Church

201 Washington St., SW 659-0117
Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 12-12:30
(for children). Mon. 7 PM (for adults)

THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM Aug. 15 TO Sept. 4 FOR STAFF VACATIONS. HOURS AS USUAL MON. THRU FRI. 10:00 to 3:00 UNTIL THE 15th.

MEDICAID AND DOCTOR BILLS

Medicaid officials are concerned because some doctors are trying to get paid twice for the same service. When a doctor "accepts the assignment", he agrees to treat a patient for the fee Medicaid will pay. If he wants \$20 for an office visit and Medicaid will only pay \$10, the doctor must accept the \$10 Medicaid will give. He cannot bill the patient for a second \$10.

Anyone who gets a bill after he has told the doctor he is a Medicaid patient and the doctor has agreed to treat him under Medicaid, call us at 523-2856. Some doctors' services are not covered by Medicaid, but often the doctor is just trying to get more money than Medicaid will pay. If you call the Poverty Rights Office, we can fight this together.

Dear Friends and Fellow-workers,

I come to you at this moment to say hello to you first giving honor to God because he is the head of my life and I know that he is the head of your life also. It has been some time since I have had time to chat with you, but I have been thinking about all of you. You know we have been in this struggle for some time now and we have come from a long way. We have won some battles and we have lost some, but we are not going to stop because we still have a long way to go. Fellow workers I want you to know that we have accomplished alot. And I want you to understand that we might not be where we want to be, but thanks to God we are not where we used to be. I know that it has not been easy for me down through these years and I also know that it has not been easy for you, but as long as we keep the faith and trust in God we will overcome our plight and the problems we face.

As your Chairman I am running for Councilwoman and I need your help and support very much. I am running for City Council from the 4th district. So I am asking for your prayers and do wish me luck. My campaign headquarters is at 1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30315, phone number 525-5948.

Yours in the Struggle for
Freedom and Justice,

Ms. Ethel M. Matthews

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. III, NO. 9

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

SEPTEMBER, 1973

There is a new system of elections in Atlanta. In the past, we had a board of aldermen. Every registered voter in the city could vote for every alderman. Under the old system, the people in a district had a really hard time getting rid of their alderman even if he wasn't doing a good job for them. It took the majority of voters in the city to do that.

The new system is different. Instead of a board of aldermen, we have a city council. There will be twelve districts in the city, and the residents of each district will elect their own representative to the city council. Under the new character, the residents of each district will have more control over their city government than ever before.

There will also be six at-large members of the council.

These will be elected by voters throughout the city and will be responsible to all the people. Their job will be to make sure that the other members do right by the city as a whole, not just by their districts.

There is one more new office under the new charter. This is chairman of city council. This person will have a lot of power over what the council can and cannot do.

The new city council is supposed to be much stronger and more effective than the old board of aldermen. It's supposed to give a lot more power to the people. And there are some good people running this year. Let's be sure to use our new power by registering to vote in the city elections, which will be held October 2.

VOTE OCTOBER 2

VOTE OCTOBER 2

VOTE OCTOBER 2

VOTE OCTOBER 2

STERILIZATION IS YOUR CHOICE

The issue of forced sterilization has been in the news lately. Two cases in nearby states made people angry.

In Alabama, a welfare couple said their two teenaged daughters were sterilized without knowing what was happening. The girls' mother can't read. She put her "X" on a paper agreeing to the sterilization. But she said she didn't understand what she was signing. She and her husband said they were tricked.

In South Carolina, several doctors tried to force a welfare recipient to be sterilized. They said they would not deliver her baby unless she agreed to be sterilized afterwards. They said she had enough children already.

The two cases point up cruel and stupid attitudes. This kind of thing shouldn't happen!

Sterilization is one method of birth control. Thousands of men and women CHOOSE it each year. That's fine if that's their CHOICE. But no one should be tricked or forced into being sterilized.

As far as we know, doctors in the Atlanta area do not try to force anyone to be sterilized. We hope it never happens. If anyone ever tries to force you to be sterilized, call us at 523-2856.

Are you moving? PLEASE let us know your new address. The Post Office does not forward the newspaper. We MUST have your new address if you want to keep getting the paper. Call us at 523-2856.

TRY HOUSING HOTLINE

More and more people call our office, the Poverty Rights Office, because they are having housing problems. The housing situation all over Atlanta is getting worse and worse - - both in the projects and in private apartments and houses to rent. We always try to help, but anyone with a problem should also contact the EOA Housing Hotline at 523-1230.

Until more low rent housing is built in Atlanta, the situation will not improve much, but the Atlanta Housing Authority and slum lords should do right by their tenants anyway. The Housing Hotline is one of the agencies trying to make them be fair.

Do you have a close relative in Reidsville prison? You may want to visit him this month. You can get a FREE bus ride to Reidsville from Emmaus House. Call 523-2856 to get your name on the list to go.

MS. MATTHEWS RUNS FOR OFFICE

Ms. Ethel Mae Matthews, Chairperson of the National Welfare Rights Organization, is running for City Council from the 4th District. She stands for justice for all people, rich and poor, black and white. Ms. Matthews promises to help to try to get more houses built for people who need them and to make sure that all children get a good education.

Since 1967 Ms. Matthews has worked to get rights for all poor people. She believes that people should have a voice in running their own community and city.

MEDICAID FOR DENTAL CARE

At last Medicaid will pay for dental work for adults! Now a "participating dentist" can work on teeth or make dentures, if the dental problem affects the patient's general health. We can't tell you all the details in this paper because we don't have the "guidelines" yet from Medicaid. We will know how to answer your questions soon though. For more information call our office at 523-2856, or call Delta Dental Plan at 872-6246 if you need work done on your teeth and you have a Medicaid card. In most cases, Medicaid will pay.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE OVER 40

Older people who need work can find help at the Golden Age Employment Service. This Service offers free job placement to anyone over 40 in almost any kind of work - - skilled and unskilled, full-time and part-time.

Golden Age doesn't care how much over 40 a person is as long as he is able to work. They say there is no age limit to usefulness and experience. Golden Age knows many employers who like the dependability of older workers. The Service now finds jobs for about 50 people each month.

One person who found a job through Golden Age is Mr. Wheeler, a very elderly man. He tears tickets at a downtown theatre, a job that many different college students had held before him. Mr. Wheeler has been working in this job for three years now.

If you are unemployed and over 40, go to the Golden Age Clubhouse, 793 Piedmont Avenue, NE. Tell them what you can do and what kind of job you can fill. They understand the special problems of older workers. Interview hours are 10:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon.

Hi, friends and co-workers
in this great struggle for
life.

As your chairwoman, I
thank you for the chance to
come to you once again and
chat.

As you know, school has
started and education and
busing are great problems.
But we must remember that
hungry children, clothesless
children, uneducated chil-
dren and homeless children
play a big part in our life.

The children of today
need our support to stand
by them as well as with
them, to push them in the
right direction. Let them
know we love and care for
them; no matter the color,
for color is only a word,
and we are all human beings.

Don't forget welfare
rights meeting twice a month:
The 2nd and 4th Wednesday
nights at 1017 Capitol
Avenue, S.W. If you need
transportation, call
525-5948.

I'm still running for
Councilwoman in the 4th
District. Pray for me.

YOURS IN THE STRUGGLE,

Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews

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Published monthly, except August by
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Atlanta, Georgia 30315



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. III, NO. 10

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

OCTOBER 1973

NEW GOVERNMENT PROGRAM (SSI) MAY AFFECT YOU

Supplemental Security In-
come (SSI) is a new federal
program.

SSI will establish an in-
come floor for people who
are poor AND either 65 years
old or older, blind, or dis-
abled to work.

The new program begins
January 1, 1974.

People *already* getting
welfare because they are
old or blind or disabled
will be included automat-
ically in the SSI program.

All the details of what a
person will receive under

SSI are not clear yet. How-
ever the law says YOU SHALL
NOT RECEIVE LESS UNDER SSI
THAN YOU GET ON WELFARE NOW.

So, anyone already on
welfare doesn't need to call
Social Security now to apply
for SSI. If you do not get
a bigger check in January
though, call then.

Low income people who are
either 65 or older, blind
or disabled and who do not
NOW receive welfare very
likely are eligible for SSI.
If you get Social Security
now, you may be eligible

(Continued on Page 3.)

A new government program goes into effect this January 1.
It is called Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Many readers
of the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER will come under this program. So
we are taking the whole issue of this paper to try to explain
the new program. If you have any questions about this program,
call Social Security at 873-1511.

Here are some examples of how the new SSI program will work.

1. Mrs. A. is 70. She lives alone and receives \$106 a month from welfare and Medicaid. In January, she should receive \$130 a month and still get Medicaid. We do not know yet if she will get surplus food or food stamps -- probably neither.

2. Mrs. B. is disabled. She lives with her daughter who gets welfare for herself and her child. Mrs. B. now gets \$78 welfare plus Medicaid and surplus food. She should get \$130 from SSI plus Medicaid. She will not get food stamps or surplus food.

3. Mrs. C. is 75 and gets \$75 a month from Social Security. She also gets \$47 from welfare. In January,

she should get \$150 total from SSI and Social Security. She will get her money in 2 separate checks. If she wants to work part-time, she can earn \$65 each month before her checks are cut. She will get Medicaid but no food stamps or surplus food.

4. Mrs. D. is 65. She gets \$120 from Social Security. She does not have any welfare. SHE should apply for SSI. It is NOT automatic for her since she does not get welfare now. She can apply by calling 873-1511. Unless her house or car or insurance are unusually valuable, she can get a total from Social Security and SSI of \$150.

5. Mr. E. is 50 and has no income. He has applied for Social Security disability.

+++++
 +
 + WE GOOFED! +
 +
 + In last month's paper, we +
 + gave the wrong number for +
 + the EOA Housing Hotline. +
 + We apologize to the people +
 + whose number we gave, and +
 + to any of you who tried to +
 + call. The CORRECT NUMBER +
 + for Housing Hotline is: +
 +
 + 525-1230 +
 +
 +++++

They said he did not have enough "quarters". Mr. E. should call and apply for SSI right away.

6. Mr. F. is 50 and he has no income. He was turned down for disability welfare because they said he was not "Totally and permanently disabled". He should apply for SSI. If he is turned down, he should request a hearing.

(Continued from Page 1)

for a larger check.

Under SSI, a single person should receive a check for \$150 a month. A couple can get \$195 a month.

A single person can own up to \$1500 worth of property and still be eligible for SSI. A couple can own up to \$2250 worth of property and still be eligible. Usually, your home, car, and insurance will not count in your deduction.

People who work part-time can apply for SSI. The first \$65 of what you earn and one half the rest will not count as income. The first \$20 of your pension check will not count as income.

Anyone who is aged, blind, or disabled with an income of less than \$200 a month is very likely eligible to benefit from SSI. Like all programs, SSI is complicated. But you have nothing to lose except the time it takes to call:

873-1511

That is the Social Security number. The people there are supposed to answer your questions. If you can't get through or don't understand what they say, call us at 523-2856. We'll try to help.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON NEW SSI PROGRAM

 *
 * IN MEMORIAM *
 *
 * We mourn the loss of Dr. *
 * George Wiley. He died in *
 * a boating accident last *
 * month. Dr. Wiley was, *
 * until recently, director *
 * of National Welfare Rights *
 * Organization. He was a *
 * true friend of poor *
 * people. *
 *

Q. Will I be better off with SSI than under welfare?
 A. Probably. You must be at least as well off under SSI as under welfare.

Q. Do I need to apply for SSI?
 A. It is automatic if you are already on welfare. You need to apply if you are poor and old, blind or disabled.

Q. How do I apply for SSI?
 A. Call 873-1511.

Q. Will I still get surplus food under SSI?
 A. We don't know. We'll tell you as soon as we have that information.

Q. Will I still get Medicaid under SSI?
 A. Yes, if you do now because you are on welfare.

Hello my friends and co-workers in the Struggle.

I come to you again as your Chairwoman to chat with you for a few moments at this time.

First, I must give honor and thanks to God because He is the head of my life. I thank Him for my faith that I have in Him, my love that I have for Him, and my courage and my strength to do the work that I am dedicated to do. Friends and co-workers, it has not been easy for me fighting the system and the power structure all these years, but with God's help, we have won some good fights. But as you know, our fight is not yet over.

My friends and co-workers, you know that I ran for the City Council seat, but was defeated for the second time. I just want you to know that I haven't given up and I won't give up.

It was a great experience, and I enjoyed every minute of it. It was also a challenge for me as a black woman.

So I want to say again thank you for your support and contributions. So I am saying better luck next time.

Yours in the Struggle for freedom and peace,

MRS. ETHEL M. MATHEWS

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. III, NO. 11

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

NOVEMBER, 1973

NEW RULES AFFECT WELFARE MOTHERS WHO RECEIVE CHILD SUPPORT

On November 1, Welfare mothers who receive child support, found a change in their checks. Until now a mother who got child support got a smaller check from the Welfare than a mother who has no outside income. Now both mothers will get the same amount. The difference is that now the fathers must pay their child support directly to the Welfare. He cannot give the mother herself any money for the children.

This will give many mothers a little more money, because so many fathers did not pay child support regularly under the old system. But the new way will cause problems for many mothers, too.

It will seem to hurt the family where the father did pay regularly. In these cases the Welfare will send a supplemental check. But

this check will not come until the next month after the father has paid in.

It could also happen that a mother who has been promised a large amount of child support might get her Welfare cut or cut off. If you get a notice of this; call us that same day at 523-2856!

Under the new system a case-worker will be asking you to help locate an absent father. If you do not want to answer her questions, you cannot be cut off the Welfare for refusing, but she might make you answer the questions in court.

If the new system hurts you in some way, call us at 523-2856. We may be able to help you. You may be able to fight the new rules.

DON'T GIVE IN TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY!

For years the Atlanta Housing Authority has ignored the needs of its tenants. Project managers have failed to do what they are hired to do. They even violate Housing Authority regulations time after time. Often it seems officials downtown do not know what is happening -- or worse, they don't care.

If you live in a project, you know how long you have to wait for needed repairs. You may have been charged for damages to your apartment that no one in your family did. In many projects rats, broken glass, roaches, high weeds and unmowed grass are common -- yet the managers seem unwilling to do anything about these problems.

In some projects excess utility bills are unreasonable, but the tenant is told he mustn't question the charges. Transfer requests are ignored. The Atlanta Housing Authority is simply not providing decent and safe housing for its tenants.

It is possible to do something about these problems. Tenants can get together and make their voices heard. Residents of Jonesboro South, for example, have been meet-

ing with a Legal Aid lawyer working to make their resident manager do what he is supposed to do. This can happen in your project, too.

If you are having problems with the Housing Authority and want help, call Atlanta Legal Aid (524-5811) or call the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856).

MEDICAID PAYS FOR DENTURES

Medicaid is now paying for dental care for adults. Dentists who are members of the Delta Dental Plan can work on teeth or make dentures if the dental problem affects the patient's health. If you have a Medicaid card and need to have work done on your teeth, contact your caseworker. She should have a list of dentists who are in your neighborhood and who will treat you. If your caseworker does not help you, call our office at 523-2856.

* * * * *
*Poverty Rights Office OPEN *
Monday-Friday 10:00 to 3:00
* * * * *

VOTERS CHOOSE BI-RACIAL REPRESENTATION FOR ATLANTA

Atlanta's voters said "no" to racism in last month's city elections.

Voters turned down appeals to racial fears. By doing so, they elected Atlanta's first black mayor, Maynard Jackson.

Mr. Jackson won a firm victory over his opponent, current Mayor Sam Massell. A majority of almost 60% of Atlanta voters chose Jackson to be the new mayor.

WELFARE RIGHTS REDUCED

Starting October 15 a Welfare recipient has only 10 days in which to apply for a hearing, if the grant is being cut or cut off! Before, a person had 15 days to ask for a hearing. Now you only have 10 days from the date written on the letter.

If you get a letter telling you your grant will be cut or cut off, call your caseworker that day and ask for an explanation. If you don't like her answer, call us at 523-2856. Don't wait to call. Save your envelope as well as the letter. If we are going to fight this rule, we need them as evidence.

Maynard Jackson takes office in January. He will be the first black mayor of a major city in the south-east.

New City Council president is Wyche Fowler who beat SCLC leader Hosea Williams.

The new City Council is equally split between blacks and whites. Eight of the 18 council members are newcomers. Many of them promise closer ties between the community and city government.

Only one woman won her race for City Council. She is Panke Bradley, a white who stresses neighborhood planning councils.

Ethel M. Mathews, NWRO Chairwoman, lost her bid for a City Council seat.

The Board of Education also added some new faces. The Board also has a majority of blacks for the first time. There are 5 black and 4 white school board members.

One new school board member is Margaret Griggs, a neighborhood health assistant.

Dear Friends and Co-workers
in this struggle of life,

I am your chairwoman and
it gives me great pleasure
to chat with you for a lit-
tle while. First I must
give thanks to God because
He is the head of the house
and He is the head of my
life. He has been very good
to me down through the
years. He has been good to
you all so we all have a lot
to be thankful for. We must
realize that our fight is
not over, but we can say that
with God's help we have come
a long way, but we can not
stop here, we must keep on
fighting for our rights and
the things we are entitled
to, and that is Freedom,
Democracy, Justice and Inde-
pendence for all black and
poor peoples. We must be
ready at all times to give
a helping hand to those who
need help.

Well, my friends and co-
workers, this year has been
a very confused one. We
have had Watergate to come
in to our being and there
has been corruption all
around us, but if we hold
fast and stick together we
will be able to overcome
all this. The old year has
about gone and the new year
is approaching fast. So in
the old year we have seen
some happy days and some sad
days, but we are still fight-
ing. I am praying that we
all had a happy Thanksgiving
and will have a prosperous
and successful New Year.

For justice and freedom,

MS. ETHEL M. MATHEWS

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MORE INFORMATION ON SSI PROGRAM

In our October paper we told
you a lot about SSI, the new
federal program. It will begin
sending checks to the aged,
blind and disabled in January.

Now we have more information
that may help you get your
benefits.

SSI means that every aged,
blind or disabled person
should have a total income
of at least \$130 a month
for a single person or \$196
for a couple.

Between November 15 and
December 15, SSI will send
an "Allowance letter" to
everyone who will get a
SSI check in January. It
will tell you how much
your SSI will be.

The only people who will
get all their \$130 from SSI
are the ones who have no
income now or who only get
welfare now. If you have
a small pension or Social
Security check, add the

figure on your present check
and your SSI check. Togeth-
er, they should equal \$150.

If your total is less than
\$130, the reason may be that
you live with someone else -
a friend or a relative. The
people who figure SSI may
think that the person you
live with gives you room and
board for free.

If you live with someone
else and you pay your own
way, call the Social Secu-
rity at 873-1511. Tell them
you need an appointment to
prove that you pay your own
room and board. Ask what
papers you should bring to
show you contribute to the
household expenses. All you
need to do now is show that
you share expenses with the
person you live with. If
that person gets SSI or
Welfare, that should be
enough proof.

If you have any doubt
about this, call us at
523-2856 or the Social Secu-
rity at 873-1511.

Poor people in Atlanta have for years been victims of empty promises. Time and time again urban renewal has torn up neighborhoods without a fight by promising people that quality low-income housing would be built on the land. But this has not happened. It did not happen in Vine City and it has not happened in Model Cities. One block on Georgia Avenue is now used only for people to park their cars. A motel now stands on land where people used to live.

The same kind of thing is proposed for the Bedford-Pine area. The Atlanta Housing Authority is now accepting bids on a 78-acre tract of urban renewal property in this area (a part of the old 4th ward). Many of the people who have submitted bids want to build housing for people earning high wages. Others want to build a world trade center and office park.

But for the first time in Atlanta history, a group of people is standing up to the Housing Authority while there is still time to change things. The residents of

Bedford-Pine are insisting that the Housing Authority do what it is supposed to do: build houses for poor people. The first week in November, the Concerned Citizens of the Bedford-Pine Community in a press conference demanded the following:

1. Developers include plans for low-income housing as well as higher income housing,
2. The chosen developers work closely with the Bedford-Pine Project Area Committee, a group made up of representatives of residents, businesses, and agencies in the community.
3. Day care, recreation, and other needed services be provided, and
4. The guidelines of the Federal Uniform Relocation Act be strictly followed by the Atlanta Housing Authority.

These demands were reasonable. Still, the Atlanta Housing Authority did not bother to send a representative to the press conference. Nevertheless, the people of Bedford Pine do not plan to give up. They know that the Housing Authority must be made to live up to its obligation.

CAN YOU HELP?

A NEW GROUP WILL ADVISE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

The people in the Poverty Rights Office need help. Right now there are only ten people working. Obviously ten people can't know everything there is to know about solving problems in Atlanta. Ten

people don't even have time to solve the problems they know about and they can't know everything about what's happening in different neighborhoods.

The questions are: How can the staff learn more so we can be of more help to the people who call us? How can our office do more than it is now doing?

We need a group of people that will get together in an organization that will give us advice and direction and that will help us with our work. If you want to help by being a part of such an organization, a Poverty Rights Office Auxiliary, please call us at 523-2856 or write us at 1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W., Atlanta 30315.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

If you are old, blind or disabled and poor you may be eligible for more money under SSI. If you are on Welfare, you will get it automatically - - if you have no income or some other small pension, call 873-1511 and apply for SSI.

DECEMBER TRIP TO REIDSVILLE

The next bus trip to Reidsville will be Saturday, December 8. The bus will leave about 7:00 A.M. and return about 11:00 P.M. Lunch and dinner will be served, free.

If you have a relative at Reidsville and want to go on this trip, you need a reservation. Call 525-5948 or 523-2856 and leave your name. Then, before December 5, you need to make a deposit of \$2.00 for each seat you or your group wants to reserve. You can bring your money to the Poverty Rights Office or Emmaus House, at 1017 Capitol Avenue, or send a money order. (Please, do not send cash in the mail.)

When you arrive Saturday morning, if you have reserved several seats for your family, all but \$2 will be refunded.

 * MERRY CHRISTMAS! *
 * *
