

HELLO EVERYBODY,  
Members, Friends, Supporters

This is your Chairwoman coming again to chat with you for a few moments, first giving honor to God, because He is the head of my life. I have so much to be thankful for. And so have all of you, because He has brought us from a mighty long way. It hasn't been easy, but with God's help we have made it this far. I want to say the old year has about gone and the new year is approaching and some of our problems are still with us. Our fight is not over. Come January 1 there will be a new program for the Aged, Blind and Disabled. It will affect many of us. It is called SSI, Supplemental Security Income. It will not affect Welfare mothers with small children. Their program will stay the same. Come January 1 the color of the SSI check will be gold. If you get a check on January 1 and it is gold, that is your SSI check. We have had a rough year, but things have not been as bad as we thought. So I hope you will have a Happy New Year with love and happiness -- success and prosperity.

Yours in the struggle for  
freedom,

Ms. Ethel Mae Mathews

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# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



JAN 1974

VOL. III, NO. 12

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

DECEMBER, 1973

## SSI HELPS DISABLED CHILDREN

The new government program SSI will help disabled children under the age of 18. This is a real change, because the Welfare never gave more help to a retarded or handicapped child than to a normal one.

Now a disabled child could be eligible for \$130 per month, if the family is low-income or already gets AFDC Welfare. This child would no longer get Welfare, but the rest of the family would continue to get it. This child would still get Medicaid.

If you have a disabled child or grandchild or if you know a child who is deaf, or blind, or crippled, or has a disease like leukemia, or is retarded, call the Social Security and see if the child can get SSI. The new Social Security Number is 881-9600.

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NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE - - CALL 881-9600 FOR INFORMATION ON EITHER SSI OR SOCIAL SECURITY

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## SSI CHECKS ARRIVE JANUARY 2d

The first gold colored SSI checks should arrive on January 2, 1974. If you think you should receive one and it hasn't come by January 3 or 4, call your Social Security Office at 881-9600 and report that you didn't get your check.

We hope that all the checks will come on time, but there will surely be some problems with the new system. The Poverty Rights Office will try to help, too. Our number is still 523-2856.

LEGAL AID CAN HELP

KNOW YOUR CONSUMER RIGHTS

People who owe money have legal rights as well as people who lend money. But creditors - finance companies, mortgage holders, stores that sell on installment plans, landlords - often take unfair advantage of people who don't know what their rights are.

If you are having trouble with a finance company, if you get behind on payments or house notes, get in touch with Legal Aid immediately. Their Consumer Services division is set up to defend poor people against unfair practices of repossession, foreclosure, and eviction. And the sooner you contact Legal Aid the better they are able to help you. Call them at 524-5811 or go by your neighborhood Legal Aid office when you first get behind on payments.

Know your rights concerning:

**REPOSSESSION** - Do not let anyone repossess anything without calling a Legal Aid lawyer first. If someone comes to repossess, don't let him in the door. No one can enter your home without your permission. If he comes in anyway, he is breaking the law by

breaching the peace. Force him to take legal action to repossess. Tell him to contact your Legal Aid attorney and close the door.

**HARASSMENT** - If a creditor is harassing you with phone calls, you do not have to talk with him. Tell him to talk to your Legal Aid attorney and hang up! Nobody can get money from you by garnisheeing your wages or any other method until they sue and get a judgment against you.

**FORECLOSURE** - It is very important to contact Legal Aid immediately if you get behind on house payments or if you get a notice that your house needs repairs. Failure to make repairs can provide the person holding the mortgage with an excuse to foreclose.

**RENTAL PROBLEMS** - Go to Legal Aid for help if you are threatened with eviction. If your apartment or house is in bad condition and the landlord refuses to make repairs, don't withhold the rent. This puts you in a defensive position and damages your case. Take your problem to Legal Aid and they will bring action against him.

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Where do you go if you need to go to a nursing home? How do you find out what kind you can afford? How do you judge how good a nursing home is?

There is a place you can call to find out answers to these questions. The Golden Age Information and Referral Service has a new nursing home referral service. We will have more news about this next month. For now, call 874-1976 if you need immediate help with nursing home information.

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TENANTS WIN ROUND ONE

This fall 30 tenants from Jonesboro South organized to fight the Housing Authority. They worked with a Legal Aid lawyer who presented their grievances to Mr. Persells, the head of AHA.

Now the manager of Jonesboro South has been fired. AHA has promised to begin cleaning up the project. Mr. Harden, the district manager, is now the acting manager and has promised to handle individual complaints himself.

The tenants accomplished this themselves, and they got results.

GRADY OPENS NEW NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CLINIC IN N.W.

Grady Hospital is beginning a program of providing medical services in neighborhood areas. The first local clinic opened November 5 in the former Rockdale Health Center at 1175 Johnson Road, N.W. Located near the intersection of Marietta Street and Perry Boulevard, this new facility is open Monday through Friday from 11 A.M. until 7 P.M. and serves Grady-eligible residents in the northwest part of Atlanta.

Patients treated at the Clinic who require very specialized out-patient treatment or in-patient care will be referred to Grady. Free transportation is provided for people sent to Grady. This new clinic should be of particular benefit to people living in Perry Homes and Hollywood Court.

This new clinic provides general medical care for both children and adults. Well-baby, family planning and immunization programs will also be offered at the new clinic. A pharmacy is also located in the facility.

Hopefully, Grady will continue its planning to provide health centers in other neighborhoods where medical facilities for poor people are non-existent.

Hello Members, Friends and Supporters,

I am coming to you as your Chairman but first I must give honor and thanks to God who is the head of my life. Second I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year and a lot of success. You know we have started out on a journey for the new year. So let us work hard together and make it the best year of our life. We know that our life hasn't been easy because nothing comes easy in life but we must keep on pushing and looking to God for the best.

We are in a new program for the new year called the SSI. It is designed for the aged, blind and disability. It is not the best program in the world for black and poor peoples, and it won't be unless we come together and work to see that it works for us and not against us like it has been done in the past. So I am extending to you an invitation to come and join with us to make this program work for the peoples and not for the system. We need help and support. Please come and join us. For further information call 525-5948. Thank you.

Yours in the struggle for survival.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

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Ms. Katie Baer  
1767 Edgewood Dr. NE  
Atlanta 30307



# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IV, NO. 2

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

FEBRUARY 1974

## WHAT IS THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE?

Most articles in this paper tell you to call 523-2856.

Some readers don't know why they should call this number or who will answer the phone.

The person you talk to when you call 523-2856 will be a staff member of the POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE. Each staff person is a volunteer. Nobody pays us so we don't owe anyone anything. Our job is to help YOU.

If we don't have the answer to your problem, we'll try to find someone who does. We'll make calls for you. We'll tell you about government programs for poor people. We'll figure if your welfare budgets or public housing rents are correct.

We can tell you about your legal rights, too, but we are NOT lawyers. For instance, if your problem is eviction, you need a lawyer.

We'll tell you to call Legal Aid.

If we can help you ourselves, we will. If we have to send you to an expert, we will.

Often, many people have the same problem. Then we and you and the Legal Aid can work together on a court case to get a solution for everyone.

We want a better deal for everyone. We don't always know how to get it. But we want to work with you and try for it.

Disabled children are eligible for their own SSI check, if their parents are poor. Call Social Security at 881-9600 and apply for any disabled child. If you are denied, call us at 523-2856. We may be able to help you get SSI for the child.

Here is a picture of classroom A:

Students sit at desks in straight rows. The teacher is at the head of the class. She is teaching a lesson in -- say, spelling. All the children are expected to pay strict attention. They all do the lesson together. Some children are bored because they are too smart. Some children are nervous because they can't keep up.

Here is a picture of classroom B:

There are no desks. Instead, there are learning centers for different subjects: math, language, science, art. The children move freely around the room. They work in the area they are interested in. They work at their own speed. They learn how to begin and follow through on a subject on their own. The teacher moves around the room from child to child. She directs work and helps with problems.

Classroom A is a traditional class. Classroom B is in an "open classroom" school.

The open classroom approach to education says:

--each child should learn at his or her own speed,  
 --children learn best if they are interested in what they do and can have some choice,  
 --given a wide variety of materials, children will learn--

because they want to, not because they have to.

Does the idea of an open classroom school appeal to you? Is it what you'd like for your child?

Then you'll want to know that just such a school will open next fall in Atlanta.

A citizens' group is working now with the Atlanta School system to help plan the new school. The group is the Committee for an Open School. This group meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Schools Building, 224 Central Avenue.

The committee welcomes new members. If you need more information, call Katie Baer at 377-6528.

LEGAL AID STRIKES BACK

For years the Atlanta Housing Authority has been breaking Federal regulations.

Now the Legal Aid has a case against the Housing Authority. It says the A.H.A. has not set up an effective grievance procedure. The Housing Authority has also not figured rents correctly in some cases.

We are all watching the outcome of this case. If Legal Aid wins it could help thousands of people living in public housing.

NEW PROGRAM, NEW PROBLEMS

On January 1, 1974, people who used to get Welfare because they were old, blind or disabled to work got a gold colored check from SSI. Most people found that their new check was larger than the old one. In a few months, probably most people who get a gold check will think SSI is better than Welfare used to be.

BUT there are some real problems with SSI. Some people need to fight SSI for their rights just as they have had to fight Welfare. The new rules are confusing. We all need to work to make SSI do right for people.

The biggest SSI problem is that many people who would be eligible for SSI have not applied for it. ANYONE WHO IS AGED, BLIND, OR DISABLED TO WORK AND WHO IS POOR SHOULD APPLY. Many people have a small pension from Social Security or the city or the Veteran's Administration so they never got Welfare. If that pension is less than \$150--apply for SSI. Call 881-9600.

If you call 881-9600 or if you go to your local Social Security office and the person there tells you you are not eligible and he will not take your application, call us at 523-2856 right away.

Many SSI workers do not know all the rules of SSI yet. They are supposed to take your application no matter what. Maybe you are not eligible, but your application should be accepted. Then people who know the rules can decide your case.

Some people are not getting the whole correct amount in their new gold check. An individual should have a total income of at least \$130--a couple should have at least \$196. Some people who live with someone else only got \$99 from SSI in January. Many of these people should have gotten \$130. They should call Social Security and protest. Call us and we will help you protest.

If you call Social Security about any problem and get "no" for an answer, call us at 523-2856. Maybe the answer really is "no," but maybe it isn't. SSI is new. The head people in Washington don't know all their own rules yet. People who work for SSI haven't been told all the rules yet. We have had some experience with SSI so maybe we can get things straightened out.

Everyone knows some SSI problems can only be settled in the courts. But some can be settled right now. If we can help you with SSI, we'll do all we can.

Hi, Fellow-workers, who are in this Struggle

It gives me great pleasure to chat with you once more. First, I must give thanks to God for His love, His wisdom, His understanding and His blessing, and a portion of my health and strength. We have started out a new year. Although we are plagued with many problems that have come about, we must remember that black and poor peoples have had problems all their life. But the problems that has come about due to the corruption in our government not only affect the poor--they have the rich in a bind also. But as black and poor peoples we will be able to stand if we would only come together and close the gap that divides us.

We have been experiencing the Water-gate scandal, we are facing the energy crisis, but if you look back in the past, you will find that we have been experiencing these tribulations down through the years.

We are now enrolled in a new program. It is called SSI. For some it works and for some it penalizes them. Some have been completely wiped from the program. It is for the aged, blind and disability. So you see my brothers and sisters, those who are in this program must make it work for us if we are to survive.

Yours in the struggle for Freedom and Justice,

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

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# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IV, NO 3

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

MARCH, 1974

## SSI CHECKS GO UP AND DOWN

The new gold checks from SSI help many people. But we will all be glad when the system gets straightened out. Then we will know what to count on.

If you got a gold check for \$130 in January, you were pleased to get a \$150 gold check in February. It looked like Congress voted a big raise for SSI. On March 1, in comes a check for only \$140. It looks like you have been cut down again and that's not fair.

This is what happened. Congress voted for you to have a total income for January, February, and March of \$420. But they voted too late for the 3 checks to all be printed for \$140. The 3 checks you have gotten for \$130, \$150, and \$140 equal the \$420 you are supposed to have for the 3 months. They didn't cheat you-- they just confused everyone.

People with income from Social Security or other pensions get gold checks for less than \$130. Their checks went up by \$20 in February and came down \$10 in March.

People who only get \$86.33 from SSI because they live with someone else, only got a check for \$99.44 in February and for \$93.44 in March. If you are one of these people your check has a "1/3 reduction." Call us (523-2856)--maybe you should not have that "1/3 reduction" and we can help you "file a protest" to get your full amount.

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Do you have a close relative in Reidsville prison? If you would like to visit him this month call Emmaus House at 525-5948 or call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856. A bus goes from Emmaus House one Saturday of every month except in the summer.

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TENANTS HAVE LEGAL RIGHTS!

Are you having problems with your landlord? Is he making needed repairs on your property? Are you being threatened with eviction?

Despite what your landlord may be saying, as a tenant you do have certain legal rights.

1. Your landlord must give you notice in writing before your rent can be raised.
2. A landlord must give you 60 days written notice before he can make you move if your rent is paid up.
3. No matter what your landlord says, you cannot be evicted unless you are served with an eviction warrant.
4. If you are served with a warrant, you have seven days in which to file an appeal.
5. If you do not file an appeal within seven days and do not appear in court on the appointed day, you still cannot be legally put out for 15 days after your appointed day in court.
6. Your landlord cannot himself put you out after 15 days. It must be an officer of the court, a marshall.
7. You do have the right to ask your landlord to make needed repairs.

8. You do not have to pay rent to your landlord if he refuses to fix up your property, but if you withhold rent you must with the help of a lawyer, pay rent into the court.
9. Even if you get a warrant, you cannot be evicted if you are paying rent into the court.
10. If your landlord tries to evict you unfairly, you have a right to ask for a hearing. You must be granted this hearing.
11. You do have a right to know who owns the property you are living in, even though the rent man refuses to tell you. You can call the county tax people and find out.

Many times landlords knowingly violate or threaten to violate tenant rights. If this is happening to you, call us at 523-2856 and we will try to help you.

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If you move, call us at 523-2856 so we can change your address so you won't miss The Poor Peoples Paper.

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IF YOU MOVE!!!

PEOPLE WHO GET SOCIAL SECURITY OR S.S.I. CHECKS

As soon as you know your new address, call Social Security and tell them. If you live in Atlanta, Decatur, East Point or Marietta call 881-9600. If you live outside metro Atlanta call your local office.

People who get SSI gold checks need to tell Social Security their own social security number when they give the address.

People who get a green Social Security check, need to tell their claim number. This number is on the same line as your name. If you don't already have your claim number written down in your papers, copy it off your next green check. Keep this number safely along with your social security number.

If you have your numbers ready to tell Social Security when you call, it is less likely that your next check will be lost in the mail.

PEOPLE WHO GET WELFARE CHECKS

If you get welfare for your children and you move, call your caseworker and tell her.

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NEW CHILD SUPPORT RULES WILL BE CHALLENGED

The new way the Welfare collects child support is causing a lot of headaches. Probably the Legal Aid will bring action in court against the Child Support Recovery Act soon.

In the meantime, if you don't like the way it works for you and your children, call us at 523-2856. Maybe you should be a part of the law case.

If you live in a project and your rent goes up because of this new system for collecting child support, call us. Your rent in public housing can only go up if your income gets bigger. If you get the same income now that you got before, your rent should not be raised.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASE APRIL 1

With all the ups and downs of the new SSI checks, it is hard for us to know what will happen next.

It looks now as though the green Social Security checks will be increased by 7% on April 1st. The gold SSI check will NOT increase again until July 1st.

If you get both a green check and a gold check, when the green one goes up a little, the gold one will go down. That means you will not have any increase in total income until your SSI check goes up in July.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Struggle,

I come to you at this time to say "hello" and to chat with you a few moments. First I give thanks to God because He is the head of my life, and I have so much to be thankful for. God is so good to all of us. Second, I want to tell you about a group of dedicated men, who I am a part of and who I work with behind the walls of Reidsville State Prison.

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Their club is the Barons of Goodwill Rehabilitation Club, organized in 1967. I am their outside sponsor and have worked with them for 5 years. I am happy to be a part of them.

Our brothers behind the wall at Reidsville need our help. We on the outside can help them very much. How can we help someone who is locked up? Well, if you are concerned enough, there are ways to help. First, I would ask you to join me in my prayers for them. Second, you could communicate with them. Third, you could go to the Pardons and Parole Board and speak a kind word in their behalf, because after all, they are someone's sons or daughters.

We should not be so narrow minded and quick to judge. We must remember, just because they are charged that doesn't mean they are guilty of the charge. So let us give our hearts and minds and say, "That could be MY child." If you would like to know more, call me at 525-5893.

Yours in the Struggle  
for Freedom and Justice,

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

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# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IV, NO. 4

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

APRIL, 1974

HELP US OUT! WE NEED NEW READERS FOR THE PAPER

How much do you like the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER?

That's where YOU come in.

Do you like it well enough to help us out?

You can help us get those new readers.

We want new subscribers. We'd like to reach new readers. We want to tell more people how to make "the system" work for them.

Tell your friends about us. Talk us up. Tell people what the paper means to you. Tell them to get in touch with us about a subscription.

We can mail the paper anywhere. And you know it's FREE.

ANOTHER WAY TO GET TO REIDSVILLE

Get your friends to call us at 523-2856 or write us at 1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30315.

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We have just recently learned that the Department of Offender Rehabilitation is now sponsoring bus trips to Reidsville once a month for Welfare and SSI recipients.

PLAZA RIP-OFF

The trips are free. If you have a relative at Reidsville and would like to go down to see him, call Ms. Patterson at 656-3998 to make a reservation. The next trip goes on April 13. The bus will leave from the Sears store at 868 York St. in West End.

If you have been ripped off because you paid your utility bills at the Plaza and the Plaza went out of business, call us at 523-2856 or the Washington Street Legal Aid Office at 524-2681. Legal action may be possible.

Emmaus House also continues its monthly trips to Reidsville. Call 525-5948 or 523-3256 to find out when that bus is going and to make your reservation.

Medicaid Drugs

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CERTAIN FREE MEDICINES

Many people on Medicaid STILL do not get their medicines free as they are supposed to. Medicaid will not pay for things like aspirin or vitamins but it is supposed to pay for your prescription drugs.

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Getting your Surplus Food has become a real hassle recently. It looks now as though there will still be a food program until July 1. If you used to get the surplus food and would like to be recertified to get it as long as it lasts, call us at 523-2856. We can tell you how to get your bills and papers together to prove you are eligible for the food.

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PRO AUXILIARY OFF TO A GOOD START

The Poverty Rights Office Auxiliary has had several meetings and is already hard at work helping poor people make the system work for them. The people in the auxiliary are providing a valuable service by taking the resources of our office into their own communities and by telling us the kinds of problems we need to be working on. If you would like to help by being a part of the auxiliary, please call the office at 523-2856.

Usually the druggist refuses to give a patient his prescription for free because the doctor has prescribed a drug by a brand name that is not included on the Medicaid list. Often the doctor could prescribe the very same drug by the brand name that is on the Medicaid list.

If you are having trouble getting your prescriptions filled for free ask your doctor to check the Medicaid list and see if he could prescribe the drug by the brand name on the list.

If he says you must have the drug that he prescribes, which is not now on the list, ask him to write Dr. Dixon Lackey, P.O. Box 38095, Atlanta, Ga. 30337.

Dr. Lackey can either authorize your druggist to fill that prescription for you, or he can add your drug to the Medicaid list.

So many doctors do not seem to know that many people on Medicaid cannot get their medicine for free.

We will call your doctor and explain how he can help you, if you do not wish to call yourself. Our number is 523-2856 and we are open Monday through Friday from 10:00 to 3:00.

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE IN FULTON COUNTY

If you live in Fulton County, limited emergency financial assistance may be available when you are temporarily disabled to work. To qualify for this aid you must be a resident of Fulton County for at least six months and must have a disability that prevents you from working for a period

FREEDOM CENTER TO BUILD

For the last three years the Mechanicsville Freedom Center has been operating on Ira Street. It fulfils many community needs: for economic education, for social services, for referrals, for understanding and respectful treatment, for recreation, for relief from loneliness and despair, for religious values.

Now they badly need a new and better building to continue their work. They need help--a donation or a pledge no matter how small. They also could use contributions of clothing or household goods to sell in their Thrift Shop.

We all share the same goals--a better deal for low income people. The POOR PEOPLE'S PAPER wishes the Freedom Center all success and urges whoever can to help in the building fund. You can contact the Director, Ms. Toomer at 524-7852, at 650 Ira Street, S.W. Atlanta, Ga. 30312.

of less than a year. To apply for this assistance, go to the nearest welfare office and tell the office that you are applying for General Assistance.

In most cases the welfare office will send a person applying for General Assistance to Social Security to find out whether or not he is eligible for SSI. When the SSI determines that a person is not eligible because his disability is not permanent, he should then take the SSI refusal form back to the welfare office. If medical evidence is needed to prove a disability, the welfare will ask for this evidence. For a person who has been treated at Grady, this is no problem as the welfare will send for the Grady records. However, if a person has been treated by a private doctor, he must then secure the necessary proof from the private physician.

General Assistance also grants funds to women who are residents of Fulton County and are at least seven months pregnant, but again medical evidence is necessary.

General Assistance Aid is also available in DeKalb County, but the regulations are slightly different. If you live in DeKalb County and need emergency help or if you have questions about the Fulton County system, call our office at 523-2856 and we will try to help. also Clayton City

*does not seem to be valid anymore*



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 \*LOOK FOR MS. MATHEWS MONTHLY \*  
 \*COLUMN ON PAGE 2. \*  
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LET THE MAYOR KNOW HOUSING IS  
 A PROBLEM

There is a housing crisis in Atlanta. Despite waiting lists of up to 3 years for existing projects the Atlanta Housing Authority is not building new housing for poor people nor are private builders. Because of this situation landlords are taking advantage of tenants.

Many people are paying too much rent for run-down houses and apartments. Needed repairs are not being made. Too often, when the government steps in, it is to simply tear down inadequate houses. Nothing is done to provide new housing for people thrown out by government action.

Mayor Maynard Jackson has promised to do something about the housing crisis in Atlanta. He, however, needs to know that these problems are critical now. Let your voice be heard. Go to the top. Tell Maynard Jackson what you think. Sit down and write him about your problems. If you want further help or information on contacting the Mayor call us at 523-2856.

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# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IV, NO. 5

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

MAY 1974

## NEW RULES ON SURPLUS FOOD CAN HELP MANY

Once more poor people were messed up by red tape. A lot of people on SSI could not get surplus food in January, February and March because of an outdated regulation that was incorrect. Emmaus House found out that new rules had been set up that allowed almost all people on SSI to continue on the surplus food program. The food office, however, had just ignored these rules because they had not received instructions or guidelines.

These are the new rules:

1. If you are on SSI and live alone you are eligible.
2. If you get SSI plus another check like a VA pension or social security check and live alone you are eligible.
3. If you get SSI and are in a family where everyone else gets either SSI or AFDC the whole family is eligible.

If you fall into any of the above categories the only proof you need to be certified is your medicaid card stub.

If you get SSI but are living with others who do not get either AFDC or SSI you may be eligible but you must produce lots of bills and receipts. To find out how to do this call the food office at 755-6124 or the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

If you still got your food in March but were supposed to be recertified you should get a new card in the mail. If you were cut off in January or February you must go to the recertification office at the warehouse with your medicaid card.

Call our office at 523-2856 if you have any questions about surplus food.

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 \*RIPPED OFF BY PLAZA? \*  
 \* \* \*  
 \*Keep in touch with the utilities \*  
 \*companies and with the Poverty \*  
 \*Rights Office -- 523-2856. Legal \*  
 \*action is in progress. \*  
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A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM MS. MATHEWS

Hello my Sisters and Brothers in this great struggle for survival!

I am very happy to chat with you once again. First giving honor to God and thanking him for his blessings from day to day. My sisters and brothers, we have so much to be thankful for life hasn't been easy for us through these years. But there are some more peoples that life hasn't been easy for them also. In last month's article, I tried to tell you about some dedicated brothers that I was working with behind the wall at Georgia State prison at Reidsville, but it seems like you did not get the message too well.

So I am coming to you again in their behalf asking you for your prayers and your support for the Barons of Goodwill which is an organization organized by inmates who are dedicated mens incarcerated behind the wall. They need our help and we should be just as concerned about them, as much if not more as they was about Miss Eve Pearson. What about the other first offenders who was there before she got there and what about all the Eve Pearson mens that have been there for a long time? Black and poor peoples have been in jails and prisons for years and years and no one has been concerned enough to speak out and call a press conference for them, as I can

remember. But as soon as Miss Eve Pearson was charged for taking a rocking chair and sentenced to one year in jail, it was stated that she was young and a first offender. Yes, she was a first time offender but what about all of the other first time offenders? There was a lot of attention given to her and her case was well publicized to the public and the community.

If you are young or old and are accused of committing a crime, no matter how small it is, it is still a crime. There are a lot of black and poor peoples who are in jail and who are in prison because there was no justice given them. The innocent are in the jails and prisons while the crooks are walking the street and sitting in high places. Yes, we have elected public officials, but I have to ask this question: What do they care about what happens to their brothers and sisters who are incarcerated behind the wall?

We must not forget the other Eve Pearsons womens and the other Eve Pearsons men that was left behind and who has been left behind for a long time. Let us all come together and join in as one and show the forgotten brothers and sisters that we do care and that we are very much concerned about them and the best way we can help them is to let

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

the public and the world know that they are there and that they are somebody's sons and daughters.

Yours in the struggle for survival . . . Freedom and justice!

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

SCLC FREE FOOD

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference started a new program for poor people early in April. The more food costs go up the more poor people suffer. To try to help meet the need SCLC now provides a soup line at the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Action Center at the old Hunter Street Baptist Church, 775 Hunter Street, N.W.

Anyone from anywhere in the city is welcome to participate in the free lunches.

Besides this program, the Action Center will also include a "poor peoples clothing store" and a bonding company and an "eviction auxiliary" to help people who are "set out."

FOOD STAMPS ARE COMING

Starting in July, Fulton and Dekalb Counties will change from Surplus Food to Food Stamps.

People who now get Surplus Food are receiving letters setting up appointment dates to get certified for Food Stamps.

People who are not now getting Surplus Food will not get this appointment letter, though many low-income people will be able to get the stamps later.

In the Poor Peoples' Newspaper for June, we will try to tell you more details on this. For now, people who get the letter should try to keep the appointment. The letter tells you to take a lot of papers with you. Do take as many as you can. The more proof you have of the rent, utilities, doctors' bills, etc., the better deal you will get on the Stamps.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* The Poverty Rights Office is \*  
\* open to serve you -- 5 days a \*  
\* week. Call us at \*  
\* 523-2856 \*  
\* between 10 and 3, Monday \*  
\* through Friday. \*  
\* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in this struggle trying to survive:

First giving honor to God and thanking him for my life, it gives me great pleasure to come to you and to let you know what has been happening. So much has been happening until I don't know where to start. So I am going to start with the important ones to me and I know to you. We are still concerned and working with the prisoners' problems because they still need all the help we can give. You know about the integration at Reidsville State Prison and I imagine some of you have said that the prison problem has been solved. But the prison problems have not been solved. Integration does not solve mens and womens problems because they are human beings and have personal problems and it takes more than integration to solve that. As I have tried to get the message over to you in my last two other articles the Barons of Goodwill and the other sisters and brothers who are locked up behind the walls need our help very much. I am appealing to you in their behalf to stop thinking narrow minded about them and give them a chance to prove to you that they are loyal and dedicated mens who got caught up in a vicious cycle.

You know the first thing we will do when we hear of a man or woman in trouble we will judge him first but that is wrong. Who are we to judge one another. If the truth was told and justice was done just think for one second and

(Continued on page 3)

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# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IV, NO 6

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

JUNE, 1974

## FOOD STAMPS -- HOW TO APPLY

Food stamps will replace surplus food in Fulton and DeKalb Counties beginning July 1st.

Under the food stamp program, you will get food stamps which you can use for food at authorized grocery stores.

How much you pay for your stamps will depend on your income and the size of your family. If your income is very low, you will pay nothing or very little for the stamps. The number of coupons you are allowed will depend on the size of your family. You may use the stamps only for food and garden seeds and plants. You may not use stamps for cigarettes, beer, wine, cleaning supplies, and the like.

### Who should apply for food stamps?

You should apply for food stamps if:

- you work for low wages
- you work part-time
- you receive SSI checks

- you receive AFDC checks
- you are unemployed
- you get a small Social Security check or some kind of pension check.

### How and where should you apply?

If you are getting surplus food, you should have received a letter giving you an appointment time to go to apply at one of the certification offices. If you did not get a letter and live in Fulton County, you must wait until June

(Continued on page 2)

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### ATTENTION, MODEL CITIES RESIDENTS!

If you had to move in the last few years because the government took your house or condemned it, call us at 523-2856. It doesn't matter if you owned or rented. You may be eligible for some financial aid from the government, even now.

\*\*\*\*\*

FOOD STAMPS

(Continued from page 1)

1st to apply. DeKalb residents may apply now.

Beginning June 1st, go to one of the following offices if you live in Fulton County:

- NE - 800 Peachtree St., 4th floor
- NW - 1669 Bankhead Highway
- NW - JFK Community School  
225 Chestnut Street
- SW - 906 Gordon Street
- East Point - 1757 W. Washington

If you live in DeKalb County, go to:

430 McDonough Street

Office hours are 8:00 to 4:30. Go as early in the day as you can. The DeKalb office will accept applications now from people who do not receive surplus food. But they prefer that you wait until after July 1st.

When you go to one of these offices to apply for food stamps, bring with you these things:

1. Proof of all income of all those in your family (several pay slips, pension award letters, pay envelopes, etc.)
2. Rent receipts or house payment book.
3. Utility bills (gas, light, telephone, water).
4. Bank book or other papers that show savings.

If you are eligible for food stamps you will get an ATP

(authorization to purchase) card. Take this to a place that issues the stamps. These places have not been decided yet.

What if you think there are unnecessary delays in deciding your application? What if you aren't satisfied with the decision on your eligibility? Ask for a "fair hearing."

In next month's POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER, look for information on how to use your food stamps and some of the rules and regulations of the program.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Mechanicsville Freedom Center appreciates all the calls and donations received since the article in our paper in April. But if you have not been able to reach the Center, it is because we printed Ms. Toomers home phone number by mistake. Please call the Center itself at 523-3143.

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE BEAR WITH US . . . During summer vacations, we have a hard time keeping the office open every day. If you can't reach us one day, please try the next.

\*\*\*\*\*

When Welfare recipients and SSI recipients live together in the same household, the Welfare check should have gone up a little bit in the last few months. If you think your Welfare check should have gone up for this reason, call Poverty Rights at 523-2856 and we'll check it out for you.

\*\*\*\*\*

EOA PROGRAM FOR VIET NAM VETS

Veterans almost always have problems returning to civilian life. Viet Nam veterans have it worse. When they try to go back to school or get a job or a place to live, no one seems to want to help them. Every one is afraid the veteran might be a heroin addict.

Viet Nam was so bad many soldiers did turn to smack. Some vets have not been able to kick the habit by themselves, but it is not right for people to distrust all vets because a few have problems.

If you are a veteran and are having a hard time, or if you know someone who is, call EOA at 525-4262 and find out about their program. All the counselors are vets themselves and know how tough it was and still can be. They will help all they can, including help for men with "less than honorable discharges."

(Continued from page 4)

you would say to yourself that it could be me, my daughter, my son, my husband or my sweetheart or anyone in my family. But most of us have narrow minds and most of us don't think alike. So let's come together my sisters and brothers and fight the cause that not only hurt prisoners but also hurt us as well. We must remember that our sisters' and brothers' problems are our problems too.

We had a press conference at the capitol two weeks ago in behalf of the black Eve Pearson mens and womens that was forgotten. We all know if Eve Pearson had been black and uneducated she would have been in prison today. I am going to tell you about the saddest thing that I have ever seen. We went to Reidsville State Prison two weeks ago to visit the brothers there and after we left the prison we went over to the prison's cemetary and had a service there and placed red roses on all the graves. The service was good, but what we saw made our hearts bleed. There was hundreds of graves where prisoners had been buried and all we saw was markers over the graves with numbers on them and not a name to be seen and that was the hurting part. Men were lying there and the society claims that they did not know who they was.

So until next month I am yours in the struggle for justice for all.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Hello my Brothers and Sisters,  
who are in the struggle for survival,

I come to you at this time to chat with you for a few moments. First I must give thanks to God, who is the head of my life because I have so much to thank him for. And I know that you all have lots to thank God for, too.

Since I last chatted with you, I lost my mother. It was the greatest loss I ever had. She passed on May 26th, which was a Sunday morning. With God's help and with friends like you, I am making out very well, but I miss my mother very much.

Although she is gone, I know that she would want me to stay in the struggle with my peoples. So with God's help and my faith in God, that is what I am going to do . . . stay in this struggle and fight for all of my peoples until justice is did for all of us. We can make it happen at the ballot boxes!

Before I sign off, I want to thank all of you, my friends, for your prayers, your calls, your cards, your flowers and your support. So until next time, I am yours in the struggle.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

\*\*\*\*\*  
If you live in Model Cities and had to move in the last few years because the government took your house or condemned it, cali us at 523-2856. It doesn't matter if you owned or rented. You may be eligible for some financial aid from the government.  
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# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IV, NO. 7

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

JULY, 1974

## HOW TO BUY AND USE YOUR FOOD STAMPS

Buying your stamps. You will be able to buy stamps at least twice a month. You do NOT have to buy all of your stamps. You may buy three-fourths, one-half, or one-fourth of your allotment. But if you don't buy all of your allotment of stamps one month, you cannot get the rest of that month's stamps another month.

Stamps are for food. At most grocery stores, food stamps can only be used to buy food. Stamps cannot be used for alcohol, tobacco, pet food, soap, paper goods, or other non-food items. Stamps can be used to buy home-delivered meals like Meals-on-Wheels and group meals for the elderly.

Take care of your stamps. When you get your stamps, be sure to count them.

Sign each book right away. This will help you replace a book if you lose one. If you do lose a book, notify the food stamp office right away.

Do not tear your stamps out before you go to the store. Your grocer cannot take loose \$2.00 or \$5.00 coupons. He can only take loose 50¢ coupons.

Getting change from your stamps. You will not get cash for change from your stamps. You may either get change in 50¢ food stamps or the grocer may give you a due bill showing how much he owes you.

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\*  
\* PEOPLE ON SSI WILL GET FOOD STAMPS IN JULY \*  
\*  
\* Even if you got a letter saying you are not eligible for Food \*  
\* Stamps because you receive a check from SSI, YOU STILL CAN GET \*  
\* FOOD STAMPS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY! Disregard the letter and go \*  
\* after your Food Stamps. If you run into difficulty call us, \*  
\* 523-2856. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## FOOD STAMPS

ID card. When you go to the store, take your food stamp identification card. Anyone can shop for you with your signed ID card.

Report changes right away. Be sure to report the following changes to your food stamp office: 1. a change in address. 2. a change in your income. 3. a change in the number living with you. 4. any special hardships happening to you.

## TENANTS GET JUSTICE

Over two years ago thirteen tenants at Sugar Hill in Peopletown filed a law suit. These residents accused the Atlanta Housing Authority and Model Cities of refusing to pay them the \$4,000 each which they were owed because government action forced them to move.

After a long struggle they have won their law suit. Everybody who has been moved out of Sugar Hill and many others who have been moved out of the Model Cities area will receive the \$4,000 grants. The 13 Sugar Hill tenants had to pay for all of this though, and it has cost each one of them \$1,300 apiece in legal fees. It takes people like these fine community leaders, who are willing to make sacrifices to improve things and get justice.

In August each year there is no issue of The Poor People's Paper. The Poverty Rights Office is also closed the last two weeks in August. In September we will be back on the job trying to help you get your rights.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!!!!

The Poor People's Newspaper is four years old this month! Many people thought we couldn't keep going and growing . . . but we have. You, our readers, have done your share to help us grow all along, so we congratulate you too for our success.

Below is what we wrote in the first Poor People's Newspaper. We repeat it now because it's just as important today as it was four years ago.

BE PROUD! Be proud even if you are poor. Don't be satisfied to receive \$87 welfare check or \$8 a day for day work. Don't be satisfied to let rich folks make decisions for you.

RIGHTS OF POOR PEOPLE. All of us-- poor or rich, sick or old, black or white, working or on welfare-- should have the same rights. Here are rights all of us should have:

1. WE HAVE A RIGHT TO A DECENT JOB WHERE WE WILL BE TREATED WITH RESPECT.
2. WE HAVE A RIGHT TO RECEIVE WELFARE IF WE CANNOT WORK BECAUSE WE ARE SICK OR TOO OLD OR BECAUSE WE HAVE CHILDREN TO CARE FOR.
3. WE HAVE A RIGHT TO A DECENT HOUSE, FOOD AND CLOTHES FOR OUR FAMILY AND A GOOD EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.
4. WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE TREATED WITH JUSTICE, DIGNITY AND RESPECT.
5. WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS FOR OURSELVES.

## WELFARE RULES CHANGE

Now that "Welfare" is only for families with young children, many changes are happening in the rules and regulations. The POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER does not like most of the changes so far. Mostly Welfare parents are having their rights cut down.

Now you can only officially apply for Welfare in writing. Your application is not begun until you sign the forms. Before you could telephone in your application and sign it later.

Before, Welfare had to tell you in less than 30 days whether or not you would get a check. Now they don't have to tell you or send you the first check before 45 days!

Before, the Welfare had to ask your permission before they could contact your employer about you when you applied for Welfare, now they can ask anyone about your business without asking your permission.

Before, the Welfare had to give you 15 days notice before changing the amount on your check. Now they only give you 10 days from the day they mailed you your letter telling you about the change. This means that now you only have 10 days to ask for a hearing if your caseworker changes your check!

(One good thing now -- the caseworker must explain clearly in her letter why she is changing your check. She must also tell you the rule she is using to do it. If you know the reason why and the rule, it will be easier to fight back if you don't like the change.)

The POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE and the POOR PEOPLE'S PAPER feel the whole Child Support Recovery Unit reduces Welfare Mothers' rights.

Little things also deprive Welfare recipients of their rights. Different Welfare offices figure "Work expenses" differently, and that can hurt a working mother. Many caseworkers still do not explain your right to a Fair Hearing, to prompt action on your case, and your right to spend your money exactly as you see fit.

The Georgia State Welfare Manual says in Section I-100, "The county department shall act in a manner which respects the dignity and integrity of every individual." The Welfare rules and the caseworkers often seem to go against this statement. National Welfare Rights, Poverty Rights, and all poor people everywhere all need to fight the U.S.A. and the state of Georgia and make them obey their own statements and rules.

I am not telling you not to vote, but I am saying vote for someone that is going to do something for us poor peoples. We want to remember the commissioners' race. The ones we already have have been there too long. There is not a black man on their board. I think it is time for a black man and a black woman to have a seat on the board. So let's get together and sweep the old slate clean and put someone in there who will give us enough food stamps to live on from month to month. The Food Stamp program we have now is not working for any of us. I think that every family should be treated alike, but if you don't have a house full of children and you are a one-person family they discriminate against you.

I am yours for Peace - Freedom - Survival. I live in the struggle,

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

**YOUR INSURANCE AND THE SSI**  
When people apply for Welfare or for the SSI program, they are often asked how much their insurance policy is worth. This is usually a silly question. Very few poor people have too much insurance to qualify for SSI or Welfare. Unless the face value of your policy is very large, the paid-up cash value of your policy will be less than \$1,500. It is the paid-up cash value that counts, not the face value, when you apply for SSI or Welfare. Don't let them tell you you have too much insurance. Telephone your insurance company and they'll tell you what the cash value is

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# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IV, NO. 8 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315 SEPT. 1974

## FOOD STAMP PROGRAM HAS PROBLEMS

Fulton and Dekalb Counties have had a food stamp program now for a month. Some people are getting along fine - others are not happy with the change.

Too many people still do not have their food stamps! There are long delays between applying and getting the two cards you need to go buy the stamps. We feel any delay longer than 30 days is illegal. A lawyer from Legal Aid is working on the case now.

People also don't like it that grocers don't give change to you. They fill out a form so you must come back to the same store to spend the rest.

We all are angry that now in Fulton County, you have only 2 places where you can apply for stamps. You can only go to 800 Peachtree or to Washington Street in East Point to apply. That is too far for many people. At least now, though, you do not have to go all the way to the Old Farmers Market to buy your stamps. Now you can go to any post office on

the list below to buy your stamps:

1. 1087 Euclid Avenue, N.E.
2. 1900 Piedmont, N.E.
3. 848 Oglethorpe Ave., S.W.
4. 2414 Herring Rd., S.W.
5. 486 Decatur St., S.E.
6. 50 Sunset Ave., N.W.
7. 1590 Jonesboro Rd., S.E.
8. 967 Brady Ave., N.W.

Food stamps are no picnic but they do save you money. We need to fight the hassle together. Maybe we can make the program work better if we all work at it. If you don't like the food stamp system, complain and carry on about it but don't give up.

We need a good food program. We don't have one now. Let's fight for a good one.

Don't forget to vote  
\*\*\*\*\*

Plan to vote in this year's general election. Poor people do have a voice through the ballot.  
\*\*\*\*\*

WORKING WELFARE PARENTS HAVE COMPLEX "BUDGET"

Nowadays most welfare mothers work. That's a good thing-you can't live on what the welfare gives you. But when you work, your welfare "budget" (the amount of your check after deductions) is much more complicated than when you stay home.

Here are some do's and don'ts for working welfare parents. These do's and don'ts can save you money and trouble.

Do tell your caseworker about your "work expenses" like lunch costs, transportation costs, child-care costs, uniform costs and union dues. Mandatory deductions, like what they take out for Social Security, federal and state taxes, compulsory insurance also count for you when your caseworker "works your budget"

Do tell your caseworker when either your paycheck goes up and stays up or when your "work expenses" go up or down.

Don't wait more than 30 days after you earn more or less to tell your caseworker.

Do take several paychecks to your caseworker when you have an appointment with her. There is now a computer that your caseworker can use to check up on the accuracy of your statements about your income. If your records and

her computer don't come out the same, she can start yelling "Fraud!" That can hurt!

Do know what is on the papers your caseworker asks you to sign.

Do get your caseworker to explain her decision about how much your check is.

Do call us at 523-2856 if you are not satisfied with your "budget". When you call us, have some pay-checks handy so we can "work a budget" and double check on your caseworker.

Do remember your check is based on the welfare's maximum grants - not on what you really need. No family, whether the parent works or not gets more than \$199 from the welfare, no matter how many kids there are.

The welfare maximum grants are \$85 for a mother and one child, \$123 for a mother and two children, \$161 for a mother and three children, and \$199 for a mother and four or more kids.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* If you move call 523-2856 and \*  
\* let us know your new address. \*  
\* That way you will not miss \*  
\* any issues of the Poor \*  
\* People's Paper. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

HELLO, My friends in the struggle for survival,

It gives me great pleasure to chat with you once more, first giving honor to God, for He is the head of my life, and my brothers and sisters, we all have so much to thank Him for. We must always remember that prayer is the answer to all our problems -- and you know, we all have plenty of problems.

The whole United States have problems. Our government have become so corrupt until we can't depend on it any more. Our president has become so corrupt until he faced facts and walked out the White House door and never returned.

But we who are poor must stand together and keep on fighting for our rights and what we are entitled to. We, as poor people, have the right to the pursuit of happiness just like the rich people, but we must come out of our shell and stand together and quit fighting and scratching at one another's throats. That's not where it's at!

We have to forget our differences we have with each other. We have to deal with the so-called Power structure and the top men in the city government and let them know if it was not for poor peoples, they would not be where they are today.

But we must keep in mind that we can't deal with the man unless we have a

plan. It is no need to rap, unless we have a map! If we are to survive we must plan our strategies for survival.

Inflation has gotten out of hand. As poor people we don't have to apologize for that. It is the system and government's fault. They are the ones that handle all of the money and sit down behind closed doors and determine how much it takes for us to live from month to month, and that is not fair. The system ought to stop looking and peoples color and start looking at their needs. Their motto is, poor peoples don't need help, so we will save the monies for our selfish, greedy greed. We who are able to work have a right to a job and an adequate wage. We who are unable to work have the same right to an adequate income. Put them both together, they are poor peoples' rights.

It would be great if all the churches and the federal programs would do their responsibilities. I don't have to point out what they should do because I am quite sure all of them know what they should do.

We all know this is a political year, and we are being promised many things, but I want to remind my brothers and sisters not to be deceived by these sharp-tongued politicians. They come to us every four years and say what they will do for us and when they get in office, we don't see them for another four years.



MS. MATHEWS CONTINUED

poor mens who has been in prisons for years just for stealing a loaf of bread or was charged with a crime that they did not commit? I want to ask all of you a question. Haven't they been punished enough also? Think about justice and who it works for. So until next month, I am yours in the struggle for peace freedom and justice for all.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

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ATTENTION, MODEL CITIES RESIDENTS!

If you had to move in the last few years because the government took your house or condemned it, call us at 523-2856. It doesn't matter if you owned or rented. You may be eligible for some financial aid from the government, even now.

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\*  
\* Spread the word about the  
\* Poor People's Newspaper.  
\* The more people who read  
\* it, the more people there  
\* are to help fight for  
\* Poor People's Rights.  
\*

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DON't FORGET TO VOTE IN THE  
GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER

5th

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# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IV, NO. 9

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

OCT. 1974

IT IS POSSIBLE TO BEAT THE ATLANTA HOUSING AUTHORITY

Ms. Sylvia Finch, staff member at the Poverty Rights Office who lives in Carver Homes, took the Atlanta Housing Authority to Court and won. Despite her constant complaints to the management, Carver Homes failed to make needed repairs on her apartment. Management had never painted her apartment or provided screens for the upstairs windows or the back door. For months they had failed to fix a broken window or a leaky refrigerator. Even though the manager failed to make these repairs, illegally he continued to charge Ms. Finch too much rent.

When, despite the fact that she had paid up all of her rent the Housing Authority issued her an eviction warrant, Ms. Finch went to the Legal Aid and with their help sued the Housing Authority. She won her case. The Court ordered the Housing Authority to lower her rent and pay back the amount that she had been overcharged. In addition,

Carver Homes must make the needed repairs on her apartment within ten days.

Some people think the Housing Authority is too big to fight. But sometimes they can be made to obey the law if people will stand up for their rights.

REIDSVILLE TRIPS RESUME

Monthly bus trips from Emmaus House so relatives can visit men in Reidsville State prison began again in September. If you want to go this month or next call 525-5948 and find out details on how to do it. You have to make reservations in advance, but most people who go think it's worth it.

If you can't go with Emmaus House, there are some other ways to get there. Call the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856) for information.

Many people who could get Food Stamps have not yet been certified for them. Some people have already applied and have not yet received their cards. Many people have not even applied. The waits at the offices have been so long, you have to bring too many papers, the hassle just hasn't been worth it.

Now, if you want to apply for Food Stamps, you can go to your local EOA Center. The EOA people can fill out your forms and get you an appointment for a specific time at your Food Stamp Office. This should help cut down the time you have to waste to get certified for Stamps.

You need to take your papers to the EOA so they can fill out the forms. They need your rent receipt, utility bills, medical receipts, medicaid card, and a way to prove how much income you have.

When you get an appointment, do try to keep it. The Welfare doesn't really like this system and would not be sorry if it didn't work because people didn't keep their appointments. We all want any system to work so people who want them, get the Food Stamps the law says they have a right to!

We need more readers! Get your friends to call 523-2856 for their own Poor People's Newspaper.

The Poor People's Newspaper is really embarrassed. We may have messed you up and we are sorry. Our whole purpose is to give poor people the facts, about welfare, SSI, Food Stamps, etc.

In the September paper we gave you wrong information about maximum welfare grants. We just didn't read the charts right. These are the correct maximum welfare grants:

1 person in the grant . . .	\$ 47
2 persons in the grant . .	\$ 85
3 persons in the grant . .	\$123
4 persons in the grant . .	\$160
5 persons in the grant . .	\$183
6 persons in the grant . .	\$198
More than 6	\$199

We just made a careless mistake and WE ARE VERY SORRY.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hard times hurt. Read the Poor People's Newspaper and help us fight to ease the pain. Do you belong to a church or organization that would like to have copies of the Poor People's Newspaper to distribute - if so call 523-2856 and we will try to get some to you.

\*\*\*\*\*

My Sisters and Brothers in this great struggle to survive, I come to say hello and chat a moment. First, I give thanks to God for his love and His blessing and for my faith in these trying times.

1974 has been a rough year for me, but God puts no more on us than we can bear, so we must keep on marching until we reach our goal. I know we all get oppressed and we feel like throwing up our hands and quitting-but I say to you, things ain't what they should be, but all of us can say they are not what they uster be.

We still have a long way to go. We still have to fight together for justice and freedom. The rich fat cats downtown think we don't have any rights, but I can assure you, we have all the rights they have, if we would only wake up and use our mindpower.

Every four years we go to the polls and sell our Sisters and Brothers out for a few measly dollars. The black man and the white man know that some of us will play tricks with one another and sell out one another to the highest bidder-but it it wrong to do if we really want to do something. Why don't we go downtown and make the Food Stamp program work? The food stamp program is a rip-off, but it don't hafta be that way. Some of us will sit back and wait for someone to do for us what we could do

for ourselves. But no one will do it for us. We are so quick to say, "we can't", until we never say, "we can!"

We who are oppressed are the ones that suffer. We suffer from being misjudged. We suffer from being discriminated against. We suffer from injustice. If we are poor we suffer from the law, but if you are rich you can get away with anything. I am sure all of you will say no man is above the law. If former President Nixon can be pardoned from all the evil and corrupt things that him and his co-workers did that brought shame and stunned the whole world, why cannot that apply to all men regardless of race, creed or color-regardless of what their charge might be.

They should pardon all. In some of our opinion Mr. Nixon is no different from any other man who is charged with a violation of the law and all mens regardless of race creed or color, regardless of what their charge might be they should be pardoned. Also in some of our opinion Mr. Nixon is no different from any other man who is charged with a violation of the law and should have been tried in the Courts and brought before the Jurors to be sentenced. Just because he was white and rich he go off scot-free. Just because some of his cronies who has done the same thing that he has done but did not get caught said he had been punished enough. But what about other black and

If you would like to come to our meeting just call 525-5948 before 6 P.M. any meeting nite and we will pick you up. Come and join with us. We need you and you need us. So until next month I am yours for justice - freedom - survival. I live in this struggle.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

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 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* Second-Class Postage \*  
 \* PAID \*  
 \* at Atlanta, Georgia \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

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Are you upset over slow payments?  
 Angry about the way the food stamps program is working?  
 Worried that your power might get cut off?

Call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856. We try to help. We believe poor people have rights. We want to help you get those rights.

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Nov '74

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER  
 Published monthly, except August by  
 EMMAUS HOUSE  
 1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W.  
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# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IV, No. 10

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

NOV. 1974

## SUGAR HILL GROUP WINS SETTLEMENT AGAINST A.H.A.

Do you sometimes think there's no way to "beat the system"?

A group of Sugar Hill people beat the system - in a big way. They filed a lawsuit against the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) and they won!

The 12 Sugar Hill people accused the AHA of not doing right by them. The AHA made them leave their apartments and didn't give them relocation money.

The judge in the case ordered AHA to pay the people the money they were due. The judge also said AHA had to

- \*inform people of their rights if they are forced to relocate,
- \*help them relocate, and
- \*give them relocation aid (4,000 for each tenant who has rented an apartment for three months or more and up to \$15,000 plus the fair market value of a house for an owner).

This ruling applies to all people who were relocated in the Model

Cities area since 1971. It may also apply to other areas in the city.

There are at least 500 people who are eligible for the 4,000 relocation aid. The AHA is supposed to find these people. But it may not try very hard. If you were forced to move after 1971, and didn't get relocation money, let us know. Call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856. Make the AHA live up to its responsibility.

And congratulations to the Sugar Hill people who took the AHA to court - and won. Their action will help all poor people.

### MOVING ON?

Planning to move? Want to keep getting the Poor Peoples Newspaper? Just give us a call at 523-2856. Give us your old and new address. The Post Office can't forward the paper, so we need your right address.

- Everyone who gets a check from the Welfare has a right to a fair hearing if:

1. "his claim for financial or medical assistance is denied"
2. "or is not acted upon with reasonable promptness"
3. he "is aggrieved by any agency action resulting in suspension, reduction, discontinuance or termination of assistance."

These are the exact words in the Welfare Manual, Section V, Page 1, V-100. They mean that you have a right to complain and get a hearing if the Welfare doesn't do right.

Many people think that when Welfare denies them something, they can't have it. They don't know they can ask for a hearing. More people don't know that if their case is decided against them they can carry it to a higher level. They can ask for a review by a Hearing Officer for Final Appeals.

Do you know that your caseworker must not try to stop you from having a hearing? Do you know that you (and your Lawyer) have the right to see your case file and all your records before the Hearing?

You cannot have a hearing if the Welfare should change its policy for everyone equally. For example, since everyone now has to get child support through the Child Support Recovery Unit, you can't have a hearing just because you

don't like the new system. You can have a hearing though, if you are getting less total income each month than you were before because the Unit has made mistakes.

You must ask the caseworker for a hearing within 10 days of getting a letter telling you your check will be cut or you have been denied. Then you must make a request for a hearing in writing within the next 15 days.

Many people don't know you can have other Hearings besides Welfare. You can have a "Reconsideration" and a Hearing if you think the SSI is wrong about your case or it has been denied you. You can have a Hearing if you think the Food Stamp Program isn't treating you right. If you have applied for food stamps during the summer and you have heard nothing, call your food stamp worker and ask the reasons. If you are not satisfied with the answer or there is a problem, ask for a Hearing. Your request for a Hearing should be accepted over the phone, but it is better to go to your food stamp office and sign a "Hearing Request Form".

You really should have legal help whenever you have a Hearing. The Legal Aid Society will provide you with a lawyer, for free.

People win some Hearings and lose some Hearings, BUT if you don't ask for a Hearing, you lose automatically.

Call us at 523-2856 if you need more information and we'll help you if we can.

My Sisters and Brothers,

I come to you once again to say hello and to speak with you for a few moments. First giving honor to God and I am thanking him for another day because he has brought me from a mighty long way. My Sisters and Brothers I think that we all have something to thank God for in these trying times. If it were not for him where would we be? If we ever needed to come together we sure need to come together now. As poor peoples we have the power and the voice to stand together and say how things should be done. You know some of us will sit back and wait on someone else to do what we should be doing for ourselves. We could help, but we rather sit back and criticize one another. How much more are we willing to take? How much longer are we going to sit back and let the fat cats downtown plan our lives for us? We can't depend on our politicians any more. All they want from us is our votes every four years. Then we put them back in office and don't see them until the next four years. I think this election for 1974 was the most corrupt election that we have had in a long time, but we can still have a voice in who we want to represent us if we would go back to the polls November 5 and vote for the person who will work with us. We do have a voice at the ballot box. So let us come together and use any power.

Let us stand tall and make our voices be heard. We can do it if we stop ripping each other off.

We must do something about inflation. It is pinning us to the wall and it seems like our city fathers don't seem to care as long as it is us and not them. The middle class and the rich they think that they can do anything and get away with it. The city are asking for more taxes. Why shouldn't they?

The poor will be the ones paying it anyway. Rich Peoples do not pay taxes. I am appealing to all AFDC mothers to come and join hands with us and help us fight this unjust cause. If you don't know your rights they won't do you any good. If you are on welfare you have a right. If you are on SSI you have a right. If you are on Social Security you also have a right. So lets stop fighting each other and put all of our rights together and make them work. Come out and join the Welfare Rights Organization and learn your rights. We need peoples who is willing to work. We need peoples who are willing to sacrifice something. We need peoples who are willing to help them that can't help themselves. We have a meeting twice a month, every second Wednesday nite and every fourth Wednesday nite at 1017 Capitol Avenue, SW at 8 P.M.

(Continued on next page)

(MS. MATHEWS (cont.))

I know that we hafta have the law of the land, but why can't it work for anyone regardless of race, creed or color. If you are black or poor, the law do not work for you, but if you are rich and white, the law will work for you.

You know it is sad how our husbands, sons, brothers, sweet-hearts are getting killed at Reidsville State Prison. Is it fair for a guard to take a man's life just because he stands up for himself?

So until next time, I am yours in the struggle. I live in the struggle. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

May God Bless You,  
Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

ATTENTION: MODEL CITIES PEOPLE!

If you have had to move since January 1971 because the government took your house or condemned it, call us at 523-2856. It doesn't matter if you owned or rented. You may be eligible for some money from the government even now.

December 1974

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# POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IV, NO. 11

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

DEC. 1974

## WELFARE IGNORES THEIR OWN RULES

The Welfare is at it again!  
Once again, the Welfare is not giving poor people their rights.

At the Poverty Rights Office, we get lots of calls from poor people who complain about the long time it takes to get welfare checks.

AFDC mothers don't get their checks for a long, long time after they apply. People who lose their jobs have a hard time getting increases in the checks that they are entitled to.

So what happens while the Welfare is taking its own sweet time processing checks? Children go without food, rent doesn't get paid, gas and electricity gets cut off -- that's what happens.

Worst of all, the Welfare has no right to take the time it does! Their own regulations say there must be no more than "45 days from the date of application to the receipt of the first

check" of a person eligible for AFDC. Changes in the amount of a check also must be made promptly.

Caseworkers violate this rule all the time. What can you do about it? If you are applying for AFDC or a change in the amount of your check, insist you get your check within 45 days. Call your caseworker and keep on calling until something is done.

If you still feel you are being treated unfairly, you may ask for a hearing. You may also call the Poverty Rights Office:

523-2856

We may be able to help you get what is your right to have.

Stand up for your rights and make the Welfare do what it is supposed to do.

MEDICAID WILL PAY FOR PRESCRIPTIONS!

Many people still have trouble getting their prescription medicines for free with their Medicaid card.

On November 1, 200 more drugs were added to the Medicaid Drug List. We hope that this will help a lot.

If Medicaid wouldn't pay for your medicine last month, maybe it will now if you try again.

If Medicaid still won't pay, your doctor should write a letter to:

Mr. Gilbert Buice  
Medicaid  
Dept. of Human Resources  
618 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE  
Atlanta, Ga. 30308

This letter should request that Medicaid pay for your prescription. The letter needs to include this information:

- your name and Medicaid number
- a brief description of your sickness
- the name of the drug you need
- the name of the drugstore where you will buy it.

Mr. Buice can then authorize Medicaid to pay for your medicine once he has this letter.

(Remember though, Medicaid will never pay for a medicine unless your doctor writes a prescription for it.)

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If you want to go somewhere by bus and don't know which bus to take, you can call the Marta number 522-4711. If you tell them where you are now and where you want to go, they can tell you just which bus (or buses) to take.

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NEW WELFARE OFFICE FOR MODEL CITIES RESIDENTS

On November 1, the Welfare opened a new office for residents of Model Cities. If you live in the Model Cities area and need to go to the Welfare Office, from now on go to the Dunbar Center, Room 301, 477 Windsor St. SW (near Ira St.). The telephone there is 523-7261.

People from Carver Homes and Betmar will also go to the Dunbar Center. Their Welfare office is in Room 205. Telephone: 523-8591.

The Food Stamps Office for both Model Cities people and residents of Carver Homes and Betmar is Dunbar Center, Room 301, Telephone 523-8591.

Every time a Welfare office changes it's difficult for people at first. This ought to be better for many people than the long trip over to West End though.

MANY PEOPLE STILL NOT GETTING THE SSI CHECK AND FOOD STAMPS

You may be losing many benefits from SSI and Food Stamps!

Workers from Emmaus House have found many community people who were eligible for SSI and Food Stamps -- but didn't know they were. We think there are many more people who could get SSI checks and Food Stamps.

Are you one of these people? Do you think one of your neighbors might be? How can you find out?

Check old issues of the Poor Peoples Newspaper for eligibility requirements. Or call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856. We want to help people get what they deserve.

NEW FOOD STAMPS OFFICE IN N. W.

Now there is a new office in Northwest Atlanta where you can go buy Food Stamps. The address is 2058 Bankhead Highway. It will be open only the first seven working days of each month at first. Then as more people come in it will begin to stay open longer.

Bus service is pretty good to this office, so it should be more convenient now for people who live in Perry or Bowen Homes or Bankhead Courts.

MS. MATHEWS SPEAKS

My Co-workers and Freedom Fighters,

I take time out to say hello to you and to chat with you for a few moments. First I give thanks to God for his love and his guidance that he has given me when I could not see my way out. The old year is coming to an end and the new year will soon be here and there are many problems that we will hafta face.

Down through the years we have worked hard to gain our rights. Justice for all. Dignity and self-respect. Democracy.

We have work hard for better housing to live in, more money to buy food to eat. Better health facilities and better day care centers. More jobs and better jobs for those who are able to work.

We have come a long way and we still have a long way to go. We must keep our faith. Come together. Stand tall. Stay strong. With God's help we will make it. We can't stop fighting for the rights of others. There are lots of people who need our help. They are womens-mens-boys and girls who have got caught up in a vicious vice for some reason for another.

(Continued on next page)