

HELP US FIND THESE PEOPLE!

Do you know any of the people listed below? They are due relocation money and Model Cities can't find them.

If you know where any of these people are (their last known address is listed), let us know. Call us at 523-2856 or tell the people to call us. We can help them get the money which belongs to them.

1. Charles Grier-1130 Capitol
2. Willie Jacobs-818 Cooper No.5
3. Louise Freeman-238 Dodd
4. Martha Barnett-256 Richardson St., No. 9
5. Banks-141 Georgia Ave., SW
6. Conwell-91 Bass St., SE
7. Jernigan-696 Capitol Ave. No.1
8. Rucker-967 McDaniel St. No. A
9. Robert Melton-1071 Primrose Cir., SW
10. J. Daniel-980 Linam Ave.
11. Clarence Reed-405 Grant Park Pl.
12. Kinsey - 1054 Primrose St.
13. Sheppard-925 Washington St.
14. Ethelyn Warner-636 Central Ave. SW
15. John Brown-925 Washington St.
16. Walter Williams-830 Smith St.
17. John Patrick-742 Pryor St.
18. Occie Pritchard-476 Martin St., SE
19. Alfonso Hill-29 Ormond St.
20. Delores Carter-82 Soloman St.,SE
21. Dennis-553 Connally St., SE
22. Ola Jordan-119 Crumbly St., SE
23. Barbara Willis-609 Martin St.,SE
24. Jesse Echols - No address

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER
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JANUARY 1975



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. V, NO. 1

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

JAN. 1975

SOUTHSIDE STARTS NEW FOOD PROGRAM FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES

Going hungry is hard for anyone. It is extra hard on babies, small children, and their mothers.

Southside Comprehensive Health Center is doing something to help. It has a new free food program called WIC Food Supplement Program.

WIC free foods include milk, eggs, cheese, infant formula, infant cereal, adult cereal, and juices.

You may qualify for this program if you:

- are pregnant now or are a breast-feeding mother
- have a baby who is being breast-fed or is on formula
- have a child or children under age 4, and
- live in the Southside area which includes: Thomasville Heights, Leilia Valley, Englewood, Pittsburg, Mechanicsville, Carver Homes, Grant Park, Joyland, South Atlanta, Betmarvella, Lakewood, Adair Park, Peoples-

town, Summerhill, and McDaniel-Glenn.

To register, go to the admissions office at Southside. Take with you:

1. Proof of residence in the area (such as a letter addressed to you), and
2. Proof of family income (such as a payroll check stub, Medicaid slip, Grady card).

To be part of the free food program you must agree to have a physical exam and to attend a one-hour class each month on good nutrition habits.

If you need more information about this program, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

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

GOLDEN AGE AGENCY HELPS MANY OLDER PEOPLE

The Golden Age Information and Referral Service offers help to senior citizens with many kinds of problems -- housing, financing, transportation, nursing homes and recreation.

The people at Golden Age can answer many questions and fill many needs that older people have, such as where to get proper medical care and what clubs and activities are available. For those who need to choose a nursing home there is a specialist to provide information about costs, services, location, and availability of beds. Golden Age can also answer questions about retirement homes and boarding houses. And they try to bring elderly people who live alone and want companionship together with those who need homes.

For answers to questions and help with problems that involve senior citizens, call the Golden Age Information and Referral Service, 874-1976.

This Service is free and is a community service project sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women.

AFDC WORKING MOTHERS who get Unemployment Compensation when they get laid off from work often lose their Welfare check, too. If that happens, call us at 523-2856 right away. If there has been a mistake, you can have a hearing. Often there is no mistake. Then all you can do is reapply for welfare at least a month before the unemployment runs out. It takes a long time to get back on the Welfare so reapply early!

BANKS OFFER NEW SERVICE

Several banks in Atlanta are now advertizing in the daily paper that you can have your pension check -- Social Security, Veterans, SSI -- sent directly to the bank instead of coming to your home. That way you wouldn't have to worry about it getting lost or stolen. The first of the month you would just go to the bank for your money instead of going somewhere to get your check cashed.

Some people like banks and some don't, but if it sounds good to you, go to your nearest bank and see how it works. You'll have to fill out some papers, and you'll have to leave a little in your account, but it might be a better deal for you than what you're doing now to get your check cashed.

To my Fellow co-workers I bring you greetings for the New Year.

First giving thanks to God for all that he has done for me and for you, my co-workers and the work that we are doing. I thank God for his love and understanding and mother wit. I thank Him for my strength and knowledge to work for all poor peoples. I thank Him for letting me accept the things I cannot change.

1974 has been a rough year for me. It will always hold many memories -- but with God's help they will be beautiful memories. Out of all the tears, the burdens, the turmoil, the loneliness, the heavy load, it has given me a better insight and understanding. I must think about the future now. It holds many happy days for me.

I must also understand and think about the many problems that other peoples have in this so-called Free Society, in the outside world as well as on the inside -- those in hospitals, in nursing homes, in institutions, the Brothers and Sisters incarcerated behind the walls in different prisons. Then I realize that the most of us are struggling in some kind of way to overcome our many problems and burdens. No matter what they may be, we must still look to the hills where our help comes from.

This is a new year and time to start the ball rolling. The NWRO's goals for this year and the years to come are:

- adequate income for all
- decent jobs if you can work
- decent living for those who can't work
- a better health program
- free day care so mothers can work
- better housing, free from rats and roaches
- a better Food Stamp program
- \$6,500 a year to live a decent living as inflation goes up every day

The next goal is dignity and self-respect for all. Don't feel bad if you are receiving Welfare, SSI, or Social Security. You are not getting it for free. The days that you would work, you worked long and hard, so have self-respect!

Our next goal is prison reform for all inmates who are behind prison walls. We call on the Governor, the Mayor, ministers of all churches, all businessmen, all politicians -- the ones that went out and the ones that got our votes -- to join all concerned citizens, relatives, friends and loved ones in letting the prisoners know that we have not forgotten them. Who knows? Some of them could have been your sons and daughters -- after all, they are someones sons and daughters. They need help from all of us. So why not stop being narrow-minded and give them a helping hand. You see all of us is our brother's keeper.

Now we come to Justice and Democracy. We believe these form the critical agenda for this country.

Yours for Peace and Love and Freedom. I live in the struggle.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

MS. MATHEWS' LETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR, My Brothers and Sisters,

First giving thanks to God for bringing me down through 1974 until 1975. Out of all the hardships, still I have a lot to be thankful for, and I know you do, too.

We must go forward and not look back. We must keep fighting for our rights and what we are entitled to. We have no fight with each other, but we do have a fight with the so-called power structure and the top men in city government. We must let them know they work for us, and we pay their salaries. We can't deal with the man downtown unless we have a plan -- it is no need to rap without a map!

We don't have to apologize to no one for being poor. It is not our fault. When it comes to poor people, there is no justice! At this time all we hear is inflation and recession and times are pretty rough. Food has jumped sky high. Thousand and thousand of peoples are being laid off their jobs. No jobs, no money to buy the food that you need. So I ask, "Uncle Sam," what do you intend for us to do? Do you expect us

(Continued on p.3)

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. V, NO. 2

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

FEB, 1975

HOW TO APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

More and more people are being laid off the job. Many of these people can draw a check each week from Unemployment. But many people don't understand how it works and don't file a claim for it. Here is some information about Unemployment.

1. Who can apply for Unemployment?
Most people who have worked at all regularly in the last year are covered by unemployment compensation. Unless your employer tells you straight out that you're not covered, go and file a claim.

Unemployment is for people who can work and who are looking for work. It is not for disabled people. It is not a handout.

2. Where can I apply for Unemployment? Go to one of these three offices to file a claim:
Main Office -- 142 Marietta
656-5642
East Point -- 1737 Washington Ave.
767-8707
Decatur Claims Center --
3770 N. Decatur Rd.
Rm. 10 - 296-0606

3. Should I apply for Unemployment even if I'm looking for a job now?
Yes! Don't fail to apply just because you think you may get work next week or next month. Get your unemployment check so you can keep going and still look for work.

4. How much can I get from Unemployment? How long can I get it? The size of your check depends on your earnings during the past year. No one can get a check larger than \$70 a week. No one can get a check for more than 26 weeks at a time. It won't keep you going a long time but it will help.

5. What if I'm refused compensation? You have the right to a hearing if you are turned down. But you must ask for your hearing within 10 days of getting your letter of refusal. If you get a hearing in time, a Legal Aid lawyer can help you. The lawyer can't help you, though, if you delay in asking for your hearing.

FIND BARGAINS IN USED CLOTHES AND FURNITURE

Here are some stores around town where you can get good bargains in used clothes and furniture.

Christian Council Clothing Closet - 167 Walton St. NW - Has free clothes for all members of the family. No letter of referral is necessary. Call 523-7533. Hours are 9-11:30 and 1:30-4 each weekday.

St. Vincent de Paul - Three locations at 444 Edgewood Ave. (525-0178), 1656 McLendon Ave. (377-6810), 304 Parkway Dr. (523-1541) - Gives free clothes and furniture with your case-worker's referral or a letter from the PRO. Hours are 9-6 Tues.-Sat.

The Storks' Nest - 80 Central Ave. Free or low cost baby or maternity clothes available. Client must be referred by Grady, Southside etc. Call 659-5351. Hours are Sat. only from 10-3.

Rosanne Jamison - Mrs. Jamison can sometimes get clothes through her church. Call her at 349-0697.

Freedom Community Center - 650 Ira St. SW - Call 523-3142 daily after 2:00.

National Council of Jewish Women has a thrift shop at 419 Peachtree St. with good clothes at low prices. Hours are 10-4:30, Mon.-Sat.

Nearly New Shop - 421 Peachtree Has good used clothes and are open Mon.-Sat. from 10-4.

E. Lake United Methodist Church - Clothes are available for a small fee. Open 1-3:30 on Sat. only. 2500 Blvd. St.

E. Lake Meadows Clothes Bank - 380 E. Lake Blvd. Must be a tenant at E. Lake Meadows. Call 373-1226.

Salvation Army - 339 Luckie St. NW Sometimes has clothes to give away. Furniture is also available. Call 688-2884 or 525-2878.

Disabled American Veterans - 1661 Dekalb Ave. NE. Good cheap, used furniture and clothes. Call 377-8542.

Community Clothes Closet - 1090 Alpharetta St., Roswell. Good clothing and some furniture available. Open 10-12 on Tues., Wed., Thur., and Sat. Call 993-3971.

St. Frances Conference Thrift Shop - 410 Edgewood Ave., NE, 566 Blvd., SE. (627-1493)

Goodwill - 17 Courtland St. Has furniture and clothes. Open 9-5:30. Call 659-9128.

Atlanta Union Mission - 116 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur (377-2244) and Little Five Points, Euclid Ave. (688-3348)

It might be a good idea to call these places before you go to see what they have. Call 523-2856 if the PRO can help you.

KEEP ON KEEPING ON -- THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!

Everyone who reads this newspaper knows times are hard and getting harder. Food goes up every week. Gas and light bills are out of sight. What if the rent should go up, too?

Your check doesn't get any bigger. Sometimes it even gets smaller, or you might get a letter that your check would be cut off. Maybe your check just didn't come one month and nobody seemed willing to help you get a replacement.

Perhaps you just lost your job and had to apply for Welfare for your children. Two months later you still haven't gotten a check. The caseworker says she's sorry, but she just couldn't get the paper work done.

All these things hurt when they happen to you or a friend. They make you want to fight back.

We don't have weapons as strong as those of the people we're fighting, but there is still a lot we can do. The Legal Aid is there to help us get justice. We can demonstrate, the way the National Welfare Rights group did in December. Food Stamps are still bad, but things would be worse if we had not made the commissioners listen.

Poor people can demand a hearing when their check gets cut, or they lose Medicaid or Food Stamps. But you must demand a hearing quickly. If you wait more than 10 days to ask for it, you won't get one and

you will lose what you should have had.

The Poverty Rights Office wants to help you get your rights. We want to help you fight for justice. Call us at 523-2856 and we will try to help. Together we will win some, and we will lose some, but if we don't fight we will lose them all.

MS. MATHEWS' LETTER
(continued from p. 4.)

to starve living in a land of plenty?'

You can give the credit to former President Nixon. The years he stayed in the White House he screwed up the whole United States. Leave it to the Republicans. They will starve you to death. The three Watergate prisoners was released. I am wondering if they was black mens, would they have been released? Justice must work for all, not just for a few.

We need your help. Will you come and join us? The brothers and sisters who are in prison, they need your help also. Our meetings are second Wednesday nights at 1017 Capitol Ave. SW, Tel. 525-5948.

So until next month, I am yours in the struggle for survival and freedom. I live in the Struggle.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

A TRIBUTE TO MS. ETHEL M. MATHEWS

We are giving thanks to God for letting us see another year to continue in the struggle that Ms. Mathews has led for so many years. In her many years of struggle for the poor, the blind and the disabled, we can really appreciate her. But let us not forget that God is the head of the universe and should be in our lives, because in the struggle, we look to him for help.

So in Ms. Mathew's struggle, we must join in and continue to be her followers as the strength is much needed. As the year continues to go on, we must give thanks to God who is our Supreme Being from which we cometh. Let us continue to pray to God that our struggle will be less and less and that people in authority will become weaker and weaker and will join forces with the poor people. So in the struggle with Ms. Mathews, may God continue to keep his arm of protection around us and keep us safe from harm. And we continue to pray for the people in authority. May God bestow a special blessing upon Ms. Mathews because He knows her heart's desires and the goodness in her heart for the struggle she is in.

BY: Mrs. Verna Collins, President
Thomasville Heights Apartments
Tenants Association
(Ms. Mathews could not write her column this month because she has been sick with pneumonia. She is much better now. She will be back with us next month.)

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. V, NO. 3

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MAR. 1975

MAKE THE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE WORK FOR YOU

This office gets calls every day about how bad things are for tenants in the AHA projects. Most people who call don't know about their first and strongest weapon to get justice -- the Grievance Procedure.

The rules and regulations telling the tenants about how to file a Grievance Procedure should be posted "in a conspicuous place" in every office of the AHA, but still most people don't know about it or don't think that it will work to solve the problem between them and the manager.

Just last month though, a tenant from one of the projects used the Grievance Procedure. The Legal Aid helped her, and they won!

Like many Hearing procedures, this one is complicated. First you write a complaint, then the manager and you have an informal conference. After that, if you are not satisfied, the manager must answer your complaint in writing. Then you may ask for a hearing before the

Tenant's Grievance Committee.

These hearings are like Welfare and SSI hearings in that you must ask for one promptly -- as soon as you have a problem.

The PRO staff will be glad to help you write out complaints and get the Grievance Procedure started. Legal Aid will help you, too. AHA needs to know that its tenants will fight for their rights!

++++
Last month the Poor People's Paper ran an article on clothing resources but we forgot a very important one.

The Capitol Ave. Baptist Center (corner of Capitol and Georgia Ave.) has a clothing bank. It is open daily from 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Ms. McKensie is the manager. Right now they have a pretty good stock -- and most of the clothing is free. It helps to have a referral letter though.

++++

PIEDMONT HOSPITAL OFFERS FREE SURGERY TO POOR PEOPLE

Lillie Watson felt poorly. She had a big lump in her stomach. She didn't know what it was, and she was almost afraid to find out. Finally, she went to the health clinic. The doctor there said it was a tumor. It would have to come out right away.

What could she do? She was on Social Security but she didn't qualify for Medicaid. Yet she surely couldn't afford private hospital surgery. And she didn't want to go to Grady. How could Lillie get the surgery she needed?

That story is a true story (only the name is changed). And it has a happy ending. Lillie found out that she could get free surgery at Piedmont Hospital. She had her operation with the best medical care.

What does this story mean to you? It may mean good news if you are a low-income person who doesn't have Medicaid. It means that there is another place besides Grady where you can go for surgery.

This free service at Piedmont Hospital includes a pre-operative medical examination.

Types of surgery which will be performed include: appendix, arteries and veins (blood vessels), breast cancer, colon, gall bladder, hemorrhoids, hernias, intestines, lungs, peptic ulcers, stomach, thyroid, tumors of the uterus and ovary, and most types of abdominal cancer.

Surgery NOT included under the Piedmont Free service will be tonsils, eyes, bones, joints, brain, nerves, teeth, abortions, and sterilization.

How can you find out if you qualify for this service? Get in touch with the Social Service counselor at your nearest EOA Center or the family services office at any AHA project. Or call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

(Information for the above article came from the November 1974 issue of the EOA Newsletter.)

RELOCATION EFFORT A SUCCESS

All fall our office has been working to get relocation money for people who are entitled to it. In December we published a list of people we needed to find and asked our readers to help us.

You will be glad to know that with your help, all but five of the people on that list were located.

+++++

When a person who is disabled to work goes for help, he often gets a run-around. First he goes to Welfare. They send him to Social Security to apply for SSI. Social Security takes his application and sends him back to Welfare. Sometimes Welfare gives him a little money to live on -- sometimes they don't.

All he can do is sit and wait to hear if Social Security grants his disability or not.

Our office knows people who have waited over three months. When the letter finally came, they were denied SSI. Social Security claimed they were not disabled for one year.

Many people then give up. They don't know to go right back to Social Security and demand a reconsideration and then a hearing.

Call us at 523-2856 if this is happening to you. We may be able to help.

+++++

NO VACANCY IN AHA?

Thousands of people are waiting to get into Atlanta Housing Authority projects. We know, though, that there are many vacant apartments in several projects right now. When we ask about these vacant apartments, the managers say people can't move in because the apartments have not been fixed up since the last tenant left.

Surely, this is not the case with all the vacant apartments. With the desperate need for housing, AHA should be made to fix up apartments within a reasonable period of time.

If you live in a project and would like to help us prove to AHA that there are too many vacant apartments, call our office (523-2856).

+++++

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING!

When your caseworker writes you a letter saying your check will be cut down or cut off, she MUST tell you the reason why. You need to know why so you can decide whether the cut is fair.

If you don't think the cut is fair, you have the right to request a hearing. The caseworker must help you get that hearing.

The only way the Welfare can deny you a hearing is if you don't ask for it within 10 days of the day the caseworker's letter was mailed.

+++++

But we are still working on many other cases. If you think you should be getting some kind of relocation benefit because you were forced to move by government action, keep in touch with the PRO.

Hello Everybody,

I come to you to chat with you for a few moments. First giving honor to God and thanking Him for another day. I have been very ill since I last chatted with you. I am better now and up and about again.

Dear readers, I want to thank you for reading the column I write in the Poor People's Paper. I am glad that you enjoy reading it. Most of all, I am glad that we can relate to each other and feel each other's need. When I write, I write from my own experience, not from someone else's.

I am of Baptist faith and I am a strong believer in God. I am the mother of five children. All of them are married now except one son. Life has not been easy for me down through the years, but I thank God that today I have found the true meaning of life and better understanding.

So you see, my readers, life has just begun for me. My Readers, I am not responsible for writing the whole Poor People's Paper. I just write my column. If you would like to write me in person, here is my address:

Ms. Ethel Mae Mathews
969 Capitol Ave. SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

I would like very much to hear from you, if it is not asking you too much to drop me a line.

I am yours in the struggle,

Ethel M. Mathews

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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APRIL 1975

USE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL AID

Poor people often need legal help. They can get good legal help -- FREE -- from neighborhood legal aid offices.

The Legal Aid Offices listed below operate to help you. Call before you go to find out what the office hours are. Try to go early in the day so you will be certain to get the legal help you need as soon as possible.

Legal Aid Offices

- Main Office -- 153 Pryor SW
524-5811
- Decatur -- 118 Barry (off Sycamore)
377-0701
- Southside -- 1070 Washington SW
524-2681
- Lawrenceville -- 166 Pike, L'ville
963-8171
- Simpson Road - 1231 Simpson Rd.
758-9214
- Cobb County -- 159 Dobbs St.,
Marietta
428-3802

NEW WELFARE RULING MAY HELP YOU

In the last year there have been many new welfare regulations. Some help - some hurt.

A new rule that helps affects AFDC families where someone who doesn't get welfare lives in the household.

Before if anyone else (like a grandmother or grown sister) lived with the AFDC family, the grant to the family was automatically cut.

Now there is no cut if the other person gets SSI or does not have "enough income to meet his own needs" because he can't work.

If you think your grant was cut because someone lives with you call 523-2856 and let us check out the situation.

The best things in life are not always free ... but the Poor People's Newspaper is! Free, that is. Tell your friends and neighbors who are always borrowing your copy of the paper. They can have their own subscription -- free. Just call 523-2856.

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MOVING? . . . Be sure to notify Social Security or Welfare as soon as you know your new address. The Post Office can't forward checks. Don't miss your check because it went to your old address.

#####

SSI HELPS DISABLED CHILDREN

Social Security is now trying hard to locate blind and disabled children who may be eligible for SSI.

No one knows exactly what kind of disability makes a child eligible for his own SSI, so if you know a child who has something like kidney disease or leukemia or brain damage or is deaf or blind call the PRO at 523-2856 or contact your local Social Security Office.

If the child is now part of an AFDC welfare grant he can be changed over to SSI. It is almost always worth making this change because SSI gives an individual child three times as much money as welfare does.

If the child's parents work but don't earn much, the child may still be eligible for a small grant. Almost more important he can get Medicaid to pay the doctor bills.

Anyone who thinks he knows a child who might be eligible should try to get that child on SSI.

PRISONER FAMILIES CAN GET AID

If you have a relative in a Georgia prison, the Department of Offender Rehabilitation (DOR) may be able to help you and him.

The DOR staff can tell you about work-release program, parole, etc. They can help you with your problems, too. They can help you get food stamps or welfare, for instance.

The DOR also provides a monthly bus trip to Reidsville. They will also provide bus tickets so an inmate's wife and children can visit him at other prisons. BUT this transportation service is limited to only AFDC families.

If you think you may be eligible for some service provided by the Department of Offender Rehabilitation, call the main office at 656-2850.

GET HELP WITH INCOME TAX

It's almost that time again! Tax time -- April 15 -- is just a few days away.

If you haven't filled out your income tax form yet, you still have time. And you can get help from these places:

- Emmaus House - Call 525-5948 for hours
- EOA Centers. Open some nights and weekends. Call 525-4262 for details.

CONGRESS REVERSES FORD'S PLAN TO HIKE FOOD STAMP PRICES

Congress stopped President Ford's plan to increase the cost of food stamps.

=====
KEEP ON GETTING THE PAPER . . .

If you move, let us know your new address. The Post Office will not forward the Paper, so we have to have your new address. Remember to call or write when you move. Don't miss a single issue of the Poor People's Newspaper.

=====

NEW LAW HELPS CONSUMERS

A recent court ruling makes it illegal for a creditor to seize your property without first going through a court hearing.

This ruling is long overdue. For years furniture companies and finance companies would repossess a television, a washing machine, or a stereo without first going to court.

Remember you do not have to let any creditor into your house to take your property. Nor can a creditor harass you.

If you have questions about the new law, call the Legal Aid or the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

At a time when more people than ever are out of work and hungry, the President's plan would have required recipients to pay a flat 30% of their net income for food stamps. This plan would have hurt elderly and single people the most. In some cases, for example, a person might have to pay \$58 for \$46 worth of food stamps.

Fortunately Congress did not agree to the President's plan. Congress voted 374-38 to keep food stamp prices at their present cost.

Congressmen from all over the country listened to the people in their districts. They read mail and petitions which said: "Things are hard enough already for poor people! Don't make them worse by raising food stamp prices."

More than 6,000 signatures on petitions were collected by Atlanta EOA Citizens Neighborhood Advisory Councils. Many neighborhood people wrote letters. This was a case when citizen political pressure really made a difference.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

10 AM to 3 PM -- Monday - Friday

523-2856

My Friends and Co-Workers,

I take time out to say "Hello" and chat with you. First giving honor to God and thanking Him for another day, for the rain and the sun, thanking Him for a portion of my health and strength.

We all have so much to be thankful for. But as poor peoples we must all come together and make our voices heard. We must do for ourselves. Time is running out. There is a handwriting on the wall and we must go forward.

The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. It is not fair. There is enough for all, but the fat cats don't see it that way.

Poor people pay the highest taxes. In fact, poor peoples are the ones who pay the taxes. This is a fact, tricky Dick Nixon, former Gov. Ronald Regan, former Vice-Pres. Spiro T. Agnew, State Sen. Leroy Johnson all had plenty of money, but didn't pay their taxes. You see, we are the ones who pay, and if we don't come together and do something about it we will always be the ones who pay.

This is our land and all of us have the right to the fruit of happiness no matter who we are. Come and join us in the struggle -- every 2d and 4th Wed. evening. Call 525-5948 for a ride.

I want to share this thought with you. You see things as they are and you ask, "Why?", but I dream things that never were and ask, "Why not?" So until next month, I am yours in the Struggle

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews MAY 1975

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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MAY 1975

NEW RULES FOR FOOD STAMPS

Getting and using food stamps is now easier than it used to be. A lot of people in Georgia fought to make it that way.

There are some rules, though, that you need to know when you are at the market. Some of these rules are new. We hope they will make less hassle for you when you shop.

1. Tell the cashier you are using food stamps before she rings up the groceries.
2. Separate food items from non-food items.
3. Be prepared to show your green I.D. card to the cashier.
4. Tear out only the stamps needed after the cashier tells you the cost of your food. Cashiers cannot accept loose \$5 and \$10 stamps. They can take loose \$1 stamps and credit slips from their own store.
5. You cannot get change in cash from food stamps. Change can come

to you in one of the following forms:
 ---\$1 coupons when you are due exactly \$1 in change;
 ---a credit slip for amounts of less than \$1 to be used the next time at the same store; or
 ---you may buy groceries to bring the total up to a full dollar more.
 ---You can eliminate the change problem by paying cash for amounts between dollars.

6. You must pay cash for all non-food items.

Do you get a gold SSI check? You can still get help from a service worker in the Welfare department. A service worker might help you get transportation to a doctor or help with housing or Food Stamps. This help is available if you want it. Call the Welfare if you want this help from a service worker.

MEDICAID CUTS OUT EYE AND DENTAL CARE FOR ADULTS

Last month, Georgia Governor George Busbee stopped Medicaid coverage for eye glasses and dental work for adults. Now, only children under 21 years who are referred by the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program can get glasses or dental care.

The only exception is in cases where the glasses or dental care was approved before the end of March 1975.

The Poor People's Newspaper thinks it was WRONG for the governor to do this. Poor people NEED eye glasses and dental care as much as people who can pay need them.

If this change in Medicaid coverage affects you -- if you needed glasses or dental care and were denied recently -- call 523-2856. Maybe we can all come together and get this new rule changed back.

If you ever applied for Welfare or Food Stamps, you know how many times the office workers hassle you, the applicant.

The top people in the Welfare Office know about it, too. And they just sent out instructions to all county welfare offices to stop hassling the clients.

According to the new instructions, the Welfare must not do the following things any more:

1. The office may not be closed during certain hours of the day to people wanting to apply. That is, if the office is open, they must take your applications.
2. "No applicant shall be told that he must return another day to apply." That is, you can sign the applications the day you go in even if they need more information to finish the claim.
3. They cannot delay registering your application. They must send you any necessary forms promptly.
4. They cannot refuse to give you an interview just because you didn't bring all the necessary information at one time.

The last part of the instructions tells welfare workers this:

"No practice will be tolerated which interferes with the individual's right to apply without delay for the programs of his choice or which neglects the right of every applicant to be treated with dignity and respect."

All food stamps office (except West End) are seeing people the day they come in. You still need an appointment at the West End office.

All offices will see any client in an emergency and anyone needing re-certification.

WORRIED ABOUT LOSING YOUR HOME?

With the rise in prices and in unemployment more and more people are threatened with losing their homes because they can not keep up the payments.

Unfortunately, Georgia law allows banks or other mortgage holders to sell houses on which they hold mortgages without personally notifying the person buying the home. If you are behind in your house payments or worried about foreclosure, phone the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856) or your nearest Legal Aid Office right away.

Many home mortgages are insured by F.H.A. and with an F.H.A. mortgage there is a good chance of saving the house from foreclosure, particularly if you get help right away.

CHILD STRUCK BY CAR AT REIDSVILLE

Last October, following a disturbance at the prison, the State closed down the facilities for receiving visitors at Reidsville. For some reason, people are required to stand out in the road, sometimes in the rain, and usually in a long line, waiting to be approved for visiting in the prison. It is very dangerous. There is no sidewalk, and now a little girl has been hit by a passing car and her leg was broken. We are asking every one to call the Commissioner of Prisoner Rehabilitation, Mr. Allen Ault, and ask that the Visitors' Reception Center at Reidsville be reopened. His number is 894-5541.

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Did you borrow this issue of the Poor People's Newspaper? You can get your own subscription to the paper absolutely free. All you have to do is call 523-2856. Or write the paper at 1017 Capitol Ave. S.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30315.

Remember this is a FREE newspaper. It is mailed each month free to people who want it. Tell your friends about the Poor People's Newspaper and get them to subscribe, too.

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POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

10 AM to 3 PM -- Monday - Friday 523-2856

MESSAGE FROM MS. MATHEWS

Hi Everybody,

I bring you greetings from the Emmaus House and Welfare Rights Organization. We are one big family working together trying to help solve some of the problems that we face today. First giving honor to God and thanking him for one more day. Although we have many problems to face we still have lots to be thankful for. Some of us don't rely on God. Some of us say that God is dead, but I am a witness and want to tell you that he is very much alive. Without God we cannot make it, but with God faith and trust he will see us through. We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. It is not easy for us who live on a fixed income. Price for food jump up sky high every day. We live in houses that are not decent. We live with the rats and roaches because nobody seems to care about our plight. There is no jobs for peoples who are able to work. There is no food to feed the hungry little childrens although we have a food stamp program all over the state of Georgia. The food stamp program was not designed to help hungry peoples. It was designed to make a profit for the system. You either have too much money or you don't have enough money.

Come May 1st and June 1st there

(Continued page 3)

JUNE 1975

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. V, NO. 6

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

JUNE 1975

A TRUE STORY: SSI GRANT RAISED

Mrs. J. has been disabled to work for several years. The only income she and her children had was welfare.

Finally, the SSI began to send her a yellow check. They admitted she was disabled.

The next month, Mrs. J.'s welfare check went down because -- as her caseworker told her -- she could no longer get welfare for herself now that she had SSI.

After several months, Mrs. J. called the Poverty Rights Office. With inflation and the welfare cut, the family still couldn't pay all the bills. Mrs. J. wondered if she could get any more welfare.

The PRO checked her budget. Her welfare grant was correct. But her SSI check was too low. Her SSI check should have been \$146, but all she got was \$108.

The PRO called Social Security. They fixed their error quickly, and gave Mrs. J. a check to pay

back all the months she got \$108 instead of \$146.

This is a true story and one that has happened to too many people. If your SSI check is less than \$146 and the only other income in the family is welfare, call us and we'll check it out for you. Call 523-2856 at the Poverty Rights Office.

HELP FIGHT WELFARE CUTS

Most AFDC grants were cut starting in May and we understand there may well be an additional cut in September. It is unfair to make poor people pay for the recession. Emmaus House and the Poverty Rights Office want to help organize the people so they can unite to make their rights and needs known.

If you want to be a part of the effort to have the grants restored, call 325-5948 and write or call your legislator and the Governor.

To the editor:

"After receiving an invitation to send some of my ideas to this newspaper, I thought why not a column entitled suggestions from poor people for poor people? Since most poor people have virtually the same problems each month we can send our suggestions and ideas in and maybe the middle class and rich people who has been assigned to work with us can see our real need and become better qualified to help us help ourselves. What we actually need is what will help us, not someone's guess who has never had a poverty stricken day in their whole life.

For instance, a woman or man without the full training for secretarial work could become a good secretarial aid if they have the ambition. Why not? There's nurses aids, doctor's aids, teacher's aids and maybe some I don't know about. Answering a phone, taking messages, running errands would certainly take a load off a busy secretary and give her time to type and take dictation, and the boss can save money from the over-time pay he has to pay her. Who's better qualified to advise on the needs of the poor? So why not one on the board of administrators? Every thing else is united, why not poor people? Why not organize? In unity there is strength.

Ever thought about if a man can't

pay a living wage for his help, why don't he do it himself. Are we any better off without enough money to live on, regardless to whether welfare give it to us, or some law maker decided no one needed a decent salary but the law-makers. They don't have poor people in the Georgia House of Representatives. The poverty stricken do not sit on the board of City Councilmen.

I've never heard of low income people being sent to Congress. How can these elected officials really know the needs of the poor?

There are a plenty good mechanics who can't get started because they're poor. Also there are people that need very little or no training who could take their talents and come off the list of the poor. What's keeping them poor? The people with the money that the poor do not have. Think about it.

Next month, let's discuss another organization that has let us down.

C. Brown

We encourage letters from our readers. Let us hear from you.

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If at once you don't succeed, please try again to reach us at the Poverty Rights Office. Many staff people will be on vacation at different times during the summer, so we may have one person trying to answer several phones at once. But she will get to you after awhile. So don't give up. Keep trying to reach us!

+++++

YOU CAN STOP HARASSMENT

Ms. S. came to the PRO, complaining that a furniture company had been calling her in the evening, at work and had even written a letter to her employer because she had not made all her payments on time. This is harassment and is against the law.

A recent Georgia law states that repeated calls are a misdemeanor and can be stopped! There are three things you can do if someone is harassing you:

--Complain to the police as this is a misdemeanor and against the law.

--Complain to the phone company as these callers are going against company policy of using their service for the purpose of harassing a client.

--Call Legal Aid. A lawyer should be able to help you stop the harassment.

(continued from p. 4)

will be a big cut in welfare checks. To take money from the poor and give to the rich is not fair. They have money and food for everybody else, but their own. How long are we going to sit back and let them get away with the things they do to us? When are we coming together and fight for the things that we are entitled to? We must stop waiting for other peoples to do for us what we should be doing for ourselves. Let's come together and join in the struggle.

At this time I want to thank all of you for writing to me. I enjoyed reading your letters and sharing your thoughts. Your letters made me feel like I had already met you. I am glad we can share our thoughts. Don't think hard of me for not hearing from me since I got your letters. I have been under the weather, but I am some better now. So once again I thank you for writing me. I want to leave this thought with you. Some of us see things as they are and we ask why, "but I dream things that never were and I ask why not."

I am yours in the struggle for peace and freedom. I live in the struggle.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

523-2856

Monday - Friday 10 am - 3 pm

HELLO, My Friends,

First giving honor to God, I am thankful to come back and chat with you again.

The struggle for today is getting rough and fighting the system is no easy job! Standing up for our rights isn't easy. Everywhere we go and ask for answers, they give us excuses. It makes you feel that no one seems to care any-more. There is so much confusion and frustration in the world today. There is no one we can depend on but God.

We can't depend on our politicians anymore. They don't need us until they get ready to run for office again. We must wake up and stand on our own two feet and don't make the same mistake again. As black and poor people, we have the power. Come 1976 let us take a stand together and make our voices heard at the ballot boxes.

We cloud our mind with jealousy and envy. We breed hate against each other for no reason. We do not stop and try to understand each other. We never stop and say, "There is some good in everybody. We must try to understand that we need each other, but most of all we need God! We need God in everything we try to do. With God in front we cannot fail -- we will overcome! Think about what I am saying, and let's try to understand each other.

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. V, No. 7

Atlanta, Georgia 30315

JULY 1975

A NEW IDEA FOR HOUSING

St. Louis is trying a new idea for public housing that might work for Atlanta. The idea is that the tenants - not the public housing authority - operate and manage the projects. This is how the program operates now in four of the biggest public housing projects in St. Louis.

The residents elect a board of directors that sets up the rules and hires the staff - even the resident manager. The manager lives in the project instead of out in the suburbs and can see the problems first hand. If the tenant's lights go off, the manager's lights go off! Each project has a captain in charge of 125 residents that handles all the day-to-day problems. This leaves the manager free for bigger problems of dealing with outside officials and getting money for the project.

A key feature of the program is that tenants are hired for all the jobs to keep up the properties - jobs like cutting the grass, paint-

ing, cleaning, and any general maintenance. Tenants also work as security guards and as clerks and secretaries in the offices. This way the tenants have jobs and also have a voice in running their own projects.

Residents of these projects are happy with how things work. There's better maintenance, safer streets and apartments, and less vandalism, drug addiction and other illegal activities. Maybe this kind of program could work in Atlanta.

Social Security and SSI checks went up a little the first of this month. This will affect the amount that you pay for Food Stamps and, perhaps your rent if you live in an AHA project. If you have questions about the changes, call our office.

ANDREW YOUNG HELPS OUT

An elderly Marine veteran of 30 years service, Mr. J. C. Harris, was recently helped by Congressman Andrew Young. Mr. Harris has been very ill. He has several strokes and heart attacks and now has tuberculosis and emphysema. He has been in Crawford Long Hospital twice since April. Although he cannot care for himself and needs continual hospital care, the Veteran's Administration Hospital dismissed him after three days.

Mr. Harris' neighbor, Mrs. Virgie Swinney, called Congressman Young's office and asked him to help Mr. Harris. She says, "he's 71 years old and nowhere to go." Responding to her need, Congressman Young called the hospital about Mr. Harris. Because of this call, the hospital agreed to let Mr. Harris stay a few days longer. Now Mr. Harris is waiting to go to the Veteran's Hospital in Dublin.

The Poor People's Newspaper is glad to hear of government officials who are responsive to the people's needs.

THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE will be closed again this year during the last two weeks of August. We will be open during the other weeks of the summer, but you may not get through the first day you call. Many days there will only be one worker in the office. She may not be able to handle your calls. Also remember the

Poor Peoples' Paper does not come out in August. We will be back in September continuing to try to help people fight for their rights.

HELP FIGHT MEDICAID CUTS

Events in the last few months show once again, that the current state government cares very little about vital needs of poor people. Not only have welfare checks been cut, but the state medicaid program has also been drastically reduced.

The state has already eliminated programs providing dental care for adults. Other proposed cuts would eliminate a number of medical services vital to many people. It looks as though many people will not be able to get needed drugs. It will be much harder to get adequate nursing home care. Limits may also be set on the number of visits a person can make to the doctor.

Adequate medical care is a basic right of all people. We must join together to fight these Medicaid cuts.

For information on what is happening to Medicaid and what you can do about it, call us at 523-2856.

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.

WELFARE MOTHERS FIGHT BACK

A group of Welfare mothers has organized to fight the recent cut in AFDC grants. They have already demonstrated several times at the State Capitol to let the Governor know how much the cut is hurting their children.

Every other Wednesday during the summer there will be a demonstration so that Georgia politicians won't be allowed to forget about poor people.

If you are mad about the Welfare cut, call Emmaus House at 525-5948. Join the WELFARE MOTHERS FIGHT BACK Committee to get your rights.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews (cont.)

God is so good to us. Out of all the burdens and all the hardships He put on us, He is still good to us.

I want to share this thought with you:

We searched for love,
but none was there.
Seeking peace everywhere,
We searched and sought,
within our minds, for
love of heart, and peace
of mind.
We fought and sought for
something rare, only to
find that nothing's there.

So until September, I am yours in the struggle for peace, love and freedom.

I live in the struggle,

Ms. Ethel Mae Mathews

COMMUNITY AID TO PRISONERS IS working to help prisoners and their families and to educate Georgians to the "abject prison conditions that exist in this country." They meet every 2nd Tuesday at 850 Mayson Turner Rd. Call 404/525-0848 for information.

Hello, to All My Wonderful Friends

Once again I bring you greetings from the Emmaus House Welfare Rights Organization. First I must take time out to thank God for His many blessings. No matter what our problems might be, how dark and rough the days for us, some times we can still say it is so good to be alive, although we live on fixed incomes and it doesn't meet our needs, we are sick and we can't get jobs, we live in houses that are not up to standard and the food that we have to eat is not sufficient.

The Food Stamp program was not designed to help the black and the poor. It was designed to save the states' money. Just like all the federal programs sent down from Washington, they benefit the system and not the poor. They eat the steak while we eat the bones.

Poor peoples who really need Food Stamps can't get them. There is too much red tape to be cut, and the system is not willing to do that. They penalize us by saying to us we get too much money, but we don't get enough. But out of all that, we still survive by the help of God.

Let's stop saying we are poor, and start thinking rich. We are
(Continued on page 3)

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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SEPT. 1975

GARNISHMENT: WHAT YOUR RIGHTS ARE

Now times are so bad a lot of people get way behind on their bills. Even people who have jobs are finding it harder and harder to keep up.

Garnishment is one way the people you owe can use to get you to pay them. When they sue you for what you owe and win the suit in court, then they can get your employer to hold back part of your pay check. That's called garnishment.

Garnishment really hurts a low income family. If you owe a large sum of money you might be garnished. But if you are threatened with garnishment you do have some rights.

1. You must receive notice that your creditor is suing you in court. The marshal brings this notice of a lawsuit against you to your house. You cannot be garnished without notice.
2. Your creditor must win the law suit against you in court.

(If you get a garnishment case notice, go to a lawyer right away.)

3. Even if your creditor wins his case against you, he cannot get your employer to withhold the first \$63 of your weekly pay.
4. Income from government sources, i.e. welfare, social security, SSI, cannot be garnished.

If you are threatened with garnishment, you can fight back. Call or go to your Legal Aid Office or call us at 523-2856 for more information.

The best things in life are not always free ... but the Poor People's Newspaper is! Free, that is. Tell your friends and neighbors who are always borrowing your copy of the paper. They can have their own subscription -- free. Just call 523-2856.

THEY FIXED MY PORCH BUT THEY TOOK MY HOME

"They fixed my porch but they took my home." That's a caption on a Legal Aid Poster. You know what it means. It means "watch out for home improvement salesmen."

Nice weather is here and many of us want to fix up our houses. We want to bring them up to code or just make them look nice to suit ourselves. But don't let the urge to fix up do you in.

This time of year, many home improvement salesmen are going around the neighborhoods. They offer to make repairs or additions on your house. Often, they use high pressure techniques. They try to talk you into signing a contract for repairs you can't afford.

But that's not the worst of it. Almost always, the home improvement salesmen will ask you to sign a DEED TO SECURE DEBT. This is actually a MORTGAGE on your home! It means that the home improvement company can foreclose on your home and evict you if you get behind on your payments! In a few cases, homes have been foreclosed against to settle a debt as small as \$200. Imagine losing your home that way!

Avoid trouble with home improvement companies by following these simple rules:

1. Don't sign up for more home improvement repairs than you can afford.
2. Demand a signed, itemized statement. This should show in detail all fees, charges, and interest charges.
3. Remember, you have 3 days to change your mind and cancel your contract. The home improvement company should give you a statement to this effect.
4. Don't pay too much money as a late charge. You shouldn't pay more than 5% of the monthly charge as a late charge.
5. Avoid signing a DEED TO DEBT. Remember, this is a mortgage on your home. Your home can be taken away from you if you get behind on your payments.
6. If you are threatened with eviction because you have signed a DEED TO SECURE DEBT, see a lawyer. A lawyer may be able to help you save your home. Call Atlanta Legal Aid at 524-5811 or call the PRO office at 523-2856.

(Condensed from "Legal Aid News" by Jacqueline Bennett)

SSI RECONSIDERATIONS NOW GOING ON

Many people who receive SSI checks have already gotten letters asking them to come in to their local Social Security office for "re-consideration." All it is, is an appointment to go over the facts and figures of your income. But if you don't get such a letter or if you don't go to the office when you are requested to, then after three months your checks will be cut off.

If you know someone who gets an SSI check but who can't read, ask them if they've gotten a letter recently from Social Security. If they haven't been down to their Social Security Office this year, they'd better go and check to be sure they won't be cut off because Social Security couldn't find them.

NEW CLINIC IN SOUTH FULTON

A new outpatient health clinic is open now to Grady-eligible people in the South Fulton County area.

W. T. Brooks Clinic is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Services include internal medicine, pediatrics, family planning, well-child care, TB screening, dental care and immunizations.

The new clinic is at 1636 Connally Drive in East Point. For an appointment or more information, call 761-7121.

(Ms. Mathews con't)

rich! We are rich in love, in thoughts and mind, independence and power -- people power! -- coming together, standing together, fighting together for the rights of all peoples, speaking out together for the things we are entitled to.

I am appealing to all people who live on a fixed income to join in the struggle. We must get up and do for ourselves. Come 1976 it is very important that we go to the polls and vote. I think we are well educated, and we have enough time to think for ourselves.

President Gerald Ford has cut 6 million dollars from Social Service programs. He is the problem of poor peoples! Gov. Busbee, Mr. Parham, Judge Jack Westen, Mr. Dulaney, and Mr. Pickering -- They are just like Mr. Ford. We must let them know that we are not going to take it lying down. We must tell them, "Don't tread on us!"

You know the more we stick together the happier we will be. I want to leave this thought with you. Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil, for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities - against powers - against the rulers of darkness of this world - against spiritual wickedness in high places.

So until next month, I am yours in the Struggle for Peace and Freedom.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Hi My Friends
Sisters and Brothers:

First giving thanks and Honor to God who is the Head of my life thanking him for all the many things that he has been to me, it gives me great pleasure to come back and chat with you all for a little while. I hope all of you had a wonderful summer and a nice vacation. Now that vacation time is over we can all get back to work there are so many problems today that affects all of us if we are black and poor. If you are super rich you can do anything and get by, but if you are black and poor your are penalized for what the super rich do. I am very concerned about what is going to happen come November 1st. Has you thought about how many families will go off welfare. 6,700 will be removed from welfare rolls. The question I am asking: What are all of these people going to do? 35 percent of black families has no mens as head of the household. Is it possible to convey the extent of contained hostility and frustration that builds up in blacks who exist under these conditions. It has been a long hard struggle for us and it is getting worse. Our city officials seems not to care about the plight of the Poor. But we can't give up now. We have come too far and we still have a long way to go yet. Nothing is free any more.

(Continued on Page 3)

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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OCT. 1975

WARNING!!! - SOME WELFARE CHECKS WILL BE
REDUCED OR CUT-OFF IN NOVEMBER

The welfare department will use a new method to figure the amount of your welfare check starting in November. YOU MAY RECEIVE A HIGHER OR A LOWER WELFARE CHECK STARTING ON NOVEMBER 1, 1975.

IF YOU WORK AND RECEIVE WELFARE, YOU MAY RECEIVE A SMALLER WELFARE CHECK OR YOU MAY BE CUT OFF WELFARE. The more money you get, the smaller your welfare check will be. However, if you work, your work expenses will not be counted against you as part of your income. These work expenses include payroll taxes, uniforms, lunches, transportation, and any other payments you make because

you work. Also, you may subtract your child care expenses.

IF YOUR WORK EXPENSES ARE MORE THAN \$50 EACH MONTH, YOU MUST REPORT THEM TO YOUR CASEWORKER IN ORDER TO GET THE BIGGEST WELFARE CHECK WHICH YOU DESERVE. You must get papers, receipts and other statements in writing showing each of your work expenses. You must give these to your caseworker by October 8, 1975.

Your caseworker should help you with these changes. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THESE CHANGES, OR IF YOU NEED HELP, CALL 523-2856.

IMPORTANT !!!
*
* If you receive a notice that you will be cut off
* welfare in November, you must act immediately. You
* do have a right to a fair hearing, but you must
* request this hearing within 10 days of receiving
* your notice. Failure to respond immediately may
* result in your also being cut-off food stamps.
* For further information call the Poverty Rights
* Office at 523-2856.

MEALS ARE PROVIDED FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE

Many older people do not eat well. Either they cannot afford to or they don't feel like shopping and cooking. Sometimes they just don't like eating alone.

Now there is a government program to provide a hot noon meal for people over 60 and their husbands or wives (who can be any age). These meals are served Monday through Friday at 25 centers in the 7-county Atlanta metropolitan area. Transportation is provided whenever possible.

No income requirements or tests are needed to join the nutrition program. You may make a contribution toward the cost of the meal and you decide how much it will be. If you can't pay anything, that is all right too.

The nutrition centers for Fulton and DeKalb counties are listed below. If you wish to go to one of them for your mid-day meal call the phone number listed. If you want more information or if you live in Clayton, Cobb, Douglas, Gwinnett or Rockdale county, call the Golden Age Information and Referral Service, 874-1976.

FULTON COUNTY

Bethlehem Center 622-5466
 Big Bethel Church 659-0825
 Camp Wesley 964-1380
 (Fairburn)

Cosmopolitan AME Church 525-7497
 John O. Chiles Highrise 755-5739
 Martin Luther King Highrise 525-6006
 First Baptist Church (Alpharetta) 475-6557
 Techwood Center 881-8236
 U-Rescue Villa Highrise 872-6227
 Jewish Community Center 875-7881

DEKALB COUNTY

Bruce Street School (Lithonia) 377-9901
 First Baptist Church (Decatur) 377-9901
 Oakhurst Baptist Church (Decatur) 378-3677
 Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church 233-5469
 Scottdale Community Center 292-2652

IMPORTANT!

A Georgia Poverty Rights Organization will operate a Hotline beginning September 29th. Volunteers will answer questions about AFDC budget cuts Monday through Friday from 3 P.M. until 7 P.M. The number to call is 523-2856.

WHAT DOES MEDICAID PAY?

There is great trouble about Georgia doing the right thing in looking after the medical needs of its citizens. Almost every day the rules change. These are the new rules.

DRUGS - Medicaid pays for prescription drugs. BUT you must pay 50¢ on each prescription. Medicaid does NOT pay for drugs bought without a prescription, even if the Doctor told the person to buy it. INSULIN will be paid by medicaid except for the first 50¢. Some other drugs are paid by medicaid after being approved by the state. To get permission the Doctor must write a letter telling why the medicine is needed. This letter should be sent to:
 Pharmaceutical Service - Medicaid Office, P. O. Box 455002, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

OFFICE VISITS - For regular visits you are allowed only one a month. BUT the Doctor will be paid for more visits in case of emergencies. If a child broke his arm this week and cut his head the next week, the Doctor would be paid. If a patient has a bad fever and the Doctor has to see him the following day that is also OK. If a person has a chronic disease like anemia the Doctor can see her more often.

DENTAL CARE AND EYE GLASSES - Medicaid will pay for NO dental care nor eye glasses for people 21 or older. If under 21 and the person lives in Fulton County go to the

health department nearest your home to get approval. If the person does not know where to go call 572-2927.

If you have questions about these rule changes call 523-2856 and we will try to help.

(Ms. Mathews Con't)

There is a price tag on everything you get. Nothing comes easy. We will hafta stand up and fight for what we are entitled to and what our forefathers and great great grandfathers fought and died for. Food prices are sky high and food stamps don't help at all. You can't separate problems. They are all the same. Come '76 we must all stand together and make our voices be heard at the polls and the ballot boxes. We need your help. Won't you come and join the Struggle with us.

Life is no game.
 We all die the Same.

Yours for Love - Peace - Freedom - Justice for All. I live in the Struggle.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

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DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FOOD STAMPS? CALL THE FOOD STAMP HOT-LINE AT 1-800-282-4900.

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Dear Friends in the Struggle,

I come again to chat with you for a little while. First giving honor and thanks to God...thanking God for standing by me when my way was dark.

It has never been easy for black and poor peoples. Anything that has ever happened, black and poor peoples was the ones who suffered the most. It will continue to be that way as long as we sit back and do not make our voices heard.

We need to stand and fight for what we are entitled to. Just because we live on a fixed income, we are not dumb peoples. Who knows any better than we do and who can tell it any better than we can? We are the ones who live in run-down, dilapidated houses with the rats and the roaches. It is not because our houses are dirty that we have rats and roaches. It is because we don't have enough money to live decently and have our houses sprayed by the exterminator.

We need to believe in God first.. then we need to believe in ourselves more. We need to come together now!

November 1st was a crucial time for all AFDC working mothers. Many mothers will no longer receive Welfare. Many more will have their benefits reduced. All of us are

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MORE NEWS ABOUT WELFARE CUTS

The welfare department is now using a new method to figure the amount of your welfare check. Some people's checks have already been cut or cut-off. Other people's checks will be cut in December.

The Georgia Poverty Rights Organization has been operating a Hotline for the past month advising people how to appeal these cuts. This program will continue until November 15th advising people about these changes in the welfare system and what can be done about them.

If you receive a letter telling you that your welfare check will be cut or cut-off, you do have a right to a fair hearing. However, you must request this hearing within 10 days of receiving your notice. Remember, you must act immediately if you want to appeal your caseworker's decision. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THESE CHANGES IN THE WELFARE SYSTEM, OR IF YOU NEED HELP, CALL THE HOT-LINE AT 523-2856. Volunteers will

answer questions about the AFDC budget cuts Monday through Friday from 10 A.M. until 7 P.M.

* * * *

If your AFDC check was cut off November 1st and you have not yet asked for a hearing, it is too late now. Welfare has already closed your case.

BUT if you think your check was cut off unjustly, maybe the Poverty Rights Office can help. Maybe your caseworker made a mistake. Maybe you forgot to prove some "work expense." Call 526-2853 and one of us will check your "budget" and tell you if you should reapply for Welfare.

DON'T WAIT TOO LONG TO REAPPLY! It is much easier to get back on AFDC if you reapply within four months.

When you reapply be ready to

(Cont. Next Page)

MORE WELFARE NEWS (Cont.)

NEW HOUSING PROGRAM

MS. MATHEWS (Cont.)

PROVE all your work expenses to your caseworker. Show her your pay stubs. Write down your mileage if you drive to work. Do you have to pay to get your child to the Daycare Center? Be able to prove what you spend for your lunch on the job. If you wear a uniform, be able to show what it cost. Bring a note from your employer that you are required to wear a uniform.

Right now 5000 people are waiting for public housing. For the elderly, blind, or disabled, there may be high rises available in a few months on Peachtree, Piedmont, or Cheshire Bridge.

Grady Hospital now has a minimum rate for an ambulance call of \$1.00. They have also raised the cost of a prescription from 25¢ to 50¢. These raises are caused by the new Medicaid cuts! *****

affected by Medicaid. We hafta pay more for our medicine now. Soon we will be paying \$2.00 a visit to see the doctor. My biggest concern is for all the old people in the nursing homes. My next concern is for the little needy children.

USE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL AID

The freeze is over now. So far, existing vacancies were given to residents of the condemned La Villa Apartments.

WELFARE FOR STEP-CHILDREN

Poor people often need legal help. They can get good legal help -- FREE -- from neighborhood legal aid offices.

For families with children, there is no new construction underway or even planned. But soon you can get rent subsidies instead. Under this plan, you find your own apartment. It must be up to the standard housing code, and the landlord has to agree to take Section 8 families. Then you apply to the new AHA Section 8 office. Through this office, the government can pay part of your rent. How much they pay will depend on your income and number of family members. The net (take-home) income limit for one person is \$6,800. For a family of four, it's \$10,900. We will give you more information as the office opens.

Welfare is changing many of its regulations. Most changes hurt the Welfare parent. Sometimes certain Welfare parents get a break.

We can't depend on the politicians. They are corrupted and stealing and going to jail. When you go to the polls be sure you know who you are voting for!

The Legal Aid Offices listed below operate to help you. Call before you go to find out what the office hours are. Try to go early in the day so you will be certain to get the legal help you need as soon as possible.

When an AFDC mother remarries, her new husband is not expected to support her children from a former marriage. They can still get AFDC (unless the mother earns enough to support them.)

So until next month, Peace!

Legal Aid Offices

- Main Office -- 153 Pryor SW
524-5811
- Decatur -- 118 Barry (off Sycamore)
377-0701
- Southside -- 1070 Washington SW
524-2681
- Lawrenceville -- 166 Pike, L'ville
963-8171
- Simpson Road - 1231 Simpson Rd.
758-9214
- Cobb County -- 159 Dobbs St.
Marietta
428-3802

Remember...if you have medical bills over \$10.00 a month report them to your Food Stamps worker. People who have large bills for the doctor, prescription medicine, and transportation to the doctor pay less for Food Stamps.

The new husband is expected to support his wife. She cannot be included in the childrens' Welfare UNLESS she can prove that her husband has no job and cannot support her.

Medicaid rules change so fast these days, we can't keep up! All we know is, poor people pay more each time they change. When we know for sure what the new rules are, we'll tell you.

If you get AFDC for your children and not for yourself, and your second husband is not employed, call your caseworker. You may be able to get a larger Welfare grant for yourself and the children.

One medical program is still the same. It is called Early Screening and Diagnosis. Under this program, children who go to their county Health Department for a check-up can get both dental care and glasses, if they are needed.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FOOD STAMPS? CALL THE FOOD STAMP HOT-LINE AT 1-800-282-4900.

There was a notice about this in with the November Welfare check. If you think your children need either glasses or dental care, get them into this program. Make Medicaid do all it can for you!

To all of you who are in the Struggle:

I come to you once again to say hello to you and chat with you for a few moments. First thanks and honor to God. I thank him for watching over me from day to day. All of us are God's children and he will provide for all of us. Believe in God first then believe in yourself and stop looking for peoples to do for you what you can do for yourself.

Now is the time for us to fight for our rights and our heritage that our fathers, forefathers and our great grandfathers laid down and died for us to have. Are we going to let the super rich take all of this away from us? We are women and we are the head of our household. We will hafta stand together and fight for our needs of others. We must survive. We can't depend on the slick crooked tongue city officials who are the government any more. They are so corrupt that they have gone to fighting among themselves. The churches are lagging also and they have been lagging for a long time. We have been tricked by the politicians long enough. Come '76, don't be tricked by slicked tongued politicians again. We can win if we stick together.

November 1st was a crucial day for a lot of welfare mothers. Governor Busbee fooled a lot of us when he asked for our votes. We thought he was the man to help the poor and the needy, but we found

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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NEW LEASES FOR AHA TENANTS

The Atlanta Housing Authority is planning to change its leases and grievance procedures soon. First, though, the tenants will have an opportunity to say what they think about these proposed changes.

During December either copies of the proposed new rules will be sent to the tenants or the tenants will be told where they can read them. Anyone who wants to comment on the changes can do so within 30 days. You should write down your comments and send the letter to your project manager.

We at the Poor People's Paper have not seen the new leases and grievance procedures yet. We don't know whether the changes will be good or bad, BUT you should read the lease and let AHA know your opinions. These rules will affect you and your rights.

If you want to talk about these changes with someone, call Dennis Goldstein at Washington Street, Legal Aid at 524-2681 or the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

PRIVACY ACT HURTS PRO WORK

Ever since the SSI program began, the Poverty Rights Office has helped people with SSI problems. We have called the Social Security Office regularly to try to find out things like why a check didn't come, or why a person got less money than he should or why a person hasn't heard about his application.

Now we can't be nearly as helpful as before. Social Security is no longer allowed to discuss your case with anyone but you yourself. This is good! Your business shouldn't be discussed by everyone. BUT this law means now that even when you want us to help you with a problem, we can't do it very well. We can call Social Security but they can't tell us the answer to our questions. Social Security has to call you with the answers. This makes solving every problem much more difficult and time consuming.

All this makes it very important that you get the name of anyone you talk to at Social Security. If we talk to the same person you talk to, we can still do you some good.

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. Several 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.

Unfortunately, the court decided not to change the rules about lost and stolen checks. 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. 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.

NO-FAULT DIVORCE

With Georgia's no-fault divorce law, couples can get a divorce when they tell the court that their marriage is completely broken. They don't have to blame each other for adultery or other grounds which were previously required for divorce. Hopefully, couples getting a no-fault divorce

can arrange for custody of children and division of property in a friendly way. The main thing to remember is that with no-fault divorce you still need to go to court and you need a lawyer. If you want a divorce, get in touch with Atlanta Legal Aid or call 523-2856.

NEWS ABOUT FOOD STAMPS

Right now the food stamp situation is all confusion. There are a number of different bills proposed in Congress that could bring drastic changes to the present system that could be bad for everyone.

As soon as we know the changes we'll let you know. Look for articles in future issues of the Poor Peoples' Newspaper.

Sandy Hork is the new food stamp outreach worker at the Poverty Rights Office. If you have a hearing on your food stamps, she will go with you. She can also help you with other food stamp problems and help you find out if you are eligible and if you are paying the right amount. To contact Sandy Hork, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

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Do you have questions about food stamps? Call the FOOD STAMP HOT-LINE at 1-800-282-4900.

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SECTION 8 PROVIDES FOR HOUSING FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Recently a new government housing program called Section 8 has been in the news. This is a rent supplement program for people who are eligible for public housing.

The idea is that a person finds his own place to live and pays low rent as if he were in public housing.

He gets a Section 8 Certificate that pays the difference between public housing rent and the regular rent.

It's a good idea, but it's a new program and full of problems. Many people in Atlanta who need and want decent housing have already called 892-8190 and have gotten appointments to see if they can get a certificate. Many other people have been told to call later to make their appointments. If you live in DeKalb County or Jonesboro, call the Poverty Rights Office for the Section 8 phone number in your area.

Right now Section 8 is badly overcrowded. If you want to get into this program, keep calling. If Section 8 works, it will be a big improvement for many people. All hope this will be a good program. People need housing so badly.

MS. MATHEWS' CONTINUED

out two weeks later after he took office he was not for us at all. We will not give up. We will keep on marching and picketin until justice is done for all of us who are black and poor. We will leave Governor Busbee and all of the other City Officials in the hands of God.

I hope that all of you will have a Merry Xmas and a happy New Year. Look to God, he will supply your every need.

Well my Sisters and Brothers. This is your Sister in the Struggle saying to you, we have got to keep moving on straight ahead.

Love, Peace, Justice and Freedom for all until next month.

I live in the Struggle, Much love to all of my co-workers,

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

10 AM to 3 PM -- Monday - Friday

523-2856

Your county health department and your local welfare office have list of Doctors who will accept medicaid patients. If you need the name of a private medicaid doctor, call these offices.
