

Hello my faithful co-workers,

I come to you once again to say to you, praise to God and give him thanks. First I must give thanks to God for bringing me all the way through 1975. And I know all of you thank him too. No matter how hard the Struggle has been with us, no matter how much we have marched and picketed all down through this year for our rights and for the right of others which we are entitled to, we still have a lot to thank God for. If only we would believe in God first, then believe in ourselves and get the job done that we have been waiting too long for others to do for us. It is time for us to Stand up and take a Stand and let the slick talking politicians know that we will not be used and lied to come 1976. We can do it. All we hafta do is stand together and let those crooked politicians know that we are not shucking and jiving with them any longer. We have stood back and let the super rich and the oreos cookies plan for us too long. It is time for us to take action and let the city white fathers know that women's have power and when all of the womens come together, that's alot of power. And we will use it at the polls and the ballot boxes come '76. A Winner never loses and a looser never quits. We have come too far to think about quitting now if Black and Poor People are to ever be free. First there must be unity within.

JANUARY 1976

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VI NO. 1

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

JAN. 1976

MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!!

In 1975 AFDC Welfare in the state of Georgia was cut three different times! Once it was cut because the Department of Human Resources said they wouldn't have enough money to pay all the welfare checks unless they cut the amount of most checks. Twice welfare checks were cut because the \$32 per person per month average grant rule was enacted by the State Legislature. What this \$32 average grant means to an AFDC family is very clear. It means that a family is too poor to get by! What's worse is that the \$32 cut - the cut in the January checks - means welfare in Georgia will have a surplus of 5.4 million dollars this fiscal year.

Poor people need the money and the State has the money, but poor people can't have the money because our legislature said an average of \$32 per person per month was enough. The legislature is meeting again in the next few weeks.

Now is the time to let your Legislator know how you feel about the

\$32 average AFDC grant rule. Tell it like it is to your Legislator. He/she wants and needs to know your opinion. Poor people will never get their rights until they stand up for them.

If you live in Fulton County call 572-3192 or 656-5149. They will tell you who your legislator is.

You don't need to write your legislator; you can call him. Tell your representative whatever you want, but if you don't like welfare cuts tell him/her to vote against the "32 average rule"! Call us at 523-2856 if you need help contacting your representative.

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

The fact that insurance policies are often unclear, makes it important that you read and re-read your policy to know exactly where you stand. You must always, when applying for insurance, make sure your personal information is straight and that you have told the insurance agent all the necessary facts that will determine the kind of coverage you will get. After you've paid premiums for a few years, you need to take a look at your policy and check just what value you are getting out of the policy. When an insurance

CUT OFF WELFARE? REAPPLY!

If you got off welfare in November or December, there is still one more thing you can try before March. You can reapply to get back of AFDC. If you can prove that you pay more than \$50 a month work-expenses you may still qualify for welfare. Maybe the amount you pay for child care will make the difference and get you back on AFDC. You don't know until you try at least.

After March, getting back on Welfare will be much more difficult because you will lose a large, important deduction. If you want to know what your chances are to get back on Welfare, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856. We can tell you whether it's worth your while to reapply.

agent comes by to collect your premiums - ask him to give you an addressed envelope so you can mail in your premiums in case he doesn't come by your house again. Sometimes the agent fails to visit you and then you in turn wait for him to collect the next time. When this happens your policy can lapse and you will be forced to buy another policy. This is why it is so important to contact your insurance company or lawyer when you have doubts about your rights.

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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.

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Did you request a hearing about your Welfare check cut and then have to cancel it or lose the hearing? If so, your caseworker may tell you now that you have to pay back your last couple of Welfare checks. The legal name for this is "recoupment".

If "recoupment" is happening to you, please call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856 or your neighborhood Legal Aid. You have a right to refuse to pay back these checks. You do not have to sign any paper saying that you will pay the Welfare anything. The Georgia Welfare Manual protects your rights in the matter of "recoupment". We will help you defend these rights, if your caseworker tries to force you to pay back your Welfare check.

JUNK IN YOUR MAIL

If you order something through the mail or by phone from a catalog, you have to pay for it or return it. But if you receive something in the mail that you did not order, you don't have to pay for it, and you don't have to send it back. Suppose you receive something like a necktie or pepper and salt shakers with a friendly letter asking for payment or a donation: You don't have to do anything. You can use the things or throw them away, but you don't have to pay. If you get hassled about this, call Legal Aid. If you live outside Atlanta, telephone Georgia Indigent Legal Services.

themselves and in the Black community. The Food Stamp Program ain't nothing but a rip-off to Black and Poor Peoples. It is an abuse. Many People in this country continue to suffer abuse at the hands of People in Washington who are completely out of touch with the everyday struggles of poor citizens. Reflective of this distance is the kind of legislative proposals which continue to challenge the credibility of poor and working Poor People in this State. Every child has a right to food. There will be millions of families cut off the food stamp program just like come January 1st there will be another big cut in the recipients welfare checks. A mother and one child will only get \$38; a mother with 2 children will only get \$77; a mother with 3 children will get only \$115. That is nothing for a family to live on. The childrens will be hurt the most. So I want to ask you welfare mothers a question. What are you planning to do? Sit back and let your children eat the crumbs while the Super rich eat the Steak and we mothers lick the bone. So now I will bring my message to a close, but always keep in mind that I am your Sister in the Struggle with you. I live in the Struggle.

So until next month,
Love, Joy, and Happiness

I hope that all of you will have a big Happy New Year. God will supply our every needs.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Hello Everybody,

Greetings to all my co-workers, friends and supporters. First I give honor and thanks to God. He has been so good and so kind. He has been better to me than I have been to myself.

I feel so proud of all of you out there. Without you and without God's help, and without all of us sticking together we couldn't win our fight for the cause we believe in.

1975 was a crucial year for a lot of us, but we will not hang back in the past. We will look straight ahead to the future of 1976. We will keep on fighting the Welfare cuts, the Medicaid cuts, the cuts in Food Stamps that do not feed the hungry but save the state money. We will fight for our rights and the rights of all poor people. We must forget our differences with each other. We must come together and hold. We must think together, decide together, teach each other together, and demand our rights to a decent life from birth to death. Only the strong survive, and we will survive with God's help. Gov. Busbee don't think so, but he is wrong. Always remember that poor peoples have power--not gun-backed power--but people power. At the ballot boxes we are not going to be used by smart, young politicians anymore. Most politicians tell all kinds of lies to get in office. To all the city officials and state officials--listen--we are going to keep on marching and fighting for justice!

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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FEB. 1976

POOR PEOPLE LOSE OUT IN MEDICAID BATTLE

Poor people in Georgia lost the first round of the fight to keep from having to pay the doctor even when you have Medicaid. Attorney Wayne Pressel is still trying to keep people from having to pay \$1.00 each time you go to the doctor, \$2.00 each time you go to a hospital out-patient clinic, and up to \$25.00 for the first day you stay in the hospital.

Right now you do have to pay these fees, and the fees for medications, ambulance, etc., but watch the news for any changes that might happen. The case has not been finally decided as this article is being written in January 1976.

Even now, though, you do not have to pay if you have an emergency case and need treatment right away. You do not pay if you go into the hospital to have a baby. If the situation is a "Life or death" one, you do not have to pay.

Poor people shouldn't have to pay for medical care. An old person who lives on \$157.00 a month can't afford \$25.00 to go to the hospital when they need to.

PROOF OF WORK-EXPENSES CAN RAISE YOUR AFDC CHECK

Since the Welfare cuts last November have you seen your caseworker and shown her proof of your work expenses? Have you showed her your pay stubs, childcare receipts, proof of transportation costs, lunch expenses, uniforms and tools? If not, you are probably getting less Welfare than you should.

If you earn around \$125.00 a week, your monthly work expenses can be close to \$100.00 per month (not counting childcare). The Welfare only allows work expenses of \$50.00 unless you prove each expense separately.

Don't cheat yourself, call 523-2856. We'll tell you what you need to prove and how to do it, so you get the maximum AFDC Grant you are entitled to.

NEED EMERGENCY FOOD? CALL

Christian Council	- 881-9891
West Hunter St.	753-7880
Hunger Coalition	659-0878
Dunbar Center	522-8640
Senior Citizens	577-2838
Mechanicsville	523-3142
Grady Services	659-1212 X4007
St. Vincent de Paul	523-1541

CHEAPER CAN BE BETTER

There are six pages of business and technical schools in the Yellow Pages. Most are good at advertising and have counselors full of personality who try to sign you up for courses. But most are very expensive. You might have to pay as much as \$1695.00 for a 9-month course. Some private schools won't tell you their tuition on the phone. They want to talk you into taking the course first.

If you want training for a job, first find out if the same or similar courses are taught at Atlanta Area Technical School at 758-9451 or DeKalb Technical School at 292-1525. Nine months of schooling at Atlanta Area Tech is \$82.50. (It costs 20 times that much at some schools.) Atlanta Area Tech has courses in business, including computer programming, beauty and barber schools, construction fields, and health fields. There is quite a variety of courses there--both in the day and in the evening. Just call to find out if they have what you are interested in. DeKalb Technical School has many of the same. These schools don't advertise because their purpose is to give you a good education, not to make a profit.

If you cannot find what you want at DeKalb or Atlanta Tech, make sure that the school you choose is accredited. Call the place where you want to work and ask if they hire graduates from the school. Watch out for correspondence schools because it's a hard

way to learn. Many students drop out and lose their money. If you are a veteran and the school is veteran approved, you may get help in your tuition as part of your veteran's benefits. Also, ask if you can get a Basic Economic Grant to cover your tuition. Check with a high school counselor to find out about this grant.

PROTECT YOUR BABY BEFORE IT IS BORN

Everything a pregnant woman does, affects the child she carries. And many of the things the woman does before pregnancy and during pregnancy decide whether their baby will be born healthy or not. It is important that you:

- 1) Get all your vaccinations before you get pregnant. Disease can cause permanent damage to your child.
- 2) See a good doctor or maternity clinic as soon as you think you may be pregnant.
- 3) If you are pregnant, try to stay away from people you know who are ill.
- 4) Try to eat as well as you can especially protein (meat, eggs, cheese). Protein is important in developing your child's mind.
- 5) Stop smoking.
- 6) Don't take any unnecessary medicines. Many common medicines can harm your developing child.

Please make regular visits to the doctor, and report any worries you may have.

POVERTY RIGHTS ORGANIZATION TACKLES LEGISLATORS

January 13th members of the Georgia Poverty Rights Organization came to the State Capitol to talk to their legislators about poor peoples' problems. (Some of the laws that hurt poor people are made in Washington, but many laws that affect them are made right here in Atlanta.)

The most important issue discussed was AFDC welfare cuts. The main reason welfare was cut three times during 1975 was a part of the appropriations bill called "the \$32 provision." "The \$32 provision" states that the average welfare grant in Georgia cannot be more than \$32. We all want this \$32 provision thrown out this year. Members of Georgia Poverty Rights came and did something about it.

We do not yet know how many legislators listened to them, but we are hopeful. There is also a case in Federal Court about the recent welfare cuts, but that has not yet been decided either.

What we do know is that it is unfair to cut welfare mothers and at the same time raise caseworkers salaries. We know it was worth the effort for people to come all the way from Waycross and Brunswick and Valdosta to tell their representative to stop making poor people pay and pay and pay just because times are bad.

MS. MATHEWS CONTINUED

Mr. Charles Helms, my December column stated that I would leave all the city fathers in God's hands. He is not pleased with all you all are doing to the poor--making them suffer for food, pay to see a doctor, for medication which they cannot pay for because they don't receive enough to live on. \$78.00 is not enough for a mother and one child to live on with food prices rising skyhigh from day to day.

So Mr. Charles Helms, if you feel guilty about what I said in my December column and if that shoe fitted your feet, I think you should be the one to wear it. I am not a judge, and revenge is God's, but all of us know when we are not getting what we are entitled to. Our forefathers as slaves worked with the sweat of their hands and they died by the blood. We are entitled to a decent living.

I still say the ministers and the churches are lagging way behind. All churches should help the needy. Some of their members need help, but if they don't ask for it, they won't get it.

I still feel as I did in December. We can't depend on some politicians. How can we trust them when they are fighting among themselves? Some of us feel this is not a race problem, but a crucial economic problem for the blacks and the "Have-nots".

Peace, Justice, and freedom for all.

I live in the struggle.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Dear Friends, Members and Supporters,

I come to you again to say Hello and greetings for 1976. First giving thanks to God. He has no separate peoples. God made us all, and with Him all things are possible. Things look pretty rough with us sometimes, but we must keep marching forward. We must all join the fight and the struggle. One can't do it all. We have a right and it was paid for by our fathers and our grandfathers. The question I want to ask is, "What are we going to do about it?" Are we going to let the city fathers and the state fathers and the county fathers take it all away from us? As long as we sit back and let them, they will continue to get away with what they are doing and have been doing down through the years. A lot of people are running for office this year so we must make our voices heard at the polls and ballot boxes. We have the power: God's power and people power. It is 1976 and we must not let the politicians use us any more. We are tired of slick tongued politicians running our lives for us. We can plan our own lives. Before we can get over one blow the system has another one waiting for us. A mother with children can't live under the present Welfare cuts. We have to pay for our medication and to see a doctor. Food Stamps is a big rip-off for poor peoples. There is a bill in the House of the Assembly, 1186, and if it passes Welfare mothers will have to go to the office and stand in line before

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MAR. 1976

TAX BREAK FOR THE WORKING POOR WITH CHILDREN

This year, poor working parents will receive a tax rebate, called the "earned income credit." If you do your tax preparation yourself, look on page 18 of the 1975 Federal Income Tax Short Form 1040-A for instructions. If you go to your neighborhood EOA Center for help, or to Mr. Coe at Emmaus House (1017 Capitol Ave.) be ready to answer questions about the "earned income credit."

YOU CAN'T GET THE CREDIT UNLESS YOU FILE YOUR INCOME TAX. You should file an income tax return even if you only worked a few weeks in 1975, if you can answer "yes" to all the following questions.

1. Did you earn any money in 1975?
2. Did you earn less than \$8,000?
3. Did you pay at least half the cost of keeping up a home (either rented or owned) for you and a dependent child?
4. Was that child under 19 years old?

If you are a married couple who can answer "Yes", you must file a joint income tax return. If you are a single parent, you also qualify for this tax credit.

This tax credit could mean quite a lot of cash in your pocket. If you have any doubts about whether you qualify, call someone and find out. Call Internal Revenue at 522-0050, or your EOA Center, or the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856. Just don't miss out and remember to file a tax return by April 15th.

Need help with your taxes? Both Emmaus House, 1017 Capitol Ave. SW, 525-5948 and your local EOA Center have staff ready to help you file your tax return. Contact them for the days and hours you could come in.

If your caseworker asking you to pay money back to the Welfare of SSI? Probably you won't have to do it. Just DON'T SIGN ANY PAPER UNLESS YOU REALLY AGREE WITH WHAT IT SAYS. Call your Legal Aid Office or the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856 if you are worried about this "recoupment."

CONGRESS WILL SOON CHANGE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The entire food stamp program is being studied and remade by Congress right now. It is urgent that poor people tell their congressmen and senators how they feel about the proposed changes in regulations.

Senator Herman Talmadge is chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee which has been considering 6 different food stamp bills. Two of them, the Dole-McGovern and the Javits bills would improve the program for poor people. Others, like the President Ford and the Buckley bills, would make things very much worse.

There are 4 major issues in the pending legislation:

1. The proposal to eliminate the purchase price of food stamps. Instead of paying a certain amount for a food stamp allotment, each person would get the bonus value of his food stamps free. This looks good since many people cannot afford to buy their full allotment of food stamps. This would also cut administrative costs and fraud on the part of the people who sell food stamps.

2. The reduction of income eligibility. Some of the proposals, including President Ford's, would greatly reduce the maximum income and resources a family can have and still qualify for food stamps. If adopted, about 6 million people,

many of the working poor and many elderly people who own a little property would lose their food stamps.

3. The proposal to do away with itemized deductions and to substitute a standard deduction. This would be a hardship for families who have high child care and medical expenses. Some of the bills provide higher standard deductions than others.

4. The proposal to base food stamp eligibility on a family's average income for the past 90 days instead of on current income. This would make it impossible for someone to get food stamps if he had just lost his job.

Call or write Senator Talmadge, 681-3838, Senator Sam Nunn, 526-4811, and your congressman right away to tell them what you want them to do about food stamps. Call Congressman Elliott Levitas at 377-1717 and Congressman Andrew Young at 688-8207. Congressman Young is, as usual on the side of poor people concerning food stamps.

AFDC CUTS CONTINUE

All last year Legal Aid and GILS lawyers, poor people, and Georgia Poverty Rights volunteers have been trying to do something to stop the Welfare from cut, cut, cutting AFDC checks. The biggest amount of the blame for the cut checks belongs to the Georgia legislators who agreed last year to the \$32 Proviso. We all tried to get the legislature to throw out the \$32 Proviso for 1976, but we lost. Mr. Douglas Dean and Mr. Bobby Hill helped us in the House and Mr. Julian Bond and Mr. Henry McDowell helped us in the Senate, but we lost the vote.

The \$32 Proviso means hard times for poor people. We'll just have to fight harder next time when a new budget is proposed in June.

The Legal Aid lawyers were busy in court while others were at the legislature. At court the lawyers won back a small increase for a single child on welfare. Before the cuts one child got \$45, then he was cut to \$42, then \$38. The cut down to \$38 was illegal. As soon as Legal Aid took the Welfare Department to court, Welfare raised the \$38 to \$42.

The whole case about the cuts has not yet been decided by Judge Moyer. Watch your TV and papers for news about it. Maybe the Legal Aid lawyers can get a little back for other AFDC grant groups!

Ms. Mathews (Continued)

they can get a check. This is cruel and unfair. We are human beings and we want to be treated with respect and dignity. We must protest against that bill. It must be vetoed. We are the ones that can make it happen. Join in the struggle. We need your help.

Your sister in the Struggle --
Love, Peace and Freedom

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

EVICTION AND YOUR RIGHTS

When a tenant is behind in his rent, the landlord usually threatens the tenant that he will set the tenant on the street tomorrow or next week. That scares the tenant a lot, but most people don't know that they can defend themselves against eviction. If you are threatened with eviction, these are your rights: The landlord must have a warrant served on you before he can set your things out. If a landlord tries to evict you quickly by locking you out, shutting off utilities or moving your things out, YOU CAN SUE HIM. It is illegal for him to do any of these things. Once you get the warrant, you have 7 days to answer it. Even after the 7 days, you have 15 more days before the landlord can get a writ of possession which allows the marshalls to come and set you out. Example: If your landlord starts talking about evicting you, go to a legal aid office for advice, but remember that HE CAN'T SET YOU OUTDOORS FOR 22 DAYS after you get the first warrant. You have 3 weeks to pay up the rent or move to a new place.

Good morning to my faithful co-workers and others in this great struggle:

First I give thanks to God who is the head of my life and my house. As I look back there has been a great change in my life. It was the Grace of God that changed my whole life, and it is God's Grace has brought me this far. Since our last meeting I've had surgery did on me, eyelid and neck and been feeling tough, but God's strength keeps me keeping on. It gets mighty rough sometime, but we have come too far to even think about stopping now. As Black and poor people we must keep the dream and struggle alive that our forefathers fought and died for so we might have the things we are entitled to -- a decent life, jobs, and a decent wage if you can work; for the disabled, an adequate income to live as human beings, a better health care program. Remove the \$2 we have to pay the doctor and the \$.50 for medicine we need by prescription. Some of us don't have the money to pay for this, although it seems small. That is why we have to keep fighting and stand together for social change.

We have got to set the record straight and let the great white fathers and some of the great black fathers know that God died for all of us and our sins and to let the whole round world know that salvation is free. God died so that we could have love - peace - freedom - joy and happiness and God did not mean for the superrich to

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APRIL 1976

VICTORY! VICTORY! VICTORY!

The Georgia Legislature finished its session March 5. We can claim a victory in two most important bills.

The bill which would require everyone on welfare to get an identification card and pick up his check at the welfare office, DID NOT PASS. (Hallelujah)

The second win was the removal of the \$32 limit in average welfare payments. This was a long and bitter fight. Some people were determined to have that \$32 in the law. But IT WAS REMOVED. The vote was small, but big enough to win.

This victory promises that we will have no more cuts in welfare checks for at least a year. AFDC mothers can breathe a little easier.

We thank many people for making this come true. Mrs. Ethel M. Mathews and her group of dedicated people marched, marched, marched.

Ministers and Bishops used their influence. People all over Georgia in the Poverty Rights Organization used persuasion to educate and change their legislator's attitudes.

The black members of the legislature worked unceasingly day after day in an atmosphere of hatred and bitterness.

The Governor and the leadership in the Department of Human Resources finally came out openly against the \$32 ceiling. This was a turning point.

We have a big job to do! There were only seven whites in the metropolitan Atlanta area who always voted with the black members in the House of Representatives on these crucial votes. Remember that they all come up for re-election this summer. Persuade good people to run for office! Register! Vote!

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

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

SENIOR CITIZENS HELP EACH OTHER

have it all for themselves. The pie is large and we want a slice of it.

You know, the faithful few, we have been working very hard since Nov. 1st 1975 and it looked like nothing was going to give. But thanks to God and our picketing of our Governor and the capitol and many other places, it brought about a change, so you see our picketing was not in vain. Some people say picketing don't do any good. If you don't believe it do good, ask our governor. He told reporters no more welfare cuts this year. He made it clear that he wanted to avoid the embarrassment of having welfare recipients march in protest. Let's keep marching and we will get the job done yet.

I want to thank all of you for staying strong and staying on the picket line. With God's help and strength we will keep on until justice ring down upon all of us. And we will continue to work for the womens and mens behind the prison walls.

Congratulations to all of you and many thanks to all the legislators who supported our cause for the \$32 ceiling to be lifted off. We thank all of you, especially my good friend and legislator Mr. Douglas Dean. You put up a good fight. Keep up the good work.

Until next month, I am yours in the Struggle, Love, Peace, freedom and justice for all.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

The West End EOA Center is offering two kinds of help to people living in Southwest Atlanta.

For the elderly, a nutrition program provides free lunches Monday through Friday. Transportation is provided for some areas. Persons 60 years old or older may call Ms. Vivian Tyler, 753-6101 for more information.

A program called Telephone Re-assurance centers on daily telephone calls by senior citizen volunteers to persons who are confined to their homes for physical or medical reasons. Ms. Connie Ferrell of the EOA says this keeps her informed about who needs help. It works out very pleasantly for the people involved. Mrs. Fanny Bell Julian, a heart patient in the program, explained, "I'm by myself and it's a comfort for me to have the telephone calls."

Anyone in Southwest Atlanta who would like to receive calls or serve as a volunteer caller may call Ms. Ferrell at 754-6101.

HELP WITH INCOME TAX

All EOA centers are now providing free help in filling out tax returns for low income persons. Some centers are open at night and on weekends. Call your nearest EOA Neighborhood Center or 525-4262 if you need help in filing your income tax returns.

TELL CONGRESSMEN ABOUT FOOD STAMPS

By the time you receive the April Poor People's Paper, the proposed changes in the food stamp program will probably have been voted on in the Senate. The House of Representatives must now act on these changes.

Because many of the proposed changes will increase the cost of food stamps and at the same time increase the hassel involved in obtaining stamps, poor people must let their representatives know that they are opposed to the changes.

Tell your representative:

1. Food stamps cost too much. The percentage of income charged for food stamps needs to be lowered or the purchase price needs to be eliminated.
2. Monthly reporting should not be required. There is already too much hassel.
3. Work registration should not be required. Child care costs too much and is often not available.

Your letters do not have to be long or complicated. Here are some sample letters which may give you some ideas about what you would like to write:

Dear Representative Young:

I work every day. But I can hardly make it. My biggest help is food stamps. Please don't let them force working people off the program.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative Levitas:

I am old. Sometimes I can't buy my food stamps. I can't always get to the food stamp office to

report either. Please don't let them take away my food stamps.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative Young:

I am out of work and can't find a regular job. I can't always buy my food stamps, but when I can they help. Please don't let them charge more for food stamps. It is hard enough to feed a family.

Sincerely,

Call Congressman Elliott Levitas at 377-1717 or write him at 506 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515. Call Congressman Andrew Young at 688-8207 or write him at 1533 Longworth House office Building, Washington D.C. 20510

COURT FIGHT CONTINUES AGAINST AFDC CUTS

Legal Aid has brought a law suit to try to stop some of the cuts in Aid to Families with Dependent Children. This case has not been decided but there has been an encouraging sign. The judge has ordered the state to set aside \$100,000 each month from the money saved by welfare cuts.

When the case is tried, IF Legal Aid wins, some AFDC grants may be raised. This money will then be used to pay back these recipients the money they did not get because of the cuts.

Greetings, my sisters and brothers and others in this struggle trying to survive:

First giving thanks and honor to God for his love and the love that is within me. I am so grateful and so thankful today for God has brought all of us from a mighty long way. It is so good to be able to chat with you for a little while. My co-workers, we have worked long and hard and by working together and staying together we can truthfully say that our work was not in vain. I am very proud of you all and all of you should be proud of yourselves. We can't stop now. We still have a lot of work before us to do. As struggling peoples trying to survive we either go up together or we come down together.

This is 1976 the bicentennial year, 200 years old. My sisters and brothers, I want to ask you a question and I hope you don't judge me wrong or think the wrong thing about my question but I must express my feeling. As black and poor peoples do we know enough about the 200 year old history of the bicentennial to celebrate? We haven't been taught and we haven't been told about the meaning of it. I know there have been some great mens and womens who have contributed a lot and made history to society. But have they been made known to the disadvantaged and the poor who have been left out of so many things, such as planning and decision making that affects all of our lives who are poor? We could be a big help to those who

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VI, NO. 5

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

MAY 1976

SMALL CLAIMS COURT PROTECTS CONSUMER RIGHTS

You go to small claims court when you want to sue for an amount of money not greater than \$299.99. You don't need a lawyer in small claims court. Small claims court handles these kinds of cases: when someone has damaged property you own, such as clothing or a car, when someone fails to pay wages owed you, when your landlord fails to refund your rent security deposit and you have lived up to your part of the lease, when a product you have bought breaks down and the seller won't repair it or refund your money according to the guarantee, or when someone owes you money.

Go to the Clerk's Office, Room 102 of the Civil-Criminal Court Building, 160 Pryor Street. Filing your case will cost you \$7.00 to \$13.00 unless you sign a Pauper's Affidavit in place of the cost. On the small claims form you must have the correct name and address of the person or corporation you are suing.

If you think you will need help filling out the forms, bring someone with you to the Clerk's office.

The office will send you a card notifying you when you must go to Small Claims Court, which meets on the third Thursday of each month. To prove your case before the Judge, bring receipts, repair bills, or other documents, written estimates, and, if possible, witnesses. The other person, the defendant, has 30 days to answer your claim before you would both go to court. If he pays before court, let the court know. If you win in court, try to get him to pay right away. If he won't pay you, you have to fill out a paper called the fi. fa. and take it to the Marshall's office in Room 106. It's the Marshall's job to collect for you even if they have to collect directly from his wages, through a process called garnishment.

FOR DEKALB SENIOR CITIZENS

The Dekalb Community Council on Aging has some programs for you if you live in Dekalb and are 60 years of age or older. They provide transportation from your home to Senior Citizens Centers, doctors appointments, and shopping. Call one day ahead to get a seat on their van. At the Senior Citizens Centers you can meet people for lunch and recreation programs. The DGCOA also provides home services such as household work and repairs for people who can't do them for themselves. Widowed Persons Service helps people who are newly widowed. For more information call 377-9901.

TITLE XX OFFERS NEW WAYS TO HELP POOR PEOPLE

The Department of Human Resources has a new program called Title 20. People who are eligible are those who get AFDC or SSI, single persons with monthly incomes under \$338, couples with incomes under \$442, and some other poor people.

Title 20 offers these services:

1. Homes for children who need to be adopted.
2. Housework, transportation, household repairs, and personal care for older people to help them keep their homes.
3. Medical services not covered by medicaid that AFDC clients need before they can get jobs.
4. Protection and day care for neglected or abused children and adults.
5. Community centers and counseling for delinquent children so

COUNT YOUR FOOD STAMPS!

When you buy your food stamps at a post office or other issuance center check to be sure that they are all there before you pay for them. Some people have discovered too late, that stamps have been torn out, or whole pages missing from their food stamp allotment.

If you have questions about food stamps, call the FOOD STAMP HOT-LINE'S toll-free number -- 1-800-282-4900, if you live outside metropolitan Atlanta. In the Atlanta area, call 659-1888, the Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger.

they don't have to go to institutions.

6. Help in getting or training for a job.
7. Help in getting vocational rehabilitation.
8. Family planning services.
9. Foster care for children, adolescents and adults.
10. Health services including speech therapy and help for drug addicts and alcoholics.
11. Hot meals for people who can't prepare their own, delivered to homes or to a central eating area.
12. Help in running a household-- planning budgets, family problems.
13. Special services for the blind.
14. Help for pregnant women to get places to live, medical care and maternity home care.
15. Transportation to these services.

TITLE XX (Continued)

Money for this program is limited. If you need any of these services, apply for Title 20 right away. Call or visit your welfare office or call this toll-free number: 1-800-282-4900.

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN HURT YOU

The Welfare and SSI send out letters; or notices in with checks, every time something new happens in the program. Often these letters are hard to understand. You don't understand these letters sometimes because the Welfare people have their own language. And when you don't understand, you don't notice that the letters have small print on the back or down at the bottom of the letter. Very often, people can't read the whole letter very well, or can't understand it. In this case, what you don't know can hurt you. For instance, the AFDC check last October told Welfare mothers to "verify your work expenses" before November 1st. Many people who got that notice didn't understand "verify your work expenses." It means you have to prove how much you spent for transportation to work, meals at work, uniforms, etc. There were too many families who got cut or cut off Welfare because they didn't understand the notice. Social Security sends letters, too, that really matter. Once every year SSI recipients need to fill out forms again. The Social Security sends you a letter asking you to come in for an interview. If you don't go in or answer it, Social Security will cut off your check after a few weeks. So if you get a letter and don't really understand it call us or Welfare, or Social Security.

(MS. MATHEWS CONTINUED)

sit in high places if we was given a chance. It is not the title that you have before your name. It's not the diploma that hangs on your wall or sits on your mantle collecting dust. It's the human being that you are, the concern and the love that you have for others, putting other peoples' needs before your own and trying to help and do something about their problems. I love peoples and I love the work that I try to do in helping someone other than myself as being very concerned about the conditions and the struggle that we live with today. We will have something to celebrate when all poverty is wiped out. Jobs for all peoples who are able to work and adequate wage to all peoples to live a decent life, decent housing to live in, a good medical program to promote better health care for all peoples. And once and for all come together as one and love one another as God loves us all, no matter who we are and what we do. There is some good in all of us. Come and join with us. There is room for everyone.

So until next month I am yours in the struggle for peace and freedom for everyone..

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

+++++

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

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

My faithful workers, friends, and supporters:

I come to you once again to greet you and say hello and to wish you many happy blessings from Almighty God. First I must give thanks to God for all the things that he has been to me and are still to me. There has been a lot of heartache, troubles, pitfalls, and obstacles down through my life and in my pathway. But with God's help and my faith in God He has given me the strength and courage to stand up and keep looking to him whence all my help come from. No matter how things get or how dark my days seem to be I will not doubt God's word and what He can do. I will keep the faith holding on. I will not turn back. God has brought me too far. My message to you is keep the faith and don't turn back. In unity and togetherness we will overcome the struggles we are faced with today. Sometime it gets pretty rough for us and we feel like throwing up our hands, calling it quits. But we can't stop now. We have accomplished too much to give it back so we must unite and keep the struggle and the dream alive. We are fighting for survival for everyone. The fight is not easy and it has never has been easy for the black and poor. It can't get no worse. It just got to get better.

\$12 million dollars was appropriated to the medical program
(Continued page 3)

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VI NO. 5

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

JUNE 1976

TIRED OF GRADY? TRY NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CLINICS

Most poor people in Atlanta go to Grady. And going to Grady can be a hassle. If you're really sick, the treatment you get is worth the trouble. But going to Grady for something like a sore throat doesn't seem worth it.

Depending on where you live, there may be another solution. Certain areas of Atlanta have free health clinics to serve the residents of their areas. Doctors in these clinics usually don't treat serious illnesses. They don't do operations or fix broken bones. If you are too sick to be treated there, they will refer you to Grady. This referral can save you an 8-hour wait. Call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856 for more information.

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

Cabbagetown Clinic - Fulton Mills - Reynoldstown Cooperative Health Center
679 Kirkwood Ave., SE 577-2942
Hours: Tues. 6 PM; Thurs. 6 PM

Beacon Hill Community Center
126 W. Trinity Pl., Decatur
Hours: Mon. 7 PM; Wed. 7 PM

Scottdale Clinic
3218 Tobie Circle - 292-2652
Hours: Thurs. 7 PM

Lynnwood Park Clinic
3360 Osburn Rd. - 252-3894
Hours: Tues. 7 PM

Plunkettown Health Center
209 Rockwell Rd.
Hours: Every other Wed. from
7:30 PM

The Community Crisis Center
40 Peachtree Pl. NE - 892-1358
Hours: Tues. 5 PM - Women's Clinic
Wed. 6:30 PM - General

W. T. Brooks Clinic
1636 Connally Dr., East Point
761-7121
Hours: Monday through Friday
8:30 AM - 5 PM

Central Presbyterian Church
201 Washington St. SW - 659-0117
Hours: Tues. and Thurs.
12:30 - 2:30 PM --

Children's Clinic, including Dental
(No Adult Clinic)
2nd and 4th Thurs. 12:30 - 2 PM--
Family Planning Clinic

Bedford Pines Medical Clinic
295-A Merritts Ave. NE
523-1541
Hours: Wed. 7 PM

AHA CHANGES LEASES, RENT AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

If you live in public housing you'll be signing a new lease, the way for figuring your rent will be changed, and there will be a new way for you to complain about grievances.

The new lease says that you will pay rent on the first of the month, that you'll pay for damages, that you won't move extra people in, and that you'll keep your place clean. It says that you'll give information to the Housing Authority so that they can figure your rent. It also says what the project has to do for you: provide a place for garbage, keep the buildings and grounds clean and safe, keep plumbing, heating, etc. working, notify you if they come to inspect, and give you good cause for ending the lease.

The new way of figuring rent means that rent will go up for some people and down for others. If your rent goes up because of these new rules, you won't have to pay more than \$5 more per month for the first five months. Every six months it can go up another \$5 until you pay the full increased rent. But, if your rent goes up because of changes in your situation (like a higher income), then you'll have to pay it now.

Along with changes in rent and leases, there is a new grievance procedure. A grievance procedure is a method to settle problems you have with the

projects because of something they did or didn't do. Suppose your toilet is broken. You have told the project manager about it, and he hasn't done anything. Here is how the new grievance procedure works: You go down to the office and make your complaint. You write it down or make sure someone there writes it down. Then you have to say that you want to have a meeting with someone about it. After you've had the meeting, the housing person has to write up what they plan to do about the toilet and send you a copy of it in 10 days to ask for a grievance hearing. At the hearing you'll go before a person or group who will listen to your side of the problem, and they'll rule for one side or the other.

You have a right to have copies of your new lease, the list of charges for damages, the rules and regulations for your project, the grievance procedure. These things should also be posted in the project office. If you have trouble getting these papers, call the PRO, and ask to have them sent to you.

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POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

10 AM to 3 PM -- Monday - Friday

523-2856

TARGET PROJECT PROGRAM COMES TO ATLANTA

Atlanta is one of several cities throughout the country where a new federal program, the Target Project Program (TTP) has been in operation for several months. This program now operating at such Atlanta Housing Authority Projects as Carver Homes, Perry Homes, Eagen Homes, and Bankhead Courts, provides money to hire tenants to work in the management and social service of each of these developments. These tenant employees are supposed to talk to their fellow residents, find out what's really needed at the Project and assist individuals and families in solving whatever problems may exist.

According to various reports this program is really working at Carver Homes. Much-needed improvements like closet doors and new wall-paper and a new program in insect and rat control have been started.

This program sounds like something that has long been needed in most of the projects. After all, it is the people who live in the projects who know what the problems are. If you live at one of the projects where this program is being tried, we'd like to know what you think about TTP. Let us hear from you at 523-2856.

THE ATLANTA HOUSING AUTHORITY
APPLICATION OFFICE HAS MOVED FROM
HUNTER STREET TO 680 WEST PEACH-
TREE STREET. THEIR NEW PHONE
NUMBER IS 892-4102.

(Ms. Mathews Continued)

for the fiscal year but what will happen to the poor when the health program run out? They have money for everything except the things that are needed like jobs for those who are able to work and adequate wages for their work, better houses to live in and a better health program. I am very concerned about the girls and boys. They will soon be out of school. No summer jobs for them, all of them will just be turned out on the streets. No summer camp, no recreation centers. What will be the destiny of our children?

My other concern is about how many schools Supt. Alonzo Orim has ordered to be closed. They are even trying to close some nursery centers for working poor mothers. Mothers, what are you going to do when there is no more free service for your children while you work? You will hafta quit your jobs and stay at home with your children. Come to the meetings you are needed and make your voices be heard about this serious matter. I extend you an invitation to come to the meeting held every 2nd Wednesday night of each month. If you need a ride call 525-5948 before 6 p.m. on the day of the meeting. I would like my readers to drop me a line sometime.

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

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Greetings, My fellow members and friends.

It gives me great pleasure to come to you once again to share my moments with you. First I must give my thanks and honor to God thanking him for his love, his blessing, and his guidance, thanking God for being my mother and father, my help in time of need. We all have something to be thankful for as we look back on our lives and see how far we have come with faith and grace. If it had not been for the grace of God we could not have made it. We have come a long way and we still have a long way to go. Together we can and together we will overcome if we will continue to stick together and work for the things that we are entitled to--a better health program for the poor and low income families, a decent job with an adequate wage, decent housing to live in for the poor and disadvantaged, a better food stamp program that will benefit everyone who are in need for food. Cut the red tape and put people's needs first. There are plenty of federally funded programs but we who are poor don't benefit from them. The poor gets poorer while the rich gets richer.

We must not forget that this year of 1976 is election year. None of the candidates has said a word in behalf of the poor. We must let them know that we will make our voices be heard at the polls and the ballot boxes.

(continued on page 3)

July, 1976

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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CHILD SUPPORT RECOVERY UNIT CHANGES RULES

In the last two years Welfare mothers who get child support have had to listen to a lot of talk about CSRU and supplemental checks, arrearage, and overage, but they haven't seen very much cash from the CSRU. This Child Support Recovery Unit system is just too complex to work well--it's done more to hurt most families than to help--and now the rules have changed! These changes will help some and hurt others, but help you or hurt you, you should know what's happening.

All families applying for Welfare because of an absent (live) parent must be part of the Child Support Recovery Program. The CSRU is required to get parents to pay child support. The mother must now cooperate in locating the absent father and getting him to agree to support the children.

Then within six months all the child support the father pays must go directly to the Child Support Recovery Unit. The mother must not accept any direct payment from the father. She will then get a larger AFDC check, the maximum grant for her level of income and number of children. She will get a supplemental check of up to \$20.00 the month

after the father has paid in his child support.

The thing that bothers us most about these new rules is what they mean by cooperation. The Manual says it means the mother must:

- tell who the father is
- help identify and locate him
- help obtain support payments
- help obtain other payments due her

To do this she will have to be prepared to:

- go to the Welfare Office and give information
- go to court as a witness
- provide information under penalty of perjury

If the mother doesn't cooperate, she could be cut off Welfare. We think this is probably too strong a definition of cooperation, so if this should happen to you call us at 523-2856, or call the Legal Aid or Georgia Indigent Legal Services right away.

Up til now the CSRU has failed very often to cooperate with the mother. If the new rules mean that they are now going to do the job they are paid to do, maybe the changes will be better than they look to be right now.

MEDICAID RECIPIENTS GET FREE HEALTH TESTS FOR CHILDREN

If your family gets Medicaid, you can get free health tests for your children at your county health department. The Georgia EPSDT program (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) is provided by Medicaid to help catch major health problems before they become serious.

ESPDT services include:

1. Health screening examinations with referral for needed treatment.
2. Eye examinations and glasses.
3. Hearing examinations and hearing aids.
4. Tests for development, including speech and language.
5. All needed shots.
6. Observation for emotional and behavior problems.
7. Evaluation of nutrition needs and other tests as determined by age.

To get free health tests for any child up to age 21, call or visit your local health department in the county where you live. If you have questions, call the Department of Family and Children's Services in your county.

Don't forget to take your Medicaid card with you each time you visit the health department. If you have trouble getting the EPSDT services from your health department, call the Poverty Rights Office, 404-523-2856.

POOR PEOPLE WIN SMALL BATTLE

Poor people won another small victory this Spring. Governor Busbee vetoed a bill passed by both the State House and Senate which would have let loan companies raise their fees for money they loan.

This means that people who are forced to borrow money from finance companies will not have to pay thousands of dollars in increased costs. Extra costs will not be added to the high interest rates people already have to pay on small loans.

THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE will be closed again this year during the last two weeks of August. The office will be open during the other weeks of the summer, but you may not get through the first time you call. Many days there will be only one worker in the office, and it may take her longer to handle all the calls. Be patient and keep trying; she'll help you as soon as she can.

REMEMBER: The Poor People's Newspaper does not come out in August. We'll be back in September continuing to try to help people fight for their rights.

HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE NEW MEDICAID CO-PAYMENT SYSTEM? IF YOU CAN'T GET YOUR MEDICINES OR PAY YOUR PART OF THE DOCTOR OR HOSPITAL BILL CALL MISS MANN. IN ATLANTA CALL 894-4352. OUT OF TOWN, 1-800-282-4900.

LEGAL AID WINS A BIG ONE

Last January Attorneys Rick Greenstein and Dennis Goldstein took the Welfare Department to court. We felt that the November cuts in the Welfare checks were illegal. This June, Judge Moyer decided the case. He ruled that some of the cuts WERE illegal--others would have to stand.

This means that for many AFDC families the July check should go up! We don't know yet how much the increase will be or which families will get it. But we know we won this round. The state owes the people close to a million dollars and we will be getting it soon.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the attorneys of Atlanta Legal Aid!

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

The Poor People's Newspaper is six 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.

+++++

(Ms. Mathews continued)

We don't want what the next fellow have. All we want is what we are entitled to. Someone once said, "Why give a man a dime today to buy a loaf of bread, knowing that tomorrow he will be hungry again? Give him the skill and knowledge to make his own dime, then you are truly his friend and have helped him indeed."

For there are voices in the ghetto which cry, "Don't give me handouts. Just open up the door and I will get it myself." In other words, give me the opportunity and I will become that doctor, lawyer, dentist or engineer.

So far are the balance beams of justice unequal, so unequal are the minds of men, so cruel that they would exploit another for the sake of their own lusts. Yes, I say this is evil and everything that is evil shall perish. Let us therefore examine ourselves and rewrite our own motives. Then shall we truly understand. Keep the faith. We will overcome in our struggle.

So until next month I am yours in struggle for Love, Peace, Justice and Freedom for all.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

10 AM to 3 PM -- Monday - Friday

523-2856

Hello everybody and congratulations for a job well done.

First, I must give honor and thanks to God for all that He is to me and all that He has been to me this far. If it had not been for the will of God we could not have made it this far. We have come a long way by working together and fighting together for our rights and the rights of all Black and poor peoples. We still have a long way to go. But together we can and we will. We have been working very hard, marching and picketing, sitting in, praying and singing, trying to save our checks and medicines. The medicines that our doctors prescribed for us so that our worn and torn bodies can survive. Gov. Busbee and Jim Parham are trying to take them away from us. But we are not going to sit back and let this happen. We will stay in the streets marching until the victory is won. We don't want some of the medicines. We want it all.

I want all of you to know I am very proud of you and I love working with you, all my co-workers, members, friends and supporters. At the Human Resources meeting you did a job well done and all the children was just great. To all the children I say thank you, thank you. NWRO and its members want to thank our lawyer Mr. Wayne Pressel from Georgia Legal Services for representing us. We thank Father Austin Ford for sticking by us at all times, and all the staff for their help. We won the medicaid co-payment case. We

(Continued on page 3)

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SEPTEMBER 1976

AFDC CONFUSION CONTINUES

Conflict, threats of cuts, and negotiation concerning AFDC grants have kept the Department of Human Resources in a state of confusion. It seems (at the time this is written) that Legal Aid lawyers can prevent immediate cuts by negotiation. But confusion and threats of cuts will continue until the legislature puts more money in the budget for AFDC grants.

In response to a suit brought by Legal Aid, the court told the Georgia Department of Human Resources that they could no longer cut AFDC grants from both ends as they have been doing. To abide by the rules of the court some grants would have had to be raised. In response to this ruling, the department presented a proposal to the State Welfare Board to make another cut. The proposed cut would lower some grants, raise some grants and cut some 1500 families off welfare entirely. This proposal was not adopted by the Board. The Department and the lawyers are negotiating on a new formula which would cut no one and still stay within the budget and within the legal requirements.

This proposed cut and the actions taken prove again how important it

is for us to cry out at injustice. When we accept cuts without a murmur the problem will continue to get worse.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Go to see your political leaders. Go to see your legislator about increasing appropriations for AFDC grants. Be sure to ask the candidates in your district how they stand on this question. Discuss the problem with your representative on the Welfare Board.

Jack H. Watson (Chairman)
King and Spalding
2500 Trust Company Tower
Atlanta, GA 30303 (658-1350)

Robert Lipshutz (5th Cong. Dist.)
1795 Peachtree Rd. NE
Atlanta, GA 30309 (897-7200)

Dr. Benjamin Okel (4th Cong. Dist.)
2193 North Decatur Rd.
Decatur, GA 30033 (636-7791)

If you cannot go to see them, make a phone call or write a letter. Join Ms. Mathews and the WRO in their very timely demonstrations. Many injustices can be eliminated.

NEW LANDLORD-TENANT LAW

A new landlord-tenant law went into effect in Georgia in July. The law protects tenant's rights in important new ways but it contains one very bad provision:

The bad news first: If a tenant is served with an eviction warrent he now has 14 days before he can be evicted. Before the new law, 22 days were allowed between receiving a warrent and being set out on the street. A tenant who receives a warrent should contact Legal Aid immediately to see if action can be taken to prevent eviction.

The good news: A tenant must be told who the owner of the property is or who can receive, on behalf of the owner, notice of a law suit. He must also be told who the manager is.

Nothing in the lease can interfere with the landlord's legal duty to keep the residence in repair.

A tenant's security deposit must go into escrow, a special bank account, which the landlord cannot touch during the tenancy.

Before a tenant moves in, the landlord must give him an inspection list detailing what damage is in the residence already. The tenant must agree with the list and sign it so he won't have to pay for that damage when he moves out.

The landlord must refund the security deposit within 30 days after the tenant moves out or list the exact reasons for withholding any of it.

Landlords who own and manage 10 or fewer rental units do not have to meet the escrow and inspection requirements of the law.

NO MORE MEDICAID CO-PAYMENTS

July 31 was a great day for Medicaid recipients. No longer is the co-payment of \$25 for the hospital and \$1 and \$2 for visits to doctors and clinics necessary.

However, we still have to pay the 50¢ co-payment for medicine. And the Georgia Medicaid office, still determined to cut somewhere, has suggested to the Welfare Board that the list of drugs covered by Medicaid be shortened. Most doctors want to prescribe the best possible drugs for their patients, rich or poor. Many doctors want the list enlarged instead of limited. We hope the State Welfare Board will agree with the doctors.

NEW LAWS PROTECT HOME BUYERS

New regulations protect people who are buying homes with mortgages insured by HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). If you are buying such a house and get behind on the payments, call your mortgage company and tell them why. When they send you letters see a lawyer and answer them immediately. Appeals can be made for hardship cases which can save your home from foreclosure.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

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

FOUR GRADY SATELLITE CLINICS SERVE NEIGHBORHOODS

Grady Hospital now has four satellite clinics. For poor people who live in the communities served by these clinics, they may be the answer to the long waits and impersonal, hurry-up care to be found in the downtown Grady emergency rooms.

At the satellite clinics you may have your own doctor whom you will see at each visit. Each of these clinics has its own pharmacy, X-ray and laboratory. Some have other services such as dietetics, social service and occupational therapy.

The satellite clinics are open 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. When you go there, you will be given a Grady card if you do not have one. You will be charged according to income, just as at Grady. Poor people pay little or nothing; people with more income pay more.

Nearly all health problems can be cared for at the satellites. If the doctor finds that you need to see a specialist, he will refer you to a specialty clinic at Grady.

The Grady satellite clinics are:

Northwest Grady Clinic (Next to
1175 Johnson Rd. NW Perry Homes)
799-5351

W. T. Brooks Clinic
1636 Connally Dr., East Point
761-7121

DeKalb-Grady Clinic (East Lake
236 Meadowlake Dr. SE Meadows)
377-9301

North Fulton Clinic (Due to open
2181 Strickland Rd. in September)
Roswell
993-6221

(Ms. Mathews Continued)

won't have to pay \$2 to see a doctor or \$25 to enter the hospital

We won two victories in one day. Jim Parham and the Human Resources Board tabled the medicaid drug issue until the August meeting. Due to our hard work, the welfare checks were not cut then and we are not going to let that happen. This is a crucial issue for us who hafta live on a fixed income. The welfare cut and the medicaid drug cut will hurt all of us who hafta live on medicine from day to day. Always remember you don't hafta be ashamed because you are on welfare, SSI, and Social Security and the working welfare poor. Always keep in mind that you are Somebody and that you do have a right to live a decent life. The struggle has been long and the work has been hard but we must keep moving forward. With God's help we will all win the victory and we will all overcome. So until next time I will share these thoughts with you:

I may get faint and weary
But God knows when I am weak,
So he bids me lean on him
And His help I gladly seek.
He leads me in paths of light
Beneath a sunny sky,
And so we walk together,
My dear Lord and I.

I am yours in the struggle for
Love, Peace and Freedom-
for everyone.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Hi Everyone:

Congratulations to you for a job well done. Although we worked very hard and long we can give thanks to God and say our work was not in vain. Right here first I must give thanks and honor to God who is the head of my life and my home. By grace God has brought me this far and by grace God will lead me on. I have so much to thank God for. There are so many peoples who doubt him, but I want to tell you this I can't live without him. To all of my W.R.O. members and to all of our friend members, supporters and well wishers I want to thank all of you for standing up with us. Together we will stand but divided we will fall. For the past three months we have been marching and protesting against the welfare cuts. By all of us coming together in unity and harmony as one we put up a good fight for our children so that they would be able to be fed. All of the children played a wonderful part in all the marches and demonstrations. In our marching and protesting and taking to the streets we let the whole state of Georgia know that we would not tolerate another cut and by doing so there will not be a cut back but instead there will be a small raise for welfare recipients beginning in October. Come July 1st 1977 dental and eye care for SSI

(Con't page three)

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

OCTOBER 1976

POOR PEOPLE HAVE THEIR VOICE HEARD ON WELFARE

Thanks to the over 500 members and friends of the Welfare Rights Organization who have demonstrated and lobbied on behalf of the poor throughout the State, instead of further cutting welfare payments the Department of Human Resources Board voted unanimously to adopt a plan which means a small raise for some families and no cuts for anyone.

These are the new maximum grants which went into effect October 1st:

Family of 1	-	\$45
2	-	\$78
3	-	\$115
4	-	\$148
5	-	\$182
6	-	\$184
7	-	
and over	-	\$199

These new grants are still dreadfully inadequate. The encouraging fact about this recent decision, however, is that the Department seems to be talking a new line. Instead of cut, cut, cut Board members seem to have turned around. We must continue to speak out to the Board and to our elected officials so that all people can have an adequate income. Instead of hiring more and more people to give less and

less service to people in need, DHR must continue the trend toward paying higher grants.

If you have questions about the recent Board decisions or about the amount of your AFDC check, give us a call at 523-2856.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD UNDER THE WIC PROGRAM?????

Because adequate nutrition is vital to the healthy growth and development of infants and children, several years ago the federal government set up a program called WIC. At no cost to recipients, this program provides such foods as eggs, formula, milk and cereal to pregnant women, women who are nursing their babies and children up to five years of age. In many instances the food is delivered to recipients.

If you are pregnant, are nursing your child (up to one year), or have children under five you may be eligible for free food benefits under this program. For further information about this program and how you may participate contact your doctor or health clinic. If they don't know about the program call the PRO at 523-2856.

PRIMROSE TENANTS WAGE RENT STRIKE

For several months now, tenants of the Primrose Circle Apartments have been waging a rent strike in an attempt to force the owners of these Apartments to bring these units up to code standards. Despite repeated orders from the City and massive protests on the part of people within the community, the landlord, Atlanta International Properties, had refused to even begin repair work on some of the apartments.

Even though several people were threatened by the landlord, the tenants stuck together continuing the rent strike. Finally, late in August, a court decision gave the tenants their first real victory. Atlanta International Properties was fined heavily for each apartment on which repairs had not been started.

This Court decision is important, because for the first time the city has taken direct action against a slum lord who has refused to fix up his property. Hopefully the city will now continue to take this kind of action and slum lords throughout the city will now realize that they cannot ignore tenant protests and must provide housing which complies with accepted safe standards. By fighting back the tenants at Primrose Circle have won a victory for people all over our city.

MEDICAID DRUG LIST TO BE CUT

Poor people should not suffer because they cannot afford to buy the drugs that their own Doctor prescribes. Nevertheless, at a recent meeting, by a five to four vote, the Department of Human Resources Board approved cutting the list of drugs that can be payed for by Medicaid. Some drugs that have been on this list will be removed. Doctors themselves could not even agree on what drugs should be on the list.

We must continue to work to see that more needed drugs are added to the Medicaid list so that all people can obtain those medicines that are vital to their health.

If you are on Medicaid and are having trouble obtaining drugs that have been prescribed for you by your doctor because they are not on the Medicaid list, let us know by calling 523-2856.

Together we must work for adequate health programs for all people.

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Would your friends and neighbors like to get the POOR PEOPLES NEWSPAPER? Have them send their names and addresses to:

1017 Capitol Ave., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

Or call us at:
523-2856

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YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO READ

Do you have trouble reading? The Right to Read program is for you. The classes each have one tutor and one student. Anyone 18 or over, including senior citizens, is welcome in this free program.

You go to learn at 355 Georgia Ave. You meet with your tutor there for 2 to 3 hours per week in the mornings or at night. First you take an informal test that shows you and your tutor what skills you need to learn. Then the books and materials that help you learn those skills are picked, so you can begin.

To learn to read, call the Director of the Right to Read program, Ms. Lillian Simmons, at 622-1056. She is also looking for volunteers to teach at least 2 hours a week. A volunteer can be anyone who can read and who has the desire to teach another person to read.

BOARD VOTES TO RESTORE MEDICAID FOR TEETH AND GLASSES IN 1977

At its August meeting the Department of Human Resources Board recommended that effective July 1, 1977 money for glasses and dental work for the elderly be included under Medicaid. The elimination of this coverage last year has certainly hurt many poor people. We are therefore very hopeful that the Governor and the Legislature will approve this recommendation.

recipients will be restored back in the program. The vote for dental and eye care for recipients was very close. There was five for it and there was four against it so you can see how close it was but by the help of our God who sits high and who looks low we made it. Although there will not be a cut that don't mean that we can get slack on the job and stop fighting for our rights and the rights for our children and the right of all black and poor peoples. We still have a lot of hard work to do. We got to keep moving forward and let the system know that we have a right to a decent living. And those who are able to work they have a right to a decent job with adequate pay. We have a right to a good medical program. We also have a right to the medicine that will help our bodies survive from day to day. We will not let Governor Busbee get away with what he did about the list of medicine he cut back on. If you are not a member I extend an invitation for you to come and join the struggle with us. Our meetings are held every second Wednesday night of each month at 1017 Capitol Ave., S.W. The telephone number is 525-5948. Hope to hear from you soon. Love, peace, and justice and freedom for all.

I live in the struggle,

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

My Sisters and Brothers in this great struggle from day to day,

I come to you once again to chat with you for a few moments. I first give honor and thanks to God for his love and the love that is within me for God is the head of my life. For us to succeed we must put God first. Without him we can't do nothing, but through God who is our Savior we can do all things. We have been working very hard and we still have a tough job ahead of us. We are fighting for a change - decent jobs, adequate wages, a better health program for all poor peoples, better houses for all of us to live in and more money for all of us to live on. All of these things are a right and poor peoples do have rights. You know that we have been protesting and marching for justice not just for ourselves, but for all poor peoples. If you are on welfare you know you have a lot of narrow minded peoples who will say to each other those peoples want to be on welfare. They never stop to think and say those peoples are not on welfare because of choice. They are on welfare, SSI, and social security because they have no other means or alternatives. No well bodied men or well bodied women are on welfare. Welfare is for the AFDC mothers and children; SSI and Social Security are for the aged, blind and disabled. Those who receive it have worked all their lives - now they are sick and hate to ask for help. Poor peoples are the ones who have always paid taxes. The super rich don't pay taxes, they live off of poor peoples taxes. November 2nd will be important for poor peoples will have to choose

(continued on page 3)

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1976

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MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN THE GEORGIA LEGISLATURE

On January 10, the 1977 Legislature will meet in Atlanta to decide questions which affect all our lives.

The 235 members will decide where to spend the tax dollar. Last year they budgeted \$1,902,800,000. The new budget will be larger.

In the old one AFDC grants were only 1.6% of the total budget. That is not even 2 cents out of every dollar went for welfare grants. This year we are asking that 3 cents out of every dollar go for helpless children through AFDC grants.

We also need more money for Medicaid. Sick people cannot work. Sick children cannot learn.

THINGS TO DO

Talk to your Legislator. If you do not know who he is call 656-2871, tell them where you live and ask them the names of your representatives in the House and in the Senate. Talk to these people. Tell them poor people must have more help.

Come to the Legislature. It usually meets from 10 o'clock until 4. Watch the laws being made. Go to see the Governor. Big business pays people to go for them. Poor people must go themselves.

SOCIAL SECURITY STARTS PROGRAM TO HELP WITH PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Atlanta is one of four cities selected by Social Security to try out a new program. Supposedly, it will help Georgians who have problems and unanswered questions about their applications for benefits, missing and cut checks and so on. This new service, run by Dr. William S. Jackson and a staff of seven will run for a year to see if Atlanta's Social Security Office can do a better job.

Anyone having a problem with Social Security, SSI or Medicare should call the Ombudsman's office at 881-8224 if you live in the Metro area or toll free 800-282-0236 if you live in the rest of the state. Or write, P.O. Box 54617, Atlanta, GA.

If you call their troubleshooter, please let the PRO know what kind of job they are doing.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

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

STATE PROVIDES BENEFITS FOR MATERNAL HIGH RISK PATIENTS

Georgia has a statewide program to help high risk pregnant women and their infants who could not otherwise afford quality medical care. This program is designed for women whose health conditions or medical history make their pregnancy a medical risk for themselves and their babies. State funds pay a large portion, sometimes the full amount, of doctor and hospital bills for these patients. Prenatal care, hospital delivery, and postpartum care of mothers and newborn infants are provided.

To qualify for the Maternal High Risk Program, a pregnant woman must be both medically and economically eligible. In Fulton County, an obstetrician (private physician or doctor in a clinic) determines that a patient is in a condition of medical risk. A hospital referral agent then determines if the patient is economically eligible or "medically indigent." A medically indigent person is defined as one who cannot afford private medical care and who does NOT receive medicaid. Procedures for enrolling in the program vary from county to county in the state.

Pregnant women with serious health problems who have low incomes but do not receive medicaid should call their county health departments for information about this program. In Fulton County, call Marc Cohen, 572-3174. Or call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856.

DROP-OUTS LEARN AT ATLANTA STREET ACADEMY

Teens who drop out of school sometimes wish they could still get their education. Enrolling at the Street Academy could be the answer. At three of the academies, students study until they are 18, then take an exam to receive their GED diploma. These academies are Academy A at 363 Georgia Ave., SE, 688-8444, Academy B at 1532 Gordon, SW, 755-7734, and Academy T at 2012 Hollywood Rd., NW, 794-1555.

At another Street Academy, St. Luke's Area III Learning Center, students, age 15-22, come by referral from their school counselors or parole officers. There they receive credits and eventually get a diploma from the Atlanta Board of Education. This center is at 435 Peachtree St., 872-7379.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM UNLIKELY TO CHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE

For a year the Congress and President Ford have been trying to change the food stamp program. Nobody so far has managed to change anything and food stamp regulations and benefits will probably remain exactly as they are until the fall of 1977. At that time, new legislation will have to be passed.

It is a victory of sorts for poor people to keep the present food stamp program, imperfect as it is. The proposed changes would have cut millions of recipients off food stamps.

DOES YOUR MAN BEAT YOU

If so, you are not alone. In Atlanta many of the evening calls to police are about violence in the home. Many of the women who are in jail are there because they have taken a lot of beatings from their husbands or lovers and suddenly fought back--hurting or killing the men. Men are more likely to beat on pregnant women, and this means you could lose the baby or have a retarded baby.

What can you do? One way is to call the police and have him arrested for assault or battery or both. Many women, though, are afraid to call the police. There are still some answers. If you need a place to stay awhile, you and the children can try the Salvation Army Emergency Lodge at 400 Luckie St., 688-2884. They are often filled up.

The YWCA Midtown Women's Center can help in three ways:

1. You can meet with other women who have suffered beatings at 7:00 on the first Wednesday of each month. This group can help each other find ways and help each woman know that she's OK.
2. You can ask a lawyer for advice in the free legal clinic.
3. You can get help in finding a job at the Job Clinics Tuesdays 1-3 and Wednesdays 7-9.

For more information about any of these three helps, call the YWCA Midtown Women's Center at 892-3476 at 45 Eleventh St., between Peachtree and West Peachtree.

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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.

Ms. Mathew's Con't.

for themselves. Your vote will be your voice. Poor peoples cannot survive another George Busbee term. Busbee cut welfare 4 times. He put 70,000 people off welfare when there was no jobs. Busbee reduced Medicaid 3 times and he plans more cuts. Busbee believes in the electric chair for poor peoples. Come on and join us regardless of race, creed and color and let the world know the power of poor peoples. November 2nd there will be an amendment 2 on the ballot for Busbee to succeed himself for 4 more years. Although our mayor, Maynard Jackson and our Congressman, Andrew Young, favor this amendment 2 they don't have to live on a welfare check. So when you go to the polls on November 2nd be sure to vote no on amendment 2. We don't need George Busbee for 4 more years.

Until next month, I am yours in this struggle,

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

WE'RE SORRY the Poor Peoples Newspaper has been getting to its readers later and later each month for several issues. We have had problems with our mailing. So that we can get back on schedule, this will be a combined November-December issue. Look for the next PPNL the first week in January and (we hope) the first week in each month thereafter.