

Greetings to each and everyone giving thanks and honor to God for His many blessings that He has bestowed upon me:

I bring you this message with deep concern about the many problems. We are here today because we are concerned about other peoples problems as well as our own. We are concerned about our relatives and our loved ones who sit on Death Row not knowing what their fate might be. We are concerned about everyone who is locked up in jail and the way they are treated. We are concerned about everyone who is behind vicious prison walls. We are concerned about the Black and the poor who suffer from all kinds of injustice. We are concerned about all the families who have loved ones behind prison walls all over the world. We are concerned about the prisoners' families when their loved ones are in jail waiting to be sent to prison and how they live with everyday problems, going to the Welfare, asking for help to survive. We are concerned about the food stamp program feeding the hungry which the program don't do. Those who need help are the last ones to get it. The system we live under is ironic. The Prison System rather pay \$12,000 a year to keep a man in prison than to parole him and give him a job so he can take care of his family. No matter how long a man stays in prison, when he leaves he don't get but \$25, a suit and a pair of shoes which nine times out of ten are too small or too big.

(Continued on page 3)

JANUARY 1977

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER

Published monthly, except August by

EMMAUS HOUSE

1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30315

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* * Second-Class Postage * * * * *
* * PAID * * * * *
* * At Atlanta, Georgia * * * * *



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VII No. I

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

JANUARY 1977

NEW PROGRAM PROVIDES LEGAL HELP TO ELDERLY POOR

The Atlanta Legal Aid Society has recently begun a project to provide legal help to the elderly poor of Atlanta. The Senior Citizens Law Project group will visit nutrition sites, community organizations, nursing homes and high-rises for the elderly to reach people who cannot get legal help any other way.

Anyone 60 years or older who has a low income may receive free help from the Senior Citizens Law Project. Resources of Atlanta Legal Aid as well as the special skills of the SCLP staff will be available.

If you are elderly and have a legal problem but have never seen a lawyer because you do not have money or transportation, call the Senior Citizens Law Project at 524-5811. They can help with Social Security, SSI, Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps and other legal problems except wills.

HAVE YOU MOVED?
CALL AND GIVE US YOUR NEW ADDRESS AT
523-2856

DON'T PAY FOR FOOD STAMP OFFICE MISTAKES

If the Food Stamp Office claims that you have been paying too little for your food stamps, your worker may try to make you pay back money. You only have to pay back this money if you have made a mistake in something you have told your worker.

If the food stamp worker has made an error and has not charged you enough you do not have to pay back any money. Although your worker may insist on repayment don't do it. Don't make any agreements and don't sign any papers.

If your worker hassles you or you are unsure about whether or not you have to pay back any money call the Georgia Citizen's Coalition on Hunger at 659-1888 or 659-0878.

IF YOUR DOCTOR PRESCRIBES A DRUG THAT IS NOT ON THE APPROVED LIST FOR MEDICAID, DON'T GIVE UP. YOU CAN STILL GET IT AND MEDICAID WILL STILL PAY FOR IT. HAVE YOUR DOCTOR WRITE THE STATE MEDICAID OFFICE SAYING YOU MUST HAVE THAT PARTICULAR MEDICINE. CALL THE PRO, 523-2856, FOR MORE INFORMATION.

IS YOUR BURIAL INSURANCE A RIP-OFF?

Burial insurance in most cases is illegal in Georgia. If you are paying for it, you're probably being ripped off. The only people who can legally sell burial insurance in Georgia are certain fraternal organizations. To make sure they are licensed by the state, call the State, call the State Insurance Commission, 656-2074.

With true insurance, you don't always get the same as you pay in. If you have \$2000 life insurance, and pay in \$2 a week, you might come out even, or ahead, or you might get gypped. If you pay in \$2 a week for a year and then die, then your relatives will get the \$2000 on a policy you've paid \$104 dollars on. But you live to pay for 25 years and pay a total of \$3600 then your relatives still only get \$2000. This money would have done a lot better in a savings account.

With funerals, it's different. There is a contract called a Pre-Need Funeral Service Contract. It's not insurance. In fact, it's more like a savings account. This contract is made between you and the funeral director and is signed by both of you and a notary public. It states that you want a funeral worth a certain amount of money, and that you will keep paying while you're alive until it's all paid. The contract states that the money will go to a certain bank, trust company, or savings and loan. If it's all paid up when you die, then you get the funeral you wanted. If you paid more than you said you would, then your relatives can work out a better

funeral or get the money themselves through your will. If it's not all paid, then your relatives can pay for it themselves or else the funeral director must give them all the papers and money back, so they can arrange a less expensive funeral somewhere else.

If you have a pre-need contract and you want the money back while you are alive, you must tell both the funeral director and the bank in writing, giving them 15 days notice that you're cancelling the contract. Then they have to pay back the full amount you put in, plus interest.

If you have life insurance that you want your relatives to use for your burial, figure out just how much money you have been paying in, and see if another plan might help you get your money's worth. If you're thinking about signing a pre-need contract, make sure it is legal.

It must have a sentence like this: "It is agreed by the Buyer and the Funeral Director that this contract is entered into subject to the provisions of an Act approved March 10, 1966." This statement says the contract is under a state law so you won't be ripped off. If your funeral director does not live up to this contract, report him to the insurance commission and get legal help.

SCHOOLS PROVIDE BREAKFASTS

Does your child eat breakfast at school? Do you know children who could benefit from eating breakfast at school? Most Atlanta public schools now serve breakfast under a federal program. Any child in these schools, from elementary through high school is eligible. The breakfast may be free, cost five cents or 25 cents, depending on the family's income. Any child who gets a free or reduced price lunch can get a free or reduced price breakfast.

The school breakfasts are good and nutritious and help children learn better because they don't get as tired before lunch.

Call your child's school to ask that he be enrolled in the breakfast program. If the school is not yet serving breakfast, tell the principal that you would like him to start the program. Persuade other parents and the P.T.A. to request it too. All schools are eligible to receive money for breakfasts from the federal government. Your children have the right to eat at school.

For more information, call the Atlanta Ad Hoc Committee for School Breakfasts, 523-6628, 524-2681 or 659-0878.

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MONTHLY TRIPS TO REIDSVILLE STATE PRISON FROM EMMAUS HOUSE HAVE RESUMED. IF YOU WANT TO VISIT RELATIVES OR FRIENDS THERE, CALL EMMAUS HOUSE, 525-5948, TO RESERVE SEATS ON THE BUS FOR THE NEXT TRIP. YOU PAY \$2 FOR EACH RESERVATION AND ALL BUT THE FIRST \$2 FOR EACH FAMILY GROUP IS REFUNDED WHEN YOU BOARD THE BUS.

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Ms. Mathews Cont'd

The men and women pay well to society but when they are released there are no jobs waiting for them. They are thrown back out in the world as forgotten women and men with nothing to live on. There is an answer and the answer I am talking about is prayer. And the key will unlock the door. We are here today because we are concerned about the death penalty. We are concerned about the death penalty because we know the death penalty is for the black and the poor. If you are poor, it makes no difference who you are, life is no game. We all die the same, just different. We are here today because we are concerned and we serve notice to Governor George Busbee, the League of Women Voters, the Chamber of Commerce, and the big business corporations. And to all the super rich and the little old church ladies who say abortion is illegal but taking an adult life in the electric chair is ok. My notice to you today is: Jobs not prisons. Put an end to the death penalty for all prisoners immediately. Prisons are the tool of racism and repression. I want to leave this thought with you. Some of us ask "Why?" But I dream things that never were and I ask "Why not?" Nobody will save us from us but us.

Yours in the struggle for freedom, love and peace for everyone.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Greetings...Happy New Year 1977.

I come once again to share my thoughts with you, first giving thanks to God, thanking Him for sparing and enabling me to see another year. In '76 there was a lot of ups and downs, struggling and hardships but God saw me safely through and I have so much to thank Him for. Just like God has been good to me He has been good to all of you. We are all His children not just a chosen few. He sits high and He looks low. My sisters and brothers '77 holds some crucial times for us. There is much work to be done and it won't get done unless we all do it together. The Appropriations Committee is already in progress at the Capitol and Gov. Busbee is getting ready to cut 14 million dollars from the budget. How long are we going to sit back and let the system under which we live cheat us out of the things we are entitled to? Wake up my peoples and stand up for your rights and the rights of others who can't stand up for themselves. We are fighting for social change which is long overdue for the poor. Some of us fought for the right to vote. Some even died for that right to vote for quality education, justice, adequate health care, decent housing. To be honest with ourselves we should not wait for something to happen to us or to our loved ones. We should put other peoples' needs before our own. We should try to help our sisters and brothers who are shut away from society. Justice will not come easy for the poor and oppressed because nothing comes easy. But by coming
(Continued on page 3)

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1017 Capitol Avenue, SW

Atlanta, GA 30315

* Second-Class Postage *
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Ms. Harriet Henric
1953 Breckenridge Dr., NE
Atlanta, GA 30345



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VII No. II

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

FEBRUARY 1977

GOOD GUYS OF THE MONTH - GEORGIA INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES

Georgia Indigent Legal Services has won another victory for poor people with the lawsuit concerning the list of drugs which can be paid for by Medicaid. In December, the judge ordered an injunction which stops the State of Georgia and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare from using the new drug list or taking any drugs off the old list.

In fact, a few additions have been made to the old list such as aspirin for rheumatoid arthritis.

Had GILS not brought this suit and won it, the list of medicines paid for by Medicaid would have been cut in half, leaving out all mild tranquilizers, prenatal preparations, and drugs to treat arthritis and skin conditions.

In January, GILS began another battle for poor people. The lawyers filed a new law suit which says that the state of Georgia has no right to make husbands and parents pay part of the nursing home costs for wives and children who are on Medicaid. Watch the Poor People's Newspaper for the results of this suit.

STUMBLEBUMS OF THE MONTH: GOV. BUSBEE AND GEORGIA DER

Governor Busbee and the State Department of Human Resources have asked for no increase in benefits for families with dependent children in the supplemental budget they proposed to the Appropriations Committee of the Georgia Legislature.

This is in spite of the fact that Georgia cut AFDC benefits by 24% in the past 20 months while other states raised theirs.

This is in spite of the fact that the State Board of Human Resources promised Welfare Rights demonstrators last summer that they would recommend an increase in AFDC benefits.

This is in spite of the fact that benefits could be doubled with no great drain on the state's budget.

This is in spite of the fact that salaries of case workers and other state employees will probably be raised.

Call or write your legislator. Tell him poor children in Georgia must have enough money to survive.

CHANGES IN RULES OF UNEMPLOYMENT

In 1976 the Georgia Legislature made many changes in unemployment compensation laws. Most of the changes make it harder for people to get unemployment benefits.

One of the worst parts of the new law changes the penalty imposed on people who quit their jobs. If someone quits for reasons that are not connected with his work, he may be ineligible for any benefits. Since the penalty put on workers who are fired is not as bad, employers may tell the Agency that someone has quit when he has really been fired. If there is a choice of quitting or being fired, then it is better to be fired.

A person who quits for good work-connected cause can get benefits. If working conditions change for the worse or if the job becomes bad for one's health, he can still get benefits. It helps to show that an attempt was made to change bad conditions before quitting--like talking to a supervisor or asking for a transfer. To prove that a job was bad for one's health, it may be necessary to get a doctor's statement and show it to the employer before quitting.

Workers who are fired for violation of rules may receive a penalty which postpones their benefits for a certain number of weeks. BUT not every such worker should be penalized. No one should be penalized if he broke a rule accidentally, if he didn't know about the rule or if the rule was not normally enforced. In firing cases there is a presumption in favor of the worker.

Be sure to report in regularly as required to the Unemployment Office and to be available for full-time work.

After one applies for benefits, the claims examiner will rule whether or not to impose a penalty. If a penalty is imposed, the worker can appeal the decision. The appeal must be made within 10 days of the decision.

If you are having problems with unemployment compensation because of a penalty or a delay in receiving payments or because you have been declared ineligible, contact Legal Aid immediately. A delay can cause you to lose your rights to benefits.

SOUTHSIDE LEGAL AID BURNED OUT

The Washington Street Legal Aid office has been temporarily moved to Georgia Ave.-Hill St. Center because of fire damage. They will be moving to a new office soon so watch the newspapers and the TV for the new location. No new cases can be accepted for about two months, but anyone who was being helped at the time of the fire should call 524-2681 and leave their name, address and phone number. This will help the Legal Aid office straighten out their damaged files.

IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR HAVE CHILDREN UNDER 5 YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE WIC PROGRAM. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL THE GEORGIA WIC CAMPAIGN AT 659-0878.

NEW ORGANIZATION IS FORMED

As a result of a new federal program local groups are supposed to have a voice in how federal health care dollars are to be spent. The Health Services Agencies (HSA's) are being set up to determine what kinds of health programs local communities want.

In an attempt to make their voice heard, a number of community people met recently at Emmaus House to talk about community health care needs. People at this meeting decided to form a new organization, CHAMP (Community Health and Monitoring Project). This organization, in addition to identifying a number of health care problems, decided to work to obtain greater representation on the HSA Boards.

If you want to be involved in this new organization, call Emmaus House at 525-5948.

GARNISHMENT'S ILLEGAL -- FOR NOW

The U. S. Supreme Court ruled that the present law allowing garnishment is unconstitutional as it didn't give those being garnished fair warning. Therefore, until the Georgia State Legislature passes a new law, which it will do in a couple of weeks, you cannot legally be garnished. If you are being garnished, go immediately to any Legal Aid Office or call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

10 AM to 3 PM -- Monday - Friday

523-2856

(Ms. Mathews, Continued)

together in unity and working together it can be done. I know we must have law and order but if it is for some let it be for all, not just the poor and oppressed. I don't condone violence and I am fed up with it just like everyone else but I am tired of so many of our black peoples being killed by policemen and nothing is done about it. True there is a lot of crime but stop and ask yourself why Georgia has the highest rate of crime of any state and the lowest welfare payments of any state. We need jobs for mens and womens not more jails and prisons. New jails and prisons are not going to solve anything but waste more money when they can take the money and create jobs so a man can come home and take care of his family. Come join the struggle with us. We need you to march with us in the streets to protest the conditions in the jails and in our lives. We are all fighting for survival. I would like to hear from you sometime. Drop me a line. Here is my address: Ms. Ethel M. Mathews, 969 Capitol Ave. SW, Atlanta, GA 30315.

I want to leave this thought with you: Yes, it is true that we all fear evil and we should. But remember: Good will overcome evil.

So, until next month, I am yours in the struggle for Justice, Peace, Freedom. I live in the struggle.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Hello, to all of my members
friends and supporters,

I am very happy to come and be able to chat with you once again, first giving all of my praises and thanks to God for his many blessings and a portion of my health and strength. Some time I look back over my life and think about all the trials and tribulations that I have been through, I still have a lot to thank God for because without God I could not have made it thus far. That is why we must put God in front of everything we do. With God he will see us all through. Prayer is the answer and faith will unlock the door. The New Year of '77 has begun. We have a new President and a new administration. Just because of that we can't sit back and feel too comfortable. There are still some dark days ahead for us if we don't come together now as a whole and stand together and fight for our rights and the rights of all poor and oppressed peoples regardless of race, creed or color. Some of us let pride stand in our way when we are in need for help, but pride don't mean anything when our children and grand children are hungry and crying for bread. I am here to tell you that pride won't fill up their stomach. Our childrens needs come first but Gov. George Busbee think that they can live off air. If we are to survive and if our children

(Continued Page Three)

MARCH 1977

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

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER
Published monthly, except August by
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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VII No. III

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

MARCH 1977

THE PROJECTS, INC. ASSISTS ATLANTANS WITH HOUSING PROBLEMS

As a part of Atlanta's Community Development Program, The Project, Inc. is under contract to provide a variety of housing-related services to residents of the City of Atlanta. Three basic kinds of assistance are offered: counseling, emergency loans; and help with rehabilitation or relocation in cases where housing is not up to code standards.

Through this program any Atlanta resident can receive counseling on budgeting, credit and relocation. Counselors also provide technical assistance in home buying and provide information on such things as property taxes and housing code compliance. Referral services are available on rodent control, home maintenance and other housing-related problems.

If a family lives in one of Atlanta's 21 Community Development Impact Areas, the Project's Housing Support Services Program can make small loans to help with rent, utilities, and moving in an emergency situation. Working with the City Code Department and the Atlanta Association of Contractors, the Project will also help home owners living in the 21 CDIA areas bring their property up to code standard.

Relocation assistance is also provided when housing is condemned for code violation.

This program is operated through 3 offices located at:

900 Peachtree St., NE (873-1271)
374 Maynard Terr., SE (377-8191)
1128 Gordon St., SW (753-1147)

If you need help with a housing problem or want more information on this program either contact the office nearest you or call the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856).

WE GOOFED!

In our article in last month's Poor People's Newspaper entitled Good Guys of the Month, we failed to give credit to Atlanta Legal Aid for the crucial role they played Medicaid drug list lawsuit. Had Atlanta Legal Aid and Georgia Indigent Legal Services not brought this suit and won it, the list of medicines paid for by Medicaid would have been cut in half. Both of these organizations certainly deserve a great deal of praise for their efforts on behalf of poor people.

NEED EMERGENCY HELP?

Try the following:

EMERGENCY FOOD

- FISH - 237-2965
(Must be over 60)
- Atlanta Baptist Center - 522-4251
(Must be over 60)
- Trinity Methodist - 524-1751
360 Kelly St., Atlanta
- Must Ministries - 427-9862
907 Church St., Marietta
- St. Luke's Episcopal - 873-5427
435 Peachtree, Atlanta
- Christian Council - 881-9890
848 Peachtree St., Atlanta
- Decatur Cooperative Ministries -
377-5365 (Decatur Only)
- East Point Food Bank - 761-2022
(East Point Only)
- St. Vincent de Paul - 523-1541
304 Parkway Dr., Atlanta
- West Hunter St. Center - 753-7880
1024 Gordon St., Atlanta
- Salvation Army - 688-2884
400 Luckie St., Atlanta

CLOTHING

- St. Vincent de Paul - 523-1541
304 Parkway Dr., Atlanta
1656 McLendon Ave., Atlanta
377-6810
- West Hunter St. Center - 753-7880
1024 Gordon St., Atlanta
- Salvation Army - 688-2884
400 Luckie St., Atlanta
- Council Thrift Shop - 873-1180
419 Peachtree St., Atlanta
- Freedom Community Center - 523-3142

SHELTER

- Atlanta Union Mission - 659-1708
Men's Division - 54 Ellis St.
Atlanta - 874-0891

Women's Division - 910 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta - 876-9194

- Salvation Army
Men's Dorm - 1032 Stewart Ave.
Atlanta - 753-9472
- Women's Dorm - 1303 Stewart Ave.
Atlanta - 753-9265
- Atlanta Recovery Center - 577-3352
169 Trinity Ave., Atlanta
(Men Only)
- Breakthru House - 378-7493
1895 E'field St., Decatur
(Women Only)
- Truck Stop Boy's Lodge - 875-0184
951 Piedmont Rd., Atlanta
(Under 25)

DID YOU KNOW -

that, thanks to the Atlanta Ad Hoc Committee for School Breakfast, all but 12 of the public schools in the Atlanta System now have a breakfast program. This federally funded program gives schools money so that they can serve breakfast to all students who want to eat this meal at school. As in the school lunch program, meals are either free, or reduced price or full price depending on family income. Applications for free or reduced price meals are available at schools offering the program.

For further information on how your child can participate in this program, call your school principal. If the school does not have a program encourage the principal to start one. Additional information on School Breakfast is available from the Atlanta Ad Hoc Committee for School Breakfast, 659-0878 or 523-6628.

FOCUS ON GOOD NUTRITION

National Nutrition Week, March 6-12, 1977 provides a yearly reminder that good nutrition is essential to a healthy, happy life.

The best way to insure good nutrition is to make wise food choices. It is important to select a variety of foods from the 4 basic food groups daily (meat and high protein foods, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, bread and cereals). It is unnecessary for a healthy person to take food supplements in the form of tablets.

The amount of food a person needs is determined by many factors - age, activity, sex and metabolism. A child is usually a good judge of how much food he should eat. Forcing a child to eat is unnecessary and will not teach good eating habits. After 20, adults don't need as much food as they did in their youth. Adults should reduce food intake as they get older. It is very difficult to change eating habits and many adults are therefore overweight. Obesity is a health problem.

If you are overweight, there is a place to go for help. You are invited to join a weight reduction group called TOPS. It meets every Thursday at 10 AM at Drew Park Community Center. For more information call Lou Ann Clements at 377-9302 or 799-5353. *****
IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR HAVE CHILDREN UNDER 5 YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE WIC PROGRAM. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL THE GEORGIA WIC CAMPAIGN AT 659-0878.

MS. MATHEWS CON'T

are to survive we will hafta work to change the system. \$32 a month for a mother and child is not nearly enough to live on with food prices sky high. Gas, lights, water bills went up outrageous. This is hurting us who live on a fixed income. But what I can't understand is most of us sit back and don't say a word as if nothing has happened. We got to come together and do for ourselves what we are waiting for someone to do for us. We can't deal with a problem until we have dealt with the cause. Until we learn to stick together we will never be able to do anything. If we don't do something to change the society our children are going to grow up and catch the devil. If we are to be free there must be unity in our black community. To forget your path is a betrayl to your identity. Don't let nobody tell you that you can't be free because in your heart and in your mind God can set all of us free. It is very important that you read all of the Poor Peoples Newspaper. If you have time drop me a line and tell me how you enjoy the paper. Here is my address: 969 Capitol Ave., S.W., Atlanta, GA 30315. So until next month, I hafta still thank God that I am still un-bossed and I am still un-bought. Power to the Peoples. Freedom and Justice for all. I live in the Struggle.

MS. ETHEL M. MATHEWS

To all of my members, friends, and supporters, I bring you greetings and hello.

First giving Honor to God and praising His name with love and devotion, thanking Him for giving me strength, faith and courage to keep on keeping on when my way seems so dark. The past 3 weeks have been pretty rough and grim and we have worked hard and long and there is still a lot to be done. Together we can get the job done and that is what it will take - togetherness. So why not join the struggle with the faithful few and do for yourself what you look for others to do for you? Georgia children are hungry! Welfare grants are \$32 a month; \$1 a day. Atlanta spends \$3 a day for dogs, \$95 a month for animals at the zoo. When a mother and 1 child don't get but \$77 a month a \$2 increase in Welfare grants that we are asking for is not much, but it is all we can hope for. And if we do, the Welfare grant for a family of 4 will still be \$5 a month less than it was in 1975 when Gov. Busbee started his war against the poor. It is not true that Welfare grants will rise anyway as the economy improves. The economy has not improved for poor peoples in a long time. There are fewer jobs and more peoples out of work than in 40 years. Gov. Busbee is threatening to cut 10,000 working mothers off the Welfare rolls across the state of Georgia. What you don't understand is that when you lose your welfare check for your children, you also will lose your medicaid card.

(Continued on page 3)
APRIL, 1977

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* Second-Class Postage *
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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VII No. IV ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315 APRIL 1977

POOR PEOPLE LOSE AGAIN

BAD GUYS OF THE MONTH: TOO MANY MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIA LEGISLATURE

who ended a stormy session in March which seemed to be a war against poor people. Poor people in the state lost almost every battle.

A \$2.9 million increase in benefits for dependent children was voted out of the budget by the House of Representatives and then voted back in by the Senate. The Conference Committee with members from both Houses came up with a bill that provides no increase in funds for Aid to Dependent Children along with a change in the formula for determining benefits payments. Some AFDC recipients will get a little more money. One person, 2 person, 3 person and 8 or more person grants will be increased. Four person, 5 person, 6 person and 7 person grants will be decreased.

The worst part of the new formula is the change in the percentage of need from 67 to 62 percent. This is the figure used to determine a family's grant. Lowering the percentage means that thousands of families with small grants may be cut off welfare altogether.

There is still hope however. These changes will not go into effect until July. Before that, the new formula will almost certainly be challenged in the courts.

Many bills to help poor people failed to pass -- in health, housing and unemployment compensation. Bad guys in the legislature still outnumber good guys. If you want to know how your legislator voted so you'll know how to vote in the next election, write Mrs. Frances Pauley, 943 Clifton Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30307. Or call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856, and they'll find out for you.

GOOD GUYS OF THE MONTH: GROUPS FROM WELFARE RIGHTS, TENANTS ASSOCIATION AND EMMAUS HOUSE who demonstrated at the Capitol day after day for 3 weeks in all kinds of weather. Some of them even went to jail. OTHER GOOD GUYS: Members of the GEORGIA POVERTY RIGHTS ORGANIZATION who worked very hard lobbying for poor people, and REPRESENTATIVE DOUGLAS DEAN AND THE OTHER LEGISLATORS who fought bravely for increased benefits even though they were greatly outnumbered.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDES
EMERGENCY FUNDS

General assistance is a small amount of money given in rare emergency cases by some counties in Georgia. In the Atlanta area, Fulton, DeKalb, and Clayton Counties have General Assistance, or G. A. To get G. A. in Fulton, you have to have been a resident of Fulton County for 6 months. You must be disabled or homeless. You prove these by showing that you're under a doctor's care or that you have an eviction notice. If you have a car, it must be worth less than \$400.

To get G.A. in Clayton County, you must live there, and must have no money coming in for the last month. You must be completely broke with no resources but a car or house. Clayton gives out vouchers for medicine, doctor visits, or food.

DeKalb County has its own rules for G.A. You can ask about it at the welfare office.

Some counties in Georgia give G.A. to fewer than ten people a year. Fulton gives out the most. There isn't much chance you can get it, but if you qualify, go ahead and try.

Is 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."

SENATE CONSIDERING CHANGES IN FOOD
STAMPS

Once again Congress is trying to reform the food stamp program. A few of the proposed changes would help poor people.

One good reform that is being considered is the elimination of the food stamp purchase price. If this change is adopted people would no longer be charged for their stamps. They would simply be given the bonus value free. For example, if you are now paying \$100 for \$166 worth of stamps, you would be given \$66 worth of stamps.

This change would help all of the people who can't afford to buy their food stamps. It would also eliminate the hassle involved in purchasing stamps.

Let Senator Sam Nunn and Senator Herman Talmadge know that you want them to vote for eliminating the food stamp purchase price. You can write them at The United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

Poor working parents can receive a tax rebate called the "earned income credit". If you have children and earned any money in 1976, be sure to file an income tax return so that you can get this tax credit. This tax credit could mean quite a lot of cash in your pocket. Just don't miss out. Remember to file a tax return by April 15th. For help in filing your return, go to your neighborhood EOA Center or to Mr. Coe on Tuesdays at Emmaus House, 1017 Capitol Avenue.

CONFUSED ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT? EVERY-
BODY IS

On AFDC and wondering why Court ordered Child Support is coming in small checks on the 10th of the month, if at all? It's because the government is collecting a share of it. New laws written in 1975 say that absent fathers owe the state their support money since Georgia is paying out welfare to their families. Even if there's no Court ordered support, the Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU) will try to make the father pay.

Welfare recipients are supposed to tell the caseworker of support money promised or received, the father's name and information about him or be ineligible for AFDC. (Children can still get welfare but only through another relative.)

The CSRU then locates the father, gets a Court order for Child Support if there isn't one already, and collects the money. This money is split up by the State and Federal Governments to pay them back for all your welfare checks, and any support money left over is mailed to you. They say this is fair because if the father does not pay support every month, you'll still get welfare. But you must cooperate with CSRU fully or be cut off AFDC. Call PRO-523-2856 for more information.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE
10 AM to 3 PM -- Monday - Friday
523-2856

Ms. Mathews Continued

So why not fight for your children's and grandchildren's rights if not for your own? It is feared that this year there will be even fewer jobs for deprived women. More families will be forced to go on Welfare and this will cause all grants to be lowered. As long as we sit back and not make our voices heard they are going to crush us as if we were ants.

We have been on the picket line down at the Capitol for 3 weeks demonstrating to the legislators and to the public, letting them know that the huge gas and electric bills are higher than the welfare grants. You know if we would get out and vote like we should, we could vote out all the "do nothings" for the poor peoples. But we go to the polls and put the same people back in office who caused us to suffer from year to year. We put people in office who we know are not in the interest of our needs but in the interest of raising their own salaries and paving roads and building new prisons when the ones they already have are not working. The way to break the poverty circle is not by depriving the children. It's giving them enough to live on now, so that with that start in life they won't need help later on.

I want to leave this thought with you: Where there is love, there is no labor, but delight.

So, until next month, I am yours in this struggle for freedom, love, and peace for everyone.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Seasons greetings to all of you - my co-workers, friends, well wishers and supporters.

It is a pleasure for me to share some of my thoughts with you. First, I must give thanks to God because he is the head of my life and without him I would not be what I am today. God has been good to all of us in spite of the harsh system that we hafta live under from day to day. Although this country is supposed to be a land of plenty we are still living in starvation and slavery - 20th century slavery. We have all kinds of federal funded programs but they don't benefit us at all. The food stamp program is the biggest flop that has ever been. If you are poor you cannot get food stamps but if you are rich you have no problems getting them. The welfare Rights Council, Atlanta Chapter-Fulton County, the Tenant Association, Tech-wood Chapter and other groups from Georgia, the Northern States, Western States and Eastern States met in Washington, D.C. on March 29th. Mr. Rick Bent from the Georgia Food Stamp Coalition and the Children's Foundation from Washington, D.C. was with us. We met to discuss the EPR to eliminate the purchase price of food stamps. If EPR is passed, food stamps will be free just like commodity food was. That is what President Jimmy Carter wants for all poor peoples, but he can't do it by himself. We will hafta fight in our own states to help get EPR passed. Our highest priority is the elimination of the purchase price of food stamps because poor peoples don't have money to buy them. We are

(Continued on page 3)

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER
Published Monthly, Except
August, by
EMMAUS HOUSE
1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

* Second Class Postage *
* PAID *
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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VII, NO. V

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

MAY 1977

NEW GRADY POLICY HURTS NON-MEDICAID PATIENTS

On April 18th, Grady Hospital began a new policy of increased charges and payment before treatment. This policy, designed to increase the hospital's revenues in the absence of any help from the Fulton County Commission or the Georgia Legislature, will work great hardship on poor people who do NOT receive medicaid.

Under the new plan, almost all non-medicaid patients who are not emergency cases must pay cash before they are treated in the out-patient clinics and before they are admitted to the hospital. Payments will be based on the present scale of income and family size which determines what kind of card - A, B, C or whatever - a person has. The difference is that even A card holders who don't have medicaid now have to pay something before they can receive medicine or treatment. And all charges have more than doubled for categories of cards A through F.

For example, a non-medicaid person who has an A card and has been paying nothing now pays \$2 for a visit to an outpatient clinic and \$5 a day for in-patient hospital care. Charges for B

card holders have gone up from \$1 to \$4 for outpatient clinics and from \$2 to \$10 a day for hospital care. C card charges have increased from \$2 to \$6 for clinics and from \$4 to \$15 a day for hospital care.

A special category, G, has been created for people with less than \$30 a month. G card holders pay nothing for treatment or medicine.

Charges for emergency clinics have gone up also but emergency cases will not have to pay in advance for treatment. A number of Grady doctors are opposed to charging more and payment in advance. One of them commented that it is "immoral, unethical and stupid and will eliminate primary care services to people who can least afford to pay for them."

If the new Grady program is working a hardship on you, call the PRO, 523-2856 and join us in our efforts to change it. The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority will meet May 23rd at 3 p.m. in the Grady Board Room. We need to tell these people the problems these changes are causing poor people.

In Georgia 66 persons are sentenced to death. While Carter was Governor he signed a bill which brought the death penalty back. The Supreme Court had declared the old law unconstitutional because it discriminated. Between 1924 and 1965, 415 were executed in Georgia, and 336 of them were black, while the remaining whites were poor. The new law is not supposed to discriminate. According to the new law, the death penalty is automatic for some crimes. Still, it turns out that the 66 people in Georgia now facing the chair are people who did not have the money or power to have their sentences reduced and, thus, avoid capital punishment. The saying goes that "Those who don't have the capital get the punishment."

There are many people who say that having the death penalty makes somebody want to think twice before they want to commit murder. But there are inmates on death row who say they never thought about killing anybody. There are psychiatrists who say that Gary Gilmore, the man executed by firing squad in Utah, wanted to die before he killed the people because he wanted to have the state kill him.

Others point out that there are people who are sentenced to death who are innocent. Some of these people have just managed to live long enough to be cleared. If the courts and judges are right about guilt 99% of the time, that still leaves some people who die innocent.

Beyond the legal and psychological arguments for and against capital punishment are the moral questions. Coretta Scott King stated, "As one whose husband and mother-in-law have both died, victims of murder-assassinations, I yet stand firmly and unequivocally opposed to the death penalty...An evil deed is not redeemed by an evil deed of retaliation."

Right now lawyers from several organizations are making every effort to prevent more people from being executed in Georgia and in other states.

Easter weekend several organizations came together to protest the executions. What can you do? You can write to Governor Busbee and ask him to do what Governor Blanton of Tennessee has done--declare that no one will be executed during his term of office.

Write:

Governor George Busbee
State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

GOOD PLACE FOR CLOTHES: TRINITY PARISH HOUSE, 364 KELLY STREET S.E. EVERY MONTH ON THE 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS FROM 11 AM UNTIL 2 PM THERE IS A CLOTHING SALE AND EVERYTHING IS PRICED FROM 10¢ TO \$1.00. PHONE: 524-1751.

The Georgia garnishment law was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court and for several months nobody's pay check could be legally garnished. Now the State Legislature has passed a new law. Garnishment is legal again but now the person being garnished has to be given fair warning. This means that someone who tries to garnish your paycheck has to have a judge supervise the signing of a court order. Then they must send you a certified letter telling you that you are going to be garnished. If you have problems with garnishment, call the Atlanta Legal Aid or Georgia Indigent Legal Services if you live outside metropolitan Atlanta.

Peopletown Area Leaders Win Housing Awards

At its tenth annual meeting, Interfaith Inc. gave awards to several Peoples-town area leaders and organizations for their contributions in improving housing opportunities for low and moderate income families in the Atlanta area. Among those honored were State Representative, Douglas Dean, the Emmaus House Housing Development Corporation - Clarence Ezard President, and the Peopletown Project Area Committee, Ethel Mae Mathews, Chairperson. ***** INTERFAITH, INC. IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR RENTALS FOR THE TWO APARTMENT COMPLEXES UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON CAPITOL AVENUE - BOYNTON VILLAGE AND CAPITOL - VANIRA. CALL THE INTERFAITH OFFICE, 872-3848 TO APPLY. *****

asking everyone to write Senator Talmadge, Senator Nunn, Representative Mathis and Representative Levitas - all from Georgia. We are paying them, but we know that they are not doing their jobs. We will be taking this issue to the Agriculture Department here in Georgia to fight to get EPR passed. We will win if we come together. Carrying hate around in our hearts toward one another is not going to get the job done.

We have come a long way but there are still dark days ahead. Come July 1 there will be sad days for 22,000 or more working welfare mothers and 50,000 children who will be dropped from the welfare and they will also lose their medicaid. We could have stopped some of this from happening if we only would have come together and joined the picket lines. A lot of us who was on SSI and a lot of us who was not receiving any assistance marched for 4 long weeks. Some of our peoples even went to jail trying to save that 2.9 million dollars so that children could get a \$2 raise. Instead they put roads before hungry children. The system gave \$30,000 to buy cement to pave roads but nothing to buy bread for the hungry. Although I have had my share of trials and tribulations, heartaches and heartbreaks, yet I have lots to be thankful for and I love everyone of you. I leave this thought with you, to forget your path is a betrayal to your identity. Thank God, I am still un-bossed and still unbought. Power to the Peoples. Freedom and Justice for all.

I live in the struggle.
Ms. E. M. Mathews

A big Hello and Greetings to all of you, my members, friends, supporters and well-wishers who are in the struggle with me.

First I must give thanks, honor and praise to God who is the head of my life. God means so much to me. Without him I could not have come this far. When I am pushed down God is right there to pick me up. I have plenty knocks and I go through many storms but I never forget for one moment that God is right there with me. We are going through some tough times now but together and with God's help we will survive. So we must come together and stand together if we are ever to be free. We must remember we live in the 20th Century and we will not be pushed back into slavery. Our forefathers fought and laid down and died for the things we are entitled to. So I ask this question: Are we going to let the dream die or are we going to keep it alive? Since the Busbee administration went into office there has been nothing but attacks on poor peoples. If it is not Welfare attacks it is medicaid or food stamps and we just can't forget about the city workers who are on strike because they do the dirtiest job in the city but seems like no one cares about that. We are all in this together. What will hurt one will hurt the other.

We have another slap in the face again. Grady Hospital is beginning to charge more people and higher rates and for poor peoples it will be pure murder. A lot of peoples

(Continued on page 3)

JUNE, 1977

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

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER
Publication No. 878280
Published monthly, except August by
EMMAUS HOUSE
1017 Capitol Avenue, SW
Atlanta, GA 30315



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VII NO. VI

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

JUNE 1977

COALITION TO SAVE GRADY FORMED

Groups throughout the city have come together to save Grady for the people. This ad hoc coalition was formed in response to two things: 1) the Fulton County Commission's failure to appropriate adequate funding for Grady Hospital and 2) the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority's decision to raise additional revenue by increasing patient fees and by requiring payment of these fees in advance. The Coalition members know that these policies if enforced will cause poor people to be denied health care critical to their lives; therefore, the Coalition is committed to fighting these changes at Grady.

The fight against Grady's new policies has taken many forms. Both hospital physicians and clerical employees have spoken out publically against these new policies. Lawyers for Atlanta Legal Aid and Georgia Indigent Legal Services have taken the hospital to Court. Members of the Coalition have picketed Grady daily. In addition, the Coalition has met with County Commissioners, the Grady administration and with members of the hospital authority.

Although progress has been made, the fight is not over. It will be a long, hard struggle to ensure that Grady will continue to provide critical health care to all poor people in Fulton and DeKalb counties who need this care - regardless of their ability to pay. For further information on how you can help save Grady for the people, call Gene Ferguson, chairperson of the coalition, at 525-5948.

AFDC BENEFITS CHANGE

Recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) may get notices in June that their July checks will be different. Because of changes in the State budget, some families will get less money, some will get more, and some who receive small grants may be cut off AFDC. Grant groups of 1, 2, 3 and 8 or more persons will get a little more money. If there are 4, 5, 6, or 7 persons in the grant, the family will get less.

If you have any questions about the change in your check, call the PRO at 523-2856.

LEGAL AID AND GILS FILE SUIT AGAINST
HEALTH SYSTEMS AGENCIES

Atlanta Legal Aid and Georgia Indigent Legal Services have filed a lawsuit to try to give poor people a voice in planning for their own health care. The lawsuit, on behalf of 26 plaintiffs, is directed against Secretary Califano of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Governor Busbee and the 6 Health Systems Agencies of Georgia.

The Health Systems Agencies are private, non-profit corporations whose purpose is to provide health planning for the area they serve - to set health priorities and to make recommendations for the use of federal health money. The lawsuit charges that HSA Boards in Georgia do not properly represent lower and middle income people, women or handicapped persons. It also alleges that the present election procedures, having the old board elect new members, make HSA Boards not accountable to the public.

If you want a voice in making decisions about health care in your community, join CHAMP, Community Health Monitoring Project. Call Legal Services (656-6021) or the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856).

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, WE HAVE FEWER MEMBERS ON OUR STAFF AT THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE. YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO REACH US THE FIRST TIME YOU CALL. WE DO WANT TO HELP SO PLEASE KEEP TRYING, 523-2856. OUR OFFICE HOURS ARE 10:00 - 3:00, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

SSA, SSI CHECKS GO UP!

Everyone who receives Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will get a 5.9 percent increase in benefits starting on July 1. This is an automatic increase which reflects the rise in the cost of living for the past year. This means that an individual who was receiving a maximum SSI grant of \$167.80 will get a grant of \$177.80 in July. A couple who receives \$251.80 from SSI will get \$266.70

NEW GRADY POLICIES HURT PEOPLE

On April 18th Grady Hospital put into effect increased fees for drugs, clinic services and emergency room services. Poor patients who make over \$30 per week and are not eligible for Medicaid have to pay \$2 for a clinic visit which used to be free. The charge for the emergency clinic has jumped from \$1 to \$4. As bad as these increases are, another change is worse. Patients are now asked to pay in advance.

Grady officials claim, no patients in need of medical services will be turned away because they haven't got the necessary cash. In fact, some people have been turned away. Others who haven't had the money have just stayed away from the hospital.

Don't let anyone keep you away from seeing a doctor. If you need help and don't have money, insist on your right to medical care. Make Grady officials live up to their word.

SERVICE CENTER PROVIDED FOR DAY
LABORERS

If you need day work you don't have to stand on the street corner waiting for an employer to pick you up. Atlanta now has the Atlanta Day Labor Service Center. This is a place for you to wait for somebody to hire you. It provides bathroom facilities and games while you wait. In addition, educational work shops are sponsored. All of this is FREE.

Atlanta Day Labor Service Center
183 Edgewood Avenue
Phone: 658-6553
Benny T. Smith, Director
Hours: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

HUD DELAYS CEILING RENT INCREASES

The Atlanta Housing Authority posted notices in February attempting to raise "ceiling rents." Ceiling rent is the highest amount of rent that a tenant family would pay no matter what its income. Many tenants opposed the ceiling rent increase. Because AHA did not show why it was needed, HUD has not approved the increase. Any increase has been delayed at least 2 months and AHA tenants will have another opportunity to comment about the proposed increases in ceiling rents.

SSA, SSI TROUBLESHOOTER CAN HELP

Social Security has a troubleshooter to help people who have problems with SSI, Social Security or Medicare. If you have a problem that the local SSA office can't solve, call the ombudsman's office 1-800-282-0236 (toll-free) and 881-8224 (metropolitan Atlanta).

MS. MATHEWS CONTINUED

are going to die because they don't have money to see a doctor. The real thing that will hurt the most is you must pay before you see the doctor. You must show proof of income in advance. You must pay for your medicine before you receive it. You will not be billed. No money, no doctor or medicine. (This will not affect people who have medicaid.) Come and join the Struggle. We must have a strategy to deal with the problems: Unity and People Power. Mother's Day was in May and it is a lovely day to behold in your heart. All of you who have mothers are dearly blessed. I do not have an earthly mother. So I want to share my tribute with you to my mother, Mrs. Willie Mae Holmes, who passed away May 26th, 1974. There are times when only a mother's love can understand our tears, can soothe our disappointments and calm our fears. There are times when only a mother's heart can share the joy we feel when something we have dreamed about quite suddenly is real. There are times when only a mother's faith can help us on life's way and inspire in us the confidence we need from day to day. For a mother's heart and a mother's faith and a mother's steadfast love were fashioned by the angels and sent from God above.

So until next month, I still remain yours in the struggle, unbossed and I am still unbought. Love-power and freedom and justice for all peoples.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Hi Everybody,

It gives me great pleasure to take time out to chat with you for a little while. First giving honor to God thanking him so much for allowing me to do this and so much more. I just hafta give all of my thanks to God and no one else. My dear readers I am so happy to be a part of all of you. At this time I am going to share some very important information that I have received with you and I hope you will check it out if you have some relatives or loved ones in prison. Peoples in prison can collect Social Security benefits if they are disabled, blind or aged. Disabled can be a mental or physical condition. For the disabled prisoner the rules for collecting Social Security are the same as the rules for peoples who are not in prison. They are eligible for benefits if they worked 5 years or 20 quarters during the 10 years before they entered prison. A doctor must decide that the person is disabled permanently to work for the next 12 months. The person should apply for their disability. They will then have to wait 6 months before receiving benefits. During this time they should receive a letter telling them if they are eligible. If they are eligible they should notify their family so the family can apply also. The family will also not receive

(Continued on page three)

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER
Published Monthly, except August by
EMMAUS HOUSE
1017 Capitol Avenue, SW
Atlanta, GA 30315

* Second-Class Postage *
* PAID *
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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VII, NO. VII

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

JULY 1977

COMMUNITY GROUPS CHALLENGE CITY'S HOUSING PLANS

The city of Atlanta is in a housing crisis. Adequate housing for low income families is simply not available. Poor Atlantans still have to wait long periods of time just to get into a public housing project. In addition, recent changes in Housing Authority regulations in effect prohibit families on welfare from getting into public housing. Available private housing is not adequate. Many of the units which poor people can afford are sub-standard. The Section 8 program which is supposed to provide rent assistance so that low income families can live in decent standard private housing has not worked well in Atlanta. As a result, poor people are forced to live in unsafe, unsanitary houses concentrated in communities which lack adequate community services.

Although city officials claim they are committed to improving these housing conditions, little is being done. Citizens are supposed to have input into the City's Community Development plan including the Housing Assistance plan, yet last year without consulting its residents, the city reduced its 3 year housing assistance goal for low

income families by 60%. Huge amounts of money granted to the city by the federal government for improving low income housing have not been spent. This year, the City refused to make adequate information available to citizens so that they could have input into the community development plan.

There are now two groups trying to do something. The Organization of Concerned Low-Income Atlanta Residents and the Georgia Welfare Rights Council have submitted a formal complaint asking HUD to reject Atlanta's Community Development application until the City makes it possible for citizens to really participate in the development of this application. Another group, the Ad Hoc Housing Coalition, has been formed in an effort to make the city use all available funding to improve housing and to make sure that low income housing is dispersed throughout the metropolitan area. If you would like to know more about these groups or become involved in their efforts, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

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NUTRITION CONCERNS EVERYONE

ANY HEIRS OF RUTH BARNWELL, DECEASED, PLEASE CONTACT MR. BRIDGES AT 881-1200 OR THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE AT 523-2856. MS. BARNWELL PREVIOUSLY LIVED IN SUGAR HILL IN THE PEOPLESTOWN COMMUNITY. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE GET IN TOUCH WITH MEMBERS OF MS. BARNWELL'S FAMILY IMMEDIATELY.

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NEW JOB TRAINING PROGRAM TO BEGIN IN AUGUST

The "CCC HC" Training Program, a new CETA job training program will begin sometime in August. This program is designed for people interested in being outreach workers or aides in health-related agencies. Applications are being taken now. For further information contact:

CCC HC Training Program
2535 Bolton Rd., N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30318
355-0016

Ask for Mr. Bennet or Ms. Boyd.

VERY IMPORTANT

If you know anyone who is in jail because of welfare fraud or food stamp fraud, please get in touch with Frances Pauley, chairperson Georgia Poverty Rights Organization at 1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30315 or at 373-6735.

"Nutrition," says Mrs. Pam Askew, Director of Southside Comprehensive Health Center's Nutrition Program, "is not just playing with meals." Fixing balanced meals is important, but there is more to Ms. Askew and her staff's work than just teaching what you should eat. They also teach why good eating means good health. "If your body is balanced nutritionally, then you will get well quicker and avoid future illness" says Pam Askew. Her Southside program aims at restoring good health and preventing illness by teaching about nutrition.

Free weekly classes on how to rebuild the body with good eating habits for those with problems like obesity, hypertension and diabetes are also fun. Students do projects, go on field trips and have luncheons with speakers. The center of preventive care in the Southside nutrition unit is the WIC program which delivers free food to pregnant women and their infants. The WIC foods, milk, eggs, cheese and juice, help prevent body conditions such as retardation, weak bones and teeth, and other disabilities. While mothers attend a class, their children learn about family nutrition in a special class of their own.

If you live in the Southside area and are interested in getting your nutritional needs assessed, call the Clinic at 688-1350.

A NEW ONE-STOP MEDICAL CENTER

If you need almost any kind of health care--check-ups, care for pregnant women, eye check-ups, shots, X-rays, care of teeth, family counseling and mental health--you can get these services at the University Center Community Health Plan, Inc. Patients pay according to how much they can afford. To find out if you can get help in paying, call the Center at 758-6712.

Even if you don't need help now, you might want to apply for financial assistance now, since it may take some time. To prove your ability to pay, bring: 3 bills sent to your address in the last 3 months, your social security number, receipts from bills you pay every month, your medicaid, medicare, or private insurance card. For any family member over 16, bring paycheck or check stubs, letters from welfare or social security stating amount of your check, and your savings account statement.

The University Center is at 868 York Avenue, SW between Lee and Ashby. The phone is 758-6712. (Buses are #20 Hapeville, #20 College Park, and #47 Lynhurst.)

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AS IN THE PAST, THERE WILL NOT BE AN AUGUST ISSUE OF THE POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER. THE NEXT PAPER WILL COME OUT IN SEPTEMBER. SO THAT STAFF MEMBERS CAN HAVE VACATION, THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THROUGH AUGUST 21st TO SEPTEMBER 5th.

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Ms. Mathews Con't

anything until the six month waiting period is over. It is worth a try. Why not check it out. My dear readers I will be going into the hospital for surgery come June 27th. I am asking all of your prayers that I will have a speedy recovery. I will be in Grady Memorial Hospital on the 4th floor 4-B 80 Butler St., S.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Oh well I hope to chat with you again come next month and I want to share this poem with you and yours. "Lord... when in trouble make me brave! Lord...help me remember thou wilt Save! Lord...keep me safe by thy side! Lord...let me in thy love abide! So once again I thank God. I am still un-bossed and still unbought. Power to all peoples and freedom and justice for all.

I remain in the Struggle from day to day,

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS OFFERED AT EMMAUS HOUSE

Come join the adult education class which meets at Emmaus House, 1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W., on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon. Sponsored by the Atlanta Board of Education, this class prepares students for the G.E.D., helps adults improve their reading skills and provides training in filling out job applications and writing resumes. For more information please call 525-5948.

Hello to everyone: Mys Sisters, my Brothers, friends, well-wishers and supporters.

First I must give all thanks and honor to God. If it had not been for His mercy and grace I would not be able to share my thoughts with you at this time. I am so grateful for God's love and the love within me. I am out of the hospital and at home recuperating from a serious operation, looking forward to a speedy recovery. With God all things are possible.

In my last article I shard some important information with you about your loved one's disability social security. I hope you took advantage of it not only for them but for yourself also.

There was a huge cutback in welfare July 1. It will go down in history as doomsday for more than 5,000 innocent, hungry children who did not ask to be born. The system we live under is not built into law to help us. It is a system to keep us down. But as the saying goes, we have come a long way baby. We still have a long way to go. Together we can and will. '77 is an election year. We can't keep going to the polls voting for the same old lying politicians who talk out of both sides of their mouths to get your vote. We must let them know that we are on to all their dirty tricks. Many people will suffer because they don't have money. Attacks on the welfare system fall most heavily on women and children who make up the bulk of the 16 million Americans on Welfare.

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* * * PAID *
* * * at Atlanta, Georgia *

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER
Published Monthly, Except
August, by
EMMAUS HOUSE
1017 Capitol Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30315



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VII, NO. VIII ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315 September 1977

CONGRESS PASSES BILL TO CHANGE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM;
FOOD STAMPS SHOULD BE FREE BY SPRING

The House of Representatives passed a bill in late July to overhaul the food stamp program. The Senate had already approved the major changes in the measure which is supported by President Carter.

There are 3 big changes in the program which will most affect poor people in Georgia. The first: Elimination of the purchase requirement. This means that families will receive the bonus value of their food stamps free. For example, a household of 4 who pay \$71 for \$170 worth of stamps get \$99 bonus value-- the difference in what they pay and what their stamps are worth. Under the new plan, they will simply get \$99 worth of free stamps. This means that the very poorest people will be able to benefit from the program.

The second change: A decrease in the maximum income allowed for food stamp eligibility. This means that some households who have so much income (from earnings or public assistance) that they are barely eligible for food stamps will be cut off the program. This will probably not affect very many people in Georgia.

The third change: In figuring a food stamp budget, a standard deduction of \$60 will be allowed all households of all sizes. Possible additional deductions will be allowed for child care that is necessary for working and shelter costs which add up to more than 50% of income. This provision should help many people get a better deal on the amount of bonus value stamps they will receive.

There are still many details in the food stamp program which must be worked out by Congress. Then the U. S. Department of Agriculture will have to develop regulations to implement the changes required by the legislation. It will probably be Spring of 1978 before the new plan goes into effect and free food stamps are available.

Meanwhile, take heart! It seems that some good things are on the way at last for food stamps.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE
523-2856
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

MONDAY thru FRIDAY

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

Tuesday, October 4 is City Election day in Atlanta. Mayor Maynard Jackson is running for re-election but several others are also running.

The Council will be elected. One person from each of the 12 wards and 6 people at large. Every voter will vote for 7 people, the one to represent his or her own ward and 6 others, elected by the entire city.

These 18 people decide many things about the city, its streets, parks, garbage collection. Some big cities help with welfare, Atlanta does not.

School Board members will also be elected October 4; 6 from each of six wards and 3 members elected by the whole city. Each voter will vote for 4 School Board members.

Think of the questions you want to ask your public officials. What do YOU want them to do? Ask them before election and LISTEN to the answers. Vote for the best people!!

IF YOU ARE CUT OFF AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (AFDC) BECAUSE OF INCREASED EARNINGS, YOU CAN CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MEDICAID FOR FOUR MONTHS. CONTACT YOUR CASEWORKER IMMEDIATELY ABOUT THIS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS IN GETTING YOUR MEDICAID CONTINUED, CALL THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE AT 523-2856.

DO YOU KEEP CHILDREN IN YOUR HOME WHILE THEIR PARENTS WORK? IF SO, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL MONEY TO ASSIST YOU IN FEEDING THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CARE THROUGH THE CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM CONTACT FAYE HAGOOD AT THE GEORGIA CITIZENS' COALITION ON HUNGER (659-0878).

CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO BREAKFAST AT SCHOOL

The Federal government provides breakfast for children within the public school system. If your child's school does not offer a breakfast program you can take action to begin it. The Education Council of Emmaus House, a group of concerned parents, worked very hard on this program last year. Because of their efforts the majority of the schools in the Atlanta Public School System now provide breakfast for students. Schools everywhere should have this program.

If there is not breakfast program at your child's school, talk with the principal about starting this program. If this gets no results call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856. A good breakfast is the right of each child.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

CALL AND GIVE US YOUR NEW

ADDRESS AT

523-2856

MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD NOW ABOUT AFDC BUDGET

If voices are heard the Legislature might keep its promise and RAISE AFDC payments. The extra money is there.

The Governor is now working on his budget proposal. Letters to him might make a difference. Write:

Gov. George Busbee
State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Tell him to see that deprived children have at least half of the money that is said to be the poverty level. Ask him to bring Georgia up from the bottom of all the states.

Now is the time to talk to Legislators and Senators and make sure that they have needed information. It would take a genius to live on the basic grant that DHR states - \$227 for a family of four. But it is impossible for a family of four to live on the 62% of \$141 a month that the Legislature decided upon. Explain the facts to the elected officials. When they know the truth they will come nearer voting the money for AFDC raises. Tell the AFDC story. Tell it like it is.

XX

GOOD GUYS OF THE MONTH: THE BUSLOAD OF PEOPLE FROM THE WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION AND THE TECHWOOD TENANTS ASSOCIATION. THEY WENT TO WASHINGTON TO PERSUADE CONGRESS TO PASS THE BILL FOR FREE FOOD STAMPS. CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM AND THANKS FROM POOR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

XX

Ms. Mathews Con't

Although the majority of welfare recipients are white, no one talks about them. But the racist and the middle class talk about the blacks. To whoever you may be, Susan Hall, this is in reply to your racist letter you wrote me. I think you are the most racist and bigoted person I have received a letter from. If you feel guilty about what your ancestors have did that is too bad. Because if the shoe fit your feet or your ancestors' feet, wear it. I still say poor people pay the taxes while the rich and the crooks pay none. You are sick and you need help bad if you say women have babies to get welfare because having a baby to get welfare is not worth the pain. Welfare is not easy to get because you and plenty more narrow minded peoples think as you do. So stop playing God and stop judging peoples. Be thankful for what you have.

I want to share my thought with all of you who I love very much. Every morning brings a promise of His love so strong and true and each night brings words of comfort.

"Sleep in peace, I am here with you."

Until next month, I am yours. I live in the struggle for Love, Peace, Freedom.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

NEW PROGRAM PROVIDERS BENEFITS
FOR FAMILY DAY CARE PROVIDERS

Are you a family day care provider - someone who cares for other people's children in your home? There is a new program designed to assist you with the cost of feeding those children in your care. It's called the Child Care Food Program.

This program offers federal money to providers to assist them in serving nutritious meals to the children they keep. To be eligible for these benefits, a provider must be keeping six children or less.

The Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger is trying to locate as many eligible family day care providers as possible to assist them in obtaining the benefits offered by the Child Care Food Program. If you are a family day care provider or know a provider who may be eligible, call Faye Hagood at the Hunger Coalition (659-0878) for further information.

WORKSHOPS ON PRISONS

The ACLU Clearinghouse on Prisons will have a workshop on prisons and prison conditions on Saturday, October 15, from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Center. The workshop will organize families and friends of prisoners into a group to influence the Pardons and Paroles Board and inform those attending of the right of prisoners and what can be done to help them. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call Nick Zachery, 523-5398.

STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS

During the past few months the welfare department and the food stamp office have been trying to scare poor people with threats of fraud. It's hard enough to live on what little that welfare and food stamp benefits provide without having to put up with threats or scare tactics on the part of people who are supposedly paid to help you. Few caseworkers ever fully explain your rights, particularly when they talk about fraud.

While certainly fraud accusations can be serious, you do have legal rights. DON'T SIGN ANY PAPERS UNTIL YOU CHECK IT OUT WITH ATLANTA LEGAL AID, THE GEORGIA LEGAL SERVICES OFFICE IN YOUR AREA OR THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE
523-2856

NEW LAW PROTECTS AGAINST AUTO
REPAIR RIP-OFFS

There is a new Atlanta city ordinance concerning car repairs. Under this law, if you ask the repair people for a written estimate, they have to give it to you. Then, if the repair costs more than 25% above what they estimated, they have to get your permission before doing it. In other words, if the people at the garage say it will cost \$60 to fix your car and you get them to write it down, then they can't charge you more than \$75 unless you agree to it.

ACLU WILL HOLD CONFERENCE
ON HEALTH CARE

The American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia will hold a conference on "Health Care: Right or privilege?" November 3rd and 4th in the House Chambers of the State Capitol and at Trinity Methodist Church. It will begin at 9:30 each morning and last until about 6 p.m.

Plans for the conference grew out of increasing concern for the quality and cost of health care available. The problems were especially evident last Spring in the hardships caused by the prepayment plan and other authorities on health care policies will be there to speak and to hear what you think about the direction health care should take in the future. Your participation is necessary! Plan to attend. Call Muriel Tillinghast 523-5389, for more information. This conference is made possible by a grant from the Georgia Committee for the Humanities.

FOOD STAMP HEARINGS TO BE HELD
IN ATLANTA

On October 11th, the federal government will hold hearings on the new food stamp program at the Sheraton Peachtree (590 W. Peachtree St.) all day in the Georgia Ballroom. Officials from the United States Department of Agriculture will be here to listen to your suggestions about the new food stamp program.

For more information on the hearing call the Hunger Coalition at 659-0878 or the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

(Ms. Mathews, Continued)

What I am trying to say is that we are tired of being used by forked split-tongued liars. I hope all of us will vote come October 4th but let us vote for someone who will help us after they get in office, someone who will work for all poor and oppressed peoples regardless of race, creed or color. We all know the system that controls us is the big corporation and they are evil.

Everyone who went to Washington last year by bus - members from the Welfare Rights Organization, the Techwood Tenants Association, the Capitol Home Tenants Association - We went to persuade Congress to pass the bill for free food stamps. It was a long hard trip there and back. When we left Washington some of us was sick, tired and very weary but the trip paid off. Come next Spring, 1978, the new plan goes into effect and free food stamps will be available. Congratulations and thanks to all who made the trip. A special thanks to Mr. Rick Bent, director of the Hunger Coalition for sponsoring the trip. So now I will leave this thought with you: "There is a destiny that makes us sisters and brothers; None goes his way alone. All we send into the lives of others comes back into our own."

So until next month I am your sister in the struggle for love, peace, and freedom.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Once again I say hello to all of my wonderful readers.

It makes me very happy to be able to share some of my time with you. First I give thanks and honor to God who is the Head of my life and my home. I thank God for the love that He has given me and I thank God for the love that is within me. As the song goes, we have come this far by faith. Together we have made some progress down through the years of our hard struggle. There is still a lot of hard work to be done but together we can fight for the things that our children and our grandchildren need to be able to survive. Here are some of our needs and our wants: the repeal of the present welfare law. A guaranteed minimum income of at least \$4400 based on a family of four. Three million jobs for mens now. Decent jobs with adequate pay for those who can work and an adequate income for those who can not work. When I say an adequate income I mean a system which guarantees enough money for all Americans to live dignified lives above the level of poverty. Dignity. A system which guarentees recipients the same full freedom, rights and respect as all American citizens. Justice. A fair and open system which guarantees recipients the full protection of the Constitution. Democracy. A system which guarantees recipients direct participation in the decisions under which they must live.

(Continued on Page 3)

NOVEMBER, 1977)

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER
Publication No. 878280
Published monthly, except August by
EMMAUS HOUSE
1017 Capitol Avenue, SW
Atlanta, GA 30315

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



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VII No. X

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

NOVEMBER 1977

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A FAIR HEARING

If you feel that you have not been treated fairly by the welfare department, the food stamp office or the Social Security Office, there is often something you can do. Your caseworker's decision does not have to be the final decision, you can ask for a fair hearing.

For example, AFDC regulations say that people have a right to a fair hearing when:

- (1) they are denied welfare
- (2) their application is not acted upon within a reasonable period of time
- (3) action by the welfare office results in a check being reduced or cut off.

If you disagree with a decision of the welfare office, you must ask your caseworker for a hearing within 10 days of getting a letter which says that your check will be cut or that your application has been denied. You must then put this request in writing within the next 15 days. Your caseworker must not try to stop you from having a

hearing.

Like the welfare program, the food stamp program, the WIC program, the SSI and Social Security Programs also must provide fair hearings when clients feel their rights have been denied. As with AFDC, you have only 10 days to request a food stamp hearing. Your request should be accepted over the phone, but it's better to go to the food stamp office and sign a "Hearing Request Form". With Social Security and SSI a client has a longer time to request an appeal. It's always better, however, to put in your request for a reconsideration as quickly as possible.

Whenever you have a hearing, you should have legal help. For free legal assistance, get in touch with legal aid.

For more information on fair hearings, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856

FUNDS FOR ABORTION CUT OFF

Congress and the Supreme Court have recently cut off Medicaid funds for abortion at the federal level. With the Hyde amendment to the HEW appropriations bill, Congress has forbidden the use of any federal funds to pay for abortion. The Supreme Court has ruled that federal payments for abortion are not a guaranteed right. Therefore each state can choose whether or not to pay for abortions.

In Georgia, DHR Commissioner Doug Skelton and the Medicaid Board have come out in favor of Medicaid paying for abortion. But a state law prevents Medicaid from paying for any service that is not matched by federal funds. This means that Georgia Medicaid is NOT paying for abortion unless the woman's life is in danger.

A pregnant woman who does not want to have the baby must pay from \$120 to \$650 for an abortion in Georgia. Most abortion clinics are private, so they can't lend money or reduce fees. Public hospitals like Grady or Talmadge in Augusta are supposed to provide medical care (including abortion) for poor patients. Their policies change daily, so this need to be checked out by each person. Some clinics do offer reduced payments for medicaid eligible women.

This situation is discriminatory toward poor women. Abortion is legal and available everywhere with one hitch - you must be able to pay. Not so with other medical procedures where the rights of the poor to competent medical treatment are recognized.

DRUGSTORE AT DUNBAR CENTER

Southside Atlanta now has its own pharmacy - MECHANICSVILLE PHARMACY PATIENT-CARE CENTER at Room 203, Dunbar Center, 477 Windsor St., S.W. Sponsored by Mercer University, the drug store fills prescriptions, accepts Medicaid, keeps full medication and drug records, offers health care items at reasonable prices and holds Health Education Clinics. Free delivery service is available for the elderly, disabled and handicapped. The Pharmacists try to find help for people who cannot afford to pay the full cost of prescriptions. Phone 688-9907 or 688-9908, Monday thru Friday, 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

EMERGENCY HELP FOR WOMEN

Atlantan Women now have caring people to stand with them through the confusion and pain of a rape or beating crisis.

The Battered Women's Council helps women who are regularly slapped, beaten and abused by the men in their lives. Counseling, food, clothing, shelter and legal help is available by calling 875-6751.

The Rape Crisis Center provides medical help, VD and pregnancy tests and counseling to rape victims. Women who decide to go to court will have help dealing with the police. The Rape Crisis Center is in Grady Hospital at 659-7273. Both help Agencies keep your problem private and listen to what you want them to do.

CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS TO S.S. SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Suppose an unmarried woman has a baby, later the father of the baby dies. Can the child get social security, just as a child born in marriage would? Yes, if you have the right papers. These conditions would help the child get benefits: 1) If the court declared him to be the father 2) If the court ordered him to pay support 3) If the father put in writing that he was the child's father.

If the mother doesn't have any of these papers, she can collect evidence or statements from the dead man's relatives that he considered the child his own or gave support. Even if he were married to someone else and/or had other children, the child outside the marriage can still collect.

Suppose the unmarried woman later marries the man or another man. If the husband dies, the child can collect if there are papers in which the father agreed that the child was his.

These could be school records or income tax records. If there are no papers, the child can still be considered a stepchild. Stepchildren can get the same benefits that children can. It is important to get and keep these papers while the man is alive, so that if he dies, the child is entitled to social security benefits.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE
523-2856

(Ms. Mathews Continued)

On September 29th we celebrated Welfare Rights day. Our Welfare Rights Organization was 10 years old. We had a parade from Emmaus House to Central City Park. It was a historic day for all of us to remember. It was just a wonderful and beautiful day. Congratulations and many thanks to everyone who made it a success. Thanks to the members, supporters and well wishers and thanks to all of the Emmaus House Staff for a job well done. And a special thanks to our Mayor, Maynard Jackson, and our Commissioner Reginald Eaves who participated with us. So now I will share this thought with all of you:

When troubles seems to
bend me,
Someone is near to care,
Ready to help me on my way,
Each burden and worry to
share.
So until next month I am yours
in the struggle for love,
peace, freedom, justice.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Seasons greetings and best wishes to all of you for a happy and joyous holiday.

It gives me much honor and pleasure to come to you once again to chat with you. But first I must give thanks and honor to God for every day of my life because he stood with me and He strengthened me so I might keep on keeping on in His name. And what God do for me He will do it for you.

The year of 1977 is almost gone and there is still a lot of work to be done. But unless we come together in love-unity and work together there will still be a lot of work in 1978 that won't get done. So we must come together and work out some strategies and goals that we want to accomplish. We have come too far to give up now.

Right around the corner there is some dark days ahead for all of us. The President's welfare reform program is unrealistic. Some people may be forced to work under the work requirements of the new food stamp law is the most racist attack on poor peoples that Congress has done. You may not be paid a salary to work on a job and you will hafta accept the job. After working then you will be paid off in food stamps. How cruel can officials get who sit in high places and starve little children and old peoples and also sick peoples.

(Continued on Page 3)

DECEMBER 1977

POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER
Published monthly, except August by
EMMAUS HOUSE

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

Ms. Harriet Heriot
1953 Breckenridge Dr., NE
Atlanta, GA 30345

Second-Class Postage
PAID
at Atlanta, Georgia



POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VII No. XI

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30315

December 1977

PROPOSED FEDERAL CHANGES IN AFDC PROGRAM TO HURT RECIPIENTS

Congress is now deciding on proposed changes in the AFDC program which would be disastrous for AFDC recipients all over the country.

One proposed change would require some recipients to work off the amount of their welfare checks at non-paid public service jobs. Other administrative changes are also proposed which would further reduce some grants.

It's important to let your Congressman hear from you about how hard it is to make it on welfare now. To make the program even worse would be disastrous. Tell him you oppose. For more proposed federal changes in the AFDC program, call the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856).

STATEWIDE MEETING ON WELFARE
REFORM, SATURDAY DECEMBER, 10,
AT MILLEDGEVILLE. FOR MORE
INFORMATION CALL THE POVERTY
RIGHTS OFFICE AT 523-2856.

ABUSED CHILDREN? TROUBLED FAMILIES! HELP FOR BOTH

Children who are physically and mentally hurt or neglected come from all kinds of families - rich, poor, black and white. But their families share one thing in common, they're in trouble. Being a parent takes time, energy and skill and some families have too many problems to handle all together. Maybe the parent was abused as a child and doesn't know any other way to raise children. Whatever the reason, DFCS Emergency Services to Children wants to help.

Fulton County has a 24 hour hot-line 572-2224, that anyone can call to report possible abuse. Parents who feel themselves losing control can call for immediate counseling and follow-up help.

Neighbors and friends can call and the law will protect them from hassles. Nurses, Daycare providers, Teachers and others must call if they suspect abuse. Once called, Emergency Service Workers will visit the family, help with the problems, make referrals and try to keep the family together. Children are only removed if in danger and all else fails. Children have a right to the best life possible. Call 572-2224 or you local welfare agency if outside Fulton County.

JOB HELP FOR WOMEN

The YWCA Vocational Counseling Center offers help to women who are looking for jobs. While the YWCA is not a job placement service, it does help a women determine what kind of work she wants and where to find that particular training or job opportunity.

Services are especially geared to women and are provided, free of charge, to anyone who comes to the Center at 45 Eleventh St. The YWCA offers services to women who are making their first entry into the job market, re-entering after a time of not working, or wanting a new direction in a job or career.

There are several workshops a month at the YWCA which focus on building skills in decision making, defining abilities, discovering where the opportunity for jobs or training are, and learning how to present oneself. For more information call 892-3339.

FARM LABOR CAN BE NEW FORM OF SLAVERY

When Mayor Maynard Jackson recently warned Atlantans to beware of recruiters who promise jobs as farm workers in other areas at good pay the Poverty Rights Office knew just what he meant. We are helping a man who was recruited on Auburn Avenue in 1974 to "make some real money doing farmwork in Tennessee." Bill's recruiter took him not to Tennessee, but first to North Carolina, then Florida and, following the migrant route as the seasons changed, New York for apple-picking, Pennsylvania to pick tomatoes,

tobacco chopping in South Carolina and work on sweet potatoe farms in North Carolina. Bill was beaten when he tried to leave. He was fed poorly, sometimes forced to sleep on the ground, and never paid more than \$7.00 a week. Be on guard against such farm labor recruiters. Call the Poverty Rights Office if someone tries to hire you or a friend for such "big money" jobs. They may not be hoeing a straight line!

DO TENANT'S ASSOCIATIONS REALLY WORK FOR THE PEOPLE?

One of the major problems with the tenant's associations in Atlanta Housing projects is that they are not really owned by the people. Where does the money to run the tenant's associations come from? It comes from the Housing Authority itself. This means that unless the members are very careful, the housing authority has a big influence on what the tenant's associations decide.

In some places, officers are very dedicated to improving living conditions for people in their projects. In other places, officers of the tenant's associations end up getting jobs in the housing authority, and they give up their fight.

The tenant's associations are not perfect, but they're the only way for people to get together and to demand changes. Join your tenant's association, and make it work, not for the Atlanta Housing Authority, but for you.

TIME TO WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR!

The Georgia General Assembly will be deciding on whether or not to increase the state sales tax by 1%. In the MARTA area this would mean an increase from 4% to 5% or, instead of paying \$1.04 for a one dollar item, you'd pay \$1.05 for that item. Where do these pennies go? They go to help landlords and other property owners by cutting land taxes. This does not help poor people. The majority of poor people are not land owners. We will not be helped by this increase. We will be hurt by this legislation because we all pay sales tax. Write your legislator and urge him or her to vote against this piece of legislation. It hurts the poor!

MEALS ON WHEELS IN DEKALB

Lunch can be delivered to elderly shut-ins in Dekalb. This service is for those who have no relatives or neighbors helping them with fixing meals. There is a waiting list. Call Cliff Burt at 377-9901.

OTHER PROGRAMS IN DEKALB

Dekalb County senior citizens can also call 377-9901 for legal and personal counseling, for transportation help, to find out about a senior citizen discount program, and to get telephone reassurance. Telephone reassurance is getting a phone call each day from someone who talks and chats with you. If you become ill, or if another problem comes up, you can be sure that someone will be in touch that day.

(Ms. Mathews Cont'd)

If there are some mothers who are pregnant and would prefer a midwife at the time of the baby's birth, you can get one. Grady Memorial Hospital has midwives on the staff now.

As struggling peoples trying to survive we either go up together or we come down together. Life is no game; we all die the same, just different ways. We must have a strategy to deal with the problems of today: Unity, togetherness, and peoples' power. Unless we convey our concern to specific issues, our country will continue to turn inward while millions starve. Although we may contribute in church to relieve hunger, our silence on public policy will lock peoples more deeply into hunger.

So now I will share my thoughts with you for today:

A happy friendly smile
Is a tonic you will find.
If you see one or wear one
You can leave all cares behind.

So until next month, I am your sister in the struggle for Peace and Freedom.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

MEALS ON WHEELS IN FULTON

If you know an elderly person in Fulton County who is shut-in and does not eat properly, he or she may be eligible for meals on wheels. A hot meal is delivered each week day. Call 892-3522 for more information.