

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year to everyone

I am so happy that I can come and share some of my thoughts and comments with you, first giving thanks and honor to God who is the head of my life. I thank God for the love that is within me. God loves all of us and we should be very grateful. Some peoples doubt Him, but I want you to know I can't do without Him. Down through the years it hasn't been easy for poor and oppressed peoples but we can't stop now. We have advanced too far. Things are not all like they used to be. That is why we must unite together and keep on marching on. We will soon say "good bye" to the old year and welcome the new year in. We can't get too comfortable about the many problems that face us. There is a lot of hard work out there to be done. The food stamp program is getting worse and worse for peoples who really need them. Unemployment is rising higher. The farmers are getting a raw deal and they want to be able to work their farms.

There is a lot of confusion about President Carter's welfare reform program and the bill is very complicated and hard to understand. There will be a difference between the old bill and the new bill in benefits. Politics. Carter's politics. Programs to be replaced by Carter's reform welfare program will be AFDC, SSI, Food stamps, CETA (Title VI), and extended unemployment. AFDC is for dependent children, SSI for

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VIII No. I

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JANUARY 1978

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH WELFARE REFORM

Committees in Congress are now considering President Carter's welfare reform plan, (Better Jobs and Income Act, H.R. 9030). All over the country groups of concerned people have been meeting to discuss the bill and their reactions to it. Some 250 people attended a state-wide welfare reform conference in Milledgeville in December. People from the Poverty Rights Office were there and here are some of the things we learned about this very complex and important issue.

Poor people in Georgia would be better off under President Carter's plan. Benefits would be higher and many more people would be eligible to receive them. The new plan would do away with AFDC, SSI, and food stamps and replace them with one cash assistance and jobs opportunity program. All people under a certain income level would be entitled to benefits, not just those who are old, disabled or single-parent families with young children. The benefits would be larger than are now received under all the programs.

For example, a parent with 3 small children who now gets \$141 AFDC and \$133 worth of food stamp benefits (bonus value) - a total of \$274 each month - would get a maximum grant of \$350 under the new program.

The Cash Assistance program is tied to a Jobs Opportunities program. Some people would be classified as "expected to work" in order to receive cash benefits. These are single persons, couples with no children, the main wage-earner in 2-parent households and individuals whose children are 6 or older. These people would be required to look for work for 8 weeks. If they did not find a job, they would begin receiving benefits at the end of that time. Their families would have received aid during the 8-week job search period. It is important to remember that many of the "expected to work" people now receive no benefits at all.

The Carter plan has bad provisions which need to be changed. A few of these are: (cont'd on page 2)

1. Eligibility must be based on income a person is receiving now, not the income he received in past months.
2. States, like New York, where benefits are already high should be required to supplement the federal grant so that no recipient will get less under the new system.
3. There should be clear cut guidelines for emergency assistance so that people with emergency needs will get prompt, adequate help.
4. Medicaid will continue for people who already receive it under Carter's plan. Provision must be made for coverage for those who are newly eligible for grants.
5. The jobs program must be improved to include real training, fringe benefits, the payment of prevailing wages and no displacement of persons currently employed.

The Carter welfare reform plan is far from perfect. There is also no telling what Congress may do to change it - for better or worse. It can be a step in the right direction if poor people work together to get the good parts passed and the bad parts amended. Poor people need to be informed and to speak out on this important issue. If you have questions about what the new plan will mean to you and what you can do about welfare reform, call Frances Pauley, Georgia PRO, 373-6735; National Clients Council, 525-7428; or the PRO, 523-2856.

NOW is the time for every poor person to ACT. The legislature already is busy. It will start meeting Jan. 9. Hundreds of paid lobbyists are working for selfish interests. Poor people cannot BUY legislation but can WORK for good laws. Will you be an unpaid lobbyist working for the interests of poor people?

WHAT TO DO

TALK TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR. Also talk to one other nearby member of the legislature. Explain to them the WAY IT IS. Often they think a family of 4 gets \$141 a week instead of \$141 a month. Tell them the truth.

Tell them two things.

1. Poor people are suffering. Raise the amount of tax money for AFDC grants.
2. Tell them to take out the restrictions written into the law that keep the Department of Human Resources from spending the money the legislature gives them to spend. (The legislature is the one who says that the family of four can only get \$141).

WRITE to important people telling them how you feel and what you need. Send all of these letters to the Capitol, or to their homes.
 Governor George Busbee
 Lt. Gov. Zell Miller
 Senator Paul Brown
 Speaker Tom Murphy
 Rep. Joe Frank Harris
 Georgia Capitol Atl., GA. 30334
 Tell them the truth. Tell them to ACT.

 PROTEST THE PROPOSED HIKE IN MARTA FARES. CALL MARTA, 586-5072, OR WRITE: 401 WEST PEACHTREE ST., ATLANTA, GA. 30308. MAKE MARTA KEEP ITS 15c FARE PROMISE.

SCHOOL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

If you enlisted in any branch of U.S. military service before Jan. 1, 1976, then there are probably some school benefits you are entitled to receive. In order to receive these GI benefits for school, you must have been on continuous active duty for 181 days or 6 months and 1 day.

If you have not finished high school the government will pay a certain amount of money per month to attend high school. If you are interested in going to a vocational or technical school, or to college, then the government will pay part of your expenses for up to 36 months. They will pay approximately \$298 per month plus \$35 for each dependent you have.

If you need to borrow money to go to school the government will loan you up to \$1500 per year. If you are having difficulty with any of your school courses, the government will pay approximately \$60 a month to have you tutored. The government will also pay for On the Job Training.

All of these benefits are good up until 10 years after the date you got out of the service. For more information call Veteran Counselor, James Chambliss at 799-0331.

disability, CETA jobs should be for poor people but they are not. Now each state sets its own benefits for AFDC but Georgia has the lowest state budget in the nation. That is why we will all hafta unite and make Carter's new welfare reform program work for all the people who are entitled to the services. Come out and get involved and help save our children and grandchildren. They are entitled to a decent living and plenty of food to eat. Last year it was revealed that almost one million people in the United States were forced to eat food to survive. It looks like the peanut broker turned president doesn't care if the poor have no food to eat as long as his old buddies in the \$100 million a year food industry stay well fed.

So now I will share my thoughts with you:

Life is quite a mixture
 of sunshine and rain,
 Teardrops and laughter,
 Some pleasure, some pain.

So, until next month, I wish you love, peace, joy, happiness, and freedom for all.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

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

Hello and best wishes for the new year of 1978.

Let us all give thanks and look to the future and what the new year holds for us. First, I must give all of my praises and thanks to God who art my Lord and my Maker, Creator of heaven and earth, source of all goodness and power and love. I am very happy and thankful to be able to share some of the problems and struggles that we face in '78. There is a lot of work to be done and no one is going to do it for us. So we will hafta come together and do it for ourselves. It has been proven to be true we can't depend on our politicians any more. They use us to get them into office and after that they are through with us until the next time. How long are we going to sit back and not speak up and make our voices heard? It seems as if we have become so cozy and satisfied with what the system is doing to us. If we are not concerned about ourselves, what about our children and grandchildren? They are the future.

Governor Busbee has cut 2.8 million dollars out of the welfare budget for this fiscal year. Welfare mothers' checks have been reduced. You can thank your Gov. Busbee for that. He was the one who recommended it and it was passed by the Appropriations Committee. 62% of need is what they will pay and no more. A mother and 3 children only get \$141 a month. They have millions of dollars to spend and not one dime for the poor and oppressed peoples, not one dime for the unemployed.

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VIII No. II

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY 1978

FOOD STAMP COSTS GO DOWN WHEN UTILITIES GO UP

A new rule makes food stamps cheaper as winter utility bills cost more. Starting January, if your heating and utility bills go up more than \$25 your food stamp price will go down.

This new rule says:

1. Show your most recent bills, **EVEN IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID THEM** to your food stamp worker.
2. If recent bills have gone up more than \$25 your food stamp price will be lowered within 10 days or by the end of the month, whichever is sooner.
3. If you have already bought this months' stamps, you can still bring your bills in to your worker and get a reduced price on next month's stamps.
4. Old bills that were low because of warmer weather will not be figured into new applications so most people should qualify.

For example, if bills have gone up more than \$25 in January, your February food stamps will cost less. For information, call your food stamp worker or the Poverty Rights Office.

TIME FOR ACTION IN THE LEGISLATURE

A few friends are spending their time in the State Legislature trying to get good laws for poor people. There is little they can do without YOU.

You have two representatives - a senator and a member of the House of Representatives. If you do not know how to reach these 2 people, ask your preacher or call the registrar in the court house.

Then TAKE ACTION!

Telephone, write or, best of all, take some friends to visit these people. Tell them both to vote for more money for AFDC and more money for health care.

Extra money is there. Governor Busbee has about 150 million dollars left over to spend. Will it go to roads and raises for state employees or will it go for the hungry and the sick? It depends on you. Get busy and let the Governor and your 2 representatives know what poor people need. The only way our government will improve will be for people to raise their voices.

WELFARE FRAUD CASES
NEED LEGAL HELP

Attention all recipients of AFDC, SSI, food stamps and Medicaid:

At the first sign of any trouble with the Welfare Department because of possible fraud, call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856. Do not sign any statement until you have consulted a lawyer. Do not discuss your problem with anyone at the welfare office or the court until you talk with us.

Many people are being convicted of fraud because they do not have the proper legal help. Anyone who is accused of fraud needs legal advice. The PRO will help you find a lawyer who knows about welfare.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. . . .

Do you know who to call in an emergency? Put the following phone numbers near your phone and carry them with you. You should know your local police and fire numbers. You should know these help-line numbers also:

Alcoholics Anonymous - 525-3178
Emergency Mental Health - 572-2626
The help-lines above are open 24-hours per day for help with alcohol and other personal problems.

There are new numbers to call for violence in the home. Battered women can call 873-1766 or 572-2626 after hours. The Council on Battered Women can provide counselling advocacy and shelter for beaten women and their children.

Grady Hospital, 659-1212, has some new special numbers:
The Rape Crisis Center is 659-7273 or 588-4861. Grady Ambulance is 588-4141. The Poison Control Center is 588-4400.

Other phone numbers which can be reached during the day are: Tie-line 1-800 - 282-4900, a switchboard which helps you get in touch with the state agency that can help you; the Food Stamp Hot-Line (Hunger Coalition) 659-1888; and Golden Age Information and Referral, 892-3094, which can help the elderly.

Don't forget the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856.

FOOD STAMP CHANGE HELPS
WELFARE HOUSEHOLDS

With the New Year came some needed changes in the food stamps program. Federal Court has ordered that families who receive public assistance each month are at the same time eligible for food stamps.

Therefore, as of January 1st assistance households (where everyone gets welfare or SSI) won't have to reapply every month or so. Instead, households regularly receiving their checks will automatically be food stamp certified and sent their ATP card.

These families only need to reapply for food stamps in the same month that caseworkers check their welfare eligibility. Every 3 to 6 months when its time for their AFDC review, caseworkers will have the new food stamp application ready to be completed and returned to the client's food stamp office. For information, call your food stamps worker or PRO-523-2856.

HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES OFFER
HELP FOR METRO ATLANTA

The city of Atlanta sponsors various programs to help people with housing problems. One of them is Housing Support Services. This agency has 3 locations and is designed to help people who live within a designated area called the Community Development Impact Area. Each office has a staff of housing counselors to help with the following problems:

- Home management
- Housing upkeep
- Money management
- Landlord-tenant relations
- Rental information
- Employment referral
- Home purchasing
- Relocation
- Loans for home improvement

Housing Support Services offices are located at 1128 Gordon Street, SW, 793-1147; 374 Maynard Terrace SE, 377-8191; and 900 Peachtree St. NE, 873-1271. They are open 5 days a week and no appointment is necessary.

BEFORE YOUR LIGHTS ARE CUT OFF

If you are elderly or ill there is a new plan that you can work out with Georgia Power Company. Usually when they are going to cut your electricity off, they notify you by mail. If you don't do anything about it, they cut you off. The new plan is called third party notification. Under this plan, you let Georgia Power know of some relative or friend or social agency that would volunteer to be notified first. This person can help you work out something so that your service won't be cut off. Call Georgia Power for more information.

(MS. MATHEWS, Continued)

Gov. Busbee and the politicians are willing to spend all that money for cement and steel while little children and senior citizens are going hungry because they don't have enough money to buy decent food to eat. President Carter went abroad to talk about human rights. What about human rights here at home? Jobs, decent housing to live in, adequate wage for a decent living, better conditions in jails and prisons, a better health care program for all. Equality education for our children so that when they finish school they can read and write so that they will be able to get jobs and not wind up on the welfare roll. The president should think about the peoples who carried him to the White House.

Welfare mothers, come out and join in the struggle so that your children will be able to survive. If you would like to have more information call Ms. Ethel M. Mathews, president WRO, 525-5948.

Now I will share my thoughts for today with you: It does me good to seek the best in all. It feels so good to turn an enemy into a friend. It does me good to say the word "forgive". It feels so good to laugh, to love, to live. So until next month I am yours in the struggle for Love, Peace and Freedom.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE
523-2856
Monday - Friday
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Hi, everybody.

It is so good to be able to come to you once again to share some of my thoughts with you. First I must give praise and thanks to God who is the head of my life. I thank God for standing by me when my days were so dark I could not see. I thank God for so many lovely friends like you. And I love you.

The General Assembly has been in session and the Appropriations Committee asked for money for everything except for feeding little hungry children and people who need help. Sometimes I hafta stop and wonder and then I ask myself this question: Why do we put some politicians in office when we know when they get in there they are not going to do anything for poor and oppressed peoples? Don't misunderstand me. There is a few who care but they are outnumbered and their hands are tied. But when it comes to giving themselves raises and paying \$200,000 for new gold leaf on the Capitol dome, Gov. Busbee says, "That's good." But when you ask for more money for AFDC, the answer is there is no money. The Department of Human Resources sets the amount needed to maintain a family. They set it too low and then they just pay 62 percent of that. \$141 a month is not enough for a mother and 3 children.

We aren't looking to charity.
We aren't looking to promises.

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NEW RAPE LAW IN GEORGIA

In January, the Georgia Legislature passed a new law dealing with rape.

Before this new law was passed, a woman could be raped and could swear to it in court, but she would still have to produce another witness or more evidence like torn clothing or bruises. So many women were afraid to press charges and go to court. The women were afraid that they would be treated as if they had done something wrong. For other violent crimes, the sworn testimony of the victim is enough. This new law makes the court situation for rape more like it is for other violent crimes. If the woman lies, she is guilty of perjury. The man still must be proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. With this new law it is the man who is on trial and not the woman.

Perhaps more women will come forth and report rape now that the rape crisis center at Grady (659-7273) and this new law exist to make it less terrifying for victims.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE
523-2856
MONDAY - FRIDAY
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

Capital Punishment, or the death penalty, is cruel and unusual punishment. It reminds you of the earliest days of prison when slavery, branding, and other types of punishment were common.

Capitol Punishment violates the constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the law because it is found to be used mostly against members of racial minorities, the poor, and the uneducated. A defendant's poverty and inadequate legal representation have, in the past, been common factors among people on death row.

On the average, there has been one case per year in which an entirely innocent person was convicted of murder, and many of these persons were sentenced to death. Also, there is evidence that the death penalty does not stop crime. The death penalty is no more effective than imprisonment in stopping crime.

For persons interested in joining the fight against the death penalty call the Georgia Committee Against the Death Penalty at 523-5398 or write them at 88 Walton St., Atlanta, 30303.

WHAT IS THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We'll tell you to call Legal Aid.

CHILDREN IN SPECIAL EDUCATION
HAVE RIGHTS

Many people do not realize that their children who are in special education classes have rights. Those children in the special classes are often referred to as slow learners or as being retarded.

If your child is in a class like this, then there are many things which parents have a right to know. Before a child is taken out of his regular class he must take some intelligence tests. The parents must be told about these tests and give their permission.

When it is decided that your child should be in a special class, then the parents also have the right to accept or refuse the placing of the child in a special class. Once your child is in a special class, it is the teacher's duty to have an individual learning program just for your child. The parents also have a right to know what is being taught in your child's education program. These rights apply to elementary and high school levels. If there are any problems with this, contact your child's school principal.

A new organization has been formed to involve church people in the politics of hunger in Georgia. "Georgians Against Hunger" is a group established to develop a network of informed people across the state who will work for an increase in AFDC benefits. If you are interested in having your church become a part of this movement, call Georgians Against Hunger, 404-588-1458.

LAWYER'S GROUPS HELP GEORGIANS

Many of the hassles Georgians have with loan contracts, Insurance Companies, Welfare and Social Security offices, landlords and Housing problems are really legal problems that can be worked out by a lawyer.

Atlanta Legal Aid helps people living in public housing or getting assistance checks in the Metro Area with any non-criminal cases. Legal Aid lawyers charge nothing to help with consumer and housing problems, welfare fraud hearings, getting into hospitals, divorces, wills and more.

Legal Aid offices are open 9:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. If you just think that you have a legal problem or are asked to sign something about your problem, call your local office.

DOWNTOWN: 11 Pryor St. Atlanta
524-5811

CLAYTON CTY: 667 South Ave. F. Pk.
366-0571

COBB CTY: 159 Dobbs St. NE Mreta.
428-3802

DEKALB CTY: 302 E. Howard Ave. Dec.
377-0701

WINNETT CTY: 51 S. Clayton St.
963-8171

If you live outside Atlanta and can't afford to take your legal problem to a lawyer, Georgia Indigent Legal Services will help. Offices are located in: Macon, Augusta, Gainesville, Savannah, Douglasville, Columbus, Brunswick and Albany. Lawyers travel out to smaller cities once a month and people can call their local welfare office to find out when they are coming.

(MS. MATHEWS, Continued)

We are looking to organize and fight for the things that we are entitled to.

Starting in February the Carter Administration will not give second helpings of milk to millions of hungry children in school food programs -- lunches, breakfasts and meals served in day care centers.

Here are some of the real conditions in Jimmy Carter's home state" Fewer and fewer jobs. 32% unemployment rate among black people in the city of Atlanta, age 16-25. More cutbacks in unemployment benefits. In Atlanta, 3,000 evictions per month. No new day care centers for children. Jimmy Carter, the so-called champion of human rights. If he were at all concerned about the human rights of black and oppressed people in this country, he would carry out his campaign promises he made to the people. But the time will come when there will be human rights for every poor and working class person in this country and these rights will be won through struggle.

So now I will share my thoughts with you for today. We can't have all bright days but it's certainly true That there was never a cloud the sun didn't shine through. So until next month, I am your sister in the struggle for human rights, love, peace and freedom.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

WE GOOFED LAST MONTH. Please correct emergency phone numbers for Grady Ambulance: 588-4141 - Grady Hospital: 588-4307.

CONSUMERS HAVE RIGHTS

People who owe money do have rights. Many times, however, creditors - finance companies, mortgage holders, stores that sell on the installment plan, landlords - often take advantage of people who don't know what their rights are.

Know your rights concerning:

REPOSSESSION - Don't let anyone repossess anything without calling a Legal Aid lawyer first. If someone comes to repossess, don't let him in the door. No one can enter your home without your permission. Force him to take legal action to repossess.

HARASSMENT - If a creditor is harassing you with phone calls, you do not have to talk with him. Call the phone company and complain. Tell the creditor to talk with your legal aid attorney and hang up! Nobody can get money from you until they sue and get a judgment against you.

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

If you have trouble with a finance company, if you get behind on payments or house notes, if you are threatened with eviction, get in touch with Legal Aid immediately. A part of Legal Aid's job is to defend poor people against unfair

practices of repossession, foreclosure, and eviction. And the sooner you contact Legal Aid the better they are able to help you. Call or go by your nearest Legal Aid office when you first get behind on payments. For the name of the Legal Aid Office nearest you, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

BECAUSE WOMEN ARE SPECIAL

Has a doctor or nurse ever tested you to see if you have breast cancer or cancer of the uterus? If you are 18 years or older it is important that you get tested at least once a year for these types of cancer. The test for cancer of the uterus is called a PAP Smear. Unless a woman has a PAP Smear she does not know if she has cancer of the uterus. The test is easy and it is not painful. All women need an annual PAP Smear and breast exam because cancer of the breast and cancer of the uterus are among the leading cause of death in American women.

Any woman age 18 or older who has not had a PAP Smear in the last year can get this test free of charge. For women outside of the Atlanta/Fulton County area call your local county Health Department. For woman in the Atlanta area these exams are given at the University Health Center, at 848 York Ave. SW; Southside Health Center at 1039 Ridge Ave. SW; at Feminists Women's Center at 580 14th St. If these locations are inconvenient for you, call Ms. Cummings, Ms. DiGilio or Mr. Fenton at 894-5125.

POOR PEOPLE MAKE SLIGHT GAIN IN 1978 LEGISLATURE

The legislature is over. Your Senator and Representative have gone home. We had a little AFDC gain this year. For the first time in years there will be no cut for anyone in AFDC. In fact, there is an increase, small, but a step in the right direction.

Perhaps the biggest gain is that there are a few more people who know the grants are far too low for anyone to live on. We do have a few friends in the Legislature. Next year maybe we can do better.

But a bunch of people in the Legislature do NOT CARE. All of them will be running for office this summer. Next year will be a new Legislature. WHO gets elected is YOUR responsibility. Make sure you are REGISTERED to VOTE and SEE HOW MANY PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD YOU CAN HELP GET REGISTERED.

Call the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856) to find out how your Legislators voted this year. If they didn't vote right, tell them you will support someone else. If they did vote with us, HELP THEM GET ELECTED.

Poor working parents can receive a tax rebate called the "earned income credit". If you have children and earned any money in 1977, 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.

(MS. MATHEWS, Continued)

The system treats poor and oppressed people in a very cruel and inhuman way. As poor and oppressed peoples we are all entitled to human rights but they are not coming to us on a silver platter. We will hafta fight for them. So beware of the skint-back smiles and the hand that pats you on the back because that same hand that patted you on your back will be the hand that will hold you back. You know we are always hollering about certain peoples that discriminate against us. Have you ever one time thought that we discriminate against ourselves and discriminate against each other? We like to step on each other and crush each other down. We get a joy out of hurting one another.

I am shut in for now and would enjoy hearing from you all. If you would like to write me, here is my address Ms. Ethel M. Mathews, 969 Capitol Ave., SW, Atlanta, GA 30315. So now I will share my thought with you: I know I am no creature with a body made of steel, And sometimes I do complain of the feebleness I feel.

So, until next month, I remain yours in the struggle for Peace and Freedom. Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

POOR PEOPLES NEWSPAPER IS POOR This newspaper has always been and always will be free. But it costs money to print and mail. Can you send a donation to help pay for this paper? Can your organization send a monthly donation? Send to: Poor Peoples Newspaper, 1017 Capitol Ave., Atlanta, GA 30315.

Hi there,

You are all so wonderful and lovely and it is so good to be back with you again, giving thanks and praise to my Creator who is the source of my life. God is my love, my faith, my peace of mind, my joy and my happiness. He has brought me through sickness and through death. God has brought me from a mighty long way. Though there are some dark days in all of our lives, behind every dark cloud there is some sunshine.

The system that we live under is getting worse every day. Our brothers and sisters who are in jails and prisons live under some conditions that are unbearable. We often sit back and say, "Well, there is nothing we can do." But I way there is something we can do. We can all come together and fight for their human rights. No matter what their charge might be and their past has been, they are human beings and everyone has human rights. Too many of our loved ones are being sacrificed. Governor Busbee and the legislators have lots to do with prison and jail reform, but they are not willing to use their power for reform. They are willing to spend billions of dollars to build new prisons when the ones they have are not working. New jails and new prisons won't solve the problems. Jobs and adequate wages and full employment will cut down on crime. There is an answer for all things.

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IT CAN PAY OFF TO APPEAL SSI DISABILITY DENIAL

Many people are turned down for SSI Disability benefits when they are really eligible. People who are denied and are unable to work should not simply accept their denial. They should appeal.

A person has 60 days from the date on the denial letter to appeal an SSI decision. It is important, however, to begin the appeal process as quickly as possible. To appeal, a person must go to the Social Security office where s/he first applied and ask for a reconsideration. The case will be reviewed informally within several weeks. Any new evidence - like another doctor's opinion - should be presented at this time.

If, after the first review, a person is still denied SSI, s/he should request a formal hearing. At this point it is also wise to contact a legal aid lawyer or the Poverty Rights Office for further information on hearing procedures and hearing rights. Also, a lawyer can present a case at the hearing.

Once the hearing is held, a decision must be made within 60 days. The

appeal process can take a long time but it can really pay off. Many people who at first are denied eventually win. If a person wins s/he will receive benefits from the time of the initial application.

For further information on the SSI appeal process call the Poverty Rights Office. 523-2856.

CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM PROVIDES BENEFITS FOR FAMILY DAY CARE

Do you get paid to take care of children in your home while their parents work? If you do, you are a family day care provider and you might be eligible for a special program which pays part of the cost of feeding the children you care for. This program is called the Child Care Food Program (CCFP).

The Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger helps family day care providers in Atlanta receive cash benefits through CCFP. They are trying to locate more people to participate in the program. To be eligible, a provider must be keeping no more than six children.

For more information, call Faye Hagood at the Coalition on Hunger, 659-0878.

SIGN UP FOR SUPER SUMMER

The Super Summer Work Experience Program will, once again, be taking place this summer. The program is for young people between the ages of 14-21. Every applicant must be a resident of the City of Atlanta. Also everyone in the program must be economically disadvantaged, as determined by the State Department of Labor. The participants in this summer work program will be assigned to various public and private organizations for 4 hours a day, 5 days a week. They will receive \$2.65 an hour.

Applications will be taken at every middle school and high school. For people not in school, or for those who missed placing an application at school, applications are being taken at EOA neighborhood centers or at the Department of Labor, 1 Peachtree St. To find out when the different schools will be taking applications call 656-5883. Applications will be taken all summer but it is best to get them in before the last week in May.

PAID SUMMER TRAINING FOR YOUTH

Selected high school students and recent high school graduates age 16-21, from across the state will be paid for participating in a vocational training program this summer.

Youth Employment Training Program will provide occupational training to 150 students from around the state in 20 different trades. Training will be offered in such trades as auto mechanics, cosmetology, drafting, plumbing, masonry,

and being a nurse's aide. The students will be living and learning in Clarkesville and Americus. Recreation, field trips, and other group activities are planned.

The program will run from July 10 to August 18. During this time students will be paid by the hour for participation, earning up to approximately \$75. Interested high school students should apply to their vocational counselor or principal before May 15.

LOW COST DAY CARE

Working and student women with children have a hard time finding low-cost but well-run child care centers. Atlanta has at last count 65 day-care centers that are free to mothers receiving Welfare or Social Security Disability grants (SSI). Other women not getting monthly benefits only pay a small fee for their children's day-care.

Some of these low-cost child care centers will pick up your children and serve them hot lunches. These day-care services are sponsored by the Federal government through the Title 20 program. But, like many public services, there are long waiting lists at each center.

Women who need to place only one or two children between three and five years old have the best chance of finding openings. Also, most day-care centers accept only children whose mothers are working or in a training program.

To find out the names of low-cost/no cost day-care centers near you, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856, the Service Division of your Welfare or Social Security office.

GOOD FOOD STAMP RULE CHANGES

Although it will be some months before food stamp reform goes into effect and big improvements are made, there have been a few good changes in the program recently.

1. A federal judge decided that food stamp workers must speed up the way they certify people for emergency food stamps. Now a family in immediate need of food does not have to wait for food stamps until the case worker checks out their situation with someone else.

2. Households with little or no income can now get emergency food stamps more often than once every 6 months.

3. People who have been eligible for free food stamps in the past but did not get them in the month they applied can get retroactive benefits. If at any time since August, 1974, you have been eligible for free food stamps but did not get them because you had no proof of your income, you should go to your nearest food stamp office and apply for the benefits you missed.

4. Food stamp offices must now notify recipients in advance when they need to be recertified. The new rule says that households must be told between 30 and 45 days before their current certification period expires.

MOVING? CALL 523-2856 TO REPORT YOUR ADDRESS CHANGE TO THE POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER.

(MS. MATHEWS, Continued)

Don't forget this is a big election year. Let us all go to the polls and use the ballot boxes and make our voices be heard. There comes a time when we don't speak out and we keep silence. Then we are not only a betrayal to ourselves but we are a betrayal to our peoples. We can't sit back and let the power structure step on us and crush us all the time. We have got to stand up and be counted. Freedom has never been given on a silver platter. You either fight for it keep it or you let it be taken away from you. So I ask you this question, my peoples: What side are you on? Easy is not necessarily good. Struggle is a part of our heritage and a part of our way of life.

I want to thank all of our wonderful readers for their prayers, their lovely get well cards, your love and your thoughts in my time of illness. I love you so very much. So I will leave this thought with you: With Jesus' help I journey On the rocky road of life, Equal to whatever happens Be it joy or be it strife.

So until next month, I am yours in the struggle. Thank God I am still unbosomed and I am still unbought. Power to the Peoples.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

GEORGIA POVERTY RIGHTS ORGANIZATION*
WILL MEET AT THE SALLIE DAVIS SCHOOL
MILLEDGEVILLE, ON SATURDAY, MAY 13 AT
10:30 a.m. COME TALK ABOUT HOW WE CAN
WORK TOGETHER TO GET THE STATE TO
RAISE AFDC BENEFITS. CALL 373-6753
for more information.

Greetings to all my lovely friends and wonderful readers.

First giving thanks to God who is the Creator of all. God has done so much for me and He is still blessing me with His many blessings.

I am very concerned about the conditions in the jails and prisons. I feel that a man or woman, girl or boy who is locked up still has human rights because they are human beings. Jails and prisons are a profit for the policeman, judge, parole board, wardens, guards and governor. If there were no jails or prisons some of them would not have a job. I know that there has to be a law of the land. My point is this: If the law is for the poor, let it be for the rich also. It pays to be rich but it costs to be poor. There should be an enforceable code that guarantees prisoners a modicum of liberty and self respect. The black prisoner not only faces the wrath of his captors but also the racist venom of the correction system. The idea that they have no rights is unconstitutional and barbaric. Until the correction system addresses this issue, society can expect the prisoners to come back to society worse off than before they left. One of the problems at Reidsville State Prison is harrassment by guards. Black inmates are referred to as "niggers" and "boys". The problem is not de-segregation but the staff that runs the prison with jobs handed down from generation to generation. The system spends billions to build new

(Continued on p. 3)

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VIII No. VI

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JUNE 1978

IT'S TIME TO TELL THEM: FREE FOOD STAMPS NOW

Now is the time to send comments to the United States Department of Agriculture on the proposed food stamp regulations. It is very important to tell USDA what you think before June 16th.

The most important feature of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 is the Elimination of Purchase Price (EPR). EPR means that the bonus value of food stamps will be free. Free food stamps will mean that many more people can participate in the program who can not afford to buy their stamps. This part of the new program should begin right away and that is the main message to send to Washington.

Write: Nancy Snyder
Food and Nutrition Service
United States Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

Tell her food stamps must be free by August 1. USDA is 8 months late with their proposed regulations and we cannot wait until next year for free food stamps.

The "Bonus value" of food stamps is the difference between what you pay

for your stamps and what they are worth. For example, if you pay \$104 for \$174 worth of stamps, you get a bonus value of \$70. Under the new program, you will get \$70 in free food stamps.

TIME FOR ACTION ON AFDC

Do you want an increase in AFDC checks? NOW is the time to write and visit.

Write to: Governor George Busbee
State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

and

Mr. Boisfeuillet Jones
1400 Peachtree Center
230 Peachtree St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

and

talk to your representative and anyone who is running for the Legislature.

TELL THEM ALL that it is nice to have the two or three dollars increase but that doesn't pay the gas bill. Ask them if they know how high rents are and how the cost of utilities has increased. Tell them like it is.

We want to support a Governor and Legislators who promise to help poor people and who will hire people who care. Ask them if they are elected how they plan to help us out of poverty. We want jobs that will pay to care for our children.

DISABLED CHILDREN MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR SSI

Supplemental Security Income is a federally funded program which provides benefits for low-income blind or disabled persons of any age as well as for the elderly.

Many babies and small children with disabilities may not be receiving help from SSI because their families do not know about the program or because many people think SSI is just for old people.

SSI is administered by Social Security and application should be made at the local Social Security office.

The maximum benefit an individual can receive from SSI in Georgia is \$177.80 per month. Anyone who receives an SSI grant is automatically eligible for Medicaid benefits also.

There are two main requirements which must be met for a person who is under 65 to receive SSI:

1. The person must be either blind or disabled. Disability means a medically determined physical or mental impairment that has lasted or is expected to last for at least a year. If the applicant is a child, the disability must be so severe that it prevents the child from doing the things that children of his or her age normally do.
2. The income and resources of the person and his family are taken into account to figure whether SSI is needed and, if so, the amount of the payment.

SENIOR CITIZENS LAW PROJECT

If you are 60 years or older and have a limited income, Legal Aid has a special program to help you. A group of lawyers are specialist in housing, consumer, SSA, SSI and food stamp law. They help you find out if you are paying the correct rent in public housing, or if your food stamps cost too much. They will also help you find a private lawyer to help you for a low fee if you have too much income to get help from the Senior Citizens Law Project.

People living in Cobb, Fulton, Gwinett and Dekalb counties are eligible for this program. For more information call the nearest Legal Aid Office or the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856).

IS YOUR FOOD STAMP WORKER TRYING TO MAKE YOU PAY MONEY BACK BECAUSE YOU GOT TOO MANY STAMPS OR BECAUSE YOU DID NOT PAY ENOUGH FOR THEM? IF SHE MADE A MISTAKE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR IT. ALSO, IF YOUR CASEWORKER ASKS YOU TO PAY MONEY BACK TO THE WELFARE OR TO SSI, YOU MAY NOT HAVE TO DO IT. JUST DON'T SIGN ANY PAPER UNLESS YOU REALLY AGREE WITH WHAT IT SAYS. CALL THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE OR LEGAL AID IF YOU HAVE THIS PROBLEM.

During the summer, the Poverty Rights Office has fewer staff. You may not be able to get through the first time you call. Please be patient and keep trying. They do want to help at 523-2856.

WELFARE BILL OF RIGHTS

All welfare recipients are guaranteed the following rights under law:

- THE RIGHT to be a member of a welfare organization.
- THE RIGHT to fair and equal treatment with no discrimination because of race, religion or color.
- THE RIGHT to apply, in writing, for any welfare program.
- THE RIGHT to a prompt decision after application for aid.
- THE RIGHT to be told, in writing, the reason for any denial of aid.
- THE RIGHT to a hearing before your check can be reduced or cut off.
- THE RIGHT to appeal a denial of aid and to be given a fair hearing.
- THE RIGHT to get welfare payments without being told how to spend the money.
- THE RIGHT to be treated with respect.
- THE RIGHT to be treated in a way that does not invade your right to privacy.
- THE RIGHT to receive welfare without having the case worker ask questions about your friends or social life.
- THE RIGHT to have the same constitutional protections all U.S. citizens have.
- THE RIGHT to be informed by the welfare department of all your rights.
- THE RIGHT to have, to get, and to give advise during all contacts with the welfare office -- when applying, when being investigated, and during fair hearings.

If your rights are being denied, quote them to your caseworker and call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856.

(MS. MATHEWS, CONTINUED)

prisons. They could use that money to build factories and create jobs so prisoners could come home and support their families.

Money talks. Another way it costs to be poor is that a poor person accused of an unlawful act is sent to jail because he cannot afford some high priced influential lawyer. The system keeps a person in jail for years and years and when they go up for parole they are denied. Year after year they become more hardened and cold. There is no rehabilitation for an inmate. The inmate will hafta rehabilitate himself. Reidsville has some 12,000 inmates which makes it over crowded. Inmates will be set back 30 years when they wear white trousers with blue stripes. The warden's excuse is that with the inmates and visitors both wearing blue, they can't tell them apart, but that is far from the truth. I could go on but I think the point has been made. The question is what can we do to alleviate the cost of being poor? We can be alert. We can think about it and I can almost guarantee that opportunities will come for us to speak up. We can do a lot if we have the courage to do so and if we care enough.

In loving memory of my mother who passed away May 26, 1974. Often as I travel onward things occur that get me down. Then I pray to my Lord Jesus Who erases every frown. She is sadly missed by her daughter and grandchildren.

Peace, Soul, Freedom.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Hi there, my wonderful readers.

It's so good to be able to come to you once again, first giving thanks and praise to God for the many blessings that He has bestowed on me. I will always give thanks to God first because He has brought me through some dark days and some trying times. But I hope you feel as I do that behind every dark cloud there is some sunshine. Although the struggle has been hard and long and it seems that it will never end, we look around and see all the work that we have done to bring about some changes for poor and oppressed peoples. We can say we have come a long way through discrimination, abuse and harrassment. Things are still not what they ought to be. But we can all say "Thank God they sure ain't what they uster be." That is why we can't stop now. We have got to come together and keep on fighting to eliminate unemployment and bring about jobs for those who are able to work. There are a lot of narrow-minded peoples who think Welfare mothers do not want to work but that is not true. They would rather have a job than to wait from one month to the next for a measley welfare check. A mother and 3 children cannot survive on \$149 a month. There are no jobs. Even college students can't get a job. To work is a right and a job is a right also.

Peoples who are united will never be defeated. But some will say: One person has faith and another has actions. My answer is: Show me how anyone can have faith without action.

(Continued on page 3)

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JULY 1978

TIME TO REGISTER AND VOTE

Primary elections for the Republican and the Democratic Parties will be held Tuesday, August 8th. If you are not already registered to vote, you must register by Monday, July 10. To find out where you go to register, call 572-2581 or 892-5836.

This is an important election with candidates on the ballot for governor, lieutenant governor, judges and other state offices, as well as U.S. congressmen, senator, Georgia legislators, and county commissioners. Find out how candidates stand on important issues to poor people before you vote. If you are not sure, call the League of Women Voters, 892-5836. Tell them you read the Poor People's Newspaper and they will send you a Voter's Guide with information on the candidates.

THE WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION OF METROPOLITAN ATLANTA WILL CELEBRATE ITS 11th BIRTHDAY ON FRIDAY, JULY 14th AT 11 a.m. IN PLAZA PARK, IN FRONT OF THE CAPITOL. FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO RALLY IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE IN FULTON COUNTY.

MARCH AND RALLY PLANNED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR PRISONERS

A march for Human Rights for prisoners Day will begin at the Capitol on Saturday, July 15th, at 12 noon, to end with a rally in Central City Park at 2 p.m. The march and rally are sponsored by the Human Rights for Prisoners Committee, an organization working to change the prison system.

The Committee, concerned about recent events at the Georgia State Prison in Reidsville, is rallying in support of the Inmate Unity Committee. The I.U.C., a group of black and white Reidsville prisoners, state its purpose as follows:

"The Inmate Unity Committee is a struggling organization whose goals are to promote peace, insure the just and lawful rights of the inmate population, and to secure the men of the Georgia State Prison a liveable and rehabilitative environment."

For more information, call the Clearinghouse on Georgia Prisons and Jails, 525-1490.

GEORGIA ADVOCACY OFFICE OPEN
TO BIRTH-DISABLED

Georgia's citizens who have been disabled since birth with conditions like mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and epilepsy, now have help. Federal law requires a statewide program to help the disabled get needed services, training, employment and human rights.

The main Georgia Advocacy Office is at 1447 Peachtree St., N.E., Atlanta. Soon there will be 6 regional offices in Georgia. Office staff will train parents of children who have developmental disabilities and train others for those disabled who have no close family members who can speak out for them.

The Advocacy Office's main concern will be for persons who need protection, those moving back into the community from institutions, children and those in life-threatening situations. This state office will also have a legal advocate to work with the disabled and their families. All services are free. The Georgia Advocacy Office in Atlanta is at 885-1447 or can be reached anywhere in the State by calling 1-800-282-4538.

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. THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE LABOR DAY FROM MONDAY, AUGUST 21st UNTIL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th.

FOCUS ON NORTHSIDE SHEPHERD'S
CENTER

The Northside Shepherd's Center is a neighborhood multi-purpose senior citizen center housed in the 10th Street United Methodist Church. The Center offers a number of programs and services for people over 60 in the surrounding communities of Home Park, Underwood, Palmer House, Roosevelt House and Loring House.

Recreation programs, crafts, field trips and other educational activities are available. The Center also offers a variety of health services, including counseling and assistance with health problems and with available health resources in the community at large. The Center has information on Medicare, Medicaid, nursing homes, community and home health services. On a limited basis, the Center also provides transportation to health services.

The Shepherd's Center can help with food stamp problems and sponsors a "meals on wheels program" whereby meals are delivered to neighborhood senior citizens in their homes when they are unable to prepare meals themselves.

The Northside Shepherd Center also has a house repair program for elderly persons who own their homes. This program does small home repairs free of charge. Services available include such things as the replacement of light switches, the repair of leaky roofs, minor plumbing repairs, winterizing and the addition of security locks. For more information on the Center call 875-0509.

GET FREE COMPUTER HELP IN
CHOOSING A JOB

If you plan carefully, the job you want, the job you're trained for, and the job available can come together for you. One way to bring it all together is by using the computer at Dekalb Community College at the career development center. You fill out a small test of what you like and what you're good at and give this information to the computer. Then the computer helps you find the jobs and the training that you want. The center is open 8:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and 5:30 to 7:30 Monday through Thursday. Call 292-1520 ext. 304 to get an appointment to use the computer.

GOOD GUY OF THE MONTH: MARY
WATKINS OF ATLANTA LEGAL AID

Mary Watkins is a para-legal who is an expert in regulations concerning housing problems and tenants' rights. She has been a "good guy" for Poverty Rights Office clients for years. She is untiring, and usually successful, in her efforts to help people who have trouble with public housing.

SUMMER FREE FOOD PROGRAM

Breakfast and lunch will be served free to children who live in 21 of Atlanta's public housing communities. This free meal program will serve meals in local centers and youth clubs until the third week in August. AHA can serve around 300 children per meal at each housing community in the food program. To find out if your children are eligible for free meals this summer, ask your Resident Manager or call Tenant Services NW at 881-1132 or SW at 523-7557.

(Mrs. Matthews, continued)

On the average, black family income is less than 2/3 (60%) that of whites. This figure has remained constant over the past decade despite a slew of affirmative action programs designed to equalize job opportunities. The number of women living in poverty has increased. Households headed by women are 18% of all families living in poverty. The issues which we must address are indeed grave. They have a strong resemblance to those our ancestors faced a century ago. Today, as then, the issues involve full and viable participation in the political process, equitable access to economic opportunities and a right to life. Although a few blacks occupy highly visible positions today, their roles are essentially just that - visibility. In reality, these positions are "white roles" that hide the faces and identities of today's racist forces and actors. This is our "eleventh hour" and a time in which we must examine and assess the facts of our situation. Don't forget this is a big political year. Watch out for the scheming politician who will make you all kinds of promises to get you to vote for them. Beware of the hand that pats you on the back because that same hand will be the one that holds you back.

Now I would like to share a thought with you: We should feel humble each and every day and share our blessing as we go our way. So until next month, I remain yours in the struggle.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Hello,

It is so wonderful to chat with you again, first giving honor and praise to God, thanking Him for so many wonderful and lovely things that have happened in my life. God is my leaning post when I am too weak to stand and He will always stand by my side and hold me by my hand. The struggles are hard and the times are rough. We are poor and fighting for our survival but the power and strength is in our hands. We who are united will never be defeated. Emergencies and calamities - everyone has them. Every family is subject to them.

With all the talk of human rights that is coming from President James Earl Carter one would believe that his home state would at least be open to basic constitutional rights. What about human rights for prisoners and other oppressed peoples? Prisons are the real crime. Will Reidsville be Governor George Busbee's Attica? The Governor has spent \$140 million filling pot holes in roads while Georgia prisons are sweltering holes of violence and death because they are holding twice as many people as they were built for. The Governor blames it all on integration when we all know that is not the truth and not the problem. Georgia is the only state in the nation that has made drastic reductions in Social Services during this time of recession and inflation. Twenty-six

(Continued on Page 3)

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

SEPTEMBER 1978

IS THE FULTON COUNTY WIC PROGRAM GIVING YOU THE RUN-AROUND?

Are you participating in the WIC program through the Fulton County Health Department? Have you missed getting your food? Have you had hassles in getting on the program? Lots of Fulton County mothers and children who desperately need the benefits of the WIC program have had all kinds of troubles getting these benefits just because the Fulton County Health Department has not been running the program like it's supposed to be run.

The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) is a federal food program specifically designed to provide low-income pregnant women, new mothers and children up-to-five who are at nutritional risk with those foods they need in order to be healthy. Special foods at these critical periods can make an important difference in a baby's health and physical development.

The Fulton County Health Department is supposed to use federal money available to provide these food benefits to as many pregnant women and children as possible on

a regular basis. Yet the Health Department over the past two years has refused to do many of those things that are necessary to ensure that WIC foods reach those who need them. The Health Department has made few efforts to let people know about the program. People who are lucky enough to be put on the program have to go at least two places just to be enrolled. Appointment schedules are often inconvenient. Recently, because of administrative mix-ups at the Health Department many people, even though they are enrolled in the program, are not receiving their food. Few people are being told about their rights in the program.

All of us must work together to make the Fulton County Health Department run the WIC program correctly. Pregnant women, new mothers and children up-to-five who are turned down for the program have a right to a fair hearing. People enrolled in WIC who don't get their food also have this right. If you have complaints about the WIC program or you want to know more about it call the Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger (659-0878).

WOMEN HAVE RIGHTS TO CREDIT

Single women often have a hard time getting credit just because they are women and are not regarded as reliable for paying debts. In the past, credit accounts for a married couple were often listed only under the husband's name. If a women was widowed, divorced or just wanted credit in her own name, she had trouble getting it because she had no "credit history" to prove she was a good risk.

Congress passed 2 laws to help women solve their problems in getting credit. The Equal Opportunity Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status when anyone applies for credit. The Fair Credit Reporting Act protects consumer privacy and makes certain that a credit bureau will report a person's credit history correctly and fairly.

To make sure you have a good credit history on file you should:

1. Start building a good record (if you never had credit before) by opening a charge account.
2. If married, make sure records of accounts are reported in both yours and your husband's names. When you open a new account, you can decide if you want to share the account with your husband or not.
3. If you change your name notify all your creditors to change it on all accounts.
4. Check with a credit bureau, such as Equifax, 885-8000, to be sure you have your own credit record and that it is correct.

If you have been unfairly denied credit you should:

1. Ask why credit was denied. If it was because of a credit bureau report, find out the name of the bureau.
2. Give the store any information that proves you are a good credit risk.
3. Vist the credit bureau within 30 days and find out what they reported.
4. If their information is wrong, ask them to re-investigate.
5. Report any unfair or discriminatory practices to your State Office of Consumer Affairs, 656-3794 or 1-800-282-4900 outside metropolitan Atlanta, and to the Federal Trade Commission, 881-4836.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR DIVORCED WIFE

The Social Security law was changed recently to provide a divorced wife benefits on her ex-husband's work record if the marriage lasted a minimum of 10 years. The minimum was 20 years before the change. As long as the divorced wife does not remarry, she would remain eligible for benefits even if her ex-husband remarries.

All benefits would be available only at retirement age and after the husband himself starts drawing benefits.

 CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM - IF YOU KEEP SIX CHILDREN OR LESS IN YOUR HOME YOU MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CASH RE-IMBURSEMENTS TO HELP YOU FEED THEM. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 659-0878.

MORE HELP FOR POOR PEOPLE

A new organization to help poor people was started in June. It's called the Clifton Church People's Aid System. They provide information on evictions, other housing problems, food stamps, welfare, and legal aid. They also work as advocates for poor people to see that their rights are not abused, and they have a food pantry and a clothes closet.

The People's Aid System works out of Clifton Presbyterian Church, 369 Connecticut Ave. on the corner of McClendon and Connecticut Ave. near Little Five Points. If you need their services call 373-3253.

MIDTOWN MEDICAL CENTER

Tired of long waits and seeing a different doctor each time you go to Grady? Atlanta now has a full-service medical center staffed by concerned doctors who give patients personal attention and fully explain their health problems. The Center's goal is to prevent future health problems by providing quality medical care today.

Midtown Medical Center treats young and old and accepts Medicaid and Medicare if patients bring their cards. Partial payment on time can be arranged for those without health insurance. The Center is located at 799 Peachtree St. NE. and is open from 9:00 to 5:00. Walk-in patients are seen every day but Saturdays. To make an appointment call 874-4848.

(Ms. Mathews, Continued)

Georgia counties have no prenatal facilities at all. Georgia's schools have the highest dropout rate in the nation. The list of "failures to care" of this administration is long and scandalous. For too long we have gotten only promises. While the rich get richer, the rest of us are losing ground. Prospects for low-income people are the same today as 10 years ago -- inadequate welfare and Social Security grants, increased unemployment, poor housing, poor medical care and rising costs.

These issues are a signal that changes are long overdue on the local and national level and that people are moving into action to bring them about. We are fed up with our governor opposing increases in welfare grants while he gives big tax breaks to business. We want him to try living on a welfare budget.

As president of Welfare Rights and from experience, I support Andrew Young for what he said in his speech. There are political prisoners in the United States.

I would like to share this thought with you: Is it true; is it kind; is it necessary?

Yours in the struggle for freedom and peace.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

 POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE
 523-2856
 Monday - Friday, 10 - 3

Good morning and God bless you all.

I am so happy to chat with you again first giving thanks and praise to God who is the Supreme Being, my leaning post in a time of need when my days get so dark I can not see. Yes, God is all of this to me and much much more. I come to you as a public servant, trying to help someone other than myself. There are many problems and struggles and all of us have them one time or another.

I want to thank all of you who took part in the prayer service down at the Correction Board, in front of the 800 Peachtree Street building in August. The prayer service was a success. Some of the brothers at Reidsville State Prison benefited from our prayers. But we can't stop praying and we can't stop working for they need our help. All prisoners need our help regardless of race, creed, or color. I am concerned about all prisoners wherever they might be and I am concerned about the brothers at Reidsville. And I ask all of you to get concerned too. I know that some of you may not have any relatives in prison but that is not the point. The point is this: They are human beings who are there and they belong to some one and we should care.

This trouble might not have knocked on your door but you just keep on living and one day it will finally come by.

(Continued on page 3)

October, 1978

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. VIII NO. IX

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

OCTOBER, 1978

YOU AND THE POLICE

Most of us have been or will be stopped by the police at sometime. All citizens have certain basic rights which police officers are supposed to respect. Here are some questions and answers about those rights. The main thing to remember if you are stopped is to be cool. Do not physically resist or give the officer a reason to use force against you. Action can be taken if police mistreat citizens. It is hard to get something done if the officer had a reason to use force and it often boils down to his word against yours.

Be cool; get the needed information; report it as soon as you can.

Q. What should I do if a policeman stops me?

A. You must tell him your name and address or show him your driver's license and car registration if you are stopped while driving.

Q. What if the officer tries to search me?

A. An officer may not search you unless he places you under arrest or has a search warrant. But there are exceptions. If the officer has reason to be suspicious of you, he may pat down your outer clothing to see if you are armed. He may conduct a full search if he has probable cause to believe you have been involved in a crime and he doesn't have time to get a search warrant.

Police officers may not search your home or your car without a search warrant. (The law concerning car searches is now changing, however, and is confusing.) Ask to see a copy of the warrant. Make sure it names your car or your home.

Q. What if the officer searches me anyway?

A. Say to him, "I do not give you permission for this search." But do not try to stop him by force. Fighting will only get you in worse trouble.

Q. Should I consent to a search if the officer says he is going to hold me until he gets a search warrant?

A. Never consent to a search if you have anything you don't want the officer to see.

(Continued on page 2)

Q. What should I do if a police officer mistreats me?

A. Try to get his name and badge number. Asking for his name and number may anger the officer. But try to identify him at least by description, so you can report what happened to these people:

1. Your lawyer or the American Civil Liberties Union, 404-523-5398.
2. The division in the police department that investigates complaints against officers. In Atlanta, it's Internal Affairs, 658-6830.

Q. What should I say if I'm arrested?

A. Say nothing. What you say can be used against you later. Even "small talk" with a tricky officer can be dangerous.

Q. What should I do at the jail?

A. You will go through fingerprinting and "booking". You do not have to answer any questions or sign any papers. However, if you refuse to give routine information, such as your address, you will probably make the jailers angry. Insist on your right to make one phone call and to have a lawyer present if you are put in a line-up. Ask to have a lawyer appointed for the line-up if you can't afford one.

HAVING TROUBLE GETTING WIC FOODS OR GETTING ON THE PROGRAM? CALL THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE - 523-2856.

What happens when you go to court? Know what to expect. Protect yourself.

Different things can happen to you. It depends on the kind of law you are charged with breaking.

1. For a city ordinance (like public drunkenness or creating a disturbance) you will be taken to city jail. Within 48 hours you will go before the city judge. You can get a free lawyer if you can't afford one. You will not have a jury. The judge will decide whether you are guilty or innocent.

2. For a misdemeanor (like petty theft or criminal trespass) you will go to city or county jail. Within 72 hours, you will go before the judge. If he thinks there is a case against you, he will send you to the criminal court. You will go to jail to wait for your trial. You can get out on bond. If you don't have any money, you can ask the criminal court judge to get you a free lawyer. You may have a jury.

3. For a felony (like car theft or armed robbery) you will go to city jail. Within 72 hours you go before the City Judge. If he decides there is a case against you, he will send your case to the Grand Jury. If they decide to try you, you will get a jury trial in Superior Court. You may get out on bond unless you are charged with murder, arson, armed robbery, rape

or sale of narcotics. You are entitled to a free lawyer if you have no money.

WHAT ABOUT LAWYERS?

A lawyer can help you if you are arrested. First, he will know if the police have broken any rules. Second, he will investigate your case. He will find out if the witnesses against you are lying. Third, he may be able to get the charge against you reduced.

How can you get a lawyer? If you can pay for one, call Lawyers' Reference at 521-0777. They will give you names of three lawyers to choose from. Also, although the lawyers at Atlanta Legal Aid and Georgia Legal Services cannot take criminal cases themselves, they can suggest lawyers for you to call.

What if you can't pay for a lawyer?

If you are charged with a misdemeanor, ask the judge for a free lawyer when you get to criminal court. If you are charged with a felony, you may ask for a free lawyer as soon as you get to jail.

If you have any questions about lawyers or any difficulty getting one, call the POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE at 523-2856 MONDAY - FRIDAY, 10 am - 3 pm.

WATCH NEXT POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER FOR INFORMATION ON BAIL BONDS.

Some of the inmates at Reidsville State Prison have gone through some rough trying times from their White guards and they are still faced with threats and brutality. Just because the U.S. Justice Department instituted investigations that don't mean justice will be done. The lack of minority employment in a system which has a Black prisoner population of 65% does not mean that the Correction Agency in this state will have a viable minority program. Because a man is incarcerated, justly or unjustly, it should not follow that he should lose his rights as a human being.

One hundred years ago there existed a system which denied humans their rights. It was called slavery. Georgia ranks Number one among the 50 states in persons incarcerated in proportion to the population. Unless there is a forum for these inmates they will continue to suffer and die at the hands of those who do not care. If we do not listen and act then we too become a part of this group. Our consciences will become stained also. As inmates cry out no one listens, sometimes not family or friends. They are not given the stage because they are "just prisoners."

Yours in the struggle, as always, for Peace and Freedom.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES MEET AT EMMAUS HOUSE ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 9 AM - 12 PM. CALL 525-5948 FOR INFORMATION.

Greetings to all of my readers and wonderful friends.

First giving all of my thanks and praises to God who is the head of my life and Creator of all. God is a light unto my feet and He leads me by my hand. When I am weak He gives me strength, when I fall by the wayside He picks me up, when I am friendless He is a friend, when I am lonely He is a companion to me. God is good to all of us and He has no chosen peoples. All of us is His children and we are our brothers' and sisters' keeper and being their keepers we should be more concerned about those who are confined behind prison walls. How long will we stand idly by and hear our brothers and sisters cry out for help? What do it take for us to come forward? I know some of you will say, I do not have anyone in prison but I am here to tell you as long as there is a human being in prison, man or woman, boy or girl, you have someone there. So reach out and give them a helping hand.

One hundred and fifteen years after the Emancipation Proclamation we are still fighting for our very survival. People united will never be defeated. A mind is, indeed, a terrible thing to waste. It is cruel, violent, racist and criminal. You see, at a certain point the judge becomes the criminal and the law becomes his stick-up gun. The men at Reidsville State Prison need your help. They

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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DID A HOSPITAL TURN YOU AWAY BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T PAY?

Many hospitals are under a law, the Hill-Burton Act, which requires the hospital to help some people who can't pay their whole bill. Which hospitals are under the Hill-Burton Act? Any hospital that gets money from the federal government to build a new hospital or construct a new wing must help some poor people for the next 20 years. If a hospital got federal building funds in 1962, that hospital has to provide some free service until 1982.

Each year a Hill-Burton hospital must turn in a report of how much it helped people and how it plans to help people next year. The plans can change from year to year and so can the amount of help that the hospital must give.

You may usually go to Grady. But suppose you are visiting or living outside the Grady area and you need to go to a hospital. If possible, pick a Hill-Burton hospital by calling the hospital or by calling the numbers at the end of the article. If anyone in the hospital tells you that they can't help you because you can't pay then this is

what to say: "isn't this a Hill-Burton hospital? Don't you have an obligation to help people who can't pay? Where have you posted notice?" (If they don't have a sign up saying that they are under the Hill-Burton Act where people can see it, they are in violation.)

If you ask all these questions and still don't get any help, write down the date, the time, and the name of the person you talked to and immediately call the Legal Service office in that area. Legal Aid wants to help poor people by making sure that these Hill-Burton hospitals keep their part of the bargain with Uncle Sam.

If you are not sure whether a hospital or nursing home is under the Hill-Burton Act or not, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856.

FOOD STAMPS WILL BE FREE ON JANUARY 1, 1979. THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SAYS THAT ALL FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS MUST GET THE BONUS VALUE OF THEIR ALLOTMENT FREE BY NEW YEAR'S.

WHAT ARE YOUR BAIL-BOND RIGHTS?

The last issue of this paper focused on your rights if you get arrested. Other facts you need to know concern bail bonds. As soon as you are booked you can generally make bond unless you are charged with a very serious crime like murder or armed robbery. In some counties, such as Cobb and Gwinnett, if you make bond without asking for a commitment hearing you waive your right to this hearing. Be sure to request a commitment hearing in these counties so that you and your lawyer can hear the evidence against you. There are four types of bail bonds:

1. Your own recognizance, that is, your promise to appear in court rather than posting a financial bond. This type bond may be possible if you are arrested for a misdemeanor or for breaking a city ordinance and if you meet certain requirements concerning residence, criminal record, employment, etc. After you are arrested, ask to see someone from the pre-trial service program.

2. A property bond which can be posted if you own enough property to be worth twice the amount of the bond.

3. A cash bond, which means you put up the total amount of cash for the bond which will be re-funded when your case is finished in court.

4. A professional bond from a bail-bondsman. Many times a bail bondsman will charge you too much

for paying your bail. They are only supposed to charge you these amounts:

For Bonds up to \$500... 10% or \$10 for every \$100 of the bond amount. For instance, if your bond were \$200, you would have to pay a bondsman \$20.

For Bonds over \$500... 5%, or \$50 for every \$100 of the bond amount over \$500. If your bond were \$1000, you would have to pay \$50 for the first \$500, and \$25 for the next \$500, or \$75 in all.

Suppose a bondsman charges you more than this amount? He is breaking the law and you can get your money back. If this happens to you, call the Legal Aid at 524-5811. Or call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

The General Election will be Tuesday, November 7. It is very important that all registered voters vote to choose a governor, representative, senator, and other public officials. Call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856, for information about candidates' records on poor peoples' issues. Call 892-5836 for information on the amendments that will be voted on. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. If you need transportation, call the headquarters of any candidate in your area. Remember, your vote CAN change things.

DO YOU KEEP OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN IN YOUR HOME? IF SO YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CASH REIMBURSEMENT TO HELP YOU FEED THEM THROUGH THE CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 659-0878 TODAY!

RAISE IN AFDC?

Presently families who receive AFDC get 65% of the Standard of Need. The Standard of Need is an amount of money the legislators have decided families should be able to live on every month. For example the Standard of Need for a family of 4 is \$227. But a family of 4 doesn't receive \$227. They receive 65% of that or \$148. There is a possibility that this 65% will be raised to 85%. We must make sure this is raised.

In November, members of the Legislature meet and organize. Both the Governor's amended 1979 budget and the new 1980 budget to the legislative leaders. It is important to contact your senator and representative and ask for their support. It is crucial that the AFDC payments be raised from what they presently are. Contacting these legislators could make a difference.

WELFARE FRAUD CASES NEED LEGAL HELP

Attention all recipients of AFDC, SSI, food stamps and Medicaid:

At the first sign of any trouble with the Welfare Department because of possible fraud, call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856. Do not sign any statement until you have consulted a lawyer. Do not discuss your problem with anyone at the welfare office or the court until you talk with us.

Many people are being convicted of fraud because they do not have the proper legal help. Anyone who is accused of fraud needs legal advice. The PRO will help you find a lawyer who knows about welfare.

(MS. MATHEWS, Continued)

are not allowed to take but 2 showers a week. That is not decent at all. Some of the inmates are still being beaten. We can't lay it all on George Busbee but we can place him at the top of the list. We have legislators who are not willing to speak out for human rights. We have ministers who will not speak out against brutality, discrimination and all kinds of inhumane things. Until we come together in one accord these things will continue to happen.

We ask that all guards be given an 8-week training program including reading and writing skills and psychological testing. We ask for more training programs for inmates which include skills that will be useful when they return to society. We ask that inmates be given 3 meals a day and a sanitary place to eat. We ask that all inmates be treated equally; that the Board of Correction investigate all that are in segregation to find out why they are there and how long they will be there. We ask that all inmates be paid a minimum wage and given proper clothes. We ask that all death-row inmates be given some type of recreation.

Stop the racist attacks against Black inmates. Please help us help the men at Reidsville State Prison and all other prisons. For more information, contact the Committee of Relatives and Friends of Reidsville Inmates, Ms. Ethel M. Mathews, Emmaus House, 523-5948
So, until next month, I remain yours in the struggle for Freedom, Peace, Justice.
Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

First giving honor to God, thanking Him and praising Him for so many things He has done for me. God is my leaning post in time of need; He is my shelter in a time of storm; He is my salvation when the struggle gets rough. God is so good to all of us. We are blessed.

I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 1979 and may we continue to fight in the struggle until the job is done. We have come a long way but we still have a long way to go. Helping peoples and working with peoples is my daily occupation. We can't talk about one prison unless we talk about all prisons when there are so many prisoners being used and abused that brutality is the name of the game. We should try to prevent crime before it becomes a reality in someone's life. As community peoples we must become more active in helping womens, mens, girls, and boys from running into the snares and pitfalls that await them. And for the ones who have been caught up in this vicious circle we must become more concerned and let them know we care. Community people can play a great part in the penal system if they are willing to sacrifice some of their time. The inmates need all of our support to help undo some of the things that have been done. Can you believe that there are 2,200 inmates in the Atlanta Federal Prison and they are having trouble and problems too.

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CONCERNING THE CHILD SUPPORT RECOVERY UNIT.

Georgia's law that parents must support their children is enforced by the Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU) located at 618 Ponce de Leon Ave., NE. The absent parents of all children who get welfare (AFDC) have case records in CSRU. When case workers ask about absent parents, they send your answers to CSRU to be put in the record. The Child Support Unit then uses your information about the parents last address and job to find him or her.

CSRU can try to get more information by asking clients to come to their agency and answer questions. Heads-of-households used to be cut off welfare if they refused to cooperate with CSRU's questions because they were afraid the absent parent would find out they helped locate him or her. However, Georgia Legal Services took CSRU to court and won the right for clients to refuse to help find a parent who might physically or emotionally harm them and the children. Tell your caseworker if you have a good cause or reason to be afraid of answering CSRU's questions.

When the Child Support Unit finds an absent parent who is working and not paying support, they will get a court order or legal agreement for support for each child under 18 receiving welfare. However, most support money sent to the Unit is kept by them. The state says this is fair because the children are receiving a welfare check.

Only when a child goes off welfare will the Child Support Unit release support checks to their family. But the support money can be kept by CSRU for 5 months after the last welfare check comes. To get CSRU to release the support checks when welfare is stopped, call them at 894-4118 and tell them it's a hardship on your family not to have this money.

 FOOD STAMPS WILL BE FREE BEGINNING IN JANUARY, 1979. IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE CHANGE TO THE NEW SYSTEM, CALL YOUR FOOD STAMP WORKER. IF THE FOOD STAMP OFFICE DOES NOT SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM, CALL THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE, 523-2856.

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO
LEARN

There is a new law—Public Law 94-142—which says that all children can get schooling. Even if the child is physically handicapped, retarded, or emotionally disturbed, the public schools must find a way to educate the child. Even some 3 and 4 year olds may qualify.

Many children with special needs who used to be in special education classes are now being put into regular classes. This change is so that all children can learn better.

If the child has very severe problems, he may be placed in a special class. Sometimes when the child's school district does not have the kind of class that can help the child, the school district must pay for the student to go to another district or to a private school. If the school gives your child some tests and it turns out that he needs special education, you, as a parent, have the right to approve or disapprove the plan that the school has for your child.

If your child has emotional problems and gets expelled from school because of his behavior, he might need a special class. In some cases your child can be evaluated and put back in school in a special class. Legal Aid is ready to help you see that your child with special needs gets an education suited to his needs.

Call Legal Aid at 524-5811 in Metropolitan Atlanta or Georgia Legal Services in your area.

NEED A NEW CASE WORKER?

Clients who cannot get along with their welfare, food stamp or service worker can get new ones. If your case worker gives you the run-around or won't help you the best s/he can, call the supervisor. Most supervisors have the same phone number as the case workers. After you ask for a new worker, the supervisor will try to get the problem solved. But if you are still not satisfied, your worker will be changed.

LOW COST DENTURES AVAILABLE

People who need dentures and are not able to pay for them can now get them at a reduced price. This reduced price only applies to dentures and not to any other dental work. The price you pay for your dentures is something that you work out with the dentist. The dentist and you decide how much you can afford to pay for the dentures.

This program is made possible by the Georgia Dental Association. Not all dentists participate in this program. To find a dentist who works with this program just call any dentist and he will be able to tell you the dentist closest to you who can help you. The PRO also has a list of the dentists throughout the state, who participate in this program. Remember, this program only applies to dentures and no other dental work.

THE POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER IS PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH, EXCEPT AUGUST, BY THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 523-2856, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, FROM 10 am to 3 pm.

LEGAL HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The Georgia State Lawyer Referral Service has a special service to provide legal help for older people. This service will:

1. Provide a free consultation (about 15-30 minutes) with an attorney to determine if the client has a legal problem and a discussion of what can be done about it.
2. Provide the services of an attorney at a reduced fee which will be determined during the first free consultation.
3. Provide legal assistance and counseling from a lawyer who knows about the special legal needs of elderly people and is interested in helping with their problems.

To be eligible for this service, a person must be 60 years old or older and have a gross income of no more than \$10,000 per year. For further information or for a referral to a lawyer, call toll-free 1-800-282-5851. Say that you want to use the special elderly referral panel.

A FREE HYPERTENSION CLINIC is open to the public at 191 Edgewood Ave., Atlanta. They will test anyone, free of charge, for high blood pressure and refer for treatment if a problem exists. No appointment is necessary. Clinic hours are: Tues. 1 pm-8 pm; Wed. 9 am - 8 pm; Thurs. 9 am - 8 pm; Fri. 9 am - 12 noon Phone: 588-3810.

(MS. MATHEWS, CONTINUED)

I know some of you will say, "They committed a crime and they ought to be locked up." That is not my point. My point is that they are human beings and they are still peoples and they belong to someone. What I am trying to say is: If justice was done by us I think there would be a lot of us locked up too. We should not be the judge of anyone because all of us have come short in the sight of God.

Governor Busbee is trying to take credit for cleaning up the corruption in Reidsville. He could not have done it without the cooperation of those inmates who were not afraid to speak out for what was right. Governor Busbee owes them protection. Without them there would have been no investigation. Those mens should be commended. And those other inmates who did not tell the G.B.I. anything although the prison officials think they did, they also have a right to protection. The officers cannot be allowed to use this investigation as an excuse to vent their hatred, fears, and prejudices against the inmates of Reidsville prison.

The Klu Klux Klan have started crawling back out of their holes. The Klan, of course, has never really been out of business. They just put on some business suits and adopted a false respectability. Their minds and hearts never changed.

Yours in the struggle for Love, Peace, and Freedom.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews
P.S. Dear readers, I am only responsible for writing my column in the Poor People's Newspaper.