

Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all of my dear readers, friends and supporters.

It gives me great pleasure to chat with you once again, first giving honor to God Who is the head of my life, thanking Him and praising Him for so many wonderful things He has blessed me with. As I look back over the years I sometimes wonder how I got over. Then a little inner voice speaks to me and says to me it was God who brought you thus far. I have come through the rain and the storm. I have had my share of ups and downs but out of all of this I have so much to be thankful for. I love all of you so much and may God bless you all down through the New Year of 1979. We have come a long long way together but we still have a long way to go. Together we will stand but divided we will fall. We have come too far to turn back. We must keep on fighting until the battle is won.

Gov. George Busbee has spent \$140 million filling potholes in roads while Georgia prisons are sweltering holes of violence and death. This is because they are holding twice as many people as they was built for. The Governor blames it all on integration but that's not true. A hundred thousand desperately poor children have been dumped from the welfare roles. The blind have been refused eye care and the aged denied access to dental treatment by direct orders of Gov. Busbee.

There are two kinds of crimes — misdemeanors and felonies. Misdemeanors are crimes not so terribly serious, like shoplifting, assault and battery. Felonies are crimes like murder, kidnapping, highjacking airplanes, and armed robbery. Georgia has chosen to make welfare fraud a felony, whereas in many states it is considered a misdemeanor. Cases are tried before a Superior Court Judge. Judges are some

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IX NO. 1

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JANUARY, 1979

WHEN YOU BUY ON TIME WATCH FOR HIDDEN COSTS

When you get a loan, there are certain things to keep in mind. Because of the Truth in Lending law, you have the right to know the APR or Annual Percentage Rate and the total interest that you are paying. For instance, with many department store credit accounts and other credit cards, you are paying an annual percentage rate of 18% or \$18 for every \$100 you charge.

The APR is lower for a bank loan or at a credit union. The APR is higher at a finance company and often much higher at a pawn shop. Banks and credit unions are very careful about lending you money. Loan places are friendly when they ask you to sign, but the rate you pay them can be quite high. Make sure that the APR is written into the contract before you sign it.

You also have the right to know what total interest you are paying. Suppose you are buying some furniture that costs \$300, and you're paying on it for 3 years. It may seem like a good deal to only pay \$15 each month. But that adds up to \$540 for the \$300 furniture! The total interest is \$240. Also, be sure to look for any sentences in the contract that say they will repossess the furniture or anything else you have signed over.

Be sure that there are no blanks left empty. Someone could write something in there after you have signed. Have them type ****'s through the blank before you sign. Be careful about renting TV's with the chance of buying them. You sign a rental agreement instead of a contract. If you miss one payment, they can come and get it, and you will have to start all over again on the payments. Even if you keep up on the payments, you can end up paying \$800 for a \$100 TV.

UTILITY BILLS

Because of very cold winters, for the past two years, money has been made available to help people with high utility bills. This money is usually not available until February or March. The money comes through each EOA neighborhood service center. That is where you should take your utility bills to apply for this help. It is not yet known whether or not this program will continue for this winter's bills but it is suggested that you keep in touch with your local EOA center about this program. There will be more information in the February PPN.

MORE JOBS FOR YOUTHS

There are many new CETA job programs beginning in January. Most of the jobs are available for youths between the ages of 16-21, who are out of school. There are training programs and other types of programs available. One program is for youth who are interested in carpentry or construction work. The program lasts for 12 months and the participants are able to get GED training. For more information on any of these programs call 752-5533 or 758-4606.

HELP AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE ON FIXED INCOMES

Fixed Income Consumer Counseling offers a variety of services through counseling and workshops. These services are for anyone who is having difficulty living on a fixed income — — such as social security, SSI or a pension. They help with problems arising in consumer matters (buying, renting, borrowing etc.), Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, safety, nutrition and legal problems (such as wills).

Call 892-3023 or visit Consumer Counseling at 34 10th street, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MARGARET MEAD: 1901 - 1978

We mourn the loss of Ms. Mead who died in November, one of the great women of our age. A world-famous anthropologist, author, and lecturer, she was a true friend to poor people everywhere and to the Emmaus House Community in particular. We will miss her visits and her support.

NO MORE FOOD STAMP PURCHASE PRICE

Beginning this month nobody will be charged for food stamps. Instead you will be given the "bonus value" of your stamps free. The "bonus value" is the difference in what you have been paying for your food stamps and what they are worth.

For example, if you have been paying \$39 for \$54 worth of stamps you will now get \$15 worth of food stamps without paying anything. Or if you had been paying \$37 for \$182 worth of stamps, you would now get \$182 — \$37, or \$145 worth of food stamps. Under the new system you are getting the same amount of free food stamps. BUT you no longer have to purchase a certain allotment to get them.

MISSING WELFARE CHECKS

Family and Children Services mails out welfare checks between the 1st and the 5th of each month. If your check does not come by the 10th day of each month, then it may be lost or stolen. People who have been missing checks may have to wait up to six months for duplicate checks to be mailed.

To speed things up, call your caseworker on the 10th day of the month you missed your check. Call right away if you know its been stolen. The welfare agency has no cash money to help you until next months check, but they do have emergency food. In a month or so, your caseworker will ask you to sign an affidavit asking questions about the missing check. Then all you can do is wait for the agency to finish investigating and mail your check.

NATIONAL CLIENTS COUNCILS: A WAY TO BE HEARD

Low income residents of Georgia who want to speak out against the problems they face can do so through the Georgia Clients Council. Clients Councils are open to any low income person who wants to give feedback to Georgia's Legal Services programs so that they can give you better help with problems. Each legal service program, like Atlanta Legal Aid, wants to have a Clients Council working with them. Right now Georgia has 12 Clients Councils which gather information on local problems so that local Legal Aid offices can attack them legally.

Clients Council members serve on decision making boards of each Legal Service program, talk with lawyers about their legal programs and even start class action suits or court cases in problem areas. Many more local Clients Councils are needed since only poor people really know what they are up against. If you are interested in helping Legal Services Lawyers work for you, join your local Clients Council.

Atlanta's Clients Council meets at Southside Legal Aid Office on 1311 Capitol Ave., S. W. once a month. To find out when meetings are held and where Georgia's other Clients Councils are located call the main National Clients Council office at 525-7428, 133 Carnegie Way, N. W., Suite 910, Atlanta.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE HOURS

Monday — Friday, 10:00 to 3:00

PHONE: 523-2856

Call us for help with welfare, housing, food stamps, SSI, etc.

(MS. MATHEWS, Continued)

people we need to watch. They run for office just like every other elected official. Yet when they run nobody ever talks about whether they have given terribly harsh sentences to welfare mothers who have been caught doing an extra day's work in Miss Jane's kitchen. In most of Georgia, welfare mothers are being sent to prison in droves. In Atlanta the problem is not as bad but it is still bad. And one Judge in particular, Judge Luther Alverson is sending welfare mothers to prison when they come before him. So when Judge Alverson runs next time we ought to find somebody else to vote for. All welfare mothers better watch out for Judge Luther Alverson.

Now I will leave this thought with you:

Yes, I will surely follow even when the path is dim.

And I will never be afraid if I walk along with Him.

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

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

Would your friends and neighbors like to get the POOR PEOPLE'S NEWS-PAPER? Have them send their names and addresses to:

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

OR call us at 523-2856.

IF YOU MOVE,
Be sure to tell us your new address.

Greetings,

And a happy Valentine's Day to all of you. I am so happy and thankful to be able to come and chat with you once again, first giving thanks and praises to God for His love, thanking Him for His many blessings that He has bestowed upon me. I thank God for watching over me through the year of 1978 and, if it be His will, I know that He will watch over me through 1979. God is so good to all of us and we all have a lot to be thankful for. I hope that the new year will be good to all of us, to all my wonderful readers, friends, and supporters. We can all look back over the old year and give thanks to God for bringing us through the storm and struggle. Although the struggle was hard sometimes, He brought us through.

We have worked hard down through the years but there is still work to be done and the only way for us to get the job done is by coming together in unity, helping those that can't help themselves, speaking out in behalf of those who can't speak out for themselves. We must become more concerned about our brothers and sisters who are confined in the jails and prisons. As community peoples we must let them know that there is someone who cares. You can help them by going to the Governor or writing the Governor to let him know that the conditions that the sisters and brothers live under are inhuman. You can help by going to the Pardons and Parole Board. You can help by going to the Corrections Board. You can help by talking to business men, asking them to give prisoners jobs when they are released so they can take care of themselves and their families. Lawyers can't do anything to get your relatives moved from one prison to another so don't pay them any money to do so because there is nothing they can do

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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TENANTS DO HAVE RIGHTS

Too often tenants in Georgia get pushed around by landlords — illegally — particularly when it comes to eviction. Tenants can do much to protect themselves if they know their rights about evictions.

Under Georgia law, there is only one way a landlord can force a tenant to move. He must go through all of the following steps:

1. The landlord must give notice to the tenant that the lease or rental agreement has been terminated.
2. On or after the date that the lease or rental agreement ends the landlord must ask the tenant to move.
3. If the tenant refuses to move, the landlord has to go to court and take out a DISPOSSESSORY WARRANT.
4. After the landlord has taken out a warrant, the sheriff must make a "reasonable" attempt to give the warrant to the tenant or another suitable person in the family personally. If no "suitable" adult is at home, the sheriff may "tack" the papers to the door. But if the sheriff nails the warrant to the door a copy of this warrant must be mailed to the tenant on the same day.

5. From the time the warrant is delivered a tenant has 14 days to "answer" the warrant, i.e., to explain to the Court why s/he should not be evicted. It is very important for tenants to answer a warrant as early in the 14 day period as possible, since he has certain rights which are good only for the first seven days. In fact, as soon as a tenant gets a warrant s/he should go IMMEDIATELY to legal services. There are many ways to answer a warrant and keep possession of the home.
6. If a tenant does not answer a warrant within 14 days after receiving it, the Court will issue a writ of possession and s/he can be put out.

Many times eviction can be stopped — but only if tenants act quickly. Remember, when a tenant received a warrant he should immediately seek legal help. If a tenant cannot afford a lawyer, free legal assistance is available through Atlanta Legal Aid in Atlanta or through Georgia Legal Services in other parts of the State. For the number of the nearest Legal Aid or Legal Services Office or for more information on tenant rights in the eviction process, call the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856)

NEW FOOD STAMP PROGRAM BEGINS

Finally, more than a year after the law was passed, the new food stamp program is going into effect. There are many good things in it which should make things better for the poorest participants. But the new program will NOT solve all the problems connected with the present food stamp program. In fact, the new program will probably cause additional problems as state and county officials try to figure out the new rules and switch participants from the present program to the new one.

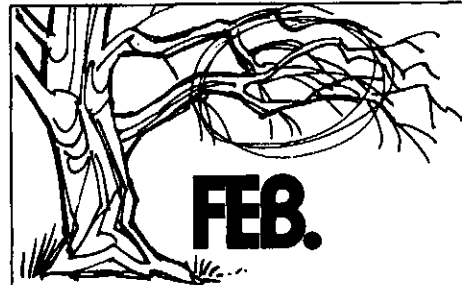
The new program is being implemented in 3 steps:

STEP 1 was taken on January 1 when states implemented the provision that participants no longer have to pay cash for their food stamps. The amount of stamps they have been receiving has been determined by the rules of the old program.

STEP 2 occurs on March 1 when states must begin to apply the new guidelines for eligibility. However, the states do not have to apply these rules to all food stamp recipients on that date. Beginning in March, all NEW food stamp applicants will be certified under the new rules. People who are already receiving food stamps will be certified according to the new rules when they go into the food stamp office to get recertified.

STEP 3 will be July 1. This date is the deadline for the state to have ALL food stamp participants certified under the new rules. For those people whose certification period does not expire between March 1 and July 1, the food stamp office will conduct "desk reviews". This means that at some time before July 1, the case workers will pull these cases and refigure them under the new rules.

In the March Poor Peoples Newspaper, we will explain the changes in eligibility requirements, new ways to figure food stamp income and other important changes concerning fraud, fair hearings and the application process.



UPDATE ON JOBS FOR YOUTH

Jobs for youth are available through the CETA Title IV program. The young people have to be between the ages of 16 - 21, from low-income households, out of school either as a result of graduating or dropping out, and must live within the city limits of Atlanta.

School status will have to be proved before qualifying for any of these jobs. For those who are accepted into the program there is a career development program that lasts 4½ days before any other training begins. This provides an opportunity for the young people to decide what area of employment they would like to go into.

Jobs and job training are being offered in plumbing, electrical wiring, aerospace engineering and others. For young people who are planning to go to college there is another program, project EXCEL, which they might be interested in applying for. The CETA intake office is located at 1040 Gordon Street. Call 753-1386 for an appointment. Ask to speak to one of the counselors.

PROTECT YOUR CREDIT RATING

Every time you buy something on time, you are affecting your credit rating. Your credit rating is affected by your payments to record and book clubs, payments on rent and utilities, payments to schools, and payments on loans, credit cards, and charge accounts.

Whenever you apply for a loan or a charge card, someone will check with the credit bureau to see what your credit rating is. This rating is based on how many times you paid 0-30 days late, how many times you paid 30-60 days late, and so on.

If someone refuses you credit, ask him to put it in writing. Once you have a letter of refusal, you can make an appointment and go to the credit bureau to see your file. Then if there are any mistakes, you can get them corrected by having the loan office, bank, or whoever write a letter with a copy to you and a copy to the credit bureau. The phone at the credit bureau is 325-5235.

Without a letter of refusal, you have to pay to see your credit file.

To keep a good credit rating when you become broke, it is a good idea to try to pay *something* on your bill every month. It is better for you to contact the loan place and to explain problems than for them to try to track you down. If you cannot work out problems with your creditors, the next step is to go to credit counseling or the credit doctor at 1105 W. Peachtree, phone 875-8396. They can help you figure a plan for paying off your bills.

MS. MATHEWS, Continued

but take your money and make you a promise. They search us every time we go to Reidsville to visit to see if we have drugs or some type of weapon on us. The point I am trying to make is that they know that we don't have drugs or weapons on us. They do that to hide behind us. We don't have to carry anything there because it is already there. There are 2,800 men in Reidsville State Prison and there are 2,200 men in the Federal Prison. Both prisons are overcrowded.

Now I will share this thought with you.

Is it true, is it kind, is it necessary?

Yours in the struggle. I live in the struggle. Peace.

Ms. Ethel M. Matthews

UTILITY BILLS

Since last month's issue of the PPN there has been no further news of money to be made available to help low income people pay utility bills for the winter months. This money has been available in the past and it looks like it may be available again this year but it is not yet known for sure. Stay in touch with your local EOA neighborhood center for news about this program.

POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

PHONE: 523-2856

Call us for help with AFDC, SSI, Food Stamps, Housing, Social Security, etc.

Hello to all of my wonderful readers and friends.

I come to you once again to chat with you for a few moments. I first give praise and thanks to God who is my Supreme Being, my leaning post in a time of need, when my days get so dark I cannot see. Yes, God is all of this to me. I have had some times and I have had some bad times. But after looking back over my life - - the struggles, the heartbreaks and the hardships - - I can still say this: I still have a lot to be thankful for. Although we have come this far together, we still have a lot farther to go. Life ain't what it ought to be but I will tell you this: It sure ain't what it use to be.

We need your help. We are fighting to save the children. How cruel can the system get? A mother and three children don't receive but \$148 a month. Unless we take a stand things will still stay the same. Gov. Busbee is asking for 85% of need. If it passes, a mother and three children then will get \$193 a month. We are asking for 100% of need and if it passes a mother and three children will get \$227 a month. So you see, welfare mothers, if you don't come out and support this cause, it will all go down the drain. Your children don't deserve any of this.

The rich man will never be affected because he makes the law to suit his self. They are playing a game with our lives. If you can't pay your rent you will be put outdoors. If you can't pay your gas bills you will be put in the cold. One hundred and fifty-four thousand children are the ones who receive welfare. Ninety-four percent of the children

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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GEORGIA ACTION GETS ACTION

Do you want your gas and light and phone bills to go up? They probably will, unless there is an organized effort to stop rate hikes. Georgia Action is dedicated to making this effort. This group recently won a battle with utility companies for better regulations concerning cut-offs. Thanks to their efforts with the Public Service Commission, Georgia Power, Atlanta Gas and Southern Bell must now give more notice about cut-offs, provide customers an appeal process before cutting off service, and give people an opportunity to pay off back bills by installments. Restrictions on winter electric and gas cut-offs were also added to the rules.

Right now Georgia Action has three neighborhood groups working together. One is the 9th District Action Group (in the Bankhead Highway - Hollywood Road area.) Another is the Lakewood Heights Citizens in Action. And the third is Northside Action (primarily in the Underwood Hills, Loring Heights Area.)

One important thing these groups are doing is to ask for a special lower rate on telephones for people who don't use their phones much, but need them for emergencies. This special phone rate would be called "Lifeline."

Georgia Action can help you get your neighborhood together on getting fair utility rates and better housing regulations. Call Georgia Action at 881-9805.

EOA HAS MONEY FOR UTILITY BILLS

The Emergency Energy Assistance Program that was in operation last winter has some left over funds to pay winter utility bills. Many of you may have applied last winter, 1977-1978, but never received any financial help from this program. There is a possibility that some money may be available to help you pay part of last winter's or this winter's utility bills.

If you applied last year but never got any help, your application is still on file at your local EOA center. These applications will be reviewed for this Emergency money and you may be able to get some help. If you never got help, but applied, you should contact your local EOA center.

If you have high utility bills, for this winter, you too should apply for this financial help. For further information or to put in your application, contact or visit your local EOA Neighborhood Service Center before March 15, 1979.

Besides this program there may be further assistance available in the near future. More information will be published in the April issue of the PPN.

Poverty Rights Office - 523-2856

MORE CHANGES IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM BEGIN IN MARCH

All states took the first step in the New Food Stamp program in January: Food Stamp recipients no longer have to buy their stamps. In March, Food Stamp offices will begin to put into effect other changes in the program. This will be a gradual process. People will go under the new program as they get certified or recertified between March 1 and July 1. It is important to know your rights so that the new program can be made to work as the law intended.

Here are some of the changes Food Stamp participants should know about:

1. HOW LONG THE FOOD STAMP OFFICE CAN TAKE TO GET YOUR FOOD STAMPS TO YOU.

People must now be allowed to apply the first time they go to the Food Stamp office. If they are eligible, they must get their stamps within 30 days of that day and they must get them for the month in which they apply.

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, you must get your stamps within three days. This fast service is for people who have no income, have just lost their only source of income, don't expect to receive more than \$25 for at least 10 days.

THE WAY THE FOOD STAMP WORKER FIND OUT WHO IS ELIGIBLE. There are changes in all three things that determine if a household can get Food Stamps - (a) the number of people in the household, (b) resources they own and (c) their total income.

(a) A "Food stamp household" is now considered to be the people who buy food together and cook it together. People who live in the same house but do not do those things together can be certified as "separate

households". Boarders can now get Food Stamps as separate households. Households do not have to have cooking facilities to get Food Stamps.

(b) The maximum total value of resources a household can own and still be eligible for Food Stamps has been raised to \$1,750 (from \$1,500). If at least two people live in the household and at least one of them is 60 or older, they are allowed to own \$3,000 in resources.

(c) The amount of money a household is allowed to make each month and remain eligible for Food Stamps is less than it was. This means that some people who had the highest income as Food Stamp recipients will be cut off the program.

Loans cannot be counted as income for Food Stamps and neither can money payed on behalf of a household by someone outside the household. (Examples could be a church or other agency paying your rent or a relative who doesn't live with you paying your doctor bill.)

Major changes have been made in the way a caseworker figures your "net" or "Food Stamp" income to find out how many Food Stamps you will get. Four deductions can be subtracted from the household's total income:

- (a) 20% of a working person's earned income.
- (b) A flat \$65 standard deduction for every household.
- (c) Expenses of caring for a dependent (a child or an invalid).
- (d) very high rent or mortgage payments and utilities.

Note: A maximum of \$80 can be subtracted for dependent care or shelter or both of them added together.

CHAMP IS CONCERNED ABOUT HEALTH CARE FOR POOR PEOPLE

The Community Health and Monitoring Project (CHAMP) is a group of people who are concerned about the quality of health care that is available for poor people. CHAMP is concerned about issues such as how poor people are treated at Grady, if poor people are receiving good health care, and the overall health care delivery system in Atlanta and the surrounding areas.

Right now CHAMP is involved in trying to make the WIC program more effective. WIC is a special Supplemental Food program for Women, Infants, and Children. It serves low-income pregnant and nursing women, babies, and children up to five years old. WIC has a lot of good things to offer but, like the Food Stamp and AFDC programs, it does not always do what it is supposed to do. CHAMP and the Children's Foundation are conducting a survey to find out what complaints women have about the WIC program (such as having to stay on the waiting list for months, not getting their food delivered, etc.) CHAMP will use this information to demand that WIC become a better health program for poor women and young children. Anyone who has problems with the WIC program or would like to get certified for WIC, call CHAMP, 525-1490 or the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856.

Call CHAMP also about any other health concern you have and get on their mailing list to receive their free monthly newsletter. Meet with CHAMP to discuss your community's health problems. CHAMP meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Georgia Hill Neighborhood Center at 8 p.m.

MS. MATHEWS, Continued

don't have fathers in the home; 64% are helpless; 15% receive help for six months; 68% receive welfare no longer than three years.

As poor and oppressed peoples here are some of the pressures we live under from day to day: Welfare, food stamps, SSI, poor housing, prison conditions, emergency assistance program, family problems, crime in the communities, old age, loneliness, cost of living, illness, suicides worldwide 1,000 each day, mental illness up to 1/3 of the population, parents abandon families 1,000,000 a year in the USA. Now I will leave this thought with you:

If my mind can perceive it
My heart can achieve it
And I must believe it.

Yours in the struggle for Peace and Freedom.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

WORKING PARENTS GET TAX CREDIT

Poor working parents can receive a tax rebate called the "earned income credit". If you have children and earned any money in 1979, be sure to file an income tax return so that you can get this tax credit. This could mean quite a lot of cash in your pocket. 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 at Emmanus House, 1017 Capitol Avenue, S. W. Mr. Coe is at the front desk at Emmanus House on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Hello,

I am very thrilled to have this opportunity to chat with you once again, first giving thanks and honor to God, thanking him for his many blessings he has bestowed upon me and thanking God for his love, his joy, and his happiness. I thank him for the good times and I thank him for the bad times. I thank him for everything.

Although the struggle gets harder and harder, and the roads get rougher and rougher sometimes for all of us, we can't stop the fight. We must stay strong and stand tall to come together in unity and peace and should work together. Today, we urge the County Commissioners to appropriate for a more adequate amount of money for emergency assistance to poor people in Fulton County. There is no state program to assist poor families if the father remains in the home, however desperate the situation. There is no state program to assist the displaced homemaker or a widowed woman without skills, jobs, or resources. There is no state program to assist evicted families, victims of fires, children whose parents have been hurt in accidents, or dependents of breadwinners whose unemployment benefits have run out. Such emergencies are county responsibilities.

It is true that we have a state welfare program to aid families with dependent children, but this program is strictly limited to the aid of one-parent families of small children. If the father stays at home and tries to do his part, the family is not eligible even if totally without income. Another big group of needy people is middle-aged women. Many of them

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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New Program Changes The Way Caseworkers Can Treat People On Food Stamps!

Basic changes in the way the Food Stamp Program works occurred in March when the Food Stamp Reform law was put into effect. Some changes were explained in last month's paper. Other changes important to know about concern the way caseworkers are supposed to do their job. New rules make it clear that caseworkers have a responsibility to help people get on Food Stamps, not just to check up on them to make sure they are eligible.

Now, as before, recipients must prove they are eligible for Food Stamps and the workers must still verify that the information they give is correct. But there are big changes in the way they are allowed to do this, changes that should make a difference in the way people are treated when they apply for Food Stamps.

The new program limits the kinds of things the caseworker is *required* to verify to three things: Household income, utility expense (if they are going to result in a deduction), and the status of anyone in the household who is not a U. S. citizen.

The Food Stamp worker is only *allowed* to verify a few other kinds of information such as: loans that are being used to pay living expenses, liquid resources (savings accounts, cash, etc.), and "questionable

information" (statements that conflict with other information in the case file.)

The new rules also spell out *how* the caseworker is allowed to prove information. Some of these are: The caseworker must use written information as proof if it is available. They can make home visits and contact an applicant's friends and neighbors only if there is no written information. They can only make home visits if they are scheduled beforehand with the person who is applying for Food Stamps. They can only question friends and neighbors if the applicant gives permission and chooses who they will be.

Caseworkers can no longer cut people off Food Stamps because someone calls the office and reports something bad about them. Now caseworkers have to tell people what has been reported and give them a chance to explain. Food Stamp applications can no longer be denied because a person was not able to get the information the caseworker asked for. Now if a Food Stamp applicant cannot get information, the caseworker is supposed to help get it.



CITY PROGRAMS MAY BE ABLE TO HELP!!

Almost thirty percent of Atlanta's housing can be classified as substandard because it does not meet minimum health and safety standards. It is the job of the city's Bureau of Building, Housing Code Division, to see that this substandard housing is either brought up to code or vacated. Unfortunately, the Housing Code Division fails to go after Atlanta's many slum-lords but instead puts pressure on low-income families who can't afford to bring their homes up to code.

If a housing code inspector says a house is substandard or condemns a house as unfit to live in what can the owner do?

1. The owner can make the required repairs within a "reasonable" length of time (usually three months).
2. If the owner cannot afford to make the necessary repairs to bring the property up to code, s/he can appeal the case to the Housing Appeals Board and explain why s/he should not have to meet code requirements. The Appeals Board can waive some repairs if the owner does not have the money to get the work done, and can also extend the time allowed for repairs to be made.
3. If the house is located within a Community Development Impact Area, the owner may be able to get help from Atlanta's Community Development Office. Programs are available to provide low-interest loans and grants of up to \$4,000 to help poor people who own deteriorated housing to bring their homes to code standards. If you are

having problems making repairs to bring your home up to code standards, check out these programs — The Home Repair Loan/Grant Program and the Housing Assistance grants.

For further information call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856.

THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Fulton County Department of Family and Children's Services asked the Fulton County Commission for 3 million dollars this year for General Assistance, a program which helps people who suffer loss of income when they are temporarily disabled. The County Commissioners have so far indicated they will appropriate only \$915,000.

We need to convince the Commissioners that they should double this appropriation because so many poor people are in need of General Assistance and can't get it. If you want to join with us in going to the County Commissioners' meeting and tell them to give more money for General Assistance, please call the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856) or Emmaus House (525-5948) and leave your name, address and phone number, we will contact you.

NEED LEGAL HELP? CHECK OUT THE FAMILY LAW CENTER

If you can't get help from Legal Aid you may want to check out the Family Law Center. Although lawyers at this center do charge small fees, they are concerned about poor people and about keeping their fees as low as possible. This center handles all kinds of legal problems but they specialize in such things as consumer problems and other family concerns. The Family Law Center is located at 133 Luckie St., Suite 305. Their phone number is 524-0273.

NEED HELP WITH TAX RETURNS? CONTACT EMMAUS HOUSE OR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD EOA

Filing an income tax return can be confusing. As with anything else, knowing the law and knowing your rights can be very important.

For example, poor working parents can receive a tax rebate called the "earned income credit". This rebate could mean that you receive quite a lot of cash. People who have children and earned any money in 1978 should be sure to file an income tax return so that they can get this tax credit.

Remember to file a tax return by April 15th. For help with your tax return go to your neighborhood EOA Center or to Mr. Coe at Emmaus House, 1017 Capitol Avenue, S. W., on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call 523-2856 for further information.

Need Dental Care For Your Children? TRY THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Fulton County Health Department has dental care for school-age children up to 14. In some emergency cases, an older school-age child can see a dentist through the health department. Fulton County has several centers for dental services. To see if your child qualifies and to find the center nearest you, call 572-2601.

In DeKalb County children ages 3-18 in school are seen, with the high school children coming in during the summer. DeKalb County dental services will also provide care for maternity patients going through one of the county pre-natal clinics. Call 371-2568. Cobb County deals with children ages 5 through high school. Call 422-9440.

MS. MATHEWS, Continued

are all alone in the world and cannot get jobs, and they have no skills even if jobs were available. These people and others in desperate shape are the county's responsibility. The emergency assistance program is not a long, drawn out program. It is a program to help families who are in dire need and not eligible for welfare. This program is badly needed.

The County Commission is planning to raise the appropriation for emergency assistance by only \$15,000. This is not enough to do any good. We expect more from them; it must be doubled. Now I will leave this thought with you:

*I could not know joy
if I had never felt pain
I could not see a rainbow
if I hadn't first seen rain.*

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

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

**Do you have questions about
welfare, about your rights? Need
help, need information? Want
to know more about available benefits?**

**THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE
CAN HELP**

MONDAY—FRIDAY 10:00 - 3:00

CALL 523-2856

In *all* counties, there are strict income requirements. No matter what county you live in, if you need dental care for your children, check with the county health department to see if this care is available.

Hi, Everybody,

Mother's Day greetings! First giving the honor and many praises to God who is the Head of my life, thanking God for so many things that He has done for me and all the things that He has done for you. I am very happy to spend a few moments with you. The struggle gets pretty rough sometimes but we can't let that stop us. We must keep on marching forward until the job is done. As community peoples we must become involved and speak up and speak out for those who cannot speak out for themselves. How long will we stand idly by and keep silence and not come forward to help our sisters and brothers, youth and teenagers who are confined behind prison walls. We can't talk about one prison unless we talk about all prisons. Federal prison is just like any other prison. It has its dark secret with racism and discrimination. The inmates go through a lot of changes. The administration makes the inmates feel as if they were animals or beasts. But we all know that they are human beings and should be treated fairly.

The oppressors often try to make the oppressed think that it is wrong or something is wrong with the oppressed when they dare to fight back against their oppressors. Clearly it is they, the oppressors of the world, who are truly insane if they think we will not fight back against oppression.

We talk about crime but we should ask the questions: Why unemployment? Why inflation with utility and other prices rising sky high and the economy getting out of hand and no jobs for those who are able to work? These are some of the things that

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MAY, 1979

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IX NO. 5

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

MAY, 1979

SPECIAL PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER MONTHS

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN DEKALB

To apply for the Summer Youth Employment Program in DeKalb County, you must live in DeKalb County *outside* the Atlanta City limits, be 14 to 21 years old; and meet certain family income criteria.

Youth in the DeKalb County program are at work or in class for 30 hours per week. Some are placed in career exploration; some in career exposure; some in work experience; and some, especially graduating seniors, in job training.

You can get applications from your high school counselor or from the DeKalb School System CETA office by calling 469-3401.

ATLANTA SUMMER WORK PROGRAMS

It is now time for youth in the city of Atlanta to apply for jobs in the Summer Work Experience Program. The program is for people between the ages of 14-21 who live within the city limits of Atlanta and who are from low-income families. Young people can get an application from their school counselors, their neighborhood EOA office at 56 Marietta Street. Last year many young people applied too late to get a job. Don't let this happen again. Get your application in now.

To find out about summer jobs for young people in other places, call your local CAP agency. Ask them to refer you to a similar program for your area.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

The Summer Food Program will offer free lunches to poor children again this year. Food sites will be in places such as parks, recreation organizations and churches. If you want your child to participate in this program, check with such organizations to see if they are sponsoring the Summer Food Program. If they are not, urge them to do so. Organizations interested in becoming a summer food site should contact Sarah Harper at 525-4266. The food program will start in mid-June so check your neighborhood now and see if a group in your area will sponsor the Summer Food Program.

CRISIS THREATENS FOOD STAMPS

If the U. S. Congress does not vote early in May to increase the money that can be spent for Food Stamps, all participants will have their benefits drastically cut (by 20% or more). Contact your Senators and Representatives right away. Tell them they must save the Food Stamp Program. Poor people cannot afford a big cut in Food Stamp benefits.

WHAT HAPPENED TO AFDC?

What did poor families with children win in the Georgia Legislature this year? We fought a good fight but we did not win the increase we were trying for, 100% of need. We did get 75% of need which is the largest increase we have gotten in years. This happened because of your efforts. You called and visited your legislators and contacted important leaders. Congratulations on a job well done.

This is the most an AFDC family will receive after July 1, 1979:

Number in Family	Maximum Amount	Number in Family	Maximum Amount
1	\$ 80	7	\$229
2	121	8	243
3	145	9	256
4	171	10	274
5	195	11	293
6	212		

Everyone should have had an increase in the April AFDC check. All AFDC recipients should have another small increase in their July checks. It is not enough. It is hard to rejoice in such a small victory.

Other programs for poor people also had a hard time. No money was provided for increases in day care services or in programs for the aged. But there is hope for the future in that there seems to be more understanding about Welfare both in the Legislature and around the state. Next year could be better.

WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW?

Thank the legislators who voted with us, especially the members of the Black Caucus. Thank the four Black members of the Appropriations Committee: Dr. Horace Tate, Mrs. Grace Hamilton, Mr. J. C. Daugherty (all

of Atlanta), and Mr. Calvin Smyre, of Columbus.

Have meetings in clubs and churches to learn more about how the Legislature works. Start now for 1980 and plan to elect more people who are on the side of poor people. Come to a conference on human needs on May 8th at the First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. Call Linda Berry, 588-1458, for information about the conference, "Enough to Live On."

MOST IMPORTANT

Be sure that all eligible families are getting AFDC. Have people reapply if they have been denied before. If there is any trouble call the PRO, 523-2856 or write Frances Pauley, 943 Clifton Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30307.

FREE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN ON MEDICAID

Free comprehensive medical and dental check ups are available to children under 21 who are eligible for medicaid through the EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment) program. These check ups are done at public health clinics all over the state.

If your child is eligible for medicaid and has not had an EPSDT examination, ask your caseworker to make an appointment for your child at the nearest screening clinic. Transportation to the clinic will be furnished if necessary. If health problems are uncovered by the examination, your child will either be treated by the clinic or referred to an appropriate physician or dentist.

GEORGIA PLANS WIC PUBLIC HEARINGS

The State WIC office has scheduled five public hearings on the operation of the WIC program in Georgia. These hearings — to be held in Atlanta, Gainesville, Macon, Albany and Savannah — will give WIC participants and other interested people an opportunity to help plan the WIC program for fiscal 1980 (October, 1979 — September, 1980).

WIC, a special supplemental food program for Women, Infants and Children, provides extra food and nutrition education to pregnant women, new mothers and children under five through health clinics throughout the state. Many people have had problems getting enrolled in the program or getting food once they are enrolled. These hearings give people a chance to tell officials how WIC needs to be improved. Here is the schedule for the hearings:

Atlanta - May 16	Conference Room 2 Department of Human Resources 618 Ponce de Leon Ave. Atlanta, Georgia (404) 894-4391
Gainesville - May 18	Community Service Center 430 Pryor Gainesville, Georgia (404) 532-5217
Macon - May 22	Mercer University Science Bldg. Auditorium College Street Macon, Georgia (912) 453-5305
Albany - May 23	Broad St. School Auditorium 600 W. Broad St. Albany, Georgia (912) 439-4130
Savannah - May 25	Chatham County Health Department Eisenhower Drive Savannah, Georgia (912) 236-7146

For further information on these hearings or to schedule a time to testify, call the number in the area closest to you.

MS. MATHEWS, Continued

cause some of our crimes. The system tells us to lift up ourselves with our own boot straps but how can we lift ourselves up when we don't even have a boot?

The White man does not have to beat the system because he is the system. They make and enforce the law in their favor. They use the same laws to protect themselves that they use to put us in jail. We still have to pay dearly for their generosity to each other. To forget your past is a betrayal of your own identity. You can't deal with a problem until you have dealt with the cause. One hundred and fifteen years after the emancipation we are still fighting for our survival. So, until next month, I remain yours in the struggle for Freedom, Justice, and Human Rights.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

In memory of my mother who passed away May 26, 1974. Sleep on, Mother and take your rest. I loved you, but God loved you best.

Georgia Action, a citizen action organization, has recently won two battles with the Public Service Commission that should make poor peoples' lives easier. Georgia Power Company lost a request for a rate increase so people's electric bills won't go even higher. Also, the PSC adopted better rules for utility shut-offs — more notice before shut-offs, limitations on when utilities can be shut-off and methods customers can use (like spreading out payments on past-due bills) to prevent shut-offs. Call Georgia Action, 873-2223, for more information.

My dear Readers and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to come to you once again to share my thoughts with you, first giving honor and praise to God, thanking God for the many blessings that he has bestowed upon me. Although I have had many heart aches, ups and downs, and sometimes the way has looked very dark, I can truly say I still have a lot to be thankful for. We have come a long way together with God's help but we still have a long way to go. If we would come together in love and unity we could fight our battles together. Together we stand but divided we fall. Jealousy and envy ain't nothing but hate and when we hate one another we ain't doing nothing but destroying ourselves. We have enough struggles and problems to fight without fighting each other. It is not an easy task we are faced with and daily we must fight one opposition after another. We are worse off today than we was 20 years ago. Power is in our hands. Strength is in our bodies. We must use it together with all our might.

It is going to take economic growth and lots of it if we are to realize the ideals of equality, cooperation and economic justice which fired the American struggle for racial change. There comes a time when, if we don't speak out, if we keep silent, we are not only a betrayal to ourselves but we are also a betrayal to our peoples.

We can't sit back and let the system 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 to keep it or you sit back

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



VOL. IX NO. 6

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Complaint Procedures Set Up

WHAT TO DO ABOUT HASSLES WITH LEGAL AID

Legal Aid is the place to take your complaints when you need legal help. But what about when you have complaints about the service you get from Legal Aid? Recognizing that they make mistakes too, Legal Aid has established grievance procedures for their clients.

You can file a complaint to Legal Aid against Legal Aid if you have problems with:

1. The way you were personally treated;
2. The way your case was handled;
3. The fact your case was turned down;
4. Anything else involving Legal Aid and your problem.

These are the steps you take:

1. You write, or tell the receptionist who then will type a statement as to what the problem is and what you think should be done. You also need to indicate whether you have already discussed it with the person involved (the lawyer, paralegal, interviewer, etc.).
2. The managing attorney will investigate the problem, discuss it with you and respond within five working days.
3. If you are not satisfied with the managing attorney's decision you can appeal the case to the executive

director of Atlanta Legal Aid. This can be done either by mail or through the receptionist at your local Legal Aid office.

4. The executive director will review your appeal and respond within five working days.
5. The last step, if you are not satisfied with the executive director's decision, is to appeal to the Grievance Committee of the Legal Aid Society (the Board of Directors).

At any time during the complaint process, you have the right to have anyone with you who you feel can help you.

For more information, contact the receptionist at your local Legal Aid office, Willie Foster at the Clients Council, 761-5411 ext. 283, or the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856.

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

GENERAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS MORE FUNDING

For a number of months concerned people from the Welfare Rights Organization, the Poverty Rights Office and Emmaus House have been lobbying the Fulton County Commission to raise the amount of money available for General Assistance. As in the case of many programs that are supposed to help poor people the money available is totally inadequate to meet the need.

General Assistance is money given by Fulton County to people whose needs are not being met by welfare or other emergency assistance programs. Money is supposed to be available for people who have been burned out or evicted, and for people who are waiting to be certified for SSI. Pregnant women and people who are keeping other folks' children, if they can't get AFDC, are also eligible for help from General Assistance.

With rising inflation and no improvement in the unemployment situation, the need for General Assistance is more critical than ever. Yet even Gilbert Dulaney, Director of Fulton County DFACS, admitted last month that "Since the program began, there has never been enough money to meet the emergency needs of Fulton County residents." Dulaney did request \$3 million this year for General Assistance, but the Fulton County Commission only granted \$900,000. Unless more money is made available this fund will run out of money before the year is over.

We believe that more money should be put into General Assistance immediately. Because individual General Assistance grants are now so low, we totally oppose Mr. Dulaney's proposal to stretch already limited G.A. money by giving smaller amounts of money to each person seeking aid.

The federal government can give money for General Assistance, if the State agrees to put up money also. However, the legislature has always voted against General Assistance. For the last two years, Governor Busbee didn't even propose spending money on general assistance. But there are other ways to get additional money for this fund. Fulton County has more than a million dollars set aside for emergencies. The Commissioners don't want to spend it on General Assistance, but if people put pressure on the county now, something may be done to help.

The General Assistance Fund exists because people need it and because they stood up and asked for it. Things will not get better unless people demand improvements.

By learning about the fund, and then talking to their county commissioners, their State Representatives and Senators and their Governor, the people can make Fulton County and Georgia a better, more just place to live.

If you live in DeKalb or Clayton counties, you also have a General Assistance program like the one in Fulton County. If you have any questions about General Assistance in your county, call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856. Join the effort to raise the amount of money available for GA in Fulton County by attending the monthly Commission Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. Call 525-5948.

CHANGES IN SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOW MORE EARNINGS

If you are over 65 and eligible for social security benefits, you do not have to quit working. You can earn up to \$4,500 per year on your job and still get social security between the ages of 65 and 72.

If you are over 72 and eligible for social security, you can make all the money you want and still get social security.

If you are under 65 and eligible for social security, you can make up to \$3,480 without losing social security benefits.

Call the Poverty Rights Office for the number of the Social Security Office near you for more information.

The Poverty Rights Office is trying to get in touch with Mrs. Mary Barge to give her some important information. Please call the PRO, 523-2856, if you know her present address and/or phone number.

REIDSVILLE BROTHERS' STORY POINTS UP INJUSTICE IN GEORGIA'S PRISON SYSTEM

Today, six Black prisoners at Reidsville face the death penalty for the alleged killing on July 23, 1978, of a White guard and two White inmates. These killings occurred during a rebellion in which more than 200 prisoners took part. They rose up in revolt against guard brutality, degrading living conditions, bad food, and the arming of White prisoners by White guards.

Prisoners' demands were clear: An end of beatings and racist attacks and an improvement in basic physical conditions including decent food, medical care and a second set of clothes. These demands were ignored. The rebellion was crushed with brutal force. By beatings and psychological coercion the prison administration forced some prisoners, who had themselves taken part in the revolt, to testify against their brothers before the grand jury. Indictments were issued against the six Reidsville Brothers but not against the three White prisoners who killed a Black prisoner on July 1.

The day after the rebellion, Governor Busbee announced the state would seek the death penalty for "those responsible". The state had already picked the scapegoats for its own abuses and negligence. But friends of Reidsville prisoners who have been struggling for years to improve conditions there have formed a Reidsville Brothers Defense Committee. They are trying to put the blame where it belongs - on the oppressive prison system. The Committee is also helping raise money for the Brothers' legal defense.

Without the support of people who care, the Reidsville Brothers could be led to the electric chair. Only if pressure is brought

MS. MATHEWS, Continued

and let it be taken away from you. So I ask this question: My peoples, what side are you on?

We all know that inflation is a problem. It has been used as an excuse to cut federal spending, to induce a recession, and to put working people and minorities into an economic straight jacket. Well, I don't buy that. This is a rational age. I want to know why we can't have economic justice, decent jobs for all, and an end to poverty. And I don't accept inflation as the short-hand answer to that question. Unemployment and inflation breed crime everywhere but it don't hafta be if there were enough jobs with decent and adequate wages to live on.

Now I will leave this thought with you: We need heart more than steel, love more than goods. We need Peace.

Yours in the struggle for human rights, justice, respect and freedom for all.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUNDS RUN OUT

The money allocated to EOA by the federal government to help poor people pay their utility bills in 1979 ran out in May. This means that people whose bills have not already been paid by EOA may not get any help.

EOA has requested additional funds for this program and they are still taking applications for assistance. At this point, however, there is no guarantee that they will be able to help pay any more utility bills. EOA's total allocation this year was only about half the amount allocated last year.

from an informed public can the Reidsville Brothers get fair treatment. To show your support for their cause, contact the Reidsville Brothers Defense Committee, 88 Walton Street, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Hello Everyone,

It is a pleasure for me to come to you once again first giving thanks to God. He is the source of my life; my leaning post in the time of trouble; my comforter when I am lonely. I have so much to be thankful for. Our troubles and struggles are hard and we are few in numbers but the fight must go on until victory is won. We need your help. Together we can win. We will win by coming together fighting for the rights of all peoples, regardless of race, creed or color. We are so quick to judge our sisters and brothers and we are quick to say an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth but to me that is revenge. I have been taught down through the years that everyone who is without sin let them cast the first stone.

Some of us who live in our communities are very concerned about the jails and prison conditions. We are concerned about our sisters' and brothers' human rights and the strain and confusion, frustration, harassment, fear of litigation, and abuse, and abuse, that they hafta live under from day to day. We ask this question? Why are they treated like beasts and not like human beings? You who are over them hafta remember and keep in mind that they are humans and they belong to someone and we do care. We often ask this question? Why are there so many men getting killed in prison and who is behind it all? We believe there is a profit behind every man's death. And we hold the administration and the system at fault for it all. They are supposed to have safety precautions at all times. But as you can see it is not working, and innocent men are getting killed every day by some mysterious hand. The issues which we must address are indeed grave. They have a strong resemblance to those which our ancestors faced a century ago. Today as then, the issues are made full and viable. Participation in the political process,

(Continued on Page 3)
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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JULY, 1979

BENEFITS INCREASE SLIGHTLY FOR AFDC, FOOD STAMPS, SSA AND SSI

In July, benefits from SSA, SSI and Food Stamps will go up a little because the cost of living has gone up. AFDC payments will also go up this month. This means that if you are already getting Food Stamps or grants from AFDC, Social Security or Supplement Security Income, you will be getting a few more stamps and a little more money.

It also means that if you were turned down for AFDC you might be eligible after July 1st. If you applied before, but were told you made too much money, then you should apply again. You won't get a great deal of money, but if you get AFDC, then you get Medicaid. That could make a big difference.

How much money you can make and still get AFDC depends on how much you spend on child care and work expenses. How much money you can make and still get Food Stamps depends on how much you spend on rent, gas, lights, and child care or the care of an elderly or handicapped adult.

To find out if you are eligible for Food Stamps, AFDC, or other benefits, call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856, or your local Department of Family and Children's Services.

To apply for AFDC and/or Food Stamps, go to your welfare office. Take with you:

1. your Social Security Number
 2. a rent receipt
 3. Utility bills
 4. 2 pay stubs or other proof of your income
 5. your children's birth certificates
 6. the Poverty Rights Office phone number.
- If you have any problems call the PRO right from the office.

DENTAL CLINIC CAN NOW HELP MORE POOR PEOPLE

The Ben Massell Dental Clinic is expanding their services. They will be able to serve more low-income patients after July 15th for very small fees — \$1 for registration and 50¢ per visit. The Clinic offers general dental services, extractions and dentures. Eligibility is determined by income and family size. If you need dental care, call 881-1858 for more information and to find out if you are eligible for this low-cost treatment. The Ben Massell Dental Clinic is located at 18 7th Street, N. E., Atlanta.

A READER OF THE POOR PEOPLES NEWSPAPER TELLS IT LIKE IT IS

The following are excerpts from two letters from one of our readers. The problems she expresses so well are so typical, we thought you would like to share these letters with us. We would like to hear from all our readers. Please feel free to write us about your own problems and how you feel about articles in this paper. We will print your letters as space permits.)

Letter #1

To whom it may concern (or anyone who will listen):

In your last paper you talked about the increases in AFDC. It is hard to live on \$197 a month when you have five children with wants and wishes just like all other children do. Our money only allows us to pay our monthly utilities with nothing left. We live in an old house. . . We are on Section 8 provided by the government. Our rent is 0. The house has a large leak in it and in the winter it costs between \$80 and \$90 a month to heat. The lights are forever blowing out and cost for electricity \$47 to \$59 in the winter to use.

We are in Lithonia city and are trying to be accepted in the county for Section 8. All the nice places that have Section 8 won't accept my children so here I am having to live in a duplex with a hall considered as a bedroom. And bats coming in the attic. Every place we go to look for a place could even have four bedrooms but won't accept my children. Just because we are on welfare doesn't mean we are trash. We would love to be self-supporting but with five children and being single it is a job just making sure everybody is where they are supposed to be.

Last year our bills were so high our gas was turned off because there wasn't enough

to pay. It took us months to get the gas back on, months of heating water for six people to bathe.

I do take advantage of Head start and all my children will be in school next time. They range from 13 to 3. Their father is in prison for life. But we are divorced.

You know people that work with AFDC aren't allowed to mention benefits of any kind unless you ask for something by name.

What I think I'm trying to say is, I feel like my family is dicriminated against because of the number of children there are.

Talk about gas prices, driving five children to three schools twice a day cost too. People think people on AFDC just sit and do nothing. I suppose I earn my \$197 a month more than a lot of women earn their \$197 a week. Thanks for listening.

Letter #2

Thanks for your letters. I was pleased to know that maybe someone else knows how we do live and how important it is for me to get out of here.

My appointment was May 21 with Legal Aid. I did keep my appointment. I talked with her on Monday. By Friday I had received a letter of certification (for Section 8 in the county). I sure was pleased to know that by your making the appointment with Legal Aid help me to be accepted.

Now my problem is finding the four bedroom house for \$255 a month where the landlord will accept Section 8. I hope my family will be as lucky as some people on Section 8. I am able now to go outside the city and look. I was pleased to know you read my letter.

HELP FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN

School's out, so now is the time to plan for next year. If your pre-school or school age child is having problems with seeing, hearing, speech, coordination, slowness, or has any special needs or handicaps, now is the time to have your child evaluated so that the school can give him the most help. Children as young as three can enter the public school system if they have a problem or handicap. Most school officials are working this summer on testing and evaluation of children. Younger children may be tested and evaluated, and programs may be suggested for their special needs.

One good reason for early evaluation is that many of the problems experienced by preschoolers can be corrected by early attention. There is a law that requires the school to provide *free* necessary services to evaluate and teach your child. Call your local school system or health department to find out about testing and evaluation in your area.

FOOD BANK OPENS IN JULY

Many times a person's food stamps or food supply runs out before the end of the month. A Food Bank will be started in July to help those people who need food. If you need food you can contact a social service agency like the PRO, EOA, Christian Council etc. The agency will determine whether you are eligible to receive the food and they will refer you to the Food Bank.

The Food Bank will be located in a warehouse next to St. Luke's Episcopal Church on 435 Peachtree Street. You can't go directly to the Food Bank for food; you must be referred by an agency. For further informatiion call the PRO at 523-2856.

The Food Bank will also need volunteers to help at the warehouse where the food is stored. If you are interested in volunteering call Bill Bolling at 873-5427.

MS. MATHEWS, CONTINUED

equitable access to economic opportunities, and a right to life. This is our "eleventh hour" and a time in which we must examine and assess the facts of our situation. Now I will share this thought with you: A friend hears the song in my heart, and hums it to me, when memory fails.

Yours in the struggle for Human Rights, Peace, and Freedom for all.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

P. S. The Welfare Rights Organization will hold a celebration for its 12th birthday on Friday, July 13th, at Central City Park. The time is 12 noon. COME ONE, COME ALL. EVERYONE IS INVITED!

As usual, there will be no Poor People's Newspaper in August. The next paper will come out in September. So that staff members can have a vacation, the Poverty Rights Office will be closed the two weeks before Labor Day — August 20th through September 4th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

THE POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER is proud to celebrate its ninth birthday this month. We hope we have been a help to you and that we can keep on going and growing. Our readers have played a big part in our growth. We thank you for your response and congratulate you too for our success.

To all of my readers, friends and supporters.

I am very happy that I can come to you and share my thoughts with you. First giving honor to God for all of His goodness, thanking Him for all of His mercy and His blessing. God is the source of my life and I have so much to thank Him for. The way gets hard and the road gets rough — but I still have a lots to be thankful for.

Our struggles are hard and it seems like they are getting harder and harder by the day. We are worse off today than we were twenty years ago. Poor people are faced with unemployment, inflation and a worsening economy. Rent and food prices have jumped skyhigh.

Mayor Maynard Jackson is trying to force one cent tax hike down our throats. We cannot afford to pay any more taxes. Five cents on the dollar is too much for us to pay. So I urge all of you who live on a fixed income and all of you who are the working welfare poor to go to the polls on October 2nd and vote NO. The one-cent option sales tax will be on the ballot come October 2nd. It is important that you go to the polls and vote. Be sure to vote NO to defeat the one-cent sales tax. The one-cent sales tax will hurt the welfare recipient, the SSI recipient, the Social Security recipient, the Food Stamp recipient, the low-income families and the working welfare poor.

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

SEPTEMBER, 1979

NEW SALES TAX LAW WILL HURT POOR PEOPLE

Neighbors of Emmaus House are frightened over the possibility of an added cent to our sales tax. Many friends across the city think the local option sales tax will be harmful for everyone. It is sure to be most harmful to poor people and to elderly people on fixed incomes.

On October 2, we will be asked to vote on this important question: the local Option Sales Tax. We will vote NO. It is true, our neighborhood has great need for city services. But we know we can only have them if the city is strong financially. We believe the sales tax will weaken our economy.

Another cent on groceries, clothes, drugs, and other necessities is cruel to a large portion of the city.

Another cent on luxuries like TVs and automobiles will drive the market to the suburbs. Atlanta's faithful business men and women will be hurting.

Confusion will be great. A Sears catalogue purchase at Ponce de Leon would be one price and at Columbia Mall another.

Restoration of the central city will slow down. People need to be invited back to the city rather than out to the suburbs.

Join our efforts to oppose the sales tax.

For more information about meetings concerning this issue, call Emmaus House, 525-5948, or the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856.

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.

CONGRESS CONSIDERS NEW FOOD STAMP LAW

Congress put more money in the Food Stamp Program to make funding a sure thing for fiscal year 1979. There will be no cut in benefits this year and prospects look a bit brighter for 1980.

In late July, a conference committee made up of selected members from the Agriculture Committees of the Senate and the House met to work out the differences between the Food Stamp bills each house had passed. The bill they agreed on contains the following provisions:

- 1) It raises the spending limit for FY 1979 by \$620 million.
- 2) It removes the \$90 limit on shelter expenses for the elderly and disabled.
- 3) It restores the medical deduction for elderly and disabled (who receive Social Security and/or SSI.)
- 4) It requires the Secretary of Agriculture to report monthly on the cost of the Food Stamp Program.
- 5) It contains some new provisions that are supposed to cut down on program abuse and fraud.

This bill will probably be voted on by the full House and Senate in September. Another law will have to be passed to raise the spending limit or, better still, to take the ceiling or "cap" off Food Stamp spending altogether so that Food Stamp benefits won't be cut in 1980. People should write or call their senators and representatives to explain to them why benefits must not be cut. Call the Poverty Rights Office (523-2856) to find out how to contact your members of Congress.

THE WELFARE MESS: WE NEED WELFARE REFORM

Everyone says that Welfare is a MESS. Rich and poor alike agree on the fact that many things are WRONG with AFDC.

THERE IS A CHANCE FOR SOME RELIEF.

Washington is considering some minor changes in present welfare laws. These are minor to most states. They are GREAT for Georgia.

AFDC payments would be larger. Families with two parents, both unemployed, would be able to get AFDC.

More people could have a job and still get some welfare and medicaid.

Everyone in the whole United States who is on AFDC would have a minimum amount to live on.

If we could persuade Congress to pass this bill it would be a Godsend to Georgia. Do you have a club or a church who might write to Washington?

For more information call Frances Pauley, 373-6735.

PPNP GOOFED ON FOOD BANK

The last issue of the Poor People's newspaper said that people needing food could be referred by agencies to the Atlanta Community Food Bank for help. That was a mistake.

Atlanta Community Food Bank, Inc. gives food only to non-profit agencies and helping organizations that serve food to needy people. It cannot help individuals directly.

"TO BE CONTINUED . . . ?"

Do you like to know how stories turn out? Wouldn't you be disappointed if a power failure cut off the last fifteen minutes of an exciting TV program, and you never found out how it ended. The PRO wants to know what happens to you after you've called us for help, and the only way we can know is for you to tell us.

We're here because we care about you, and it means a lot to us to know that things have worked out well -- you finally received the right amount of Food Stamps; the landlord repaired your dripping faucet; your stolen Social Security check was replaced; you qualified for the WIC program; or you got a new job. We love to hear good news! And remember, many people are in similar situations, and knowledge of what worked for one person can be useful for someone else.

Also, if your problem has not been solved, we want to know so that we can try to help again.

Good results, or bad, we want to hear from you.

To learn about the important issue of capital punishment, attend the Anti-Death Penalty Public Forum on September 13th at 7:30 p.m. Tom Wicker of the New York Times will be the featured speaker. Call the Georgia Committee Against the Death Penalty, 373-3253 for information about where this forum will be held.

Ms. Mathews, continued

Business men will not be paying their fair share of taxes. Some property owners will get a small rollback in their taxes, but renters will not receive one dime from the one-cent sales tax. We must vote NO on this option sales tax. The power structure and the Black middle class are using this tax increase to help themselves, and not poor peoples. You don't give government more money to make it better. You give them less money and it will be better. We have a fight on our hands. Won't you join us in this fight to help us to defeat the one cent option sales tax. We need your help. For more information call Ms. Ethel M. Mathews, President. Office number 255-5948.

Now I will leave this thought with you: Prisoners are human beings and they have those rights which no man can take away. They are not less human than any other human beings. America is their dream too.

I am yours in the struggle for human rights.

Freedom and Peace for All.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

An organization meets once a month to help poor people. It is the Georgia Welfare Rights Council. Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at Emmaus House. For more information, call Emmaus House, 525-5498. We need your participation.

Dear Friends, Readers and Supporters:

It gives me great pleasure and happiness to come to you once again to share my thoughts and ideas with you. First giving honor and thanks to God who is the head of my life. Thanking Him for His many blessings that I have received. I thank God for being a shelter in the time of storm; a leaning post in the time of need. To me God is all of this and much, much more and I just hafta thank Him. This is our 12th year together and we have been in the struggle for a long time. We have come a long way and we still have a long way to go. We can all say that things ain't what they uster be. We have struggled down through the years together for a long time and we still have a big job to do. Together we will win this battle. We must keep on working until victory is won. There comes a time when we don't speak out and keep silence. 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 to stand up and be counted. Freedom has never been given on a silver platter. You either fight to keep it or you sit back and let it be taken away from you. So I ask you this question, my peoples. What side are you on? The system is designed to strip peoples of their basic human dignity. The poor fill the prisons and are forced to commit crimes of survival. That does not mean that they are a criminal element or commit the most serious crimes in the country. What the statistics do mean is that the poor are forced by the real crooks who run the system to work for slave wages or die on welfare rolls.

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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HOW PUBLIC HOUSING IS SUPPOSED TO WORK

Poor people have a hard time finding a place where they can afford to live. In the Atlanta and surrounding area there are three main agencies a person can go to to find low-income housing. These are the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA), the Fulton County Housing Authority (FHA), and the Clayton County Housing Authority (CHA). Unfortunately, they all have waiting lists. If your housing situation is desperate, call the Poverty Rights Office when you apply for an apartment in a government project.

The AHA has certain standards a person must meet in order to be eligible for housing:

- 1) The family must be low-income. There are certain scales of income based on the size of the household.
- 2) Once a place has been found, there may be a security deposit. This is usually 25% of the family income.
- 3) The rent a family pays per month is usually 25% of the family income.
- 4) The time it takes for a person to get housing depends on several factors — the circumstances of the family and how many people are already waiting for apartments. The place to fill out applications for the AHA is 731 West Peachtree, Monday — Friday, 8:30 — 5:00. For more information, call 892-4700.

The Fulton County Housing Authority is another agency which deals with low-income housing in Fulton County only. This is the

area of Fulton County that is not within the city limits of Atlanta. To be eligible for this type of housing the family must have a certain amount of income and a certain number of people in the family. The length of time it takes a family's application to be processed depends on the circumstances of the family and on the length of the waiting list. To find out the closest place to apply or for further information, call 572-2372.

Clayton County also has a housing authority for low-income residents. Usually there must be more than one person to make up a family. For one person to make up a family the person must be over 62 years of age or must be disabled. In order to be eligible for this housing the family must have a certain amount of income. It takes from one to six months for the application to be processed. For more information, call 478-7282.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS RELATED TO HOUSING CALL THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE AT 523-2856, YOUR LOCAL EOA CENTER, OR THE HOUSING HOTLINE AT 525-1230.

Faced with Eviction?

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT

Tenants do have rights. Often landlords violate these rights particularly in the area of evictions. If you haven't paid your rent or haven't moved out at the end of your lease, your landlord may try to evict you. To avoid these problems, you should save your rent receipts and tell the landlord if you will be unable to pay the rent on time. Often, a landlord will accept your rent at a later date if you have a good rent paying record.

If your landlord does try to evict you he must obey the law. He cannot lock up your apartment or put your things on the street. He can't threaten to cut-off your gas, water or lights. If your landlord violates your rights in any of these ways, contact a lawyer immediately, because the landlord is breaking the law.

In order to evict you legally, your landlord must first go to court and file a dispossessory warrant. Once this is done, a Marshall from the Court will deliver a copy of the warrant to you. If the Marshall cannot deliver the warrant personally, then he can "tack" it to your door. In this case, he must also send you a copy of the warrant in the mail. Whenever you get a warrant, you should contact a lawyer right away.

A dispossessory warrant is either a brown or white paper with an affidavit on top and a summons on its bottom portion. The affidavit is a statement of the landlord under oath that he has asked you to move because you either have not paid your rent, have failed to move out at the end of your lease or, in his opinion, have failed to live up to your rental agreement in some other way. The summons is an order from the court telling you what to do about the dispossessory warrant. It tells you when and how to answer

the warrant. You may either make your answer to the Court orally or in writing at the place and time stated on the warrant. You should do something about your warrant immediately. If you don't, the Court will order the Marshall to put your things in the street.

Call a lawyer to help you answer your warrant. When you answer your warrant the landlord can ask the Court to order you to pay your rent to the Court. If you do this, you can stay in your apartment unless the Court decides at your hearing that the landlord has the right to put you outdoors. If you are able, you are entitled to pay the rent you owe plus the cost of the warrant so that you won't be evicted. This must be done within seven (7) days after receiving the warrant. If your landlord accepts your rent money, make sure that he also dismisses the warrant which he has filed against you. The landlord is not required to accept this money if he accepted your rent after issuing a dispossessory warrant against you in the past twelve months.

You should have a lawyer help you when you answer a warrant. If you fail to answer a warrant, after 14 days the Court will order the Marshall to put your things out in the street. The landlord can never legally remove you from your house; only the Marshall or Sheriff can. If your things are moved out illegally, you should contact a lawyer at once.

Being involved in an eviction process is very difficult and trying. However, you do have rights as a tenant and you may be able to win. If you are faced with eviction, contact the Poverty Rights Office or a lawyer as soon as possible. For the name of someone who can give you free legal assistance call 523-2856.

Keeping Warm

NEW RULES MAY HELP

As cold weather approaches again, all of us are worrying about high heating bills. Last winter was rough and this year may be even worse. Georgia Action, the citizens' action group which tries to represent the peoples' interests to the Public Service Commission and to the utility companies, has a number of proposals before the PSC. One of the most important points would be a requirement that customers be given more warning (at least 45 days after receipt of a bill) before their utilities are shut off. Also being proposed is a requirement that the utilities provide customers with more information about their rights, such as spreading out payments on overdue bills, requesting a review of their cases, and not being shut off if a medical or cold weather emergency exists.

These proposals and others are now being considered, and their adoption would mean fairer treatment of utility company customers. Until new regulations are decided upon, it is difficult to know exactly what you can do; the thing to remember is that there are steps you may be able to take to prevent loss of service.

To get more information about the new rules or to join Georgia Action in the struggle, please call 873-2223.

Kindergarten is now available to all children in the state of Georgia. Children over the age of five by this September 1st have the right to attend kindergarten in the public schools. All regular school services, including physical education, recreation and transportation to and from school, should be offered to all children. Enroll your child at your neighborhood school today.

Ms. Mathews, Continued

Those who refuse to live or die by the rules go to prison and perhaps the electric chair. But what is important for all Black people to understand is that this whole system of poverty, drugs, slum housing, lack of medical care for the poor and elderly and all the rest of it is not an accident. It's not natural and it's not the fault of the poor. It is a monstrous crime committed by the system against the poor and Blacks. The poor Whites and the Blacks are the victims of this crime — the Blacks especially. The rich aren't executed. The Welfare Rights Council is planning a poor peoples march the week before Thanksgiving. We need your help. Please come and help us plan it. For more information, call Ms. Ethel M. Mathews (525-5948).

Now I will share this thought with you. The day before tomorrow is a very special day and I feel I should live it in a happy kind of way.

Yours in the struggle, power and peace to all poor and oppressed peoples.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

TEMPORARY HOUSING

Do you need immediate short-term housing? Temporary housing is available from some agencies in Atlanta. In some places children are accepted; in some places there is a small fee and in some places meals are provided. A list of agencies which offer temporary housing are:

Salvation Army	688-2884
Boys Lodge	881-6952
Union Mission	874-0891
YMCA - YWCA	525-5401 - 892-6374
Travelers Aid	523-0585

It is best, if you need temporary housing, that you call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856, or your local EOA Center. Most of the agencies which provide temporary housing only accept clients who are referred from another agency.

Season's Greetings, best wishes, and a happy Thanksgiving Day to all:

Am so happy to be back with you again to share my thoughts with you again, first giving honor and praises to God, who is my supreme Being and my Source of everything. I want to thank all of my readers, my friends and my supporters for a job well done in defeating the one cent sales tax, by working and coming together for the same cause the victory was won. But we can't stop here, the struggle still goes on. And it is later than we think. Inflation is rising day by day and we who are poor and oppressed are feeling the pinch the most. We are the last to be hired and we are the first to be fired. If we are to remain a free society, we as individuals must re-assert the responsibility for personally addressing the problem. Black peoples are a nation behind bars. The system and the administration and society try to make us feel that prisoners are not like us and that they are losers. But we have to stand up for our sisters and brothers and let society know that they are very much like us and that they are human beings and we do care. We are our own liberators and it is the will of our people to live free from oppression and exploitation. There is no justice in the Courts, there is only justice in the masses of people. The rich man will never be affected because he makes the law to suit himself, the system is designed to strip people of their basic human dignity. Now I will share this thought with you. *Tomorrow is so mysterious that I really can't foresee the things that might happen and the way life might be.*

All Power to the Struggle for Peace – Freedom for All.

Ms. Ethel M. Matthews

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CONGRESS WILL ACT ON WELFARE, FOOD STAMPS, ENERGY

Right now is a crucial time for poor people, especially in the South where welfare benefits are so low that people don't have enough to live on. The reason that this fall is a time of real crisis is that the Congress in Washington is voting on three important measures that can really change things for poor people and make the difference between making it or not making it for many people in Georgia. The three laws that Congress is considering concern welfare reform, food stamps, and assistance with energy costs.

– WELFARE REFORM –

A bill is now before the House of Representatives that would be of great help to every family in this state that gets AFDC. The bill (HR 4904) would: Give all AFDC families an increase in their checks; let more working mothers get AFDC checks and Medicaid; make it possible for a family to get benefits when both parents are at home but are unemployed because there are not jobs for them; and let pregnant women get AFDC benefits. Wyche Fowler is helping to sponsor this bill. Tell other Georgia Congressmen to vote for this because poor children really need help.

– FOOD STAMPS –

The Congress is also considering a bill to put enough money into the Food Stamp

Program so that there will be no cut back in food stamps next year. The House Agriculture Committee is writing a food stamp law for 1980 and 1981 right now and the full Congress will be voting on it, probably in December. It is important to tell Congressmen to take the spending ceiling off food stamps (to remove the "cap") and to make food stamps easier for people to get, not harder. If Congress does not take off the limit they have put on how much money can be spent on food stamps, the Food Stamp Program will run out of money in June, 1980.

– ENERGY COSTS –

Many people are going to find it impossible to pay higher-than-ever energy costs this winter. The administration is requesting a supplemental appropriation for cash grants to help low-income families pay their heating bills. There are so many versions being discussed that it is hard to know which might pass, but it is very important to tell Congress how badly SOME HELP is needed.

Your Senators and Representatives need to hear from you on these vital questions. Please call or visit their offices in your district. To find out their phone numbers or local addresses, call the PRO 523-2856.

—:— —:— —:—

WHAT IS A DISPLACED HOMEMAKER?

Displaced homemakers were unheard of ten years ago. This is a term used to describe middle-aged women who must become the sole financial support for themselves and their families, either because of divorce, illness or death of a husband, or because children are grown and the family is no longer eligible for AFDC.

These women need advice and help in getting jobs, and now it is available. Congress has set aside \$5 million in 1980 CETA funds for this purpose. Atlanta started a program last spring, which is a model for programs starting this fall in Savannah, Augusta and Columbus. Lora Novak, project manager describes the program as one that builds self-esteem and teaches women how to write a resume, interview for a job, choose a working wardrobe, be assertive, and locate jobs. Several women found jobs right away, and others enrolled for vocational training at Atlanta Area Tech or Georgia State.

A workshop will be held at the Tuxedo Center in November. The project serves women 35 years of age and older who must provide the main support of the family and are ineligible for welfare assistance or social security benefits.

To apply, a person should call the project office at 758-9451, extension 230. A personal interview is required with each eligible applicant.

PROJECT RESCUE HELPS RETARDED PEOPLE

Do you know someone who is mentally retarded or who has a retarded child? If you do, please tell them about Project Rescue, a program set up to help retarded citizens. There are outreach workers available to teach homemaking skills, budgeting and infant and child care. They can also help clients find suitable schools, as well as job training and job placement. *The Project Rescue phone number is 351-2463.*

UPDATE ON UTILITY SHUT-OFF REGULATIONS

Proposals for more reasonable shut-off regulations are being considered by the Public Service Commission right now. A lot of people are going to have trouble paying higher-than-ever heating bills this winter, and the new rules would offer greater protection for those who fall behind on their payments.

If you believe that customers deserve a fairer deal from the utility companies, and you want your voice to be heard, call MR. BOBBY PAFFORD (PSC Chairman): 656-4556, and tell him you support the shut-off regulations proposed by Georgia Action.

Be sure to call before November 20!

LEGISLATURE PLANS AFDC BUDGET

Making a state budget never ends. When one is done the next begins. Now is the time to take a deep breath, stand tall, with a determined effort to go forth to persuade the Legislature to face the truth about poor people. Talk NOW to the Governor and to your Legislators. Ask them to put MORE MONEY in the SUPPLEMENTAL budget for AFDC grants.

It is said that there is over \$100 MILLION in SURPLUS money at the Capitol. This is money collected mostly from our sales tax and also some left-over unspent money from last year. The Highway Department is asking for some \$23.6 million ABOVE what they already get.

LET US ASK AN EQUAL AMOUNT FOR POOR PEOPLE. Is it Pot holes or People? How should the Legislature spend our money?

Make sure your own Legislature will work for larger AFDC grants. Then either go to see your Legislator or write to him or her at: Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

NEW PROJECT CAN HELP ELDERLY ON MEDICAID

A new program called The Alternative Health Services Project serves elderly people who get Medicaid. The project can provide supervised housing, homemakers, visiting nurses, and daily visits to community centers where older citizens can be with other people their own age and receive hot nutritious meals and help with their health problems.

Current Medicaid recipients who live in the 17 counties of the Atlanta and Athens area and who are 50 years of age and have a physical disability are eligible for the program. A person who receives services from the project does not lose any Medicaid benefits or any other benefits he is already getting.

The Alternative Health Services Project is a research program funded by HEW. It is designed to show that an elderly person who is faced with going into a nursing home can instead continue to live in the community if he or she gets some needed help. At this time federal regulations require that only a limited number of people who apply for the program will get services. Approximately three out of four eligible applicants will receive services. This is required so that research can evaluate whether the program is effective. With public support and approval by the Georgia Legislature services can be available to all eligible people in 1980.

If you know an elderly person receiving Medicaid who is faced with going into a nursing home but could continue to live in the community with some medical or household help and would like to participate in this program, call The Alternative Health Services Project at 894-4404.

Letter from a reader. . . .

Back in 1977 I had to take my granddaughter. My son-in-law is in prison and my daughter was having problems, both financial and mental. I am a widow but work every day but bring home less than \$125 a week. My daughter lost almost everything she had, and sometimes didn't have enough to eat. But she kept trying until she overcome most of her problems. I applied for welfare assistance. They gave the child \$66 for a year, then \$69, then 3 months ago \$74. The last 2 months they gave her \$80. I appreciate that, but to send a child to school and all the other extras, all of my bills are behind now. Now that my daughter is able to take her child back, I can take a second job and catch up my bills. What upsets me is that even tho my son-in-law is still in prison and my daughter can take her child back. The Human Resources is making my daughter pay back the money that was given to me to help support the child. I think she should still be getting some help for her child, because her husband is still in prison. It really upsets me every time I look at my paycheck and know that the money that my granddaughter got was my daughter's, my 3 sons', and my tax dollars and now she has to pay back what was really ours anyway. And now the child needs braces which her mother is not able to get because she has to pay back \$100 a month.

Thanks for listening,
The PRO has obtained legal help for this woman, and we believe that her daughter will NOT have to pay back any money.

The "Feed The Hungry Foundation" is planning to provide Christmas baskets again this year to families in need. Applications are being taken NOW at neighborhood EOA and welfare offices (Department of Family and Children's Services). The foundation needs to have the applications really early so that the baskets will be delivered to each family on time.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year:

It is indeed a pleasure for me to come and share my thoughts with you once again. First, giving thanks and praises to God, who is my Supreme Being. He is my bridge over troubled waters, my leaning post when I am very weak. God is my all and all; He is my everything. Let us all welcome the New Year in with thanks, love, joy, peace and hope. It is so good to be alive in spite of all our problems. We have fought a good battle but there is much more work to be done. Where there is no struggle there is no progress.

I want to give you this information: If you need quality dentures for a low price (full upper and lower plates or economy partial dentures) call the Poverty Rights Office. They will refer you to a dentist who will help you.

I want to leave this thought with you: *The day before tomorrow is a very special day and I feel I should live it in a happy kind of way.*

Yours in the Struggle for Love, Peace and Freedom for ALL.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

P.S. There will be a Poor People's March on Thursday, January 31, 1980 at the State Capitol at 12 noon. We need your help. Please come out and make your voices heard. For more information, call 525-5948.

Parents who do NOT receive AFDC should call the Salvation Army at a special number, 873-1327, for food and/or toys for Christmas. Parents who DO receive AFDC must ask their caseworkers for help with Christmas food and toys. These AFDC families may be referred by caseworkers to the Salvation Army for food and to either the Empty Stocking Fund or the Salvation Army for toys.

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POOR PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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In this, the last month of the International Year of the Child, the Poor Peoples' Newspaper focuses on children.

U. N. DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

1. The right to affection, love, and understanding.
2. The right to adequate nutrition and medical care.
3. The right to free education.
4. The right to full opportunity for play and recreation.
5. The right to a name and nationality.
6. The right to special care if handicapped.
7. The right to be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster.
8. The right to be a useful member of society and to develop individual abilities.
9. The right to be brought up in a spirit of universal brotherhood.
10. The right to enjoy these rights regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national or social origin.

Congratulations to Father Austin Ford of Emmaus House who received the Civil Liberties Award for 1979 from the ACLU of Georgia. The award recognized Fr. Ford's efforts "to make the world safe for children" and to protect the rights of all children everywhere.

Juvenile Justice

UNDERSTAND THE SYSTEM

Your child has been accused of ripping off a shirt from Rich's and you have to go to Juvenile Court with him/her. You're confused, and to make everything worse, you've heard horror stories about other kids being taken from their parents by the Juvenile Court. What do you do now?

This scene is familiar to many parents. A visit to Juvenile Court can be scary for both kids and parents. To figure out what happens in Juvenile Court, a brief "dictionary" is helpful.

Juvenile — in Georgia this means any person under 17 years old. This age varies from state to state.

Juvenile Court — the court that handles all cases where kids who have not reached their 17th birthdays are charged with crimes or charged with status offenses.

Status Offender — a juvenile who is charged with an offense which would not be a crime if it were committed by an adult. Such offenses include, but aren't limited to, truancy, running away from home, and unruly behavior.

Petition — the official paper stating exactly what it is that the child is accused of doing wrong. It is usually prepared by the local county attorney based upon information

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Juvenile Justice — *continued*

from the police. A copy of the petition *must* be given to the child and parents before the court hearings begin in the case.

Respondent — the young person who is charged.

Arraignment — the court hearing where the child is asked to admit or deny the charge made against him/her in the petition.

Summons — the paper given to or mailed to the child and the parents ordering them to come to court at a specific time and place to respond to the petition.

Detention — when juveniles are held in custody, either in jail or a detention center.

Detention Hearing — a court proceeding, held to determine whether or not a child who is in detention or charged with a crime should be released.

Delinquent — a child who has broken the laws of the city, state or nation.

Disposition — the decision of the court on what should happen to the child. It is like the sentence for an adult.

Disposition Hearing — where the child, his/her family, his/her attorney, and community advocates can make recommendations to the Court about what would be reasonable disposition.

Prosecutor — the lawyer for the county. He is very powerful.

Referee — some of the hearings go before a referee rather than the actual judge. He/she acts as Judge and his/her decision, in most cases, is final.

Being familiar with the words that the court uses should help in understanding what is happening in Juvenile Court. **Remember** — do not wait for the Court to give you a state-appointed lawyer. You and your child have *the right* to counsel from the start of the legal process. Generally, the court lawyers in juvenile cases are pretty good.

For the names of private lawyers who can help in juvenile cases, call the Poverty Rights Office, 523-2856.

AVAILABLE HELP FOR YOUTH IN TROUBLE

The Neighborhood Justice Center

Many times our young people become involved in incidents and end up in court. Sometimes this can't be avoided but at times there are other things you can do. The Neighborhood Justice Center offers a **free** mediation service as an alternative to the hassles and costs of the courts. They can help with juvenile problems such as fighting, vandalism, and family disagreements, as well as with adult problems. Call the Center at 523-8236, or visit their office at 1118 Euclid Ave., N.E.

Status Offenders Program

There is a program to help status offenders between the ages of 13 and 17. The Status Offender Diversion Project is an in-depth counseling program which can help these young people and their families through a crisis. For more information call 875-0184.

Shelter For Teenagers

Many young people who are put out of their homes or who run away need a place to stay while they work their family problems out. Many teenagers who live at home have a lot of problems with their families.

There are two places in Atlanta that may be able to help these teenagers and their families. One of them is called the Truck Stop and is for young men, ages 13 to 17. They have an emergency shelter where the young men can stay for up to 14 days. These young men can be referred to Truck Stop by another agency or they can go there on their own. For more information, call 875-0184 or go by the office at 26 Peachtree Pl.

Young women between the ages of 12 and 19 can find shelter and in-depth counseling in the Salvation Army Girl's Lodge. The young women can be referred or they can go there on their own. For more information, call 881-6953 or go by the office at 848 Peachtree St., N. E.

LOSING YOUR COOL WITH YOUR KIDS?

It's hard to be a parent. Kids are not always the way we expect them to be. Sometimes you can get so mad or so tired that you lose your cool.

Sometimes the only answer seems to be abusing the child. There are six different kinds of child abuse: physical abuse, physical neglect, emotional abuse, holding back love, attacking the child with words, and sexual abuse.

Most parents do one or more of these things. This does not mean that they have an abuse problem.

But, when parents repeat abuse so that it becomes a pattern, then parents have an abuse problem. Most of these parents love their children very much, but they lose control of themselves.

In Georgia last year, there were 2000 child abuse cases reported. Twenty-six children died of abuse; twelve of them were babies.

In the past, if you were reported, someone came and took your child to a foster home. Now there's another answer to problems with parents and children. "Parents Anonymous" is the name of a group that believes children can stay in their homes and that parents can learn to be happy with themselves and with their children. Step-parents and others are welcome to join this organization. Many people who join can remember when they were children and when adults abused them.

In Parents Anonymous (P.A.) there are no dues, and no one has to tell last names or "admit" their problems with children. P.A. is a way of parents helping each other find different ways to cope. If you would like to find out more about a Parents Anonymous group, call Bonnie Alexander at 872-2857.

A program to help poor people get through the winter by paying some of their high energy costs will begin sometime during December. If you need help because of high fuel/utility bills call your local welfare office or your neighborhood EOA center about the Energy Crisis Assistance Program.

THE BRIDGE OFFERS HELP FOR FAMILY PROBLEMS

Is there a young person you know who has a lot of problems and needs counseling? An agency called the Bridge may be able to help. Sometimes parents have a hard time dealing with the children and sometimes children have a hard time dealing with their parents. If these problems are really getting severe it is important for families to seek help now.

The Bridge charges a fee according to what the family can afford to pay. For further information, call 881-8346 or go by the Bridge office at 848 Peachtree Street, N. E.

CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS TO SSA, SSI BENEFITS

Most people think of Social Security as being a program for the elderly, but children can benefit as well. Regular Social Security benefits can be paid if the child's mother or father becomes disabled or dies, or if a parent reaches the age of 62 before the child is 18 (provided the parent has worked long enough under Social Security).

Children can receive survivors benefits until they are 18 and from 18-22 if they are full-time students in high school, trade school or college.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applies also to children from the day of their birth. A child who is blind, mentally retarded, handicapped, or disabled might be eligible, even if living at home, depending on the income of his or her family. Children who receive SSI benefits are also eligible for Medicaid, which pays for medical bills and prescriptions.

Dear Friends, Readers and Supporters:

It gives me great pleasure and happiness to come to you once again to share my thoughts and ideas with you. First giving honor and thanks to God who is the head of my life. Thanking Him for His many blessings that I have received. I thank God for being a shelter in the time of storm; a leaning post in the time of need. To me God is all of this and much, much more and I just hafta thank Him. This is our 12th year together and we have been in the struggle for a long time. We have come a long way and we still have a long way to go. We can all say that things ain't what they uster be. We have struggled down through the years together for a long time and we still have a big job to do. Together we will win this battle. We must keep on working until victory is won. There comes a time when we don't speak out and keep silence. 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 to stand up and be counted. Freedom has never been given on a silver platter. You either fight to keep it or you sit back and let it be taken away from you. So I ask you this question, my peoples. What side are you on? The system is designed to strip peoples of their basic human dignity. The poor fill the prisons and are forced to commit crimes of survival. That does not mean that they are a criminal element or commit the most serious crimes in the country. What the statistics do mean is that the poor are forced by the real crooks who run the system to work for slave wages or die on welfare rolls.

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HOW PUBLIC HOUSING IS SUPPOSED TO WORK

Poor people have a hard time finding a place where they can afford to live. In the Atlanta and surrounding area there are three main agencies a person can go to to find low-income housing. These are the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA), the Fulton County Housing Authority (FHA), and the Clayton County Housing Authority (CHA). Unfortunately, they all have waiting lists. If your housing situation is desperate, call the Poverty Rights Office when you apply for an apartment in a government project.

The AHA has certain standards a person must meet in order to be eligible for housing:

- 1) The family must be low-income. There are certain scales of income based on the size of the household.
- 2) Once a place has been found, there may be a security deposit. This is usually 25% of the family income.
- 3) The rent a family pays per month is usually 25% of the family income.
- 4) The time it takes for a person to get housing depends on several factors — the circumstances of the family and how many people are already waiting for apartments. The place to fill out applications for the AHA is 731 West Peachtree, Monday — Friday, 8:30 — 5:00. For more information, call 892-4700.

The Fulton County Housing Authority is another agency which deals with low-income housing in Fulton County only. This is the

area of Fulton County that is not within the city limits of Atlanta. To be eligible for this type of housing the family must have a certain amount of income and a certain number of people in the family. The length of time it takes a family's application to be processed depends on the circumstances of the family and on the length of the waiting list. To find out the closest place to apply or for further information, call 572-2372.

Clayton County also has a housing authority for low-income residents. Usually there must be more than one person to make up a family. For one person to make up a family the person must be over 62 years of age or must be disabled. In order to be eligible for this housing the family must have a certain amount of income. It takes from one to six months for the application to be processed. For more information, call 478-7282.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS RELATED TO HOUSING CALL THE POVERTY RIGHTS OFFICE AT 523-2856, YOUR LOCAL EOA CENTER, OR THE HOUSING HOTLINE AT 525-1230.

Faced with Eviction?

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A TENANT

Tenants do have rights. Often landlords violate these rights particularly in the area of evictions. If you haven't paid your rent or haven't moved out at the end of your lease, your landlord may try to evict you. To avoid these problems, you should save your rent receipts and tell the landlord if you will be unable to pay the rent on time. Often, a landlord will accept your rent at a later date if you have a good rent paying record.

If your landlord does try to evict you he must obey the law. He cannot lock up your apartment or put your things on the street. He can't threaten to cut-off your gas, water or lights. If your landlord violates your rights in any of these ways, contact a lawyer immediately, because the landlord is breaking the law.

In order to evict you legally, your landlord must first go to court and file a dispossessory warrant. Once this is done, a Marshall from the Court will deliver a copy of the warrant to you. If the Marshall cannot deliver the warrant personally, then he can "tack" it to your door. In this case, he must also send you a copy of the warrant in the mail. Whenever you get a warrant, you should contact a lawyer right away.

A dispossessory warrant is either a brown or white paper with an affidavit on top and a summons on its bottom portion. The affidavit is a statement of the landlord under oath that he has asked you to move because you either have not paid your rent, have failed to move out at the end of your lease or, in his opinion, have failed to live up to your rental agreement in some other way. The summons is an order from the court telling you what to do about the dispossessory warrant. It tells you when and how to answer

the warrant. You may either make your answer to the Court orally or in writing at the place and time stated on the warrant. You should do something about your warrant immediately. If you don't, the Court will order the Marshall to put your things in the street.

Call a lawyer to help you answer your warrant. When you answer your warrant the landlord can ask the Court to order you to pay your rent to the Court. If you do this, you can stay in your apartment unless the Court decides at your hearing that the landlord has the right to put you outdoors. If you are able, you are entitled to pay the rent you owe plus the cost of the warrant so that you won't be evicted. This must be done within seven (7) days after receiving the warrant. If your landlord accepts your rent money, make sure that he also dismisses the warrant which he has filed against you. The landlord is not required to accept this money if he accepted your rent after issuing a dispossessory warrant against you in the past twelve months.

You should have a lawyer help you when you answer a warrant. If you fail to answer a warrant, after 14 days the Court will order the Marshall to put your things out in the street. The landlord can never legally remove you from your house; only the Marshall or Sheriff can. If your things are moved out illegally, you should contact a lawyer at once.

Being involved in an eviction process is very difficult and trying. However, you do have rights as a tenant and you may be able to win. If you are faced with eviction, contact the Poverty Rights Office or a lawyer as soon as possible. For the name of someone who can give you free legal assistance call 523-2856.

Keeping Warm

NEW RULES MAY HELP

As cold weather approaches again, all of us are worrying about high heating bills. Last winter was rough and this year may be even worse. Georgia Action, the citizens' action group which tries to represent the peoples' interests to the Public Service Commission and to the utility companies, has a number of proposals before the PSC. One of the most important points would be a requirement that customers be given more warning (at least 45 days after receipt of a bill) before their utilities are shut off. Also being proposed is a requirement that the utilities provide customers with more information about their rights, such as spreading out payments on overdue bills, requesting a review of their cases, and not being shut off if a medical or cold weather emergency exists.

These proposals and others are now being considered, and their adoption would mean fairer treatment of utility company customers. Until new regulations are decided upon, it is difficult to know exactly what you can do; the thing to remember is that there are steps you may be able to take to prevent loss of service.

To get more information about the new rules or to join Georgia Action in the struggle, please call 873-2223.

Kindergarten is now available to all children in the state of Georgia. Children over the age of five by this September 1st have the right to attend kindergarten in the public schools. All regular school services, including physical education, recreation and transportation to and from school, should be offered to all children. Enroll your child at your neighborhood school today.

Ms. Mathews, Continued

Those who refuse to live or die by the rules go to prison and perhaps the electric chair. But what is important for all Black people to understand is that this whole system of poverty, drugs, slum housing, lack of medical care for the poor and elderly and all the rest of it is not an accident. It's not natural and it's not the fault of the poor. It is a monstrous crime committed by the system against the poor and Blacks. The poor Whites and the Blacks are the victims of this crime — the Blacks especially. The rich aren't executed. The Welfare Rights Council is planning a poor peoples march the week before Thanksgiving. We need your help. Please come and help us plan it. For more information, call Ms. Ethel M. Mathews (525-5948).

Now I will share this thought with you. The day before tomorrow is a very special day and I feel I should live it in a happy kind of way.

Yours in the struggle, power and peace to all poor and oppressed peoples.

Ms. Ethel M. Mathews

TEMPORARY HOUSING

Do you need immediate short-term housing? Temporary housing is available from some agencies in Atlanta. In some places children are accepted; in some places there is a small fee and in some places meals are provided. A list of agencies which offer temporary housing are:

Salvation Army	688-2884
Boys Lodge	881-6952
Union Mission	874-0891
YMCA - YWCA	525-5401 892-6374
Travelers Aid	523-0585

It is best, if you need temporary housing, that you call the Poverty Rights Office at 523-2856, or your local EOA Center. Most of the agencies which provide temporary housing only accept clients who are referred from another agency.