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WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
San Diego, California

March 1971

Dear Friends:

The Welfare Rights Organization is a self-help organization of welfare recipients formed to make it possible to achieve by group action what cannot be done acting alone. The San Diego organization is linked with the National WRO whose goal is ADEQUATE INCOME--NOW. That means decent jobs with adequate pay for those who work, and adequate income for those who cannot work. National WRO is dedicated to a welfare system that guarantees the following:

1. Adequate income--a system that guarantees $5,500 for a family of four.

2. Dignity--a system that guarantees freedom, rights and respect for all.

3. Justice--a system which guarantees full protection of the constitution.

4. Democracy--a system which guarantees recipients a part in the decisions that effect them.

For the past 5 years WRO has been actively trying to achieve the above objectives. It has helped recipients know and obtain their rights; get more money for things they needed; won appeals at fair hearings; changed welfare policies and practices; secured revision of the District Attorney's Paternity Guestionnaire (which had invaded the privacy of recipients); influenced the start of the Commodity Distribution Program, secured a clothing allowance for welfare children in September 1970.

It has also tried to help others understand what the welfare system does to people and to interpret the needs and aspirations of persons who are poor in the midst of affluence.

The recipients themselves do not have the financial resources necessary to maintain an office and costs of communication needed to coordinate the advocacy services. Friends of WRO is a national group organized to assist local WRO chapters.

You may become a Friend of WRO by sending a contribution of ten dollars ($10,00) One dollar is sent to the National headquarters and helps pay for a newspaper "The Welfare Fighter" which will be sent to you monthly. You will also be kept informed about the San Diego WRO. We need your help.

Send your check payable to Welfare Rights Organization, 3880 Franklin, San Diego, 92113.

Sincerely,
Merkel Harris

Merkel Harris

Movement to Outlaw Poverty
390 South 39th Street
San Diego, Ca. 92113

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MORE WILL LIVE
THE MORE YOU GIVE
HEART FUND

Dot Lloyd
2650 Loring St.
San Diego, CA 92109

THE WELFARE CRISIS II
March 1971

Medi-Cal. AB-20, the first attempt in the assembly to restore cuts in Medi-Cal met with defeat. Gordon Duffy, chairman of Assembly Health Comm. will issue a report of Medi-Cal and introduce legislation to restore cuts. Republican Assemblymen are the key to passage since most of them voted against AB-20. Write San Diego Assemblymen Barnes, Pete Wilson and Stull urging passage of the Duffy bill.

Gov. Reagan and Welfare. A proposal by Governor Reagan is forthcoming for welfare reform. It will not deal with the real crisis in welfare, nor with inadequate AFDC grants. It will be designed to reduce state expenditures for welfare. Reagan keeps his popularity among the rich at the expense of the poor.

Congressman Mills and Welfare. Wilbur Mills, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, opposes President Nixon's revenue sharing plan. Apparently Mills does not trust state and local officials to make good use of unrestricted federal funds. Gov. Reagan's recent action in cutting legal and health services for the poor gives Mills a prime illustration. However, Mills is sympathetic toward states lacking funds for welfare and has proposed that the federal government assume the entire cost of welfare. National Democrat Party Chairman O'Brien agrees. State Senator Clair Burgener has proposed same in a resolution in Sacramento.

Federal take over of welfare is a positive step in welfare reform. It recognizes that poverty is a national problem. Poverty and welfare can only be eliminated by federal legislative action. It protects welfare recipients from exploitive politicians and can be the basis for solving the welfare crisis by moving toward an adequate income maintenance system.

President Nixon and Welfare. President Nixon used his State of the Union address to solicit support for his Family Assistance Plan that met defeat in the 91st Congress. Speaking about welfare he said "...we must meet the challenge not by pouring more money into the old system, but by abolishing it and adopting a new one." Then he spelled out his FAP, as though, he was proposing a new system which FAP is not. In fact FAP does just what he said should not be done "pour more money into the old system". It will add more people to the welfare rolls at a cost of $4 billion. Such double talk reminds us of a politician dubbed "Tricky Dick".

The MOVEMENT TO OUTLAW POVERTY seeks the enactment of legislation that would provide a federally financed income maintenance system at a level that would eliminate poverty and the welfare system. Therefore, we oppose the Family Assistance plan which does neither. We support a federal takeover of the welfare system which solves the crisis at the state and county levels relieving both of these jurisdictions from having to fund welfare. The next step is replacing welfare with an adequate income maintenance system. Recent correspondence with COMMON CAUSE a new national lobby led by John Gardener and with 90,000 members indicates this organization is giving top priority to moving the congress to pass an adequate income maintenance bill.

What to Do

1. Write Congressmen Wilbur Mills and James Corman (House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515) in support of federal takeover of welfare; rejection of the Family Assistance Plan in favor of an adequate income maintenance system that will eliminate both welfare and poverty.
2. Write or phone San Diego state senators and assemblymen urging them to reject Gov. Reagan's welfare reform and support federal takeover of welfare.
3. Send a check for $10 to the Welfare Rights Organization. Become a Friend of WRO.

by Dick Schwitzgebel, Chairman
Movement to Outlaw Poverty 390 South 39 San Diego, Ca 92113