

are eligible for 45 razor blades per year. Under pressure to save money, it is all too easy to forget one or another of these detailed allowances when computing a family budget. And the result is that underbudgeting is rampant.

In many jurisdictions, the law also prescribes special allowances for recipients to purchase heavy clothing or household furnishings. These grants are not ordinarily incorporated as part of the family's regular semimonthly check, but are to be requested as needed.

However, people cannot request a grant that is kept secret, and even when they do inadvertently learn of their eligibility, their requests are often turned down or trimmed down. The resulting economy runs into hundreds of millions of dollars.

Across the country, the National Welfare Rights Organization has been mobilizing massive campaigns of recipients to obtain these special allowances. It prints and distributes the applications which welfare departments will not release, and it stages demonstrations in welfare centers until the completed forms are honored and checks issued.

The National Welfare Rights Organization is doing government's work—and doing it very well, indeed. In New York City, for example, more than \$10 million in special grants have been obtained in just the last 5 weeks as a result of such campaigns.

Ladies and gentlemen, your deliberations on the inadequacies of the present public welfare system are timely, if somewhat tardy. The poor are also deliberating; more than that, they are acting. If you do not reform this system, it seems likely to me that they will.

(The following item was included with Mr. Cloward's statement:)

[From the New York Times, May 30, 1968]

TELL IT LIKE IT IS: DIGALO COMO ES

WELFARE SIT-INS NETTING MILLIONS

Protest Unit Says City Aid Has Risen by \$3 Million

(By John Kifner)

A drive by organized welfare recipients has won for them \$3 million in increased benefits in the last five weeks, the group estimates.

The campaign has taken the form of demonstrations and sit-ins at welfare centers throughout the city—particularly in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Welfare recipients have demanded that they be granted money immediately for clothing and household and furnishings.

The drive is being directed by the Citywide Coordinating Committee of Welfare Groups, a federation of more than 40 neighborhood organizations of welfare recipients, which works out of a dingy third-floor office at 514 West 126th Street.

Hulbert James, the committee's director, estimated that the drive had won the participants an average of \$300 to \$400 a family. He estimated the total gain at over \$3 million.

Department Kept "Busy"

The city's Department of Social Services said that it did have an estimate of the amount of additional grants prompted by the campaign.

"We're so busy filling out the forms, we haven't had time to add it up," one official said.

Jack Goldberg, the Commissioner of Social Services, said that the sometimes unruly demonstrations—which have included sit-ins of several days' duration and the closing of centers—were "the kind of problem we're going to have until we really face the issue of changing our system."

"This department ought to be providing services to people," he said, "and get out of the business of having people coming as supplicants and saying they need