

something and having an individual judgment made. We need some form of a guaranteed income, and this is clearly something the city isn't going to be able to solve by itself."

The citywide committee grew out of the organization of neighborhood groups of welfare clients over the last three years. Much of this organizing was done by city antipoverty workers, who discovered that complaints against the welfare system were one of the most pressing issues among the poor. Church, civil rights and community groups joined the effort.

"Minimum Standards" Asked

The focus of their campaign is "minimum standards"—the basic items of clothing, furniture and household equipment that each client is supposed to have, according to the department's regulations.

Often, welfare workers and officials concede, these items have not been issued.

The coordinating committee and other welfare-recipient groups have been distributing mimeographed check lists of the "minimum standard" items.

Armed with the check lists, groups of from 10 to 100 clients have descended at least once a week on each of nine welfare centers in Brooklyn over the last five weeks.

In the Bronx, according to Mr. James' figures, a demonstration at the Melrose and Kingsbridge centers for Easter clothing and furnishings resulted in grants of \$35,000. A three-day-and-two-night sit-in, beginning May 6, brought \$100,000 for another group of clients.

More than a hundred people, most of them mothers, stood behind police barriers yesterday afternoon outside the gray building at 161st Street and Morris Avenue that houses both the Kingsbridge and Melrose centers.

A few caseworkers from the Kingsbridge Center went out, found their clients in the line and took them inside.

But the first floor area of the Melrose Center was occupied by more than 150 demonstrators—most of whom had been there since Monday—and the caseworkers had left. When negotiations with the center's director, Mrs. Mathilde Hochmeister, broke down, the demonstrators settled in for another night.

At the Tremont Welfare Center at 1813 Arthur Avenue in the Bronx, 200 mothers on welfare were also preparing to spend the night after a fruitless day of filling out forms and seeking "minimum standards" and emergency aid.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Thank you very much, Professor Cloward.

Mr. Bolling?

Representative BOLLING. I would like to have more detail as to the techniques that are used to keep the poor from achieving their eligibility. I come from a State which is not famous for its generosity in dealing with the poor, the State of Missouri. We constantly have a problem with one or another of the techniques that are used by States to take advantage of the full amount of the Federal money which is made available, but see to it that the poor benefit as little as possible from the intent of the Congress. In no sense am I indicating by that remark that I believe the Congress has even kept pace with the problem, much less advanced in dealing with it, at any time in my 20 years here. But I am curious as to more detail on the chamber of horrors of techniques that are used to prevent the poor from receiving even what is provided in what I consider to be an inadequate law.

Mr. CLOWARD. In other words, the question goes to those who are presumably eligible under existing statutes?

Representative BOLLING. Correct.

Mr. CLOWARD. Well, I think there are many ways in which this condition comes about. I, myself, could not stress enough the functions of ignorance engendered by the failure of the system to conduct any form of public information campaign to potential welfare recipients. You can pick up a newspaper anywhere in this country on any day and find a question-and-answer column on social security benefits. You