

In this movement, we have educated more people about their rights than the welfare department has ever educated. On any given day you will find our clients going into a center saying, I am entitled to X, X, X, and the caseworker will say to them, I have to check it. She will in turn say, you do not have to check it, I know, because I have studied your manual. I know your manual by heart; you should have read it yourself.

The department constantly denies people minimum standards, they constantly ask people to forfeit their fair hearings because they send the caseworker out and have the caseworker tell the people, we will give you your money if you will just drop the hearing. This is one of the things that the city is doing, because before, they were only having something like 50 hearings a year. Now they are scheduling 50 hearings a day because people know what they are entitled to. It is costing the State more money to process the hearings, when they are so worried about saving money; they could have saved a fortune if they had given the people what they are entitled to. Ninety percent of the people who went to hearing won their cases, because the department was wrong.

I would like to ask of you what law do we have or what way can you prosecute the departments for not living up to their own regulations? We have often stated when we break the law, they hurry up and lock us up. I am just about tired of the department breaking its laws and no one is locking them up. There should be something, there should be some way that these people could be prosecuted just like me, Wiley, Cloward, anybody sitting in this room today. If we went out here and broke a window, if I went outside and broke a window, they could lock me up for that because I broke the law. The department has broken the law for many years and nobody is prosecuting them. They continue to break the law and nobody is prosecuting them. I want to know, is there anything or any way that the department could be brought to court, or any kind of way they can be made to obey their own laws?

We have done their work for the past two and a half years. We have told clients what they are entitled to. We have taken clients to the department to get their money. This is not the job of the movement. It is the department's job to tell every client what he is entitled to. It is the department's job to provide for each and every client, but they do not do it.

Now, we want to know how can these departments be brought up with charges? Because if I was there, if it were I that was in charge, I am quite sure somebody would be trying to find out how to bring me up into a court to find out why I am not obeying the law.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Thank you very much, Mrs. Sanders. We will begin the questioning now.

Would you please feel free to answer, too, if there are some questions directed to you?

Mr. Bolling, would you like to question?

Representative BOLLING. Yes, I would first like to express the fact that I was enormously impressed by the statement and again, Madam Chairman, I am delighted that you had the imagination to have these hearings and these witnesses.