

Q WHAT CAN OUR GROUP DO TO PROTECT OUR MEMBERS AND OTHER RECIPIENTS AGAINST FORCED WORK?

A The first time to fight is when your state welfare writes up its rules about which mothers are "appropriate" to be forced to work. Find out how these regulations are decided in your state and try to get mothers with pre-school children or children with special problems kept out of the program from the beginning.

Secondly, your group must begin to inform all welfare mothers of their rights: to adequate day care, to decent work and training, and especially their right to appeal what the welfare department decides for them. Big public meetings, door to door street campaigns, to get the word out are very important.

Third, you can plan pressure to make the welfare department and employment agency find jobs first for any men who are on welfare and then for women who want to work. Only after all these people have decent jobs should there be any forcing mothers out of the home. Getting a group of unemployed men to demand jobs right at the employment office where they are trying to force mothers to work would be a good action example!

Take Children Away

Q IF THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT TRIES TO TAKE MY CHILDREN AWAY, WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

A Your children cannot be taken and placed in a foster home against your will without a court hearing. You have a right to demand legal help to fight any attempt to take your children away from you. If welfare threatens to cut you off unless you agree to put your children in a foster home this is an illegal threat and you should make a big issue of it with your Welfare Rights group backing you up. You can appeal and maybe even take the welfare department to court over threats and tricks like this!

Q WHAT CAN OUR WELFARE RIGHTS GROUP DO ABOUT THIS FOSTER HOME ISSUE?

A Your group might want to make a big public issue of this by being out how welfare pays foster parents more to take care of children than they pay the mother and to show many of the other problems with foster care. Most social workers, psychiatrists and others who have seen the problems of foster homes will be on your side.

Money You Earn

Q HOW WILL THIS WORK?

A States may now let welfare recipients keep the first \$30.00 and 1/3 of the rest of earnings from any work. States must do this by July, 1969. Some will do it starting in the next several months. All income of a child in school full time or in school part-time but not working full time may be also kept.

Q WRO ACTION ON THIS?

A Your group needs to find out when your state will adopt this small but important benefit.

Other Bad Features

Q WHAT ABOUT OTHER BAD FEATURES OF THE LAW?

A There are at least three other important things in the law:

1. Aid to Children with Unemployed Father in the home is made even more difficult to obtain.
2. The Welfare Department is directed to work more closely with the courts and police on reporting neglect.
3. Also, welfare departments are to be allowed to make more use of protective and vendor payments--paying your grant to you indirectly through a "guardian" or paying your rent and bills instead of giving you the money directly.

Got The Message?

If you haven't got the message in this law yet here it is once more:

either welfare recipients and poor people will stick together, learn their rights, fight against this anti-welfare program

or
this law will help welfare departments seek out, attack, and destroy us one by one.

ORGANIZE! FIGHT BACK!
JOIN YOUR LOCAL WELFARE RIGHTS GROUP!

If there is no WRO in your neighborhood start one today. For information, write:
National Welfare Rights Organization
1762 Corcoran St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.