

## THE WELFARE WORLD BECKY MILLS

In 1960 72,000 California families received Aid to Families With Dependent Children, getting checks twice a month for a monthly average of \$163.24. They had 200,000 children, and the number has probably vastly increased in the six years since then.

The money is not enough to live on, and properly clothe school children, and look into job possibilities, husband possibilities, or other paths out of the ghetto and off welfare. Just paying rent usually takes from \$30 to \$100 more than the housing allowance in the monthly grant. Recipients say "They just give you enough to keep you down where you won't be no trouble, won't raise no fuss."

Getting the grant means having a social worker, and usually a steady changing stream of social workers. Social workers, or most of them, wouldn't have chosen the job if they hadn't wanted to help people, if they hadn't had interest and sympathy for other people. But recipients say "they act like it's coming right out of their pockets, you know how they do." Social workers are the next biggest problem most recipients have, next to the size of the grant.

Welfare and Institutions Code of California provides that 1) the provisions shall be liberally construed to meet the intent of the programs, 2) no applicant should be made to feel like a pauper, 3) applications shall be processed promptly with no undue delays, and 4) recipients shall be informed of the rules of eligibility and their responsibilities. All four of these provisions are violated daily throughout California welfare agencies and even by the most well-meaning social workers.

Why? What is wrong? Politics is just part of it. It's well known that welfare recipients are thought to be lazy, incompetent "freeloaders" by many Americans. Welfare supporters have to lobby heavily every time the legislature votes, so as not to lose gains already won. Welfare agencies are staffed and directed by County Boards of Supervisors, notoriously

conservative and responsive to pressure from local "taxpayers' organizations." Actions like Alameda County's infamous "bed check raids" on welfare recipients three years ago and like Tulare and Kern County's refusals to take applications from striking farm workers--these are clear-cut political policies.

But besides politics and the desire of the powers-that-be to get people off the welfare rolls, the bureaucratic structure of welfare agencies is itself responsible for violations of recipients' rights. Recipients are not properly informed of the eligibility rules because they're too complicated. Most social workers spend over two months on the job before they know how the rules work in practice, and then it's a job just to keep up with the weekly rules changes.

Recipients don't know why they get \$100 or \$145 monthly because the budget computations are too complicated. Social workers and clerks often make mistakes, but the recipient has no "coded cost schedule," like a social worker, to check the figures. Even more to the point, many social workers don't know the basis for a decision anyway, because the supervisor made the decision and they accepted it rather than struggle against the weight of the hierarchy.

As a member of the Berkeley Welfare Rights Committee said to a social worker, "You can't put your John Henry on that piece of paper unless you take responsibility for the decision. Don't tell me it wasn't your decision. I see your John Henry right there on that line." Unfortunately, it takes a Welfare Rights Organization to check that kind of irresponsibility, the common corruption of a bureaucracy. Most recipients can't do it alone because they're afraid of antagonizing the social worker.

According to the Assistant Director of Alameda County's welfare department, the social worker-recipient relationship is one of "confidence and mutual trust." He said this in response to complaints by a group of Welfare Rights Organization

members about how social workers extracted signed statements from them about their relationships with men.

The worker-recipient relationship is seldom one of mutual confidence. How could it be when the social worker holds the power of the purse and the recipient doesn't know what the rules are, if any, that guide the social worker? Even if recipients knew about the rules, it would still be true that "a good worker will get it for you; a bad worker will lecture you for asking." The rules are flexible, there is room for interpretation, and it is a fact that many welfare grants and special needs are not equitably administered.

But social workers concern themselves with "establishing a relationship" with the recipient because they view recipients as people with problems, in need of counseling and "rehabilitation." A psychological ideology pervades the welfare departments. It is undoubtedly helpful to some recipients. But for others, it is insulting, degrading, even vicious.

Recipients whose financial problems are due more or less to such social evils as unemployment, discrimination and poor education, are encouraged to believe they don't see the world properly, that the illness is inside of them. Workers talk to them about "the reality." But "the reality" is different for a social worker who hasn't experienced such hard facts of life as police brutality, job discrimination, etc.

Recipients generally feel they could "rehabilitate" all right if they had enough money. Small wonder that they say "You go down to the welfare. You have to get down on your knees and beg. You sit there all day and maybe have to come back again and again. And then when they finally get it for you, it isn't enough to live on."

(This begins, we hope, a regular feature column on the Welfare World. Mrs. Mills is a social worker for Contra Costa County and an "advocate" for the Oakland and Berkeley Welfare Rights Organization.)

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Photo: Frank Cletorke

The first in a series of columns written especially for THE MOVEMENT by Jack Minnis, SNCC Central Committee member and long-time director of SNCC research.

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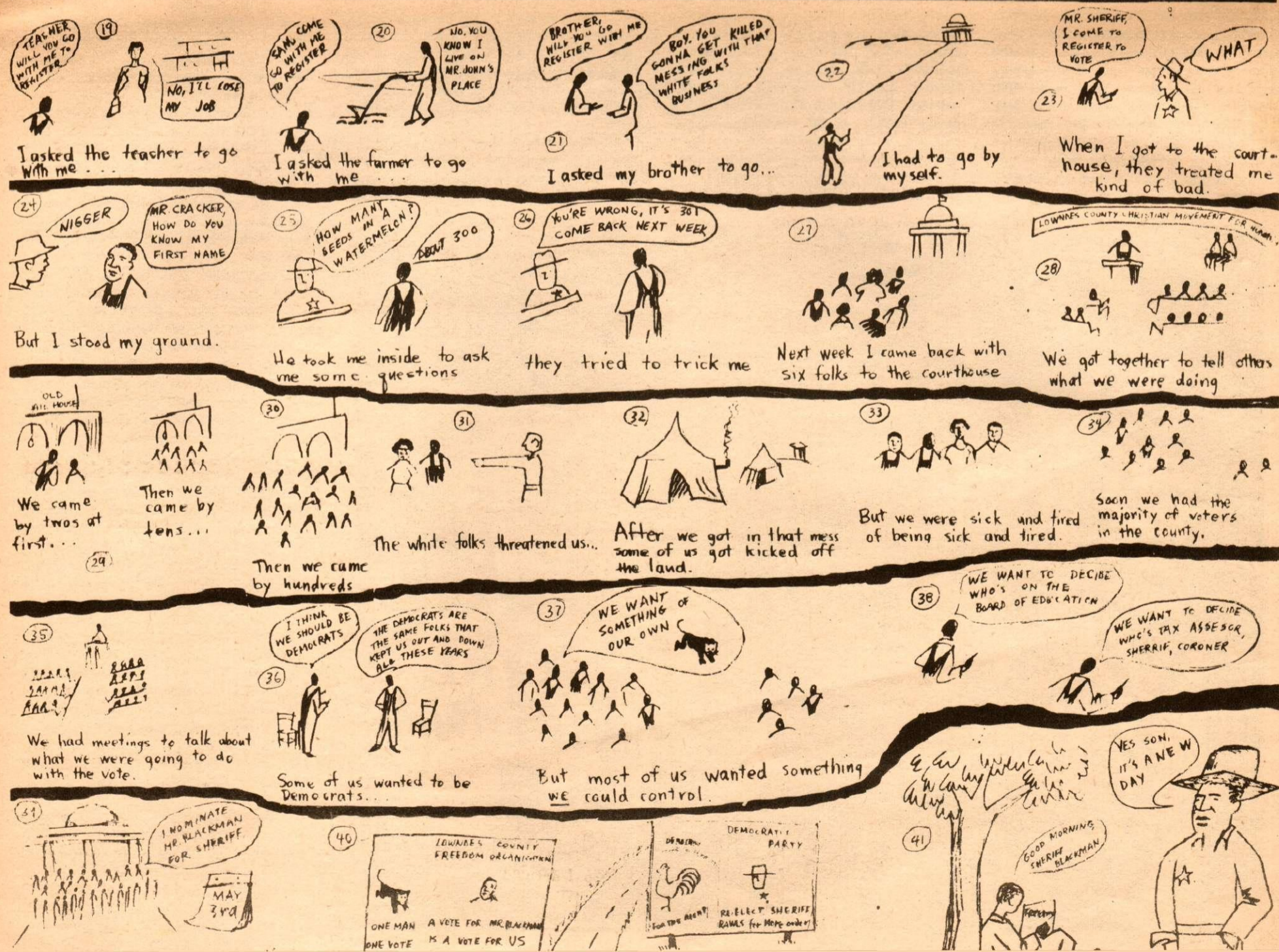
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## 'VOICEPRINT' YOUTH 1 TO 10 YEARS

LOS ANGELES -- Edward Lee King, The Watts youth tried in December for arson and burglary in a case involving "voiceprint" evidence was sentenced to 1 to 10 years in the state prison. Judge Raymond Roberts passed sentence on King January 17.

Kenneth R. Thomas, King's lawyer, asked for a retrial and was refused. He will appeal the case to a higher court.

"I think our chances of winning the appeal are excellent," Thomas told THE MOVEMENT. He is appealing on the grounds that the "voiceprint evidence" was misleading and that the other evidence was insufficient.

Judge Roberts turned down the appeal for a retrial on the grounds that there

was no error made that was prejudicial to King. When Thomas said that the voiceprint evidence was unconvincing, Roberts replied that there was enough evidence without the voiceprints to convict King. He did not claim that the voiceprints were legitimate evidence.

The jury had made it clear that it rejected the voiceprints when making its judgement. This has been overlooked in every report on the trial. All mass media reporting has claimed that King was convicted on the basis of the "scientific" voiceprint evidence. For a full account of the voiceprint trial, see "VOICEPRINT REJECTED IN WATTS ARSON CASE" in THE MOVEMENT, January 1967. ♦

### SIT-IN AGAINST NAPALM

Los Angeles, California--On Feb. 27, 15 students sat-in at a student placement office on the UCLA campus protesting the presence of a DOW Chemical recruiting officer. DOW is a major producer of napalm used against the Vietnamese people by the United States Armed Forces.

The students met with two representatives of the UCLA administration who tried to talk them out of a demonstration. The next day 60 students picketed the center and a referendum is being prepared by the students which would ban DOW Chemical from the campus. ♦

### SNCC WORKER ARRESTED, BEATEN

Orangeburg, S.C. During the sit-in and demonstration at South Carolina State College a SNCC worker was arrested for allegedly trespassing on state property while walking through the campus. He was taken to jail, beaten, and thrown in the hole. He was then released on \$100 bond.

## RECIPIENTS MOVE FOR POWER

by JIM BUCKLEY

Columbus, Ohio -- A new Welfare Rights Organization (WRO) has developed in Columbus, Ohio, growing out of a Walk for Decent Welfare from Cleveland to Columbus last June. It was evident from the more than 2,000 people who showed up to support the rally at the end of the Walk that welfare was an issue around which people would readily organize.

Created and controlled by welfare recipients, WRO has the following objectives: to secure basic rights for recipients under the present system of welfare, to raise welfare payments up to at least the minimum standards for health and decency set by the state, and to make basic changes in the structure of the welfare system so that welfare recipients participate to a greater extent in the decision-making process.

Welfare in Ohio is a disgrace. The most slanderous and derogatory myths about welfare are circulated freely in the local press, and the state legislators either believe these myths or use them as an excuse to cut the budget at the expense of the 37,000 families on public assistance in Ohio.

Although Ohio ranks as one of the nation's wealthiest states according to the Cleveland Council of Churches (5th in personal income, 4th wealthiest in assessed value of property and 3rd in manufacturing) it is 46th in state tax collections per capita and 30th in payments to needy families with children.

Contrary to myth, a Cuyahoga County Welfare Department study shows that about 60% of the people on welfare in Ohio are children, another 15% are elderly, 9% are disabled and 14% are single parents who must care for children. This leaves about 3% who are employable men with low skills and education.

### 3/4 EXISTENCE

Families living on ADC (Aid to Dependent Children) receive only 73 cents a day per person, excluding shelter. A mother with three children can receive a maximum of only 76% of what the state considers to be a minimum amount for health and decency, according to the Ohio Steering Committee for Adequate Welfare. Children often don't go to school because they are sick or the other kids make fun of their clothes.

money, such as by delivering papers or taking in laundry, it is deducted from the welfare check. One thing is for sure--poverty breeds poverty, and here in Columbus there is an especially fertile climate.

### INTIMIDATION FAILS

Last October before the elections WRO organized a vigil for adequate welfare at the State House much to the consternation of certain powerful interests in Columbus. They said the "timing was wrong" and a threat was made to some of the WRO organizers that if they went ahead with the vigil they would be smeared so badly in the Dispatch that "they would never recover." Evidently it was a bluff because the vigil was not called off and there was no smear, but the incident indicates the atmosphere of intimidation which exists in Columbus as an obstacle to democracy.

WRO, which is affiliated with the Ohio Steering Committee for Adequate Welfare, also participated in a state-wide rally and visit to the state legislature here last January. The rally attracted about 550 recipients from all over the state, and received nation-wide TV coverage on the Huntley-Brinkley news program.

### SOME SUCCESS

WRO is still a young organization. It is probably the strongest grass-roots organization in the city, and it appears to have great potential, both in its own right and because it is encouraging other organizations to spring up around other issues. It has already had some success in straightening out individual grievances, raising the annual clothing allowance by \$5 per child, and by just plain organization and publicity.

Nevertheless, serious problems confront WRO. Many of the people who attend WRO meetings have never assumed leadership roles before or have even been asked what they think about certain issues which affect them. Furthermore, many of these people have been approached time and time again by surveyors, case workers, settlements and the various agencies of the War on Poverty, all making promises but no changes.

It will take time for the idea to get across that WRO is an organization of people like themselves who have found that by banding together democratically,

## 800 BLACK STUDENTS SIT-IN

Orangeburg, S. C. On Feb. 23 the Student Action Committee (SAC) of South Carolina State College called a demonstration protesting the administration's failure to rehire two white professors and demanding certain changes in the college rules.

State College is a Negro school, and in this case the two white professors in question were more liberal than their black counterparts. In the South this means that the whites will invite students over to their houses, will support civil rights activity, and will allow students to use their cars for such activity.

### TROOPS SENT

On the 24th, three student leaders were arrested for participating in the demonstration of 500 students on President B. J. Turner's lawn. White city policemen, state troopers, and special units of the governor's FLED troop were called in to disperse the crowd.

Students boycotted classes on the 24th also, and continued to demonstrate. The three arrested students, Ben Bryant, Joe Hammond, and James Stroman, were called before the disciplinary committee Friday morning while 800 students protested outside the meeting. There are 1300 students enrolled at the college. The three demanded to be allowed to cross-examine their accusers. They were finally dismissed and rejoined the demonstrators who began to picket the campus at large.

### SUSPENSION NOTICES

That afternoon the three students received suspension notices which ordered them leave the campus by midnight and barred them from the campus until 1970. They were informed that they would be arrested if they returned to the campus before that time. Between 800 and 1000 students sat-in at the Student Union that night.

### STUDENT DEMANDS

These are the student's demands:

First, that the administration present valid reasons for not renewing the contracts of the two professors.

Second, that the administration take steps to hire competent faculty.

Three, that all rules involving student/faculty relations be abolished, such as "a student whose progress, conduct, or attitude is out of harmony with the institution or whose influence is found to be detrimental to its welfare may be dropped at any time without any obligation on the part of the officers of the college to state specific reasons for requesting withdrawal."

Four, that compulsory attendance for freshman and sophomores at assemblies, vespers, and lecture series be abolished.

Five, that dress rules for Sunday dinner be abolished and that smoking be allowed in the dining hall.

Six, that all rules denying students free speech, religion, assembly, and press be abolished.

### THROWN OUT OF CHURCH

On Sunday SAC called a meeting sponsored by the NAACP at a church across the street from the school. Meanwhile, the University secretly negotiated a peace with the Student Government in which it was agreed that students wouldn't boycott as planned. When presented with the pact, SAC refused to call off the boycott planned for Monday and Tuesday. The NAACP then kicked SAC out of the church, because of their attitude toward the administration.

The students, 800 strong, moved across to the campus and were confronted with college and state police and said if any one of their number were arrested they would all be arrested. They moved onto the campus and again took over the student union.

### ATTEMPTED ARRESTS

Police attempted to arrest Bryant, Hammond, and Stroman, but students locked arms in a circle around them and prevented the police from getting to them. Rebuffed, the cops split.

The boycott continued Monday and Tuesday with over 900 of the 1300 students participating. The Dean called a College Meeting for 9 am on Monday to undercut a SAC rally called for 10 am. The plan worked but the boycott continued through Tuesday when SAC called it off after the president agreed to meet with the cited students on Thursday, March 2nd.

### TELEGRAMS

SAC has requested that telegrams in support of their demands be sent to President B. J. Turner, South Carolina State College, Orangeburg, S. C. The three cited students have agreed to refuse any reinstatement unless the President agrees to SAC's demands. SAC also requests that duplicates of telegrams be sent to them c/o James Huggins, Rt. 5, Box 539, Orangeburg, S. C.

So far Western Union has not delivered the duplicates to SAC. However, College officials have been seen carrying large piles of telegrams from the Western Union office, and it is reported that 500 telegrams have been thus far received.



The Teatro Campesino of Delano has bought this bus so that it can go on tour, carrying the message of the Huelga, without having to worry about mid-journey breakdowns. Contributions are needed to help keep up payments on the bus and also to continue and enlarge the cultural program which the Teatro has set up for UFWOC members. This program includes classes in English, music classes, films and children's art classes. Any donation you can make, either of money or art materials will be a great help to this very important part of the strike.

Photo: Frank Cieciorka

# WELFARE MOTHERS AND STUDENTS

## *Dig It . . . And Do It*

by Bill Ayers and Terry Robbins  
Ohio-Michigan SDS

Ann Arbor, Michigan is by its own standards a progressive, forward-looking community. Centered around the 30,000 students at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor calls itself the "research center of the midwest". Ann Arbor's mayor has spoken of his town as place where "there are few, if any, real problems", a statement reminiscent of Mayor Daley's famous boast, "there are no slums in the city of Chicago".

Last year Ann Arbor was chosen by LOOK magazine for one of its All-American City awards. Last week Ann Arbor unofficially acknowledged the honor by finally looking the part; it was as all-American as tactical riot units, downtown areas sealed-off by the pigs, beatings, mass arrests, and bloodied newsmen. As American, as Rap once said, as cherry pie.

The incident that brought the pigs out this time was an escalating protest on the part of welfare mothers and student supporters for higher clothing grants. Briefly, the week's events went like this:

### Tuesday, September 3

Thirty welfare mothers sat in at the Washtenaw County building in protest of inadequate allocations for school clothing. The mothers, representing the Ypsilanti Welfare Action Group and Humanize Existing Welfare (HEW), were denied a meeting with the County Board of Supervisors to discuss their grievances, and proceeded to occupy the halls and offices of the Social Services Department from 11 AM until late in the afternoon. A confrontation was averted when the supervisors agreed to meet with the mothers. After a two hour meeting, it was agreed that the mothers would return on Wednesday to present their grievances in detail.

### Wednesday

When the mothers returned to the County Building, they found the offices closed. They were finally permitted to see a group of caseworkers, who told them that they were specifically ordered by Social Services Director Alfred Brose not to release any money. The mothers pressed for a continuation of their meeting with the supervisors, and it took place at 2 PM.

The mothers were offered \$40 each out of a \$50,000 general emergency fund by the Supervisors. Mrs. Shirley Haywood, speaking for the group, promptly rejected the offer. "We want each mother to determine her individual needs", she said, indicating the \$40 was far too low a clothing grant.

During the meeting, about 30 pigs, ten in plainclothes, entered the room and harassed the mothers. The supervisors refused to ask the pigs to leave, and the meeting was terminated.

Meanwhile, MICHIGAN DAILY editor Steve Wildstrom was beaten and arrested inside the County Building when he tried to confront Sheriff Douglas Harvey about alleged harassment of DAILY reporters. Wildstrom was charged with disorderly

conduct and assaulting an officer, and was released on \$25 bail.

That evening, 400 students marched from the campus to the County Jail to protest police brutality and to support the Welfare mothers. 150 people then attended a Voice-SDS meeting to plan further strategy.

### Thursday

Five welfare mothers met with the board of supervisors at 1:30. They again demanded that clothing grants be arranged according to individual need, and requested that \$72,000 be appropriated to serve for clothing funds. Robert Harris, Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors, countered by offering each mother a \$60 grant. The offer was rejected.

At 5:15, 52 people sat in at the county building. 28 were students from the university, the rest welfare mothers. About a hundred pigs, led by Sheriff Harvey, broke up the sit-in and arrested the 52 people. Funds for release of the students was immediately provided by the office of the Vice-President in charge of Student Affairs, upon approval from University President Robben Fleming.

That evening 900 students gathered on the diag, the center of campus, for a rally initially called by the local Mobilization Committee to discuss the events of the week before in Chicago. Much of the meeting, however, centered on strategies for support of the welfare mothers and protesting the day's arrests. The group was divided about an immediate march to the local jail, most feeling that direction had to come from the welfare mothers themselves. Four workshops came out of the rally. No action was taken that evening, but a large crowd gathered outside the jail where the demonstrators were being held. The pigs displayed a massive show of force. The jail was ringed by deputies and pigs from several counties, including the Oakland County riot squad armed with 4 foot riot sticks, helmets, masks, tear gas guns, and dogs.

### Friday - More Arrests

1200 people attended a rally on the diag at noon, called by Student Government Council. About 600 proceeded to march from the diag to the County Building, and formed a picket line outside.

Inside, welfare mothers were again meeting with the supervisors. Negotiations stalled again, and at 3:30 the mothers decided to hold another sit-in. They requested student support and while a crowd of about 1000 marched outside, 170 students entered the building.

At 5:30 the bust came. Sheriff Harvey, employing 150 pigs with nightsticks, moved in and arrested the entire group. Two pigs armed with M-16s were posted on a nearby rooftop and several police dogs were held in reserve. At first the arrests went without incident, but soon the pigs escalated to beatings, four-on-one tactics of removing people from the building; paying particular attention to anyone showing a "V" sign, or offering any sign of resistance. In all, one hundred eighty two people were busted, charged with trespassing, and released later that evening on \$25-50 bail.

Money for bail again came from University sources, but this time some of the money was used to bail out the welfare mothers, many of whom were being arrested for the second time in a week.

### Saturday

A meeting was scheduled for Sunday at 3 pm between the mothers and the supervisors. The supervisors were running scared and a settlement seemed imminent. The mothers temporarily suspended all demonstrations.

### Monday - Settlement

No progress was made over the weekend. However, late Monday evening, after an eight hour meeting a settlement was finally reached. Robert Harrison of the Board of Supervisors agreed to provide \$91,000 in clothing money to the county's 1,300 ADC children. The money is to be allotted first, within thirty days, to all applicants requesting funds up to \$70. After the thirty days, any remaining funds will be used to fill any needs above the initial \$70.

The settlement came following a noon rally attended by 500 people on the Diag, and a march of about three hundred people to the County Building. It also followed

tion is that the debate and the dichotomy were unreal. On the one hand, "base-building" too often meant leaving education to words and analysis only--when the best teacher may well have been the pigs, welfare bureaucrats, and university officials. On the other hand, "confrontation politics" could not automatically develop a strategy creative enough to transcend the limited reformist issue. Thus, the pattern of meetings, rallies, marches and sit-ins--without serious political confrontation--became entrenched in the struggle.

### Support or Equality

A second serious debate went on around the question of student support. A number of SDS members as well as social-work students and people from the DAILY-SGC axis, argued that we should see ourselves only as supporters of the mothers and should place ourselves completely under their leadership. Anything more than that, they argued, was unfair to the mothers and politically unwieldy.

The other side argued that we were out to build our own movement and that if a coalition was to be made, it must consist of equals, each with a well-defined position, coming together for a certain action because both independently



photo: Andy Sachs - Ann Arbor

an injunction signed by three circuit judges and a probate judge, banning all "loitering" around the County Building, effectively preventing demonstrations on that site for an indefinite period of time.

### Radical's Role in Struggle

There is no doubt that, in their own terms, the welfare mothers won a major victory. Nor is there any doubt that the fantastic student support the mothers received was key in their success. What is not so clear is exactly what the radical movement--and Voice-SDS in particular--gained from the struggle.

First, it should be understood that the entire confrontation took place in the context of a large, left-liberal community which lent its full support to the mothers' specific demands. The Student Government Council sponsored several of the rallies. The MICHIGAN DAILY (student paper) cried "police brutality" straight down the line, and slapped pictures of pig violence across its pages. Even the University got into the act--giving bail money for those arrested. With a reformist issue, and a responsive reformist base, SDS's role as a radicalizing force was complicated and difficult.

At the same time, it was clear that SDS had to relate to the issue. That was where the action was--and the potential for radicalization--and the mothers' demand for basic needs was too compelling to ignore.

### Debates

Two major debates arose in terms of Voice's strategy during the week. The first was the "base-building" - "confrontation politics" debate. At every rally there was extensive argument about whether to take another immediate action or to do more education and discussion. The action people were generally accused of calling for "gut-checks" and of being adventurist; the education people of being unresponsive and patronizing to the people involved.

saw it as important for themselves. Thus, they argued strongly for bringing the welfare action back on the campus as a way of identifying common oppressors.

Bert Garskof, a psychology professor from Michigan State University, and a CNP candidate for Congress said at the Monday rally: "Your classes, by and large, ignore our side of the struggle. When authority figures do not mention us and our position it is as much taking the other side as when they actively oppose us. Your classes must be made relevant. No one will do it for you. Professors will be either silent or give lip service to the struggle or worse--they will talk about welfare struggles of 19th century England but not ours; they will talk about British imperialism but not ours; they will talk about the Hungarian freedom fighters but not the NLF; they may even talk about the Bay of Pigs but not the pigs at bay in Chicago and downtown. Only you can change that. Use classes and make them relevant... dig it...do it!"

The two debates, of course, were never fully resolved. Garskof's suggestion for bringing it all back home never was realized; actions flowed more out of the moment than from a defined strategy.

In all, Voice-SDS played an important--though certainly not controlling--role in the struggle. And while Voice could have been far more successful in communicating its politics and building a larger radical community, the issues that arose from the struggle will continue.

### Coming Strike

Local 1583 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees will probably strike later this week. The strike will shut down food service in the dorms and other services at the University. The AFSCME is a poor newly organized union and cannot afford a long strike. SDS has expressed support for the efforts of the University employees in their present negotiations with the University and has offered "all possible support" in the event of a strike. Voice's



photo: Andy Sachs - Ann Arbor

PONTIAC PRISON, ILL.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS MEET PRISON OFFICIALS

(Chicago, Ill.) - The Community Involvement Committee of Pontiac Prison met with top ranking prison officials at the facility on July 1st to discuss the implementation of a

demagogically stating that "there was a lot of hostility between the prisoners" after the conference, and that was the reason for the lock-up. Petrilli added that some prisoners



PHIL COHRAN (left) beside MA HOUSTON OF P.U.S.H. at meeting with Pontiac prison officials.

number of positive programs to aid the prison population here.

The 13-member committee, which includes Black musician Phil Cohran, PUSH community organizer Ma Houston, and such organizations as Chicago Connections, Search for Truth, Inc. and the Black Panther Party, met for over three hours with Dave Brierton, assistant director of the Illinois Department of Corrections, Pontiac Warden John J. Petrilli, and Assistant Warden Donald Harvey. The three officials made many promises to the group, but failed to respond adequately to the group's questions about the penal institution's latest violations of prison inmate rights, an illegal lock-up and unjust transferrals.

The meeting followed the committee's successful June 4th Community Prisoners Conference. At that conference, for the first time, prison inmates and community supporters met in workshops to outline programs to remedy prison ills.

The committee demanded that the officials explain why prison inmates were being transferred to other prisons without the notification of their families? Why prisoners were not being afforded an opportunity for religious services? Why prisoners were put on lock-up following the committee's June 4th conference? Why the ratio of Black guards doesn't nearly approach the percentage of Black inmates?

Warden Petrilli only gave piecemeal answers to these questions,

were transferred because of threats on their lives.

Dave Brierton, who has held the position of assistant director of the Illinois Department of Corrections for only three and one-half weeks, out-

## PHILLY WELFARE CHECK DELAY PROTESTED

(Philadelphia, Pa.) - Several hundred welfare recipients held a protest demonstration here last week because their welfare checks were two weeks late. The checks were held up by state capital bureaucracy and could not be released until the legislature passed a new budget. Meanwhile, many welfare recipients were hard pressed to find money for food and other essentials, such as medical care.

Welfare recipients arrived at the welfare assistance office in downtown Philadelphia as early as 7:30 a.m. on July 11th to receive authorizations for interest-free bank loans and emergency food stamps. The office was closed, and the waiting line overflowed into the large intersection of two busy streets.

Soon the welfare recipients had all traffic through the intersection blocked. Police arrived in buses and riot wagons, brutalizing and arresting

lined a number of plans which he promises will be implemented by September 15th. Two key programs he said would begin before that date are a Prisoners' Rights committee and a Legal Rights committee. The Prisoners' Rights committee is to be a grievance committee to which prison inmates can go for redress of problems they have.

According to Brierton, the Legal Rights committee would provide for a legal consultant on the staff of every state prison. Brierton says that a major change will be making prisons operate under a "unit management system, which breaks down the total prison system into separate departments...Most of the money from now on will go into training mid-management people so that we can begin to deliver and support services for the prisoner".

Brierton's promises sound good, but only the actual implementation of these programs and by fulfilling his promise to work closely with the committee, can he prove his sincerity. It is doubtful that any of these programs would be implemented, or even discussed at a meeting like this, if there was no strong community support for our incarcerated brothers and sisters in Illinois by progressive groups like the Community Involvement Committee. Their worthy example will undoubtedly be followed in other communities all over this country.

men, women and children. However, this repression only increased the determination of the demonstrators, caused the demonstration to grow and ultimately resulted in welfare case-workers joining in.

By mid-day some of Philadelphia's poverty programs tried to quell the anger of the demonstration by providing food. But, when the demonstrators saw the bent, unlabeled, rusty cans donated by the Campbell Soup Company, they were outraged. The Philadelphia Chapter of the Black Panther Party added sandwiches, hot dogs and sodas to the food and blankets provided the demonstrators. As darkness fell over the crowded intersection, support shown the demonstrators had increased even more.

Just after midnight, a policeman allowed a friend to drive through the blockaded intersection. As the demonstrators moved to stop the car and ask the driver his reason for running the blockade, the car sped up and just mowed through the crowd, crushing the legs of an elderly man lying on a blanket.

The demonstration ended when police waded into the demonstrators and arrested 18 persons. Three

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## PORTUGUESE MASSACRE

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She had her child in her arms, a boy of nine months. The mother fell dead with a bullet shot. The child fell with his mother and sat by her. He cried desperately and a soldier advanced to stop him crying. He kicked the boy violently destroying his head. 'Shut up, dog', the soldier said.

"The prostrate child cried no more and the soldier returned with his boot covered with blood. His fellow soldiers acclaimed the deed with a round of applause. 'Well done. You are a brave man.' It was the beginning of a macabre football match. His companions followed his example.

"Other soldiers, wandering about forced people into their huts which

they then set alight and the people were burnt to death inside them. Sometimes, before setting fire to the huts, they threw grenades inside which exploded over the victims." (There followed a list of 34 people, among others, who died in this manner.)

"Wandering about the village the soldiers found a woman named Zostina who was pregnant. They asked her the sex of the child inside her. 'I don't know', she replied. 'You soon will', they said. Immediately they opened her stomach with knives violently extracting her entrails. Showing her the fetus which throbbed convulsively, they said, 'Look, now you know'. Afterwards, the woman and the child were consumed in flames.

"Other soldiers amused themselves by grasping children by their

feet and striking them on the ground." (Ten children, all under five, were named, among others, as having been killed in this manner.)

"Many of the people were taken outside the village and killed. In the following day many corpses of adolescents and children from 11 to 15 years were found at the Vyantawatwa River. They could be counted by tens. The bodies were totally mutilated.

"Some had been decapitated and others had their heads smashed. The corpses were lying about in different positions. Some were piled up mounds, others thrown aside, some side by side, the greater scattered along the river. There were indications that there had been some ghastly game before the victims were massacred."

CULTURAL EVENTS

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**EXPO 20**  
th Anniversary

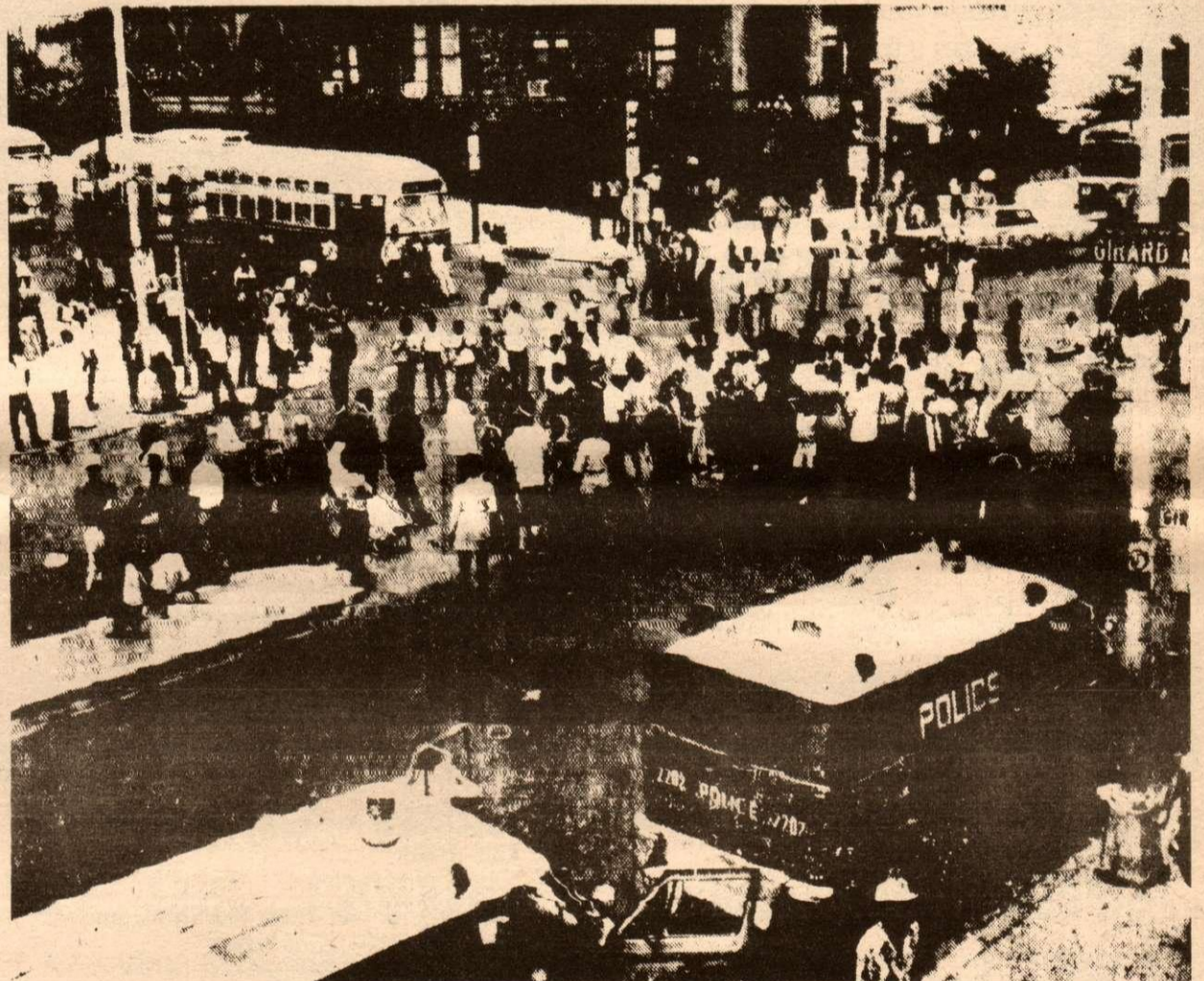
July **26 CUBA**

SAT. JULY 28th 2:30-10:30 pm

SUN. JULY 29th 9-7 pm

Oakland High School Auditorium  
3233 Park Blvd. Oak.

Sponsored by the JULY 26 Organizing Committee  
1317 Fruitvale Oakland 534-7720



Demonstrators protesting delay in receipt of welfare checks at Broad Street and Girard Avenue in Philadelphia.

## PHILLY WELFARE PROTEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

policemen from the Civil Disobedience Squad and many protestors were injured during the demonstration.

Meanwhile, this same week, one of the city's largest hospitals, Philadelphia General, reported "large numbers" of welfare recipients complaining of illnesses stemming from lack of food and needed prescription drugs. Diabetics in need of insulin have been a big problem, the hospital reported.

Hunger and disease were spreading, but without an adopted budget the legislature could not spend money--including money for welfare. Despite this, the House of Representatives in Harrisburg, the state capital, was in

recess. The legislators tried to pass off their callous disregard for the survival of Black and poor people as a budget feud between the Republican-controlled House and the Democratic dominated Senate.

In addition to Pennsylvania's 850,000 welfare recipients, no state employees have received checks this month as a result of the budget crisis. In protest, hundreds of state employees rushed through the State capital building demanding a budget settlement. They demanded to see legislators who were conferring on the budget, but guards blocked them.

The National Welfare Rights Organization has filed suit in District Court to compel state officials to release welfare funds, but the suit was rejected.

## DON'T SHOP AT SAFEWAY!

Safeway Supermarkets have long been the enemy of the impoverished farmworkers of this country and their union, the United Farm Workers Union (UFW). In view of their long and continuous train of abuses against the Farm Workers and Safeway's daily exploitation of our communities, THE BLACK PANTHER urges our readers to boycott Safeway Supermarkets. Boycott Lettuce! Boycott Grapes! Boycott Safeway!

# THE BLACK PANTHER

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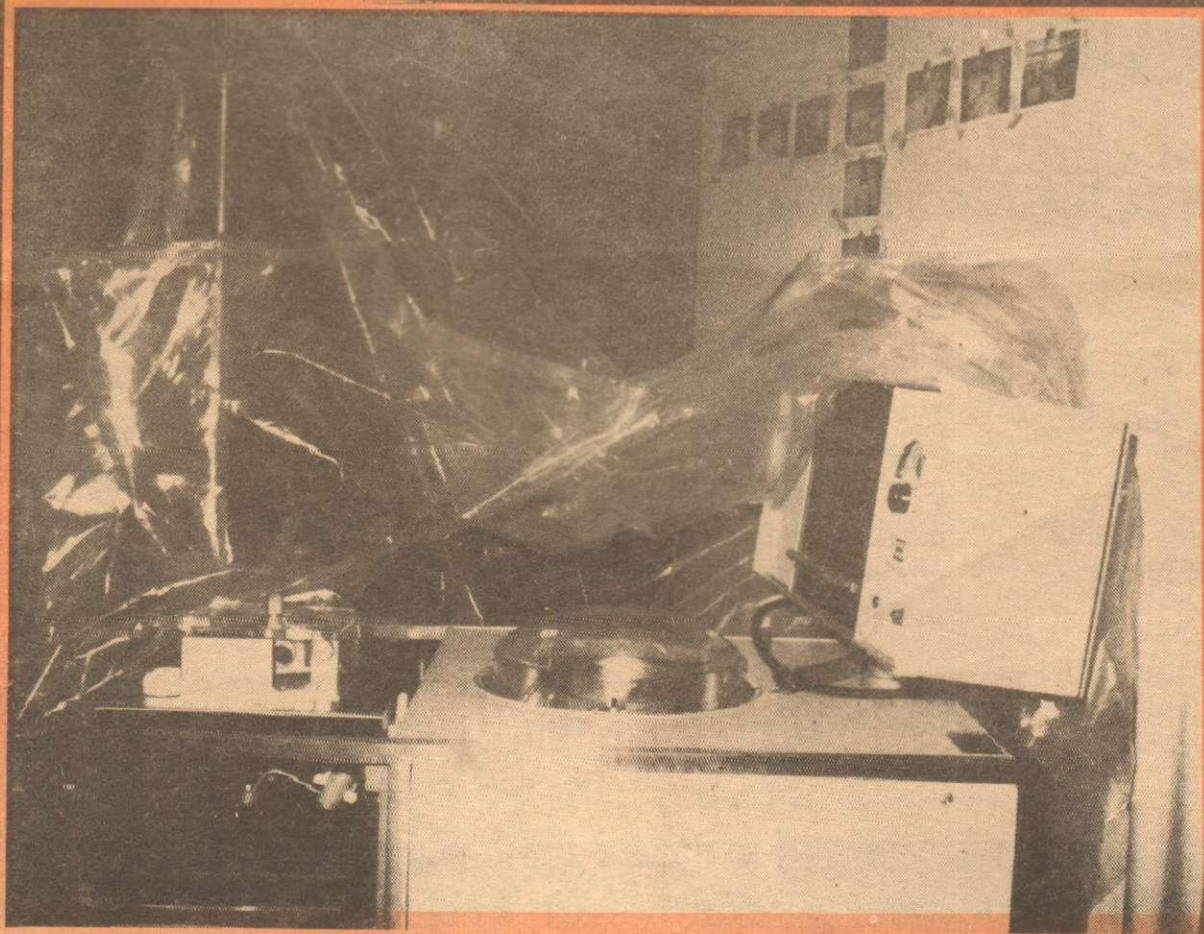
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION  
BOX 2967, CUSTOM HOUSE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94126



## STATE OF CALIF. EXECUTES JOYCE ANNETTE HENDERSON

WELFARE RECIPIENT VICTIM OF INABILITY  
TO PAY FOR PROPER MEDICAL CARE

STORY CENTER PAGE



WE MUST STRUGGLE



# STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXECUTES JOYCE ANNETTE HENDERSON

WELFARE RECIPIENT  
VICTIM OF INABILITY  
TO PAY FOR PROPER MEDICAL CARE



Since being brought to this land, we, as Black people, have always had to suffer the most inhumane and wretched conditions imaginable. The most indecent housing, clothing, food and medical care have always gone hand-in-hand with our status as slaves, expendable commodities.

Our health, our living conditions, have not even been granted the slightest consideration, unless it was of value to the oppressor. Poor, "non-productive" (to the oppressor), Black people, those on welfare rolls, those crippled and maimed by the oppressive and inhuman living conditions in this country, receive the type of treatment exemplified in the case of Joyce Annette Henderson and countless numbers like her. Joyce Annette Henderson was a twenty-seven year old resident of Oak-

land, California. She had a long medical history of kidney disease.

Around the first of this year, Joyce had received a kidney transplant from her sister. Her body rejected the transplanted kidney and it was necessary that the kidney be removed in May of this year. Having no kidneys whatsoever, it was now necessary that Joyce use a kidney machine at Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco. The kidney machine is attached to a vein in any limb of the body. The machine functions as a kidney, purifying the blood and returning it to the body, through the tubes attached to the vein.

Joyce had to go to the Mt. Zion Hospital three times a week, six hours

a day, in order to utilize the machine and receive the proper amount of transfusions. Because she was a welfare recipient, Joyce's hospital expenses were taken care of by the state. In mid-September, she was told that her medical bills for the repeated, but vital trips to the hospital were costing the state too much and that she was now eligible to receive a kidney machine in her home.

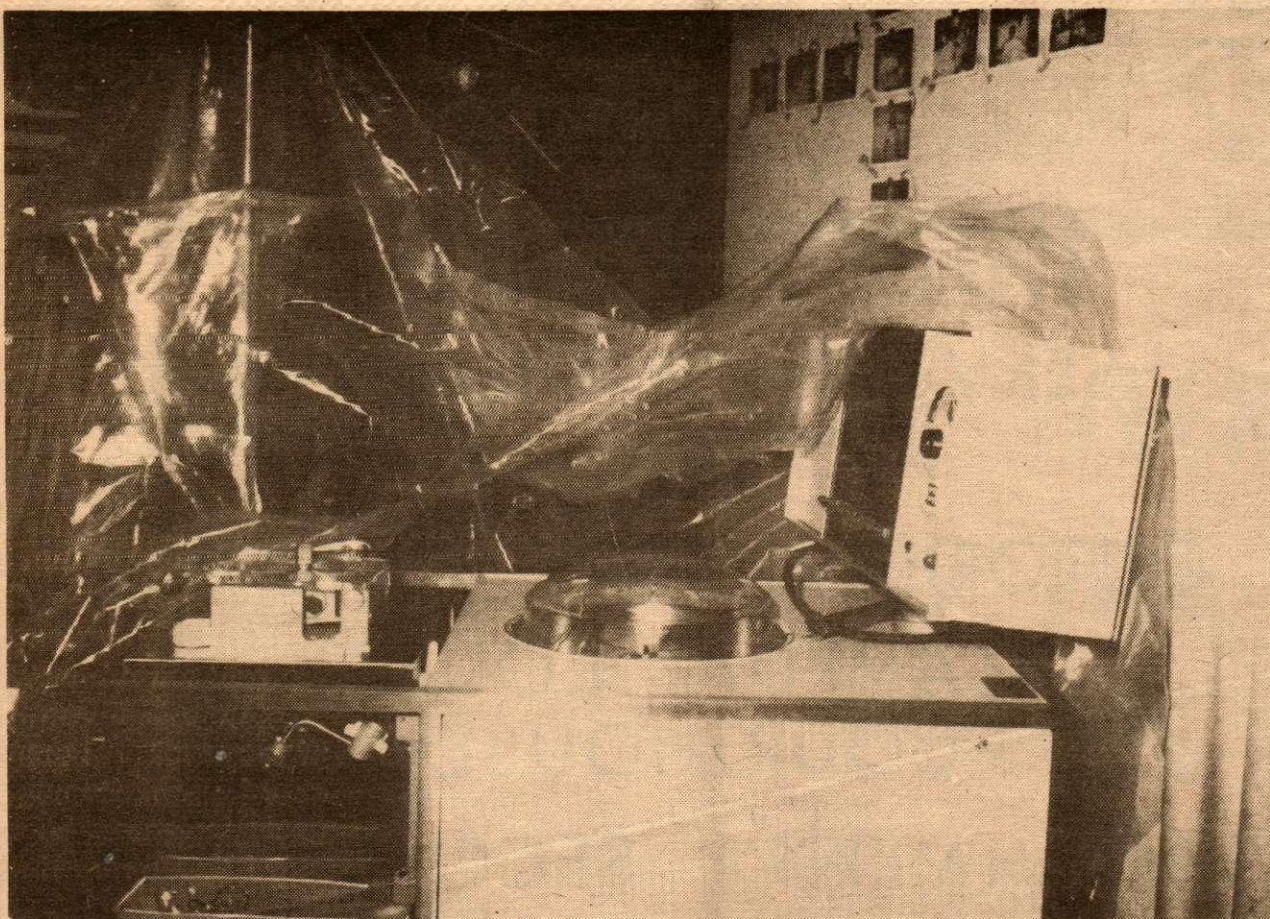
Joyce received the machine shortly thereafter. However, two vital parts, the pressure monitor and the alarm system were missing. The pressure monitor is used to check the pressure on the machine. It regulates the rate at which the recycled and purified blood enters the body. If the blood is being pumped too fast or too slow, the pressure monitor sets off the alarm to alert whoever is attending the patient and the machine. If the blood is pumped too slow or too fast, the pressure monitor also automatically shuts off part of the machine.

The first time Joyce used the kidney machine was on September 21, 1971, in the presence of a "qualified nurse" who knew the parts were missing. However, everything went well the first day. Joyce also noticed that some parts were missing as she was familiar with the machine from her frequent use of it. However, she was unaware of their importance.

The parts were shipped to Joyce and they arrived on Saturday, September 26th. A technician was supposed to come out and connect the parts, but he never arrived. On that day, Joyce utilized the machine, according to schedule. A neighbor, Norma Thomas, came over to see her, because earlier, Joyce had complained of a headache. When Norma came into Joyce's room, Joyce was feeling worse. Mrs. Rose Branch, Joyce's mother, and Norma, helped Joyce to bed, with the tubing of the kidney machine still connected to a vein in her leg.

Norma and Mrs. Branch left the room momentarily. When they heard a loud noise, they rushed back into the room, to find Joyce on the floor, in the midst of a seizure. At this point, they called Doctor's Ambulance Service, who said they would come right away. They also called Mt. Zion Hospital and spoke to the nurse on duty in the Dialysis clinic, explaining that Joyce was having a seizure. Norma asked the nurse to instruct her how to cut off the machine and remove the tubing from Joyce's limb. She explained to the nurse that Joyce was shaking, biting her tongue, that blood was coming from her mouth and that her bowels were out of control.

The nurse casually responded that Joyce was just having a tantrum and



Malfunctional kidney machine supplied to Joyce Henderson by the State.

to call her to the phone. Norma explained that Joyce was in no condition to talk, that she was in a complete daze. The nurse said "let me talk to her anyway." Norma put the phone to Joyce's ear, but Joyce could not respond.

Norma again asked the nurse to explain the procedure for removing the tubing of the machine from Joyce's limb. The nurse then replied that Joyce already had a book of instructions that detailed the procedure.

Norma went to look for the instructions. She returned to the phone, explaining that she could not find the book and again asked how to cut off the machine and remove the tubing.

"Joyce knows how to do it beautifully herself", replied the nurse. Norma re-emphasized that Joyce was having a seizure and was unable to do it herself. She tearfully begged the nurse to tell her how to disconnect

the machine.

"I guess it is time for her to come off the machine", replied the nurse; "give her another half an hour to an hour more on the machine, then she'll be calmed down and she can do it herself".

By this time, the ambulance had finally come. Norma was still on the phone with the nurse who asked to speak to the ambulance attendants. After talking to the nurse, the ambulance attendants left, leaving Joyce behind, still connected to the malfunctioning machine.

After further delays and procrastination by the nurse, Norma called a doctor at Mt. Zion. After she explained Joyce's condition to him, he said that he would be there immediately and asked where she lived. When Norma told him Oakland, he immediately renigged, claiming that it was "too far" for him to come. He didn't



Technicians never came to connect vital parts to kidney machine.

even bother to tell her that nearby Herrick Hospital in Oakland also had such a machine and technicians.

Joyce then had a second seizure and Norma went to get a car so that they could take her to the hospital. The uncontrolled pressure of the machine caused Joyce's blood to pump even faster and it began to spurt out of her mouth, causing her eyes to bulge. Her mother then called the ambulance a second time.

By the time Norma was able to return with a car, Joyce was no longer breathing. Norma called the nurse once more and told her that Joyce did not seem to be breathing and that she needed immediate hospitalization. The nurse told her to check Joyce's pulse and measure her blood pressure. Norma told the nurse that there was none.

"I'll call you right back", the nurse said. However, she did not. By the time the ambulance arrived, it was too late; Joyce was already dead.

A few hours later, the nurse called back. When Joyce's mother told her that Joyce was already dead, the nurse said, "I'm so sorry. I knew it must have been an emergency from the sound of your voice".

Joyce's mother, Mrs. Branch, had never been taught how to work the machine, only how to clean it. The only way that Joyce knew anything about the machine was through her constant use of it and her observation of the doctors and nurses who were supposed to attend and care for her at the hospital. Other patients that utilize the machine who aren't on welfare receive regular visits and check-ups by doctors and nurses in their homes. Joyce did not "merit" the same treatment.

Had Joyce's kidney machine and all of its parts been functioning properly, she could have lived a normal life for a number of years. Instead, Joyce Annette Henderson's life was snatched away because of an oppressive society's neglect, unconcern for her health, welfare and her very existence.

The survival of Black people, of ten year old Sheila Henderson, Joyce's only daughter, now, more than ever, is the responsibility of the Black community. As victims of a vicious system, bent on the Genocide of our people, it is our responsibility to create, establish and maintain institutions which will insure our survival. There must be People's Free Clinics in every one of our communities. There must be People's Free Health Clinics to provide health care, medical facilities and procedures designed not to exploit or kill, but to give, to sustain life.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE