

photos of welfare demo's.

all about NWRO

M-210 p. 15



DOWN WITH
MEL ROSE
WELFARE
CENTER!!!

NATIONWIDE WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

MOTHER POWER ORGANIZATION

NATIONWIDE WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

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NATIONWIDE WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION




The National Welfare Rights Organization-- an organization of welfare recipients and poor people, linked up in local groups-- with the goals of Adequate Income, Dignity, Justice and Democracy.

NWRO is a membership organization. There are about 75,000 dues-paying members in 400 local groups in 48 states. NWRO is poor people -- black, white, Chicano, Puerto Rican and Indian -- speaking for themselves and fighting for a fair share of America.

The goal: Jobs or Income Now! Decent jobs with adequate pay for those who can work. Adequate Income for those who cannot. We demand a minimum of \$5500 a year for a family of four -- from welfare or wages.

You are linked with other poor people in your own local and nationwide organization. Only by joining up in local Welfare Rights Organizations (WRO's) can poor people help each other solve their problems.

As a member you receive:

A Link  Each paid NWRO member in a local group across the country gets a button and membership card with a link on it.

The Welfare Fighter Local groups affiliated with NWRO receive copies of The Welfare Fighter - the national newspaper written by and for welfare recipients - telling you how other groups are getting More Money Now! for their members.

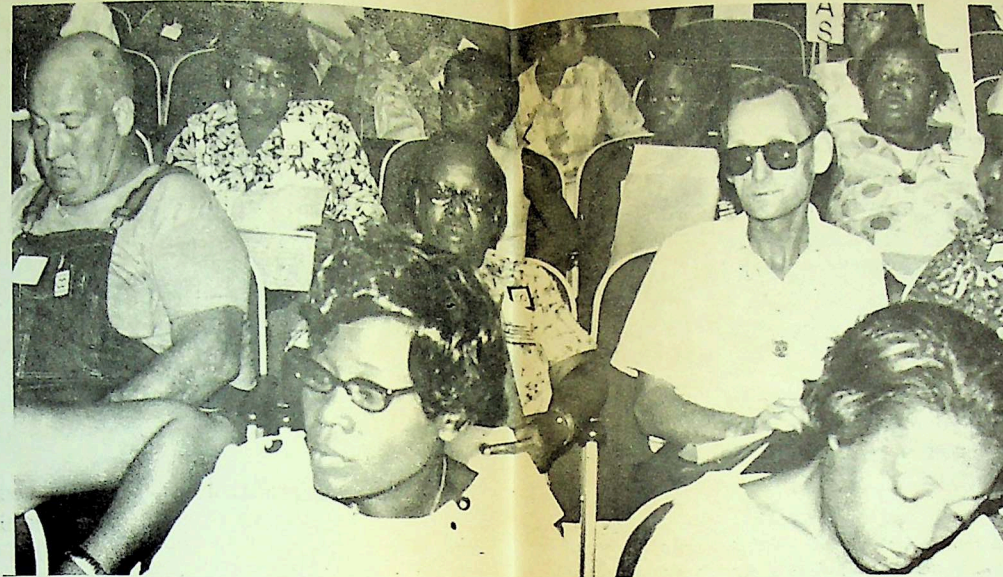
Information Affiliated WRO's receive information on welfare laws and regulations so that you know your legal rights. NWRO National Headquarters keeps you linked with other groups so you know what's going on.

Nationwide Campaigns The NWRO elected recipient officers plan nationwide campaigns that your local group can carry out. For example, National Headquarters prepares packets on School Lunch, Utility Money Rights, and How to Organize a Group Action. By being a part of a national action, every group adds to its own local power.

HELP National Headquarters can help local groups find a lawyer, set up fund-raising projects, or form a Friends Committee of middle class supporters. WRO group leaders can call the National Headquarters collect: (202) 347-7727.



A MASSACHUSETTS WRO MEMBER DEMANDS FREE SCHOOL LUNCHEES FROM A LOCAL SCHOOL OFFICIAL. WRO WON.



How NWRO works ...

Each local Welfare Rights Organization is fully independent. It decides its own program, organizes itself, raises its own money. NWRO is all these local groups linked together on a nationwide basis, forming a strong chain of support for each other.

NWRO is the action of all local WROs. NWRO is you!

National programs and goals are decided by the vote of delegates from affiliated groups at yearly meetings. Every two years there is an NWRO Convention and in years between Conventions there are National Conferences. Officers are elected at the Conventions, held in 1969, 1971, 1973, etc.

Each local WRO is entitled to send representatives according to the number of members it has on record in the National Office:

25-49 members	1 delegate	1 alternate
50-99 members	2 delegates	2 alternates
100-199 members	3 delegates	3 alternates

Each additional 100 members earns another delegate and another alternate.

The Executive Committee is elected at the National Convention and carries out the work of NWRO

The current Executive Committee members are:

Chairman

Mrs. Johnnie Tillmon
Los Angeles, Calif.

First Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Beulah Sanders
New York, N. Y.

Second Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Margaret Hayes
Newport News, Va.

Third Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Angie Matos
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Treasurer
Mrs. Marion Kidd
Newark, N. J.

Recording Secretary
Mrs. Mamie Blakely
Detroit, Mich.

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Kay Hurley
Boston, Mass.

Financial Secretary
Mrs. Geraldine Smith
Los Angeles, Calif.

Sergeant-at-Arms
Mr. Alden Brown
Lucasville, Ohio

Sergeant-at-Arms
Mrs. Dorothy DiMascio
Houston, Texas

Western Regional Rep.
Mrs. Minnie Tisby
Fontana, Calif.

Central Regional Rep.
Mrs. Nezzie Willis
Chicago, Ill.

Eastern Regional Rep.
Mrs. Jennette Washington
New York, N. Y.

Southern Regional Rep.
Mrs. Annie Smart
Baton Rouge, La.

The National Coordinating Committee is composed of the national officers and one elected representative from each state where Welfare Rights groups are organized. States with over 2000 members may apply to the NCC for an additional representative. members serve for two years and coordinate and encourage welfare rights activity in their states. Each state is responsible for raising money to send their NCC and alternate to NCC meetings.

To be seated on the NCC the state representative and alternate must present evidence that they were elected by a majority of affiliated groups in the state at a state meeting. Representatives and alternates may be recalled by state meetings.

NWRO recommends that local groups in the same city or state form citywide and statewide welfare rights organizations since the welfare system is controlled by city and state governments. NWRO recommends that state WRO's meet as often as possible to coordinate action in the state and keep all local WRO's informed about what's happening.

How to Join NWRO . . .

Any welfare recipient or any poor person can join a Welfare Rights Organization (WRO). Non-recipients must have a net family income below the NWRO Adequate Income level--\$5500 a year for a family of four. Local WRO's may set up additional requirements if they wish.

Individuals join NWRO by joining a local group. If there is no local group in your area, you can start one.

If you want to start a WRO and there is no group in your area, write to NWRO in Washington. We will mail you membership forms and other material.

NWRO is a dues paying organization. National dues are \$1 a year. Once a WRO gets started, your group may vote to have local dues so that your local organization will have money of its own. As soon as your group has 25 or more paid members, and has mailed the membership forms and money to the National Office, your group is fully affiliated with NWRO. Membership buttons, cards, newspapers and information packets are mailed out to affiliated groups. The membership year starts in the summer at the national meeting time and ends just before the next national meeting.

History of NWRO . . .

In June, 1966, Ohio welfare recipients held a 150 mile "walk for decent welfare" from Cleveland to the state capital, Columbus. As the mothers reached Columbus on June 30th, recipient groups from Boston, Massachusetts to San Bernardino, California staged demonstrations at their welfare departments. Across the country recipients joined to support the Ohio demands, while protesting their own welfare problems. A new movement was born--the National Welfare Rights Movement.

More than 100 recipients attended the first national meeting in August, 1966. A National Coordinating Committee was set up. A newsletter began publication and a membership system established. On June 30th, 1967, more than 5,000 recipients in 40 cities demonstrated under the banner of the National Welfare Rights Movement.

Representatives from 73 WRO's met in August, 1967, and formed the National Welfare Rights Organization; the first nationwide membership organization of poor people since the 1930's. A constitution was written, officers elected and goals adopted. Since then, NWRO has become the major national spokesman for poor people and has adopted the specific goal of \$5500 Guaranteed Adequate Income for every family of four.

How is NWRO supported ...

Members of local groups pay \$1 a year dues to NWRO and most groups have local dues. But NWRO and local groups must also rely on contributions from private individuals, churches, unions, foundations and others as a source of financial support.

Individuals may become Friends of Welfare Rights by contributing to the local and National Welfare Rights Organizations. In some areas Friends of Welfare Rights have formed organizations to raise money and support Welfare Rights in other ways. The National Office sends every Friend -- even those who make a nominal contribution of \$5 -- a subscription to *The Welfare Fighter*, a button, and other information about NWRO.

How can you get additional information?????

Contact the National Welfare Rights Organization

1419 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 347-7727



JOIN NWRO

GET YOUR RIGHTS

Free School Lunches

Household Items

Legal Protection

School Clothing

Wage Supplement

Furniture

Winter Coats

Utility Money

Community Control



ADEQUATE INCOME

NWRO 1419 H ST NW Washington DC 20005

Pre-Convention Supplement

The purpose of this special supplement of The Organizer is to begin pre-convention discussion for the special March 31st NWRO Convention in Philadelphia. This Convention has been called for and organized by the Committee to Rebuild NWRO, an emergency body launched on Jan. 27 in Washington, D.C. to prevent Nixon and NWRO associate director Faith Evans from disbanding and destroying NWRO. The Convention will have full powers to reconstruct NWRO from top to bottom, to modify its policies, expand its membership, and change its constitution. With Evans and Nixon doing all they can to finish off NWRO before its regularly scheduled summer conference,

every organizer who understands the importance of our seven years of struggle and the need to keep welfare organization alive and fighting during this critical period, must attend this Convention on the 31st.

The two basic documents printed here — a proposed statement of purpose and constitution — should be reviewed point by point by every organizer planning to attend the Convention. In order to have the most productive convention possible, discussion of these documents should begin right away. Suggested substitutions, changes or additions should be handled as indicated on

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The Organizer

Special Convention Supplement

X-523

National Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization Statement of Purpose

The National Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization (NU-WRO) is a team of organizer-fighters for the just rights of the whole population of unemployed and underemployed in the U.S.A. It speaks equally for laid-off factory workers, welfare recipients, returning veterans, agricultural and other marginal laborers, the aged, exploited student and unemployed youth, prisoners, ex-prisoners, the handicapped and everyone thrown onto the human scrap-heap by this society.

Our fight is not against employed workers. On the contrary, the "Bill of Rights of the Unemployed" can only be won by employed and unemployed fighting arm-in-arm for the same demands. As the world economy staggers towards collapse, every morning's news proves again that today's employed workers are being forced into the same conditions under which the unemployed suffer. Now the same choice stands

before employed and unemployed alike—either common struggle for the common interest or no struggle at all. It was the same during the decade of the 1930's, when an unemployed-employed alliance created the CIO.

It is entirely natural that what used to be an organization for the rights of welfare recipients should have become an organization for the rights of ALL the unemployed and underemployed without exception because "welfare" is nothing but a part of the complete life-cycle of U.S. unemployed and underemployed populations, artificially separated-out from the whole cycle by capitalist policy over the decade of the 1960's.

It is no coincidence that "welfare" has come to be almost synonymous with AFDC (Aid for Dependent Children). During the period when it was still too young to be ground down in sweatshop labor, the

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capitalist masters kept very close count and watch on its new crop of unemployed and underemployed. They measured the cost of every bedsheet with an eyedropper, weighing how cheaply they could buy the survival of the rising generation of unemployed and underemployed until it could be useful to them. On reaching that age, it would be taken off "welfare" and thrown into a pool of numberless and nameless unemployed, to be pulled out for backbreaking, sweatshop labor, wrung out, and dropped back in. Often to be led into drug-addiction and through the prison system into advanced training in crime. When these unemployed and underemployed had children, their children were generally "welfare" children — that is the children of the unemployed and underemployed who were themselves being prepared for future unemployment and underemployment through the welfare system.

Now this welfare-unemployment system is being replaced by a new one for the decade of the 1970's —

Bill of Rights of the Unemployed

1. The creation of new, useful jobs rebuilding our cities and industries. These must be permanent jobs at full union-scale wages, and no worker must be thrown into unemployment to make way for a welfare recipient or other unemployed person. The U.S. has a growing housing shortage, a mass-transit shortage, a health care crisis and a shortage of modern industrial plant. There is more than enough work for everyone who needs a job.

2. A Guaranteed Annual Income-or-Wage for every person, whether employed or unemployed. This wage or income must provide the necessary standard of living and educational opportunities required to produce individuals qualified for productive employment by the standards of emerging productive technology. The right of all working people, including welfare recipients, other unemployed and pensioners, to automatic escalation of their incomes to offset inflationary and tax reduction of their after-tax personal income.

3. Repeal of all Federal, state and local sales and wage taxation on incomes of families below \$15,000 a year and on incomes of individuals below \$7,500 a year, with the main burden of necessary taxation to fall upon the income and wealth of firms and upon capital gains.

4. Unrestricted rights of working people to organize in trade unions and an unrestricted right to strike by all wage-earners, tenants and student bodies without legal penalties or injunctions, including the right to defend their strikes against scabbing and other strike-breaking measures. The right to freedom from speedup and other oppressive conditions of employment.

5. Massive expansion of construction of public housing, of educational and health-service facilities. A reduction

recycling human beings. The forced-labor schemes now being begun against welfare recipients are only a pilot project for use against the unemployed generally. They are a cheap introduction to a concentration-camp system for the U.S. Their goal is to reduce all labor to a "welfare" standard of existence, by forcing today's unemployed and today's employed alike to rapidly chase each other through the small number of jobs that will exist. Labor unions by themselves are powerless to halt this process, even though it means their own destruction. Only if they join with us can they put a stop to it.

We are not "welfare" organizers (or prisoner-organizers, veteran-organizers and so forth). We are working-class organizers, because we are the one organization in the U.S., and the one organization in each of our cities and towns, where not only the unemployed but also employed workers must turn when they are ready to fight seriously and effectively under today's depression conditions — and we will never leave them in peace until they do.

of rent and mortgage-purchase payments by working people and unemployed to 15 per cent of their income. Free medical and dental service with a minimum of wasteful paper-work and other regressive bureaucratic procedures. Free mass transit and local commuter services for the entire population, and an end to the ugly multiplication of toll-gates at every turn of daily life. The immediate and rapid expansion of such services.

6. The separation of church from state must be extended to end the barbaric religious ritual of retributive "justice"; that is, the system of legal "vengeance" against supposed criminals. Many inhabitants of the nation's jails were not placed there because of any actual crime. That is, against other persons or their personal rights to means of personal consumption. Very few would be in prison had they not been denied their own employment and income rights on the outside. Actual crimes must, of course, be prevented, and persons disposed to such anti-social acts must be treated. The object must be to put the rehabilitated felon back into the ranks of society with his or her full rights as a citizen. With the aid of concerned former felons, who thus have useful insight into the problem represented by such anti-social tendencies, the problem must be approached in the same terms as diseases. Prisons, or places of confinement to the extent they must continue to exist, must become effective rehabilitation centers and thus cease to be induction centers for the recruitment and training of a permanent community of certified criminals.

7. The treatment of older working people as though they, too, were guilty of the crime of uselessness must end. As long as he or she lives, every working person has the right to some productive or otherwise useful role in society, the right to be an important person.

Constitution

The organizational structure and guidelines contained in this proposed constitution represent far more than an arbitrary set of rules, regulations, and bureaucratic procedures. What is at issue here are fundamental questions of political strategy, matters that will be of urgent concern to every member of the U.S. working class within a few short years. The way we organize our forces in battle against Nixon, the political relationships we establish between ourselves and with our allies, how and how often national strategy is debated and resolved — such are the life and death issues addressed by this constitution.

As simple or as disconnected as they may appear on the surface, the following eight articles flow from one basic premise: that the working class will emerge as a unified class-conscious force only as we unite its divided, scattered ranks into a single common-struggle organization. The present fragments of our class — the unorganized and unemployed workers, the trade unionists, the welfare recipients — will only be capable of fully understanding the necessity for and the implications of common political action through active membership in one mass organization fighting in their common interests.

Our organization must provide the context in which

Article I.

The name of this organization shall be the National Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization (NU-WRO).

Article II. Members

1. A person joins NU-WRO by becoming a member of the national organization and advancing its goals and purposes through membership in local and regional chapters.

2. In order to retain national membership, a person must act in accordance with the NU-WRO statement of purpose. Whatever disagreements a person may wish to EXPRESS with national policy, his or her ACTIONS in the name of our organization are bound by national policy decided at national conventions.

3. Any organizer — from trade union, unemployed, senior citizens, welfare or any other movement — can join NU-WRO so long as he or she agrees to fight for the rights of the unemployed, as outlined in our statement of purpose.

Article III. City, Statewide and Regional Organizations

1. In each city, state and region there should be only one organization. Where two or more local chapters exist in any one city, a city-wide merger should be brought about as soon as possible. The reasons for this are two-fold: (a) We cannot weaken ourselves by dividing up into small local groups that too often in the past meant unnecessary rivalries. (b) In any one city we must have only one well-known location so that masses of working

this class-consciousness can grow. To encourage its fullest and most rapid possible development, this constitution establishes definite organizational principles involving a radical break from the past traditions of NWRO. Because our fight is above all a national one, membership in this organization, unlike in the past, is national. Chapters will discuss and implement locally or regionally the national strategy, as it is democratically decided and constantly updated by the national convention.

This is no simple shift in emphasis from NWRO's past. It means transforming a loosely structured, uncoordinated federation of local groups, fighting mainly around local issues, into a compact, centralized national organization prepared to challenge much more than local welfare departments. It means that each and every member must contribute his or her best efforts to formulating and implementing NATIONAL strategy, rather than permitting a handful of bureaucrats to decide national policy behind closed doors in Washington D.C. It means, finally, that instead of begging for handouts from the Democratic or Republican parties, we become an independent national movement in our own right, aiming to involve as equals in this work every present and potential member of the U.S. working class.

people can turn to us for leadership once they are ready to recognize the need for common political action. To split ourselves up into more than one group would weaken our effectiveness as a central rallying point for mass political organizing.

2. Regions — Until there is further need for revision the regional groups shall be as follows: New England, Mid Atlantic, South Eastern, South Central, Southern, Eastern Great Lakes, Mid-west and West.

This degree of regionalization is necessary to provide flexible regional coordination and leadership of mass strikes and protest-movements and to encourage the most democratic regional feed-back to the national organization between national conventions.

Article IV. National Convention

1. The organization shall have a national convention every year. It is necessary that we meet as a national organization at least once a year so that (a) we can evaluate and update our strategy to reflect rapid national political developments and (b) so that our national members can meet frequently as a body to decide our national policies.

2. Each local organization has voting rights at the National Convention. An organization's delegate voting representation is based on the size of its membership, according to the following formula: 5-10 members — 1 vote; 10-20 members — 2 votes; 20-30 members — 3 votes, etc. (2a) Members in cities with less than five members can have delegate representation by pooling their voting strength into another city in that region.

3. To guarantee the most productive convention discussion, pre-convention discussion must be available

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to the membership at least one month in advance of every national convention.

Article V. Dues

1. Each member shall pay \$5.00 per year national dues, in two installments, collected through local chapters.
2. Local dues shall be collected according to local needs. Local organizations should be self-sufficient so far as local funding. The National will subsidize, when necessary, those locals that cannot fund their organizing from local dues alone.

Article VI. National Coordinating Committee

1. Between annual conventions a National Coordinating Committee will carry out the policies of the convention and conduct the organization's affairs. The NCC shall have 22 members, incorporating two delegates from each region and six members at large. It shall meet four times a year to reevaluate policy and initiate tactical shifts in light of the lightning-fast pace of political developments today.
2. The NCC shall designate from its ranks an 8 person national steering committee that will meet every two weeks to supervise the day to day political functions

of NU-WRO. The national steering committee will be responsible for publishing full minutes of its meeting and periodical political reports. It will have political and editorial control over The Organizer, our national newspaper.

3. The steering committee shall designate three of its members to serve as co-chairmen. These people will function strictly as press and national spokesmen for NU-WRO.

Article VII. National Office

The steering committee shall staff and supervise a national office staff. This staff will be under the immediate political control of the steering committee. At present it will consist of members responsible for fund-raising, legal defense, correspondence, press contacts and liaison with allied groups.

Article VIII. Amending the Constitution

1. This constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present at the National Convention.
2. The National Coordinating Committee may amend the constitution by three-fourths (3/4) vote provided all such amendments are approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the membership.

Supplement...

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the accompanying registration form. This form should be returned as soon as possible to enable the Convention Arrangements Committee to carry out its work most effectively.

The rapid advances made by the Committee to Rebuild NWRO since Jan. 27 have already increased our organizing strength many times over. Within the past three weeks, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and the Eastern Farmworkers Association have pitched in to build the March 31st Convention. During tours of the East and West Coasts, the Mid West and the South, Steering Committee members have found tremendous interest in our work in city after city. Scores of past and present NWRO organizers who had left national but continued to fight in their cities and states are now looking towards or organizing for the 31st.

Most heartening have been the first serious signs of support for our organizing from the trade union movement — which is just beginning to wake up to Nixon's brutal speedup drive and the union-busting implications of slave labor. Stuart Hargraves, for example, a zone committeeman from United Steel Workers Local 2610 recently joined the Washington, D.C.-Baltimore Committee to Rebuild NWRO. Louis Smith, a prominent rank and file United Auto Workers leader has endorsed our struggle and fought for a similar endorsement from the United National Caucus of the UAW. Hand-

fuls of leading trade unionists like them have demonstrated this high level of commitment. Dozens of others have taken a first step towards working with us by signing our Welfare Defense Resolution.

The continuing surge of support for the Convention has meant a serious setback for Nixon's wrecking of NWRO and his related plans for beginning massive slave labor in the U.S. Nixon's public recognition of this fact has been expressed in a series of police, FBI and court harassments of our organizers. Sylvia Burton and Jennette Washington, both steering committee members have received death threats from police-related agencies and increased welfare department harassment. Mildred Prim, a Buffalo supporter of the Committee has been the victim of court and police frame-up. Labor Committee organizers of the Committee have been increasingly harassed by the FBI.

Far from stopping our organizing, these harassments will help to advance it. Every active welfare fighter left in the U.S. will know who the real opposition to Nixon is, what organization to join to effectively fight slave labor.

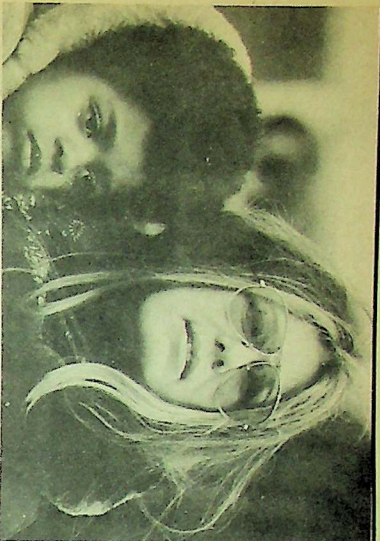
The presence of every welfare fighter at the Rebuild NWRO Convention in Philadelphia will serve notice to Nixon that his attacks have only strengthened our struggle. We hope to see you all there, ready to take up the questions facing our movement. Fight Phase Three! Rebuild NWRO!

Special NWRO Convention March 31-April 1 Temple University, Philadelphia

302 Student Activities Center 13th & Montgomery

Convention begins 9 AM Saturday morning. Come Friday evening for registration and a social event
(place to be announced)

The ORGANIZER is published by the Committee to Rebuild the National Welfare Rights Organization, 792 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10025, phone (212) 865-0777.



Gloria Steinem borrowed a child for the day.

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Speakers included Rep. Ronald Dellums (D. Calif.), NWRO Chairwoman Beulah Sanders, Rep. Bella Abzug, women's activist Gloria Steinem, Singers Peter Yarrow, Edwin Birdsong and Kim Weston, former Senator Eugene McCarthy, The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Coretta King, SCLC President Ralph Abernathy and New York Children's March Coordinator Ozzie Edwards. The Cast of "Jesus Christ Superstar" entertained.

There were no major injuries and no arrests during the March. "The March surpassed all our expectations," said Hulbert James, National Coordinator of the March. "We must not allow the momentum to die down; we must not allow this to be a one day action; we must now generate a "Children's Campaign" that will actively promote the cause of children."



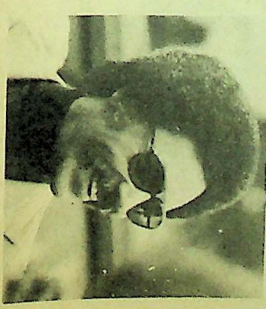
Jesse Jackson: "I may be poor, but I am somebody. I may be young, but I am somebody . . . What time is it? And the crowd shouted, "It's nation time!"



Edwin Birdsong wrote a song "about people who find themselves victims of the welfare plan, you dig . . ." and he sang it like only Birdsong can sing it.



Bella: "You (children) are the future in this country . . . I hear you, the men and women in Congress will hear you and that fellow in the White House is going to hear you."



Rep. Ronald Dellums, Calif.



Members of United Farm Workers joined in support of the march.



Yoland King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, brought the spirit of the civil rights leader to the nation's capital.

1500 children participate in medical screening

Almost 1500 children participated in the Medical Screening Program set up as part of the Children's March for Survival on March 25. Tests were run for height and weight deficiencies as well as sickle cell anemia.

An additional test was run for hematoctrit or the percent of red blood cells in the body.

Sickle cell anemia is an

hereditary disease that kills or cripples its victims, who are usually Black.

Although sickle cell anemia kills as often as muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis, both of which usually affect white victims, it has received little attention until recently and none of the wide scale government funding to conduct scientific

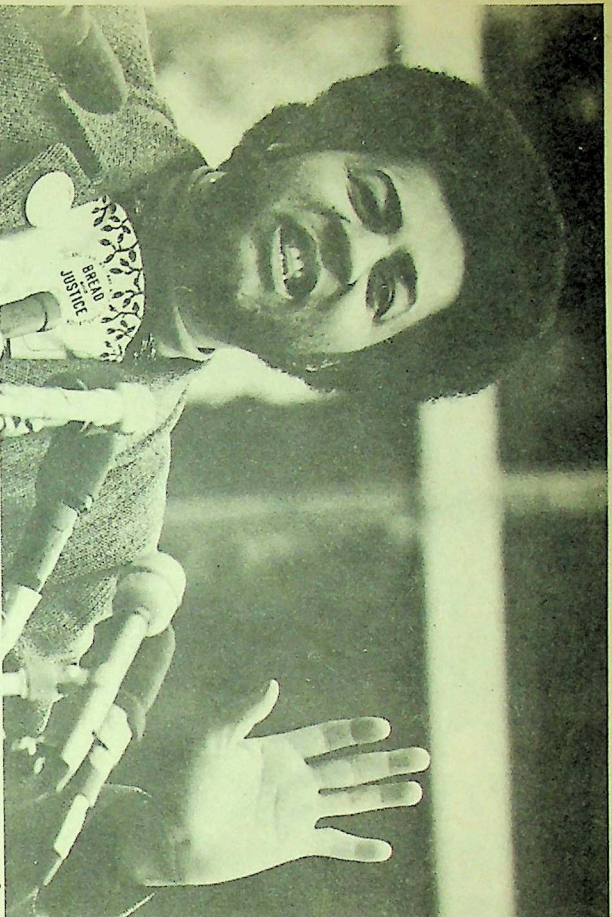
research for a cure.

Of the 1500 children present, 13% were found to have sickle cell anemia or the trait. They were given the name and number of a clinic or doctor to contact back in their home town followed by a letter sent to their homes courtesy of the Black Panthers, who performed the tests.

Height and weight tests were performed by the Medical

Committee for Human Rights.

Dr. Cope, one of the doctors who helped organize the programs said, "I think this program was a good demonstration of how simply this type of screening can be set up. Too often, welfare parents are told that it's too expensive and too hard to organize these kinds of projects. Well it isn't. We proved that."



"We come here to condemn Richard Milhous Nixon for not caring about children . . . for vetoing the child care bill . . . for cutting school lunch programs . . . for (his) failure to implement child health and child nutrition programs."



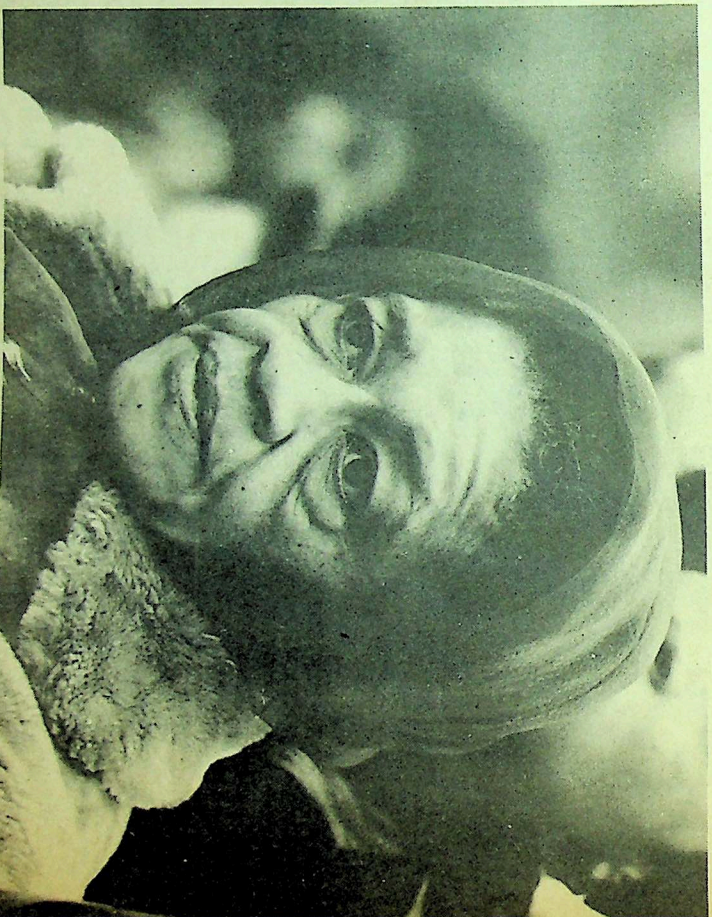
Former Senator Eugene McCarthy and Ralph Abernathy discuss the presidential campaign.



Coretta King: her presence was symbolic of the late Dr. King's non violent efforts toward equal opportunities for all children.

A near total media whitewash of the events surrounding the Children's March for Survival has prevented the message and issue of the March from being adequately exposed to the public. It was not until a controversial cartoon was passed out in the D.C. Public Schools with the caption "Nixon Doesn't Care" that local TV, newspapers and radio gave any play to the March.

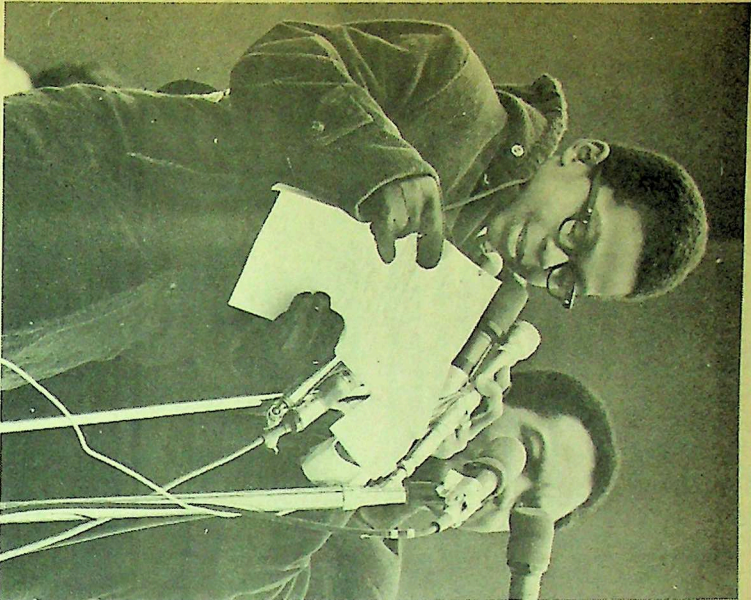
cartoon was CONDEMNED by the White House and local republicans as "exploiting children." National media did not catch on even to this shallow issue, instead, preferring the Nixonian philosophy of "benign neglect." "It is becoming more and more apparent," said James Evans, NWRO Executive staff member, "that the movements - Welfare Rights, Peace, Black, etc., must develop their own channels of communication. The media of the Nixonian age prefers censorship to freedom, neglect to justice, big business to people."



... and old to save the children.



They came, Young



D.C. Del. Walter Fauntroy and his son welcome the thousands of children and parents to the nation's Capitol.



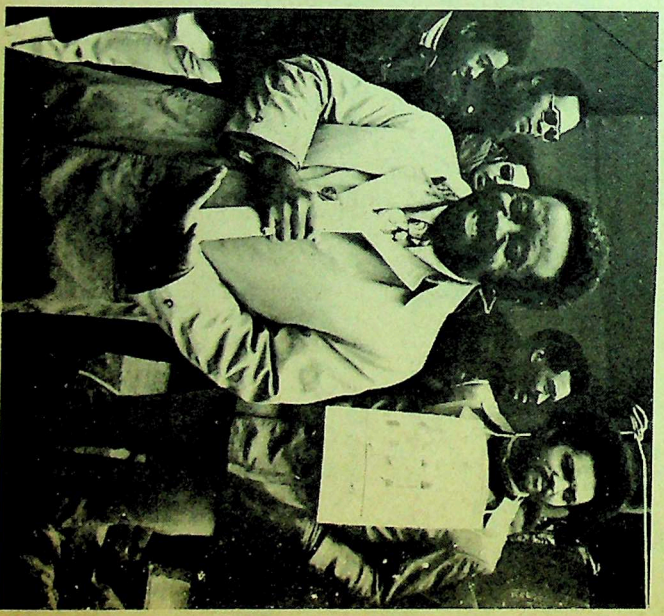
Fauntroy and Congresswoman Bella Abzug give a personal welcome to Coretta King.



Right on! All power to the children.



William Roundtree "Shaft" and actress Shirley McClaine... and the crowd went wild.



The march brought old friends back together.

SIXTEEN CITIES JOIN NATIONAL CR

Thousands of poor people came to Washington March 25, but thousands more, unable to come to the nation's capital, staged supportive marches in their own cities on what will be an historic day in the advancement of the cause of children.

With little coordination from the national office in Washington, poor people, realizing the plight of their children, seized upon the opportunity to say not just to the people on Capitol Hill but also to their local legislators, county and city administrators that we must "save the children."

Parents and children came out in the cold in Seattle, Washington, Chicago and Madison, Wisconsin. They came out in the rain in other places. They came out under the threats on repression in Little Rock, Montgomery and

Columbia, S.C. But they came out because they know that the Nixon welfare plan (FAP), that Nixon child care provisions, that the Nixon feeding programs, and that the Nixon environmental programs are not designed to make a better future for the children.

The posters the poor carried from the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco to the Capitol steps in Columbia, S.C. all had the same themes.

The question was asked of me, "How did you'all organize so many marches?" I answered, "We didn't organize all the marches; in fact, we didn't really organize the one in Washington, D.C. The poor people of this nation organized all the marches because the need was theirs and the time had come."

—Wilbur Colom

MONTGOMERY

More than 600 people marched in Montgomery to the Capitol building in support of the Children's March for Survival on March 24.

The group started their two mile journey from the Mt. Zion A.M.E.Z. Church in southwest Montgomery.

When the group reached their destination, they were told by the state public safety directors that only five people could enter the state Capitol building and only one could be the spokesman.

The group refused entry since they could not carry their delegation of about 12 people into the building to see Governor Wallace.

At a rally held later, a 12-point program for improving the conditions of the poor in Alabama was read. The demands from the group were: We demand that the state of Alabama:

1. provide means of employment as an alternative to welfare;
2. grant all welfare recipients a uniform base subsistence of \$250 monthly, along with 100% medicare/medicaid, \$75 for each

3. decrease the staggering number of administrative jobs, rather than sever the number of welfare cases;
4. cut the growing administrative costs, in order to facilitate surplus so that the needs of the poor and unfortunate, off and on relief rolls, can be met;
5. modify the food stamp program so that stamps can be free of charge and received by mail; give the poor maximum benefit



Supporters of the Children's March in Alabama marched 600 strong on the State Capitol. Their march was particularly impressive since welfare groups are encountering gross repression in the "Heart of Dixie."

6. design a uniform medicare/medicaid program to meet the needs of the recipients without monetary requirements. The cost should be assumed by the national and local governments;
7. formulate a neighbor committee consisting of 50% poor people by which welfare recipients can assist in determining their own needs;
8. eliminate the vicious probing into the personal lives of welfare recipients by welfare officials.
9. provide housing for the poor, commensurate to their incomes;
10. provide and aid ALL poor people;
11. provide laws protecting the poor, dealing with minimum and maximum rents to be paid by them;
12. provide individuals that are cut off from welfare with at least \$100 in order that they may retain their medicaid card.

We further demand that you, Governor Wallace, appear before the poor people of the state of Alabama to make clear your position in the case of the poor. May we remind you that this matter is serious. We will be heard.

LITTLE ROCK

More than 200 persons, mostly children, marched to the state capital in Little Rock in support of the Children's March for Survival.

State Chairwoman Ms. Barbara Hampton of NWRO's national coordinating committee said Nixon's proposed Family Assistance Plan was a brutal attack on children.

Ms. Hampton said "the Labor Department has released figures to show that \$6500 is the bare minimum needed to provide adequately for a family of four. 'If this is what it takes to adequately care for a family of four' she said "then we want it."

Several black political candidates spoke at the rally on the capitol steps and all of them fully endorsed the aims of the march.

Robert E. Pruitt, a candidate for the state House of Representatives, said that food prices in Little Rock were as high as food prices anywhere across the country and he speculated that an annual income of \$6500 might be too little.

He further commented, "I look at these children here today and I think of my 18-month-old child. I want all of our children to be able to have clothes to wear and food to eat.

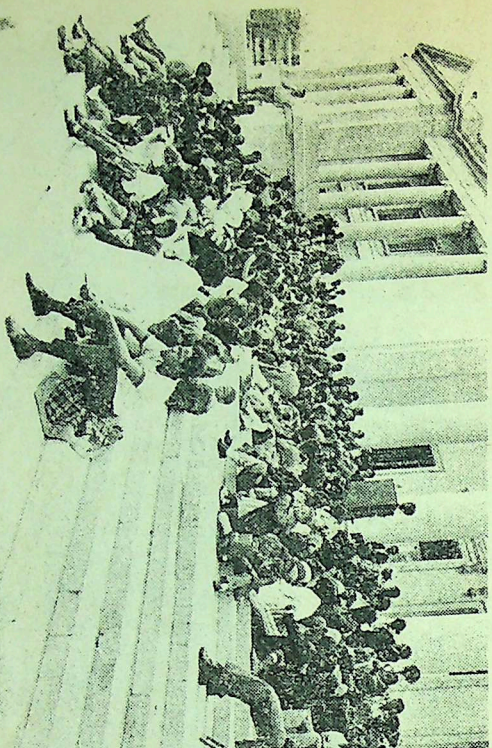
Roy James, also a candidate for the state House of Representatives, said he fully supported a guaranteed annual income of \$6500 and "I will fight to save these children."

Rev. M.L. Hendricks, also a candidate for the House, criticized the billions spent for foreign aid while children go hungry in this country.

He said, "There is plenty of food in the world for all of God's children and there is plenty of money if we'd get it channeled in the right direction.

"We are not poor by choice and we're not black by choice, but we're tired of neckbones. We want some hamburger meat, we want some steak."

After the speeches, the children returned to the local WRO headquarters where they had refreshments.



Marchers listen to Mrs. Hampton on Capitol steps.

LAS VEGAS

Las Vegas WRO sponsored a Children's March for Survival in support of the National March on March 28. Approximately 300 children and adults marched down Las Vegas' famous Fremont Street to Las Vegas Blvd. They carried banners and sang in protest of FAP, hunger and poverty and an assortment of other issues

involving children.

Nevada's former Governor Grant Sawyer was one of the principal speakers. Sawyer said that the Nixon Family Assistance Plan would make the welfare situation "far worse, if that is possible," and believed it to be a "political gesture."

CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

INDIANA

Indiana Welfare Rights Organizations, in support of the D.C. Children's March for Survival, sponsored marches in Indianapolis, where about 500 people attended, and in Evansville where about 200 attended.

The Indianapolis March began at 10 a.m., March 25 with a rally at Military Park next to the State Welfare Department and the State Capitol. Present at the rally were all twelve of Indianapolis' WRO's and representatives from Gary, East Chicago, Lafayette, Marion, New Crottle, South Bend and many other areas from across the state.

The opening speaker was Barbara Cross, State WRO Chairwoman. She talked about the repressive measures in Nixon's Family Assistance Plan which would give children in Indiana even less aid than they are now receiving.

She talked about the shameful welfare situation in Indiana where a disabled person receives only \$80 per month for survival. She said that "children were inheritors of this inadequate welfare system, rotten housing, poor health care, and a polluted environment. Niece, Ms. Cross' 12-year-old

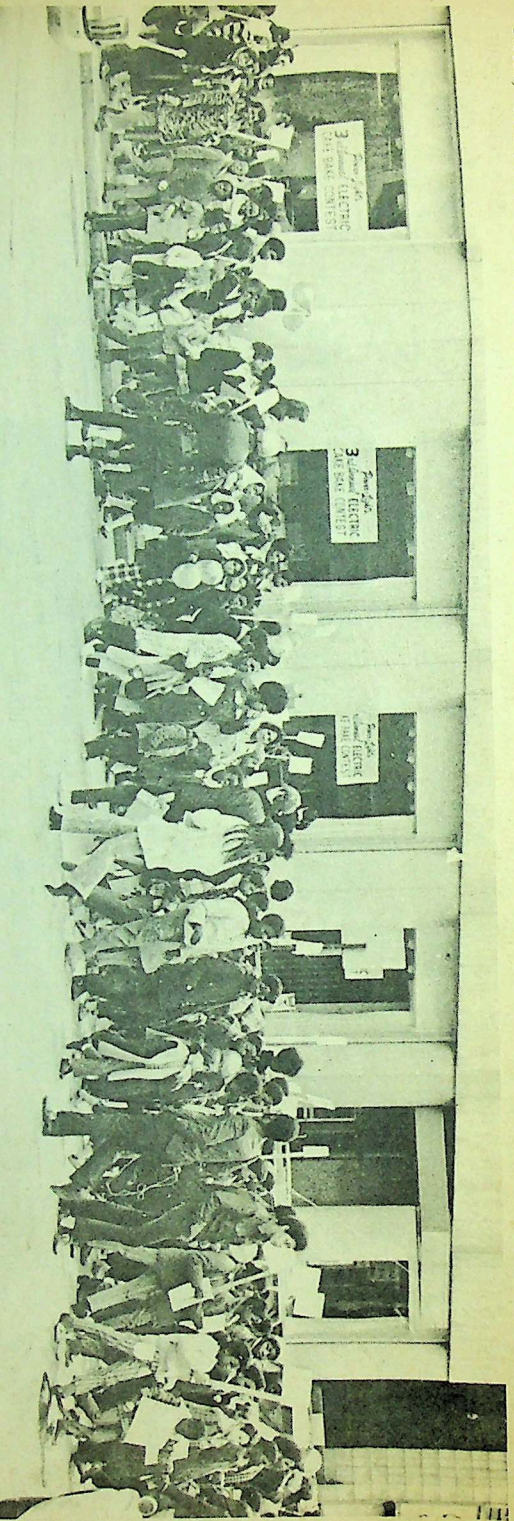
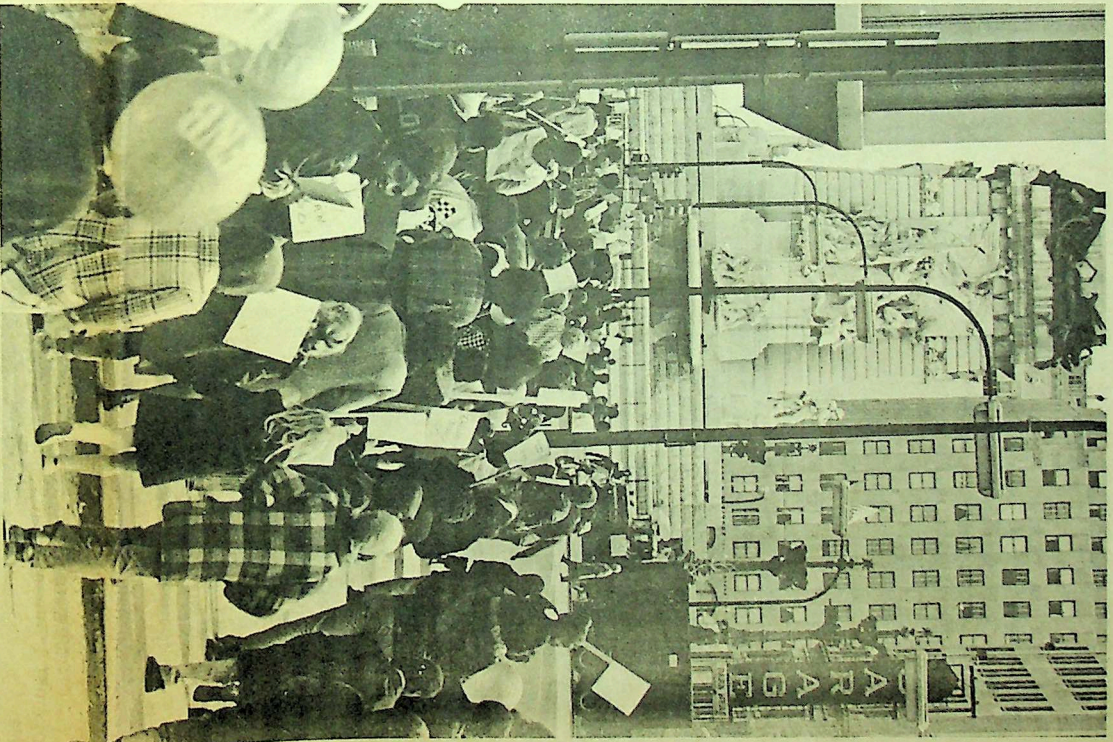
daughter, then read a speech saying that "Nixon had promised to put an end to hunger and war, to reform welfare, but he has escalated the war, cut back in the school lunch program, and created FAP which will depress millions of poor children."

John Mulroony of Veterans for Peace, talked about the dehumanization of Asians by the Nixon Administration and the press. He said "dehumanizing Asians made it all right to kill women and children in Vietnam without it bothering the American Conscience."

He compared the dehumanization of Asians with Nixon's propaganda to dehumanize the poor so that nobody cared if children went hungry. He called the Children's Marches across the country a "successful attempt to bring people together to focus on the needs of poor people."

Spectators looked at art work that the children made depicting physical and spiritual hunger, empty refrigerators, delapidated housing, etc. Children were tested free for sickle cell anemia.

The Evansville March was led by Anna Sanderfur.



MADISON

Over 200 welfare mothers and their children demonstrated in Madison, Wisconsin on March 28th. The demonstration was held to protest inadequate payments for essential household and clothing items. It was a first step to an ongoing nationwide Children's Survival Campaign.

After a rally in the Capitol Rotunda the group then went to the Health and Social Service office. There the group presented a list of demands to Health and Social Services Deputy Director Fred Hinckle.

The demands were:

*Reinstitute a policy granting special needs for funds to welfare families with dependent children.

*Establish a policy of taking family clothing inventories every two years instead of the current policy under which needs are only checked when the family apply for aid.

*Pay the actual cost of water sewage, telephone and laundry bills instead of the \$8 a month maximum now allowed.

Hinckle said the department

would respond to the demands within two days. He then asked the group to "please accept this (his statement) as an honest expression." He said "there is a deep-seated concern in this department for you and your children."

A welfare mother then responded, "Don't tell me you care. I know you don't because it doesn't affect you or your family."

The Welfare Rights group like many across the nation, are planning more activities as part of the Children's Survival Campaign.

PHOENIX

More than 300 children and adults marched from Harmon Park in Phoenix, Ariz., to the state Capitol Building in support of the Children's March for Survival.

Ms. Ida Noble, state-wide WRO chairwoman, spoke on the Nixon Family Assistance Plan and the Poor People's Platform. Other speakers at the rally spoke on a variety of issues from poverty to the war in Vietnam.

SAN FRANCISCO

A March for Survival across the Golden Gate Bridge was held on March 25 to call attention to the suffering of children. The attendance was estimated as well over 500.

Ms. Ethel Dotson, California NCC and Coordinator of the March, talked about its purpose. She said, "the March is a protest of the Nixon Administration's welfare policies, particularly those that involve aid to children. Nixon proposed FAP, which would guarantee \$2,400 to every family of four in this country. This could mean even

lower grants to underfed children." She also said, "Nixon wants child care for all children but he vetoed the Child Development Bill."

In a quest to assure preventive health care, free physical examinations for children were conducted.

Other speakers at the March were Aileen Hernandez, National Organization for Women (NOW), and Tim Sampson, Professor of Social Work at San Francisco State College.



COLUMBIA, S.C.

More than 200 people marched in Columbia, S.C. in support of the Children's March for Survival.

Ms. Louise Hughey, Chairman of the Midland WRO, spoke at the march. She said the march was to "focus on children's issues and to define an action plan to save our children."

"We are marching because children continue to suffer from hunger, malnutrition, poor schools, poor health, a polluted environment and the war."

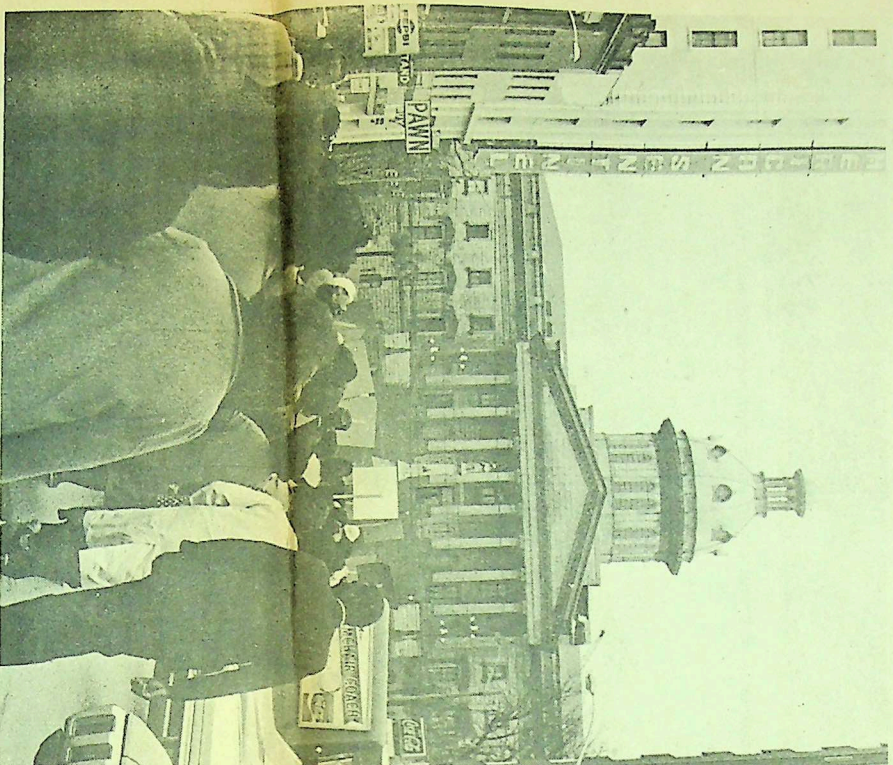
She said, "The crisis for children has never been so acute as it is under the Nixon Administration policies and programs, as well as the state's development bill."

Ms. Hughey was also critical of Governor West. She said, "When he (West) was running for governor, he did a lot of talking, but after he got elected all the

poor people got was warmed over repression."

She then stated nine things NWRO felt must be done to assure the survival of children:

- 1) We must defeat HR 1 (FAP)
 - 2) We must end the war in Indo-China as well as here
 - 3) We must institute universal child development centers
 - 4) We must work toward a preventive health plan
 - 5) We must provide adequate housing
 - 6) We must create jobs that will raise the standards of living
 - 7) We must end hunger
 - 8) We must make the schools a place for children to learn - not instruments of control
 - 9) We must enact changes in income taxes and all other taxes.
- The group then returned to the Zion Baptist Church after which everyone went to an all day "Health Fair."



CHICAGO

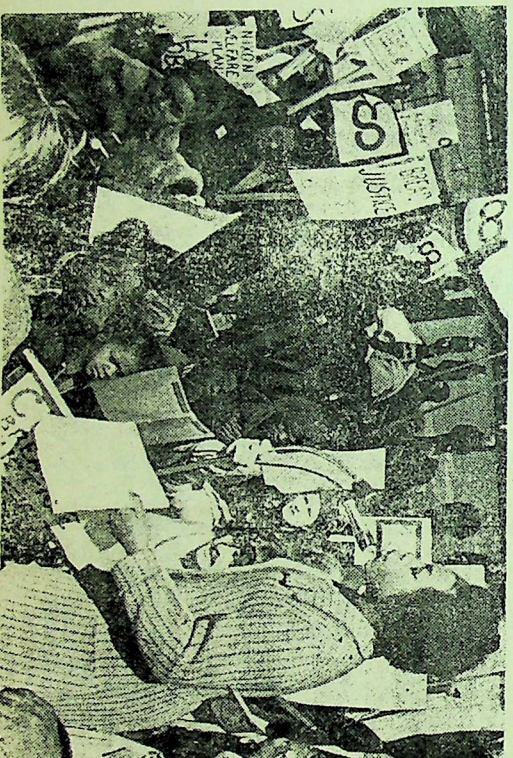
More than 800 participants in a Chicago Children's March for Survival delivered two symbols of "the system."

One was a shoe box. Left at the door of the State of Illinois Building, a sign attached to the box said, "This system lets children go ill-fed, housed and clothed; sick and without adequate child care while the shoe boxes of elected officials get fed."

The second symbol was a rigged, outdated book. It was left at the entrance to the Board of Education Building inscribed, "This is a symbol of the half-education our children get." Ms. Ruby Mabry, Chairwoman of the Chicago WRO said "The minimum income of \$2,400 a year proposed in FAP is not adequate. Welfare Rights Organizations think all families should be a guaranteed \$6500."

Jo Vita Brooks, 16, one of the three children who spoke at the march, called for an all-out attack on sickle cell anemia from which she suffers.

Some of the signboards the marchers used said: "Higher Wages, Higher Welfare, Make the Bosses Pay; Cut Ogilvie, Not Welfare, and Payrolls Instead of Relief Rolls."



SALT LAKE CITY

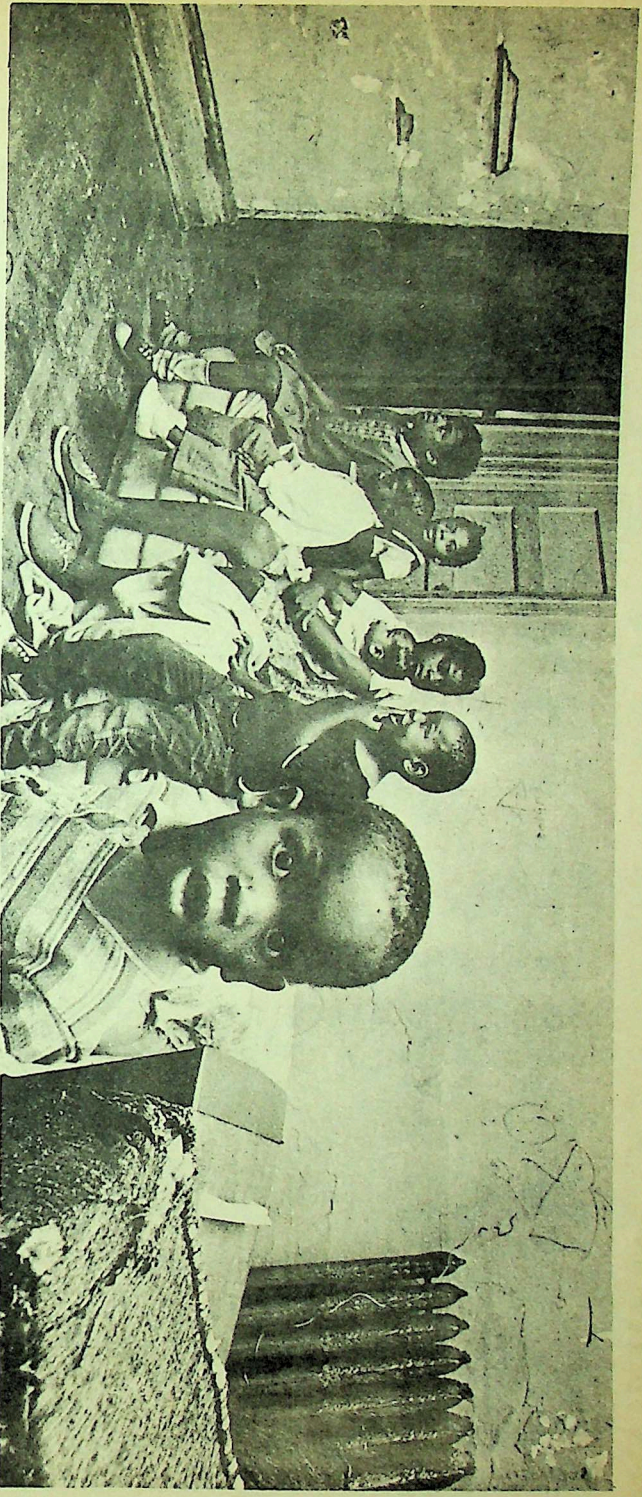
Members of the Salt Lake City (Utah) WRO marched from the East side of Salt Place, North to the State Capitol and to the Memory Grove.

Children who would be hurt by

a cut in welfare benefits marched with their parents Saturday, March 25, to show opposition to House Bill No. 1 now before the Congress. The National Welfare Rights Organization, sponsors of the march here and across the country, pointed out that the bill will require mothers of young children to work, will reduce support payments from 28 to 60% and will cut off food stamps to welfare families.

There was an Easter egg hunt and free medical examination at the end of the march. Among groups joining WRO in opposition to H.R. 1 are SCCIO, and the Social Action Committee of the Utah Council of Churches.

NWRO
NATIONAL CONVENTION
MIAMI BEACH, JULY 5-9
CORNET HOTEL



Slum housing breeds lead poisoning among other things, but more importantly, it breeds a generation of demoralized children.
Photo by Wolf van dem Bussche

KANSAS CITY

More than 100 children and adults took part in a Children's March for Survival in Kansas City on March 25. The group was headed by Ms. Doretta Henderson, Chairwoman of Kansas City WRO.

The march began promptly at 11 a.m. and proceeded from the local WRO office to the steps of the City Hall. There the marchers talked about the problems of

poverty, unemployment, racism and war.

More than a dozen children spoke at the march bemoaning the existence of poverty and urged better health care and improved education.

Harry Wiggins, Western Judge of the Jackson County Court, told the group that elected officials have a duty to see that children

are not victims of exploitation.

The Mayor, Charles B. Wheeler, Jr. told the group, "I'm very much aware of your problems;" however he did not propose any remedies to the local problems that face children in Kansas City.

The signs that the children carried told part of their story:

"Welfare! Don't knock it, you

may have to try it."

"A free lunch for the whole bunch"

"Poverty was not created by poor people"

"Don't reward the rich and penalize the poor"

"\$6500 a year or fight"

"ZAP FAP"

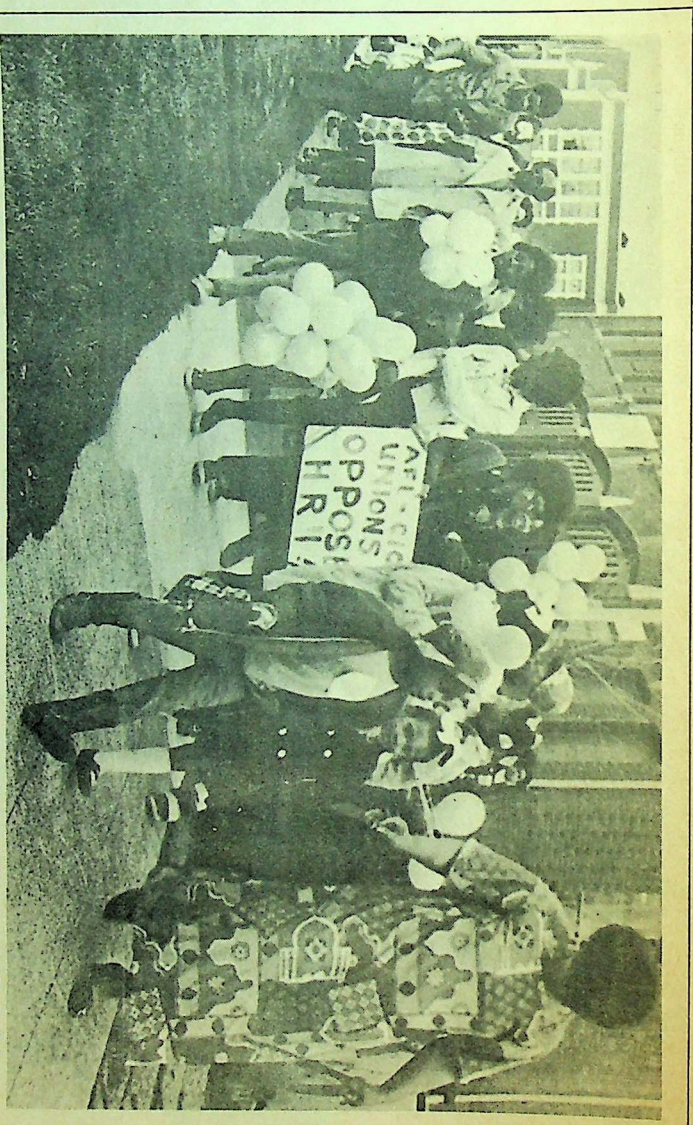
And many others.

NEBRASKA

Over 250 children and adults from Omaha and Lincoln marched around the Governor's mansion and the state capitol in support of the Children's March for Survival on March 25.

The March was preceded by a press conference at which Kim Daley, a space college freshman from Omaha, related from his own experiences as a child growing up on welfare, that \$2,400 a year for a family of four, as provided in the Family Assistance Plan, could not possibly meet the needs of a family in 1972.

The chairman of the statewide Welfare Rights Organization, Lavern Williams, spoke on behalf of mothers who were concerned about the children of today and tomorrow. Support was also expressed by representatives of Nebraskans for Peace, the Women's Political Caucus, and Mothers for Peace.



SEATTLE

More than 500 people attended the Children's March and Festival in Seattle on March 25. The March was sponsored by the Washington State Welfare Rights Organization and had folksinging, puppet shows, balloons, mural painting and a clown. The Nixon Family Assistance Plan was the main topic of discussion.

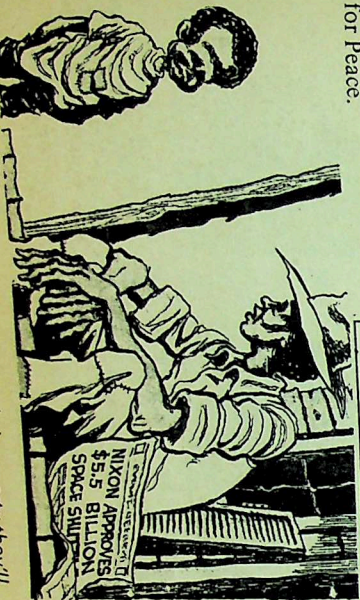
New York Children's Fair

Visitors to the Children's Fair at the Joseph P. Kennedy Community Center on East 135th Street, New York on March 24 didn't have to ask directions — they just followed their ears. A rock record and high-pitched small-child shrieks and laughter was little preparation however, for the impromptu mass dance being performed on the stage at one end of the large activities hall.

Some twenty delectable and highly individualistic three-year-olds with arms waving, hips wagging, and feet jerking out of time in choppy steps, were having a splendid time. And in their bright, knitted tops and slacks (and dresses), they looked like an animated finger painting.

This was the climax to a day of fun and games, a children's fair held to sharpen interest in the March 25 Children's March for Survival in Washington, D.C.

Mariette, The Charlotte Observer



"I reckon if poor folks ever gonna escape their poverty they'll hafta become astronauts."

...AND THERE WAS A SURVIVAL CELEBRATION & AUCTION



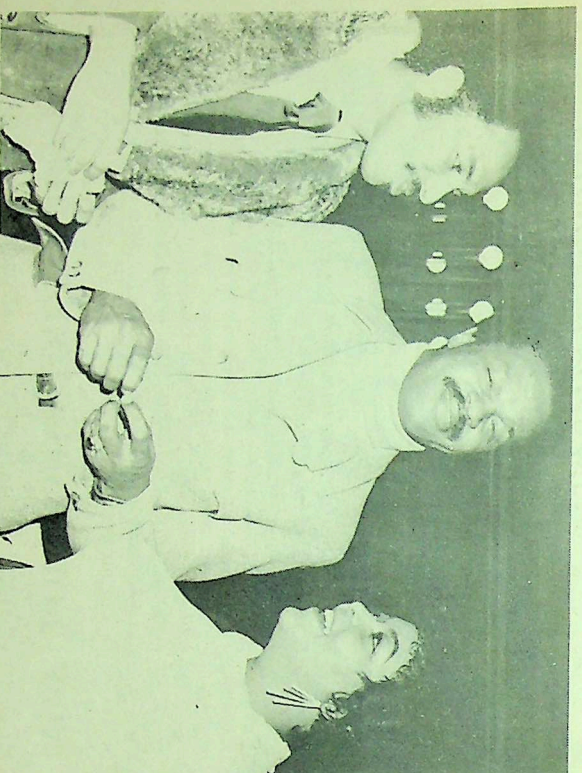
Ms. Gloria Steinem asks for a bid of \$5000 for Bella's hat. No soap.



Actress Shirley MacLaine auctions off her book.

When the marching was over, people gathered to celebrate the birth of a new campaign, in a campaign year, to promote the welfare of children. They gathered for a party and fundraising auction.

Many of the nationally known personalities who participated in the actual March gave personal items to be auctioned off at the celebration to defer the costs of the Children's March. Gloria Steinem, Beulah Sanders, Shirley MacLaine, and William "Shaft" Roundtree, were among those who gathered, gave and bought to save the children.



D.C. School Board President Marion Barry chats with friends at Survival Celebration.



"This is one time we won't Zap FAP," said Ms. Beulah Sanders as she auctioned off the puppy nicknamed after the president's welfare bill.

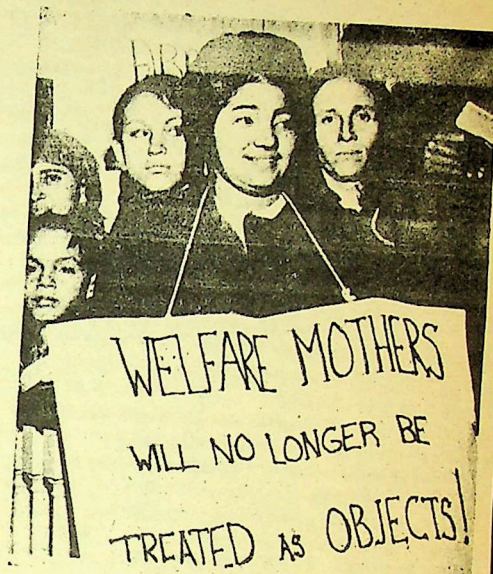
Kathy Sloan, from Chicago, holds "FAP" but Marty Jackson made the highest bid and got the pup.

All Came Tumbling Down



Sylvia Burton, Queens, New York, raises NWRO colors for the HEW demonstration. Invited by HEW employees to reveal the truth about FAP, NWRO members found a hastily-built wall before them.

proved a resolution supporting the protest against the reductions.



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Washington, D. C. Area mothers greet Congressmen returning from summer vacations with signs and speeches about the horrors of FAP.

State Sl...

raises, while giving a welfare family of commission that ruled that Reagan



If you'd been in Evansville or Indianapolis, Indiana, at noontime on a recent sunny day in September, you might have seen and been invited to join demonstrators from Indiana WROs in sweeping the streets. They were also carrying chains and signs, and inviting passersby to join them for \$1.20 an hour. The demonstration dramatized the slave-work requirements in FAP-OFF, and naturally nobody signed up to help at that ridiculous wage. They then went to the welfare department to ask some caseworkers to come out and work, but they all refused too. The press was plenty interested, particularly in the man-in-the-Nixon-mask, following the sweepers with a whip.

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