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Social services are being ravaged. Programs are gutted, clients are devastated and workers are demoralized. The current solutions have only deepened these crises.

We are a group of workers who feel the effects of this assault on the social services. While we represent diverse backgrounds and interests—from organizing to education, from planning to psychotherapy—we all are dissatisfied with the traditional liberal analysis of the problems facing us and the strategies put forth to meet them. We are convinced that the field needs a new forum to provide a socialist perspective.

Toward this end, CATALYST: A Socialist Journal of the Social Services will begin publication in the Winter of 1977.

Why now?

- Because the liberal politicians who once defended us now cut our funds while blaming the social services for the country's economic decline;
- Because priorities once hidden are now publically announced; military strength over mental health, capital formation over jobs, food, and housing;

 Because the professional journals and conferences are filled with narrow discussions of accountability and private practice

By ignoring the true economic and political nature of the current crisis and by removing itself from the real concerns of the majority of workers and clients, the social service field has lost its way.

This requires a critical response which CATALYST takes as its task. CATALYST will examine existing social service policy and practice and will provide a vehicle for developing alternative analyses and practice models. In it you will find:

- A radical critique of psychotherapy, casework groupwork, community organizing and planning;
- Essays on the political economy of the social services
- A socialist analysis of social welfare policy;
- Reports on the organizing struggles of workers and clients;
- Explorations of ways the social services can perform a liberating function:

But above all we seek to stimulate new thought and activity among our readers and to provide an open exchange of ideas. In this way we believe we can contribute to building a democratic and independent socialist movement. If you share our concerns, we invite you to join us.

TABLE OF CONTENTS Volume I, Number 1

- —Towards a New Age of Social Services: Lessons to be Learned from our History
- —Black Organizing: The Need for a Conceptual Model of the Ghetto
- —Social Welfare in Capitalism: A Socialist Analysis
- —Radical Therapy: A Gestalt Perspective
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- —PLUS other features, news and book reviews.

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