

SRRT

do you

REALLY

know about

WELFARE

in the

U.S.

and



THE NATIONAL WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

1424 - 16th STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

CAPSULE BACKGROUND OF

- Elizabethan Poor Laws of England established welfare practices in Colonial America
- They were enacted to "protect" townspeople from the poor and destitute
- American Colonists believed that extreme failure in living conditions was morally weak and sinful, and therefore, protection against such a menace was necessary
- It was common practice to auction able-bodied poor to farmers, and to put the mentally-ill, disabled and homeless children into poor houses
- They were regarded as being "beyond redemption"
- These Poor Laws of 1601 established welfare practices that did not change until 1934 — over three hundred years later
- In 1921, an attempt by the federal government to participate in social welfare programs — through the Maternity and Infancy Act, to deal with the high rate of infancy deaths — failed when the Act was not renewed
- Many did not approve of federal aid for such programs, including the American Medical Association who opposed this Act as the beginning of socialized medicine

SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE U.S.

- The crash of the New York Stock Exchange in October 1929 and the following Great Depression marked the beginning for the need to change the methods of American social welfare
- With the economic depression and widespread despair, the plight of the poor became the plight of major America; the masses of unemployed and homeless families could no longer justify its puritan values and work ethic.
- In 1933, with the election of President Roosevelt, the federal government took the first temporary steps toward responsibility with the Federal Emergency Relief Act (WPA, CCC, NYA, NRA, CWA)
- In 1935, the first permanent step was taken for the federal government to provide security against the great unfortunate factors of life, when the Social Security Act became law
- Hence, the fundamental federal law in the field of social welfare in the U.S. was finally created — but not without great struggle against many people whose attitudes were still more in keeping with the Elizabethan Poor Laws of 1601
- There are still Americans who believe that the "welfare" practices by the Colonial Americans are more desirable today than the development of the fundamental federal law concept for social welfare progress

SOCIAL WELFARE

IT'S ABOUT

Federal Old Age Insurance

Federal-State Unemployment Compensation

Old Age Assistance

Aid to the Blind

Aid to Dependent Children

Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled

Child Welfare Services

Crippled Children Services

Maternal and Child Health Services

Public Health Services

Federal Public Housing

Vocational Rehabilitation

with such programs and services

WHAT WENT WRONG?

THE IDEAL. . . The U.S. Federal Government had reached a first step in its history of maturing. A government of the people, by the people, for the people would assume responsibility for the preservation of the welfare of ALL its people. On a large scale this had meant preservation of the country against enemies, pestilence and catastrophies. On a smaller scale, this would now mean preservation of the individual against poverty, ignorance and disease.

THE HISTORY. . . A glance at American history will clearly show that the behavior of the American people has been the biggest obstacle for obtaining the ideal.

THE REALITY. . . Greed for power and money—red tape in the bureaucracy—the encouragement of racism—exploitation of the unfortunate . . . have been the American way of life that is real. As long as the ideal was the impossible goal, reality could be ignored and the welfare system would fail.

HISTORY OF A MOVEMENT

THE NATIONAL WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

When people face repression—with loss of dignity, anger at self and system—their lot becomes a choice: surrender and become dehumanized or stand together and fight.

Hence, to stand and fight becomes a movement. . .

In 1963-1964-1965, small unrelated groups of people, who were subjected to the failures of the welfare system, set up challenges across the country—demonstrations, court suits, confrontations and community action.

By 1966—the groups began to come together around the common interest they shared—recognition of their human rights, their rights as American citizens, and the rights to their total welfare. National leadership was developed, and

By 1967, more than 5,000 welfare recipients, in 40 cities became united under the banner of The National Welfare Rights Organization — NWRO

In 1972, NWRO membership included 125,000 members making up over 800 Welfare Rights Groups in 500 cities throughout the country.

HOW NECESSARY IS NWRO?

A Few Current Facts About Welfare In The U.S.

- 25% of the American population lives below the minimum decent standard
- 55% of the welfare rolls are made up of children
- 20% of the welfare rolls are made up of the blind, disabled, and aged
- \$4,137 was the 1971 official "poverty level" for a family of four
- \$7,300 was declared minimum need requirement for a family of four, according to the 1971 "low living standard" published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- \$2,488 was the national average welfare budget for a family of four

From a Health Education Welfare Department Study:
2 years is the estimated time the average family receives assistance

Less than 1% of welfare recipients are able-bodied, unemployed males

60% of welfare mothers are: working, in training, waiting for training, or waiting for jobs, or waiting for decent day care

COMPARE:

- 1.9% federal revenues for public assistance
- 40% federal revenues for U.S. military budget
- \$75 Billion estimated tax money given to America's rich — through farm subsidies, capital gain exemptions, oil depletion allowances, and exemptions for money earned in foreign countries

THE NWRO SPEAKERS BUREAU

OFFERS YOU THE OPPORTUNITY

TO MEET

National leaders in the welfare reform movement; grass roots leaders in the community; supporters of the welfare movement — lawyers, educators, clergymen, professors, social workers, sociologists

TO LEARN

WELFARE issues, programs, legislation, political action, studies, campaigns, systems in other countries

TO DISCUSS

All elements of social welfare as it relates to you — your group, your class, your agency, your organization

TO SHARE

Exchange of views; understanding of facts; planning for community and social improvement

CONTACT

THE NATIONAL WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION and request speakers and participants for your lectures, conferences, panels, workshops, symposia, community programs, church activities, school programs

write or telephone

NWRO SPEAKERS BUREAU

1424 - 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone (202) 384-1531

ANY TOPIC ABOUT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IS A TOPIC
FOR NWRO

MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE



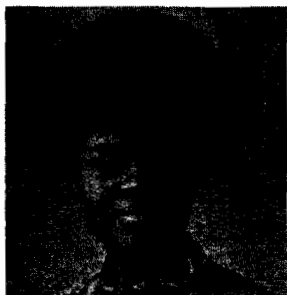
Ms. Beulah Sanders
Chairman, NWRO
Executive Board
New York City

Dr. George Wiley
Executive Director
Co-Founder of NWRO
Washington, D.C.



Ms. Johnnie Tillmon
Associate Executive Director
Co-Founder of NWRO
Washington, D.C.

IN THE MOVEMENT WHO WILL BE



**Ms. Catherine Jermany, NWRO
Western Regional Representative
Los Angeles, California**

**Mr. James Evans, M.S.W.
Executive Director
Misseduc Foundation
Washington, D.C.**



**Ms. Juanita Serrano
3rd Vice Chairman, NWRO
Executive Board
Cleveland, Ohio**

AVAILABLE TO YOU THROUGH



Ms. Pauline Miguel, Alternate
NWRO Western Representative
Phoenix, Arizona



Ms. Margaret Hayes-
1st Vice Chairman, NWRO
Executive Board
Newport News, Va.



Ms. Bertha Cavanaugh
Secretary, NWRO
Executive Board
Providence, R.I.

Ms. Nezzie Willis, Treasurer
NWRO Executive Board
Chicago, Illinois

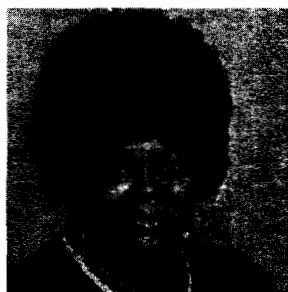


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Pittsburgh, Pa.



Ms. Bernadine Garrett
Sgt.-At-Arms, NWRO
Executive Board
Seattle, Wash.



Ms. Birdine Edwards, Alternate
NWRO Southern Representative
Chapel Hill, N.C.



SOME GENERAL CREDITS

For Welfare Recipients who, despite the repression of the welfare system, marked up achievements for our society and became national leaders

- .. .Nominated to run for New York State Senate
- .. .Elected member, New Democratic Coalition
- .. .Selected member, Peace Mission to meet with North Vietnamese and American Diplomatic Representatives negotiating in Paris
- .. .Zeta Phi Beta Woman of the Year Award for service to the disadvantaged, Louisiana
- .. .Author, "To Bridge the Gap of Poverty," (La.)
- .. .Honorable Mention, Woman of the Year of Pittsburgh
- .. .Member of team that studied welfare in England, Finland and The Netherlands
- .. .Consultant, State University of New York, Albany
- .. .Director, Build Baby Build, a Black Training and Self Help Organization, New York
- .. .Served on Public School Board, Seattle
- .. .Ran for City Council, Seattle
- .. .Started Black Cultural Shop, Educational project to teach heritage to Black Children, Seattle
- .. .Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, Phoenix Indian Center, Arizona

PUBLICATIONS FROM NWRO

BOOKS PAMPHLETS REFERENCE MATERIALS

Literature on all aspects of social welfare are available at NWRO

Send for a Publications List and Order Form

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THE WELFARE FIGHTER

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BECOME A FRIEND TO THE NATIONAL WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

NWRO extends to you an opportunity to develop your interest in a nation-wide grass roots, movement dedicated to the belief that poor people of America can achieve a full life with adequate income, dignity, justice — and with democracy.

To support your interest in this movement, select one of the categories below that is appropriate for you.

As a Friend (non-voting membership) you receive benefits such as the NWRO newspaper, Annual Conference Books, packets of periodicals free; other NWRO publications and materials at discount prices.

-
- | | Annual Dues |
|--|---|
| Supporting (Individual) | \$25.00 ☐ |
| Contributing (Individual with professional/technical interest) | \$10.00 ☐ |
| Associate (Organizations, Universities,
Agencies, Groups) | ☐
Dues set according to
financial size of organization |

I would like further information about benefits _____
Organization annual dues _____

Name _____

Address _____

State (zip) _____

Make payable to NWRO — 1424 - 16th Street, N.W.
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**REMEMBER THE NWRO
SPEAKERS BUREAU**

WHEN YOU PLAN YOUR NEXT EVENT