



**AMALGAMATED MEAT CUTTERS and
BUTCHER WORKMEN OF NORTH AMERICA
AFL-CIO - LOCAL No. 117**

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STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR WELFARE ORGANIZERS RESISTING SCABFARE

by Jerry Menapace

The National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) has a political and economic philosophy which is, generally, directly opposite my own.

The most recent effort of NCLC, however, is worthy of serious consideration and support by all workers, consumers, churches and socially-conscious organizations.

NCLC is sounding the alarm regarding the present push by several states and the Federal Government to "force welfare recipients to work for their money, instead of freeloading on hard-working citizens."

On the surface, the immediate reaction to such schemes is one of approval. After all, who wants to pay a larger portion of his wages in taxes so that the "welfare bums" can continue to lead the "good life" without working?

But several serious questions are raised:

1) WHERE will the millions of welfare recipients work?

At the moment, there are nearly 6 million workers UNEMPLOYED (laid off from their jobs, and not YET on welfare).

How can the Government insist that those millions on welfare go to work, when millions of workers NOT yet on welfare are unable to find jobs?

In the most recent election, one of the major candidates advocated "jobs for all at decent wages." This candidate urged that the Government become the "employer of last resort."

Who is the Government? From a financial viewpoint, You and I. In practice, if the Government were to MAKE jobs for the millions on welfare, from what source would come the money to pay them?

INCREASED TAXES, of course.

With taxes, prices, rents, interest rates and everything else going up, taxpayers will become more antagonistic toward the so-called "freeloaders."

THE MOST FRIGHTENING ASPECT OF THE WORK-FARE SCHEMES IS THE FACT THAT IF ALL ABLEBODIED WELFARE RECIPIENTS ARE REQUIRED TO WORK OR LOSE THEIR MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE, WHAT WILL PREVENT THIS HUGE WORK FORCE FROM BECOMING SCABS?

Any strike in which either the city, state or federal Government decides to become involved, can easily be broken by forcing welfare recipients to SCAB in order to continue to receive subsistence.

2) Socialists and other reformers are often accused of pitting the working class against the wealthy, ruling class. This is called subversive and un-American.

"Work-fare" may easily become a confrontation between workers on one side and the unemployed and welfare recipients on the other.

Each group would be battling the other for what's left of the pie, while the wealthy, ruling class observes from their perch above, waiting to take what's left from the "winner."

In the very beginning of the American Labor Movement, a wealthy fascist railroad tycoon named Gould said, "I can hire half the workers in the world to kill the other half."

Is this philosophy, in a much more subtle and devastating way, in the minds of those who now advocate "work-fare" as an acceptable substitute to welfare?

Seek answers to some of the questions raised herein! Become involved.

See to it that your friends and neighbors know and understand the possible consequences.

Insist that your representatives act in a manner beneficial to workers and not as tools of the wealthy, ruling class in this country.

"Work-fare," without controls, will lead to scabbing on a wholesale basis, and the eventual end of the organized labor movement in this country. Therefore, I support those Welfare Rights Organizers who are resisting the efforts of the Government to mobilize them into a scabforce for the future.

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FROM. EASTERN FARM WORKERS ASSOCIATION, A DELEGATE ENTITY, AND ACTIVE CHAPTER.

Fellow Committee Members:

This will acknowledge our participation as an Active Chapter, of the committee to Rebuild NWRO, our acceptance of delegate status to the organizations first National Convention. E.F.W.A., as a vehicle of trade union struggle, acknowledges the common-struggle, common-goal identity we as workers share with welfare recipients and welfare oriented organizations of legitimate purpose and goal. We pledge ourselves to full participation in activating the effectiveness of the committee, and full use of our resources to urge others of related interest to do the same. In our first participation, we have solicited association in our efforts on behalf of the Committee here on Long Island, from Long Island Legal Defense Committee, an existing entity to charter, with an Island-wide membership dedicated to aiding in the political defense of defendants in court actions of a political nature. LILDC offers organizational solidarity and support to the committee, and will assist us here in information and education efforts designed to make the Long Island Chapter of the committee an immediate viable factor in the current struggle.

We have been advised as to methods currently employed by the committee in educating members of functioning welfare groups as to the committees presence and intent. We support these current efforts and would like to at this time urge the committee to add independent organizing drives among disorganized welfare recipients in the areas where the educational discussions are being presented. From our experience level, we believe it would be an adequate task for local committee members who originate in the existing groups, to address themselves to. We will commence a tentative organizational drive and canvass of this nature here on Long Island, and will advise the committee as to the results of this effort. We believe it is the basic duty of any organizational effort to entitize new members as quickly as possible, and avoid any demoralization and disinterest thru inaction.

Fraternally


Eugene Perente

Field director, E.F.W.A.

ESTIMATED 1973 BUDGET

A reconstructed welfare rights organization which would represent the interests of all unemployed and underemployed workers, veterans, prisoners, et al., would involve at minimum the following operating expenses nationally:

MEETING ACCOMODATIONS:

Two 2-day national conferences	\$ 1,600
Local and regional conferences	200
Local and regional forums	<u>200</u>
	 \$ 2,000

TRAVEL EXPENSES: (This includes both travelling of national organizers to organizing meetings around the country, an expense which will go up tremendously as the organizing expands, and travel expenses of conference participants and their children.)

Plane fare	\$ 1,500
Auto reimbursement	500
Chartered buses	500
Food, lodging and day care	<u>500</u>
	 \$ 3,000

NATIONAL OFFICE:

Office space	\$ 1,500
Electricity	100
Telephone	<u>1,200</u>
	 \$ 2,800

PERSONNEL: One full-time office manager \$ 5,000

OFFICE MATERIALS:

Electric typewriter	\$ 200
Mimeograph machine	200
Desks (2) and chairs (2)	100
Filing cabinets (2)	50
Miscellaneous	<u>150</u>
	 \$ 700

MAILING EXPENSES: (Fundraising and mailings to organizers)

Stamp Machine and stamps	\$2,000
Paper and envelopes	<u>500</u>
	 \$ 2,500

NEWSPAPER: Monthly run of 10,000 \$ 2,400

TOTAL: \$18,400

This does not include any subsidies for expenses to local branches of the organization which may well be cut off from government funds, office facilities and supplies they have relied on in the past. Welfare mothers and other unemployed people generally do not have easy access to typewriters, mimeographs, telephones, etc. Donations of office space or equipment and supplies for use in the national office or locally are therefore welcome.

Dan Snider