

**POOR PEOPLE'S**

**CAMPAIGN**

**SCLC**



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### POOR PEOPLES' CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Following the Poor Peoples' delegations representing the "51st State of Hunger" at the Republican and Democratic conventions there will be more lobbying in Washington when Congress returns, political and economic actions during this fall's election campaigns, establishment of the Poor Peoples' Embassy in Washington, and perhaps more direct action when a new Congress and a new President assemble in January.

### Our Gains So Far

1. The Campaign spread from a beginning in ten cities and five states, mainly with black participants, to include all of the 50 states and to include red, yellow, brown and white poor and their supporters as well.
2. In the area of welfare, the planned inhuman "freeze" on federal aid to dependent children has been delayed, the Supreme Court has voided state laws which would require an unemployed father or husband to abandon his family before they could receive assistance, the anti-poverty program will be continued with extra money for Head Start and summer jobs.
  - Some money -not enough- for Indian health facilities and medical care, education, roads, and welfare.
3. The Department of Agriculture expanded flood programs into more than 200 of the poorest counties. By August 1, there were finally food programs in the 1,000 neediest American counties.
  - The school lunch program was expanded.
  - More money was put into food stamp and food commodities programs.



- Improvements were made in the amount and quality of food commodities for the poor, and a special new enriched diet for babies and small children and their mothers.
- 4. The passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which provided a national open-housing law, protection for people who are exercising their civil rights, and guarantees due process of law for American Indians.
- 5. A multi-billion dollar housing law featuring a new low-interest home ownership program for poor people, rent supplements, subsidies for low income apartments, and a continuation of Model Cities, urban renewal, and mass transit aid to the cities.
- 6. Establishment by the Labor Department of a special subcommittee of the poor, who will advise the government job programs.
- 7. Agreement by the Labor Department to produce 100,000 jobs by December, six months ahead of the earlier schedule.
- 8. Creation of special offices in the Labor Department for Mexican-American and American Indian affairs.
- 9. Hiring of 1,300 poor people in 33 state employment agencies.
- 10. Monthly publications on unemployment in poor communities.
- 11. A ban on discriminatory hiring tests.
- 12. Higher quality neighborhood health programs administered by HEW.
- 13. An end to complicated welfare applications which were used to deny aid to the poor, especially minority groups.
- 14. The right to a full hearing, with legal help, for poor people before welfare can be taken away from them.
- 15. Involvement of poor people in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's advisory boards.
- 16. More funds for training and re-training persons who work with disadvantaged school children.
- 17. A special new committee of poor people to advise the Department of Housing and Urban Development and participate in planning and development of housing programs.
- 18. A guarantee that poor people will have a place to live before their homes can be taken away by urban renewal.
- 19. A recruitment program for Mexican-Americans to work in the Southwest and in Washington on housing programs.
- 20. Agreement by Department of Housing and Urban Development to co-operate with the Poor People's Campaign in making builders comply with the law against job discrimination.



21. A Promise by the Justice Department to enforce the rules against using "green card" farm workers to break strikes.
22. A pledge by the Interior Department to develop community control in Indian programs.
23. A commitment by the State Department to make a full study of the issues of land ownership so crucial to the Mexican-American community.
24. Hiring and training of several hundred poor persons at OEO's national and regional anti-poverty offices.
25. An extra 25 million dollars for OEO programs, including a farm co-op in Alabama and increased funds for Headstart in Mississippi.
26. The Mayors of 22 of the nation's largest cities have pledged their support for the campaign, several Congressmen have introduced new laws to help the poor, others have worked with us in interpreting our needs and demands to their fellow-lawmakers, and many city and state governments are examining and experimenting with new and more creative ways of working with poor people.
27. The Campaign has exposed the practices of discrimination and exploitation of the Federal Government, its unfair treatment of the poor, its payment of high subsidies to the rich, and poor people are no longer ashamed to speak and act in their own interest.
28. More than 350 local and national organizations have pledged their support as sponsors of the Campaign.
29. Many churches and other organizations have developed or are beginning to develop new programs to eliminate poverty. Several outstanding persons are pledging their active participation in the struggle as well as financial aid.
30. The major gain has been the prevention of wide-spread riots and violence in the cities this summer due to our non-violent confrontation in Washington.