

[ca. 1967]

AID FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN (ADC)

My Existence on an A.D.C. Budget

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C.U.F.A.W. Represnetative

I am expected to keep my children clean, adequately fed and clothed and a shelter over their heads with a budget of \$178 per month.

I have four teenage children, three boys and one girl, ages 12, 13, 14, and 15. My budget is:

rent	\$65.00	
food stamps	60.00	plus \$36 Bonus
utilities	20.00	
clothing	2.40	
washing machine	7.59	
Total	\$154.99	
		\$178.00 ADC check
		-154.99 Budget exp.
		<u>\$ 23.01 Balance</u>

The balance has to carry me through until the 10th of the next month. My son 15 is 6 ft. 3 in. tall and wears a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ shoe. I ~~must~~ buy him clothes in the mens department at men's prices. This \$23.01 has to go for transportation to get food stamps and groceries, for house hold items that can't be bought with food stamps, for personal items for women, soap powder and detergents.

In winter my utilities go higher than my budget allows, so I have to rob Peter to pay Paul. I am still catching up on back utilities in the fall when high utilities are back. We are living on 70% of a minimum standard for health and decency set in 1959. We are not allowed to receive any money outside of our income. If so, it is deducted from our A.D.C. income.

Our children are humiliated in school when they don't have some of the things that are asked of them in school. Some of their clothes are hand-me-downs or bought from rummage sales. The clothes that they send us to get at the County Welfare clothing station are not fit for any one to wear. What do you expect from the children? These are some of the reasons for school drop outs.

Instead of helping people to help themselves, our welfare programs help to make people cheat or "fraud" as they call it, and keep them in a sub-standard living condition.

These are some of the things that face mothers on welfare.