Families Shirk Legal Duty To Take Care of Their Own

Welfare Law Widely Disregarded By Relatives Able to Pay; Checkups Inadequate

This series of articles on public welfare follows six months of research and study by the staff of The News, including service as a reporter by Mrs. Ida P. McFarland, a member of the Department of Social Welfare.

The welfare problem, as epitomized and confined to Erie County, is growing more costly each year. This series, spotlighting the system, is intended, as an aid to the many dedicated persons who work in the welfare field to the needy and thus benefit the taxpayer.

By ED MAY

"WE PAY our taxes. Let the Government take care of them."

That statement is costing you thousands of extra welfare dollars every year.

In Erie County today and in other New York counties, there are 5000 women and 5000 men who weekly deduct part of their take home pay and give it to the county as "taxpayer relief." They are parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts of children whose early markers of destitution are being threatened by financial shoals.

You may be one of them and you do it directly or indirectly.

But there are others whose charity never began at home or anywhere else.

THE LAW SAYS THIS:

The husband, wife, father, mother, brother or sister of a child is a recipient of public assistance shall, if he is financially able, be responsible for the support of such person.

But in a large number of cases where the law governing welfare, there is occasion where it is a wide gulf between what it says and what it does.

If we enforced the laws we had, we wouldn't need a residency law," is the way an Erie County Department of Social Welfare official put it when he spoke to our caseworker training class.

Because caseworkers are so pressed for time, the majority of these "responsible relatives" contacts are made by the mail. . . .

HE DELIVERS a form letter and a four-page questionnaire which is designed to gather a detailed picture of the person's financial situation.

peculiar Diet

period in the Buffalo News & News Almanac

WASHINGTON, June 11—There are organizations that live on super gas, they prefer jet airplane fuel. They are a considerable problem for jet aviation, a Navy report says.

The organisms are minute plants, microscopic bacteria known as cyanobacteria which produce a considerable amount of fuel they "drink up." The trouble is the bacteria are "highly effective in clogging various filters and systems of the aircraft as well as transport facilities through which the fuel passes."

The organisms also require a little water in their diet. "In principle," the report says, "the solution is simple—cessation of water. But this is probably beyond practical realization."

Among schemes proposed is that of getting the bacteria and flog to fight each other for their food sources, supplies, thus killing each other off.

said they couldn’t contribute to their children’s need. They refused to permit Mr. M. to move to the uptown apartment on the basis that Welfare will not pay rent to legally responsible relatives.

"Mrs. G. stated that she was responsible and entitled to public assistance, as well as her husband pay property taxes."

THIS INVESTIGATION also brought to light that on May 23, 1936, Mr. H. had taken out $10,000 worth of life insurance on himself and his family.

This was 11 days after he first was accepted for welfare aid. He said the $11,245 monthly premiums were paid by his mother-in-law.

Because of the questionable factors surrounding this case, the conference was held with higher welfare officials. It produced this . . .

"DECISION was that case was to be opened for a short term only and that client was to be specifically informed that this was to be a fund employment to find employment within 3 months. Mr. H. stated that because of this became extremely bitter and hung up on case completely."

The case was re-opened Dec. 1, 1936.

One year and five months later Mr. W. still was receiving $323.42 a week from your tax money.