Some Ways to Lighten The Burdens of Welfare

More Caseworkers, Less Paper Work—
Vigorous Prosecution of Cheats—
Could Reduce Costs

This series of articles on public welfare follows six months of research and study by the staff of The News, including intensive visits to the offices of the Department of Social Welfare.

Welfare problem remains con
tinuous to Erie County's, is
growing more complex every year. This series, spotlighting the abuses that are costing taxpayers millions, is designed to confine welfare to the needy and thus help the taxpayers.

"People are talking in Buffalo about welfare costs. It's time we did something about it," said Mayor D'Urso of Buffalo.

"B George E. Brown, County Board of Supervisors, said: "We have to do something about welfare. It's costing us millions of dollars."

"But we must also be careful not to cut off services to those who really need them," he added.

POLICIES

1. Set up a preliminary plan for eliminating unnecessary offices and personnel. This would involve cutting down the number of caseworkers and reducing the amount of paper work. It would also involve setting up a system of checks and balances to prevent fraud.

2. Increase the penalties for welfare fraud. This would include tougher penalties for those who cheat the system, such as fines and imprisonment.

3. Implement a system of community service for those who are able to work and are eligible for welfare.

CASEWORKER SHORTAGE

1. Increase and reorganize the training program for caseworkers. This could include increased training in ethics, social work, and welfare administration.

2. Increase the salaries of caseworkers to attract more people to the profession.

3. Increase the budget of the Department of Social Welfare to allow for more caseworkers.

EMPLOYMENT

1. Consider hiring employment agencies to help place unemployed welfare recipients in jobs.

2. Consider offering vocational training to unemployed welfare recipients to help them find gainful employment.

3. Consider offering housing assistance to welfare recipients who are unable to find work.