

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 5 OF 16

FOLDER 35

SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES
UNION AFSCME LOCAL 1880

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

American Federation of
STATE, COUNTY, and MUNICIPAL
Employees

APPLICATED WITH THE AFL-CIO
MUNICIPAL

LOCAL UNION NAME SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYEE'S UNION

NO. 1880

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1973

Local 1880 AFSCME, AFL-CIO - a Statewide Union for Michigan Department of Social Service Employees today warned that employee anger has reached an all-time high, especially in Wayne County, and that mass action can be expected unless immediate action is taken to deal with excessive workloads.

Employees are sick and tired of a continuing work-speed-up. The Union has hundreds of grievances on workloads. Local 1880 President, Robert Deneweth said: "The Department and the Michigan Civil Service Commission are guilty of obstructing the grievances from going to arbitration for over a year. The crisis throughout the State has grown steadily worse, but is most acute in Wayne County. The Department and the Commission have obstructed the resolution of the grievances to the point where the Legislature will act on appropriations for next year without consideration of an arbitrator's decision on excessive workloads and work speed-up. After the budget passes, we will be told there is nothing that can be done".

The crisis in workloads means that the helpless, i.e. the sick, the aged, the young, and the poor, will continue to receive inadequate, indeed, indecent service.

The Union charges that the work-speed-up is due to increasing caseloads, additional bureaucratic requirements in such areas as Food Stamps, Service Eligibility, Employment and Training requirements; periodic freezes on replacing employees vacating positions; and the addition of a new health screening program with no additional staff.

The Union also feels that employees in Wayne County have been forced to carry heavier loads and recipients receive less service than in surrounding suburban counties. This is an intolerable, and probably illegal situation.

The Union is demanding an immediate end to the current hiring freeze, reduction of all caseloads - beginning with General Assistance Workers, ADC and (child) Protective Services Workers, and an end to the practices of piling on more and more work on Wayne County workers. Additional staff to handle the Health Screening Program must be hired.

Mass action is inevitable unless there is immediate action in these evident areas.

For more information contact:
Robert Deneweth, President
Local 1880, AFSCME AFL-CIO
Phone Number: 463-7021

WORKERS ACT ON SPEED-UP

DSS Employees fed-up with the continuous work speed-up and callous lack of concern by DSS Administrators will publicize the crisis in workload through action at the Kercheval Office of the Wayne County DSS on Thursday and Friday,

In a press release dated Monday, June 18 Local 1880 denounced the Department and the Civil Service Commission: "The Department and the Commission are guilty of obstructing the grievances (hundreds of Union grievances on workloads) from going to arbitration for over a year. The crisis through out the State has grown steadily worse and is most acute in Wayne. ... thus the Legislature will act on appropriations for next year without consideration of an arbitrator's decision on excessive workloads and work-speed-up. After the budget passes we will be told there is nothing that can be done."

The Union is demanding an immediate end to the current hiring freeze, reduction of all workloads, hiring of additional staff to handle EFSDT, filling immediately all vacant positions, and that the Department move to place priority on meeting human needs rather than bureaucratic paper-work.

Local 1880 urges all DSS employees to join us on an informational picket line at the Kercheval Office from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Thursday June 21 and join in support of Kercheval DSS employees who will be staging a "work-in" that evening.

The Kercheval Building Committee has called a "sick-out" for the next day Friday June 22, 1973.

Local 1880 has obtained the support of pro-labor members of the Wayne Co. Board of Commissioners, Community Groups, and brothers and sisters from other local unions who will join us at the Kercheval Office picket line.

Join Local 1880 on Thursday to dramatize the needs of all DSS Employees

JOIN AFSCME THE UNION WITH THE CONCERN AND THE CLOUT

PICKET 12700 Kercheval (one block East of Conner, one block North of Jefferson. Take I-94 to the Conner Exit go South on Conner to Kercheval. Left on Kercheval.)