

Mothers on Relief Sell Blood to Buy Children's School Clothing: Upset ...

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Mothers on Relief Sell Blood to Buy Children's School Clothing

Upset by State's Refusal to Provide Allowance Money

By LAWRENCE H. GELLER

Angered over the state's refusal to provide them with a "back-to-school" clothing allowance for their children, a group of mothers on relief will sell their blood in order to raise a few dollars to help buy the clothing.

The "Blood Demonstration" will take place tomorrow (Wednesday) Nov. 8, at 9:30 p.m., at the Episcopal Hospital Blood Center, Front st. and Lehigh ave.

ASK WELFARE DEPT.

Mrs. Martha Melton and Mrs. Harriet Beslie, co-chairmen of the Welfare Rights Organization which is sponsoring the demonstration, told *The Tribune* they had asked the State Welfare Department for a \$75 a year clothing allowance.

Mrs. Melton said State Welfare Secretary, Dr. Thomas Georges, was sympathetic with their proposal, "but he told us the budget for the coming year had already been sent in and nothing could be done now."

Mrs. Melton also said "the grapevine had it that we might get a \$17 allowance, but that this was nixed by Gov. Shafer."

When she was asked why the women felt they needed a special

clothing allowance, she replied that "housing takes so much out of our welfare checks, many mothers just don't have enough money to outfit their children properly."

Mrs. Leslie added that many children miss a great deal of school in the winter because their "parents can't afford to buy them winter clothes."

"We have asked the welfare department to correct this situation by making special clothing grants available to those who ask for them," she said.

"And they refused."

FIVE DOLLARS FOR BLOOD

The mothers will receive \$5 for a pint of blood. Persons donating blood have to be in good physical condition and are allowed to give blood only a few times a year.

The Welfare Rights Organization is composed of persons on welfare who are trying to improve the conditions of welfare recipients, along with "setting the record straight" about the myths many persons, both white and Negro, hear about those receiving welfare.

Their headquarters are located at 1421 Arch st.

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