

Senior Citizens News

January, 1973

NEW YORK SENIORS WILL MARCH ON STATE CAPITOL

All senior citizens clubs in New York are being alerted to rally at the State Capitol in Albany in March to urge legislators of the Empire State to resolve some of the increasing problems of the elderly.

Principal sponsor of the event will be the Congress of Senior Citizens of Greater New York, with headquarters in Manhattan, an organization of over 252 affiliated clubs—though seniors from all parts of the State are being invited to join the rally.

Walter Newburgher, President of the Congress and a Vice President of the National Council of Senior Citizens, and Assemblyman Albert H. Blumenthal, Deputy Minority Leader of the State Assembly, organized conferences in four of New York City's five Boroughs in December to alert club leaders to the need for a confrontation with State lawmakers at an early stage in the legislative session. In question-and-answer sessions with club delegates, the Deputy Minority Leader collected the views of the seniors on possible remedial legislation to meet some of their increasing problems.

Congressman Jonathan Bingham, New York City's Deputy Mayor Edward A. Morrison, Deputy Commissioner of the Office on Aging Roberta Spohn and William R. Hutton, Executive Director of the National Council of Senior Citizens, were among the speakers at the New York City conferences.

Newburgher told the club delegates attending the conferences that approximately 160,000 elderly poor in New York City were eligible for public assistance income maintenance, but only 79,000 actually received it.

Failure Of Congress

He claimed that because of Congress's failure to mandate a "pass through" provision of more than four dollars, thousands of poor elderly New Yorkers receiving low Social Security benefits and requiring supplemental public assistance to meet the State's subsistence level were being subjected to "harsh discrimination."

"What the Congress has given with one hand with a Social Security boost, the State has taken away from public assistance with the other hand," said Newburgher, adding:

"For thousands of elderly New Yorkers the recent 20 per cent Social Security boost has pushed them beyond the limits of State eligibility for Medicaid, rent subsidies and food programs."

Congressman Bingham said he hoped Congress would immediately review the effects of the recently-passed H.R. 1 Social Security amendments and seek to correct the retrogressive provisions. No Social Security increase should cause denial of a veteran's benefit, loss of access to Medicaid, or denial of tenancy in low-cost public housing, he noted.



Albert H. Blumenthal, Deputy Minority Leader of New York State Assembly (left), and Walter Newburgher, President of the Congress of Senior Citizens of Great New York, at planning session for Albany rally.

Harassment By Landlords

Deputy Mayor Morrison said a law passed by the State Legislature last year was indirectly subjecting many elderly in rent-controlled apartments in New York City to severe harassment by landlords.

The new State law provides that when a tenant leaves a rent-controlled apartment the landlord may raise the rent to any level he chooses.

In New York City, rents of controlled apartments were raised 7½ per cent last year to all tenants with an income above \$5,000 a year. A similar increase will be permitted this year for all controlled apartments which have not yet reached a maximum base rent established by the City Rent Commissioner.

Deputy Mayor Morrison charged there had been many complaints of landlord harassment of tenants to get them to leave controlled apartments so landlords could skyrocket the rents for profit. "The State's new tenant-vacancy law is sounding the death-knell of rent control in New York City," he said.

Newburgher said that the Albany rally would also focus attention on the need to utilize New York's Federal revenue-sharing funds to improve services for the elderly throughout the State.

Affiliated clubs of the Congress of Senior Citizens are expecting a caravan of over 150 busloads of seniors to participate in the March rally. Details can be obtained from Walter Newburgher, President of the Congress of Senior Citizens of Greater New York, 13 Astor Place, New York, N. Y. 10003.

Spoke to Mr. Bachmann 2/22/73.

*(Treasurer of the Congress of Senior Citizens - OR 3-5120 X292
Mon-Thurs. 10AM-4PM)*

- 1) If we have 12 or more people, they are guaranteed a place on a bus at Astor Place.
- 2) Someone must bring the money over to Mr. Bachmann by March 1st at the latest and pick up as many tickets as are needed.
- 3) Buses will be back in NYC between ~~6~~ 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Pal
Ramsey
260-6th
425-7852
10014

\$ 4.75

Congress of Senior Citizens
13 Astor Place
8th

NEW SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS?

WHAT SECURITY?

THE RECENT 20% SOCIAL SECURITY BOOST PUSHED THOUSANDS
OF OLDER PEOPLE BEYOND THE LIMITS OF STATE ELIGIBILITY
FOR MEDICAID, RENT SUBSIDIES, AND FOOD PROGRAMS.

Join the March 6th
MARCH to ALBANY

---TO FIGHT FOR LEGISLATION THAT WILL HELP TO CORRECT SOME
OF THE INEQUITIES. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!!

Buses will leave from Astor Place at 7 a.m. on Tuesday,
March 6th. (You can sleep on the bus to muster your
strength for Albany.) Roundtrip bus fare is \$5.00.
The VID Committee for the Aged will help pay the fares
of those with limited means.

CONTACT THE VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS, 224 West 4th STREET
BEFORE FEBRUARY 27th. Phone CH 3-6555 (weekday evenings)