

Initiative Measure No. 176

BALLOT TITLE

AN ACT increasing to sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) monthly the minimum grant to certain categories of public assistance, otherwise extending the Social Security program, and making an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. *Title.* This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Freedom From Want Act of 1950."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Intent.* The people of the state of Washington hereby declare their intent to aid in abolishing the specters of insecurity, hunger and pauperization which, tragically and unnecessarily, are haunting larger and larger sections of the people, by enacting a social security measure establishing minimum standards of assistance for the Senior Citizens, the Blind, the Dependent Children and their mothers, the physically handicapped and the destitute unemployed men and women of our state.

The people of the state of Washington have long recognized their responsibility to provide for the Senior Citizens, who are its pioneers and who have devoted their productive years to useful service, whose labor and toil created the wealth of our state, and who are in need, and hereby express their appreciation not only of the needs of the Senior Citizens, but also of the Senior Citizens' right to look forward to an old age of peace, honor and dignity.

The long established policy of providing for the Blind who are in need on at least as liberal a basis as for the Senior Citizens is hereby reaffirmed.

In providing minimum standards of assistance and other services for Dependent Children and their mothers, the people of the State of Washington recognize that the protection of youth begins with security. In the words of the official Bulletin of the Federal Security Agency: "Our children constitute our Country's most important resource." It is the intent of this act that Washington shall once again lead the nation in providing adequate safe-

guards for the care and protection of our children.

In the establishment of medical care in the sound tradition of free choice of doctor and dentist, the state of Washington is the foremost pioneer, and it is the purpose of this act to continue and improve this program. Again in the words of the Federal Security Agency Bulletin: "An adequate program of medical care can reduce or minimize dependency and disability and aid in enabling many persons to gain a self-supporting status."

It is the intent of the people of Washington that the needs of unemployed workers shall be met principally by measures to provide full time jobs at trade union rates of pay and through liberalizing earned unemployment compensation laws, and to prohibit work relief or forced labor. However, when jobs are unavailable and employment compensation benefits are inadequate or exhausted, it is the intent of this measure to provide as a state responsibility minimum standards of assistance for the unemployed whose needs are not fully met by unemployment compensation.

It is the intent of the people of the state of Washington that no section of our citizenry shall be forced to remain destitute in the midst of the demonstrated capacity of American labor, industry and agriculture to provide abundance for all and at a time when corporate profits have reached unprecedented heights. When governments are made to realize that the strength of the nation is inseparable from the well being of the people and when governments compete with one another to increase the welfare of their citizens rather than the size of their armaments, then the security which flows from freedom from fear and freedom from want will be achieved.

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The people of the state of Washington are proud of their preeminence in this endeavor and hereby petition Congress to enact an expanded national social security program including:

- (1) Full time jobs at useful work for all who are able-bodied.
- (2) A national pension of at least \$100.00 a month paid on the basis of right not need for the Senior Citizens and the Blind.
- (3) Matching funds at least equal in amount to those provided by the state for the Aid to Dependent Children program, General Assistance, and the medical-dental care program.

SEC. 3. *Definitions.* For the purpose of this act and other acts relating to public assistance, the following words shall have the meaning herein assigned, unless the context clearly indicates that a different meaning should be applicable.

- (a) "Applicant" shall mean any person applying for a grant under the provisions of this act.
- (b) "Recipient" shall mean any person receiving a grant.
- (c) "Grant" or "Senior Citizen Grant" shall mean the funds, federal and state, made available to recipients under the terms of this act.
- (d) "Senior Citizen" shall mean a person eligible for a grant under the terms of Section 4 of this act, but shall not be construed as limiting eligibility to citizens of the United States.
- (e) "Appellant" shall mean any applicant or recipient who is taking any procedural step permitted in Sections 8 or 9 of this act.
- (f) "Department" shall mean the Department of Social Security and shall include any authorized person or agency of the Department.
- (g) "Director" shall mean the administrative head of the Department, and shall include any person appointed by the director to conduct a hearing pursuant to Section 8 of this act.
- (h) "Income" shall mean net income in cash or kind available to applicant or recipient, the receipt of which is regular and predictable enough to afford security in that

applicant or recipient may rely upon it to contribute appreciably toward meeting his needs; *Provided*, that to the extent that the Federal Social Security Act is amended to permit it, earnings in the amount of \$300.00 or less annually shall not be considered income.

- (i) "Resources" shall mean any asset which may be applied toward meeting the needs of an applicant or recipient, including real and personal property holdings, contributing toward the maintenance of the applicant or recipient or representing investments or savings which may be drawn upon for maintenance purposes, *Provided*:
 - (1) That any applicant may possess insurance policies, the cash surrender value of which does not exceed \$500.00; cash or its equivalent not to exceed \$200.00; personal effects, clothing, furniture, household equipment, and a motor vehicle, without being declared ineligible by reason thereof and without being required to draw thereon for maintenance purposes.
 - (2) That ownership or possession of a home, homestead or place of residence of applicant or recipient or his family shall not render such applicant or recipient ineligible to receive a grant. Such recipient shall not become ineligible to receive a grant by reason of such ownership or possession of home, homestead or place of residence while he is absent therefrom and is confined to nursing home, hospital, or place of refuge because of the condition of his health.
 - (3) Proceeds from the sale or exchange of the resources exempted in subsections (i) (1) and (2) of this section, to the extent that such proceeds are used within ninety days for the purchase of other exempt resources, shall not render applicant or recipient ineligible for a grant.

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- (4) That the ability of relatives or friends of the applicant or recipient to contribute to the support of applicant or recipient shall not be considered a resource.
- (5) That in determining the income equivalent or the gross value of the use or occupancy by a recipient of a home of which recipient is the owner or purchaser, the gross value assigned to such use value shall not exceed the sum of \$10.00 a month, regardless of the number of persons living in or owning such home; and in determining the grant of such recipient the actual monthly cost of occupancy and maintenance, including taxes, assessments, insurance, home repair and upkeep, shall be offset against the \$10.00 monthly gross use value.
- (j) "Committee" shall mean the Social Security Committee.
- (k) "Federal-Aid Assistance" shall mean the specific categories of assistance for which provision is made in the Federal Social Security Act, and any other category for which the federal government may hereafter provide matching funds.
- (l) "General Assistance" shall mean assistance and/or service of any character provided to persons in need not otherwise provided for.
- (m) The term "public assistance" shall mean and include federal-aid assistance and general assistance.
- (n) "Grants-in-Aid" shall mean an allocation of public funds by the state to counties for public assistance purposes.
- (o) "Blind Grants" and "Aid to Blind Grants" shall mean assistance given to blind persons who are eligible for such assistance under the provisions of this act or any other act relating to assistance for blind persons, excluding those blind persons who are provided for in Chapter 166, Laws of 1949.

SEC. 4. *Eligibility.* A Senior Citizen grant shall be awarded to any person who:

- (a) Has attained the age of sixty-five years or is the dependent spouse of a person who has attained the age of sixty-five years, and
- (b) Has been a resident of the state of Washington for at least five years within the last ten, and
- (c) Is not an inmate of a public institution of a custodial, correctional or curative character; *Provided*, that this shall not prevent the Department from paying a grant to meet the incidental and personal needs of a Senior Citizen who is an inmate of a county hospital or infirmary, and
- (d) Has not made a voluntary assignment, or transfer of property or cash for the purpose of qualifying for a Senior Citizen grant, and
- (e) Is in need: for the purpose of this act a person shall be considered to be in need who does not have income and resources sufficient to provide himself and dependents with food, clothing, shelter and such other items as are necessary to afford a reasonable subsistence in accordance with the minimum standards established by the Department pursuant to the budgetary guide provisions of Section 5(a) (1) of this act, which shall assure to each applicant or recipient of a Senior Citizen grant, a standard of living of not less than sixty-five (\$65.00) dollars per month.

SEC. 5. *How and When Grants shall Be Paid.* Grants shall be awarded on a uniform state-wide basis:

- (a) To each eligible applicant or recipient for the purpose of meeting such of his needs as are not otherwise provided for, *Provided*:
 - (1) That such grant when added to his income shall equal not less than sixty-five (\$65.00) dollars per month. In order to determine a Senior Citizen's need, the department shall establish objective budgetary guides based upon actual living cost studies of

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the items of the budget. Such living cost studies shall be renewed or revised not oftener than once a year, and whenever there is a change of five per cent (5%) or more in the cost of all items of the budget such change shall be reflected in the determination of the budgetary guide. Such standards shall include the sum of not less than one (\$1.00) dollar per day for food for each eligible Senior Citizen whether living alone or in a joint living arrangement and shall include the cost of such other basic items as clothing, personal incidentals, household supplies, fuel, light, water and other utilities and an allowance in each grant for transportation needs, and an allowance for telephone upon the request of the recipient, and shall include an allowance for laundry and dry cleaning and refrigeration needs, unless in individual cases the Department establishes that such needs do not exist;

- (2) That each Senior Citizen, whether living alone or in some joint living arrangement, found to be without resources and income shall receive a grant of not less than sixty-five (\$65.00) dollars per month;
- (3) That upon any determination or redetermination of the needs of any applicant or recipient, the Department shall inform in writing such Senior Citizen of the amount of the grant and the basis upon which it is determined;
- (4) That upon approval of an application, the grant shall be paid as of the date of application, except that in the case of an applicant not yet sixty-five, such applicant may apply thirty days in advance of reaching his sixty-fifth birthday, and if found eligible his grant shall

be paid commencing on his sixty-fifth birthday.

- (b) If the federal government lowers the age limit at which matching funds will be granted for Senior Citizen grants, the state shall award Senior Citizen grants to persons of that age on the same conditions and terms as set out in the rest of this act for Senior Citizens over sixty-five years of age.
- (c) If the federal government increases or establishes matching funds for any public assistance program, the Department shall take full advantage of any such increases in the payment of grants.
- (d) To each Senior Citizen in a county hospital or infirmary whose general subsistence is provided for, the department shall award a grant to meet his needs of a personal or incidental character.

SEC. 6. Applications. Applications for a grant shall be made to an authorized agency of the department by the applicant or by another in his behalf; shall be reduced to writing upon standard forms prescribed by the department; and a copy of the application upon such standard form shall be given to each applicant at the time of making application. An inmate of any public institution may apply for a grant while in such institution, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of Section 5, shall, if found otherwise eligible, be awarded a grant as of the date of his leaving such institution.

SEC. 7. Investigation. Whenever the department or an authorized agency thereof receives an application for a grant, an investigation and record shall be promptly made of the facts supporting the application. The department shall be required to approve or deny the application within thirty days after the filing thereof and shall immediately notify the applicant in writing of its decision; *Provided*, that if the department is not able within thirty days, despite due diligence, to secure all information necessary to establish his eligi-

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bility, the department is charged to continue to secure such information, and if such information, when established, makes the applicant eligible, the department shall pay his grant from date of application.

SEC. 8. Fair Hearings. If any applicant or recipient is aggrieved or dissatisfied by any action of the department affecting his application, grant or any other services provided in this act, he shall have the right to a review of such action in the manner provided in this section:

- (a) The appellant shall be deemed to have received notice of a decision of the department three (3) days after the date when the department mails written notice of such decision to him, or on the date when he receives any assistance from the department pursuant to such decision, whichever is the later.

Within sixty (60) days after receiving notice of a decision of the department in his own case which appellant believes to be erroneous or unlawful, he shall have the right to give notice of appeal therefrom to the director. Such notice may be sent by ordinary mail. Within thirty (30) days after receiving the notice of appeal, the director or a hearing examiner appointed for such purpose, shall conduct a fair hearing on the appeal in the county of appellant's residence, unless another place of hearing is requested by appellant or his authorized representative. Notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be mailed by the director to the appellant and his authorized representative at least five (5) days before the date of the hearing. A transcript of the evidence received and testimony taken at the hearing shall be made and furnished without cost to the appellant.

The director shall decide the appeal within thirty (30) days after the date of the hearing, and shall mail a copy of his decision and of the transcript of the fair hearing to the appellant and his authorized representative.

- (b) An appeal may be taken at any time from any one or more of the rules and regulations of the department which appellant believes to be unlawful, arbitrary, capricious or void. When such appeal is taken appellant, either individually or together with other persons similarly affected, shall give notice of appeal to the director by registered mail or personal service. In such notice he shall specify which of the rules and regulations he believes to be objectionable, the reason for such objection, and the manner in which his application or grant is affected. If matters of fact are required to be determined in connection with such appeal, the appellant may specify what he believes the facts to be as a part of his notice of appeal. The director may accept appellant's statement of the facts, or he shall forthwith give notice of time and place of hearing, not more than ten (10) days from the date of receipt of notice of appeal, at which the appellant and the department shall have opportunity to produce evidence for the record. Appellant and the director may agree to an extension of time for such hearing. Unless an extension of time is agreed to, the director shall decide the appeal within fifteen (15) days after receipt of notice of appeal.

- (c) If the director fails to decide any appeal within the time specified in this section, such failure, at the option of the appellant may be deemed an adverse decision from which an appeal to the superior court may be taken in the time and manner provided in Section 9 hereof.
- (d) Appellant or his authorized representative shall have right of access to the files of the department in the case on appeal, and shall have the right to examine such files.

SEC. 9. Court Appeals. The actions and decisions of the director shall be subject to review by the superior courts and by the supreme court,

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in the manner provided in this section.

- (a) If an appellant is aggrieved or dissatisfied by any decision of the director he shall have the right to appeal the decision to the superior court of the county of his legal residence. The appeal shall be taken by notice filed with the clerk of the court, and served upon the director, within sixty (60) days after appellant receives the decision. The mailing of the notice of appeal to the director by registered mail shall be sufficient service.
- (b) Within ten (10) days after the receipt of appellant's notice of appeal, the director shall file with the clerk of the superior court his decision and the complete record of the case on appeal. No further pleadings shall be necessary to bring the case to issue, and the clerk shall immediately docket the case for trial.
- (c) If the appeal is taken from a decision of the director made, or required under the provisions of Section 8(b) of this act, the court shall, upon showing by appellants of reasonable necessity therefor, at any time after the appeal is taken, order the director to show cause, at such time and place as may be fixed by the court pursuant to its rules, why the objectionable rules and regulations should not be set aside.
- (d) The court shall decide the case on the record. If the court finds that additional testimony should be taken to complete the record, it shall direct the taking of such additional testimony before the director, who may modify his decision, if warranted in so doing by the additional testimony. The findings of the director as to matters of fact shall be conclusive, unless such findings are not supported by the record. The court may affirm the decision of the director, or may modify or reverse such decision when the director has acted erroneously, unlawfully, arbitrarily or capriciously, and remand the matter to the director for further proceedings in conformity with the court's decision, and in any case where the decision affects the rights of any class or category of recipients or applicants, each member of the class or category shall be entitled to the benefit of the decision to the same extent as if he were an appellant in his individual case.
- (e) Any party may appeal from the decision of the superior court to the supreme court in the manner provided by law.
- (f) Any one or more appellants who have appealed to the director under the provisions of section 8(b) of this act shall have the right to apply directly to the supreme court for relief against rules and regulations which affect the general administration of public assistance, or any category thereof. Such application shall be filed in conformity with the rules of the supreme court relating to original writs, and the governor and his director of social security shall be made respondents in such proceedings. Upon the filing of such application, the supreme court shall speedily hear and decide the issues involved, and, in conformity with Article 4, Section 2 of the constitution of the state of Washington, shall state in writing the grounds of the decision.
- (g) The remedies herein provided shall not be deemed to be exclusive, nor to limit the right of any one or more applicants or recipients to apply to any court for any other, further or different relief.
- (h) No filing fee or other fees shall be collected, nor any bond required, in connection with any appeal under this act. In the event that either the superior court or the supreme court renders a decision in favor of the appellant, he shall be awarded reasonable attorney's fees and costs to be paid by the department out of funds appropriated by the legislature for administrative expenses. If any decision is made in favor of an appellant, assistance shall be paid from the date of application or if appellant is a recipient, from the effective date of the department's

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decision from which he has appealed.

- (i) A copy of each opinion of the supreme court, relating to the administration of this act, or construing its terms or provisions, shall be mailed by the director to each recipient within thirty (30) days after it is rendered

Sec. 10. Rules and Regulations.

The department is hereby authorized to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this act to the end that this act shall be administered uniformly throughout the state, and that the spirit and purpose of this act may be complied with. All staff manual provisions, administrative directives, departmental procedures and practices, which in any way affect the amount, method of determination, time, place, or manner of receipt of any grant or services, or the eligibility, or manner of determining the eligibility of any applicant or recipient, shall be filed by the Department with the Secretary of State, as the rules and regulations of the department. Such rules and regulations shall be filed with the Secretary of State thirty (30) days before their effective date, and shall be available to the public on request. All other memoranda or directives of the department to the county welfare departments or the personnel thereof shall be filed with the Secretary of State and open to public inspection.

The State Social Security Committee shall review said rules and regulations before they are filed with the Secretary of State, and the governor shall affix his signature thereto before said filing.

Sec. 11. *Age and Length of Residence Verification.* Proof of age and length of residence in the state of any applicant may be established as provided by the rules and regulations of the department; *Provided* that if an applicant is unable to establish proof of age or length of residence in the state by any other method, he may make a statement under oath, of his age on the date of application, or on the length of residence in the state, before any judge of the superior court or any justice of the supreme court of the state of Washington, and such

statement shall constitute sufficient proof of age of applicant or of length of residence in the state; *Provided*, however that any applicant who shall wilfully make a false statement as to his age or length of residence in the state under oath before a judge of the superior court or a justice of the supreme court, as provided above, shall be guilty of a felony.

Sec. 12. *Liens on Property Prohibited.* Senior Citizen grants or medical care or other services awarded to a recipient under the public assistance laws of the state of Washington shall not be recoverable as a debt due the state, except where such funds have been received by the recipient contrary to law, or by fraud or deceit.

Sec. 13. *Funeral Expenses.* Upon the death of any recipient under this act, funeral expenses in the sum of \$100.00 shall be paid by the department toward the total cost of the funeral.

Sec. 14. A copy of all laws relating to the application and granting of Senior Citizen grants shall be given to each applicant when he applies.

Sec. 15. *Additional Care.* In addition to Senior Citizen grants, each recipient who is in need of medical and dental and other care to restore his health shall receive:

- (a) Medical and dental care by a practitioner of any of the healing arts licensed by the state of Washington of recipient's own choice
- (b) Nursing care in applicant's home and hospital care as prescribed by applicant's doctor, and ambulance service.
- (c) Medicine, drugs, optical supplies, glasses, medical and pharmaceutical supplies, artificial limbs, hearing aids, dentures, and other appliances prescribed as necessary;

Provided, that when federal matching funds become available for this program, it shall be the duty of the state to accept such matching funds. Until such time this section shall be financed from state and county funds.

Sec. 16. The provisions of this act shall apply in other categories of

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public assistance in the following manner:

- (a) The provisions of sections 5(a)-(3), 5(c), 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 shall apply equally in all categories of public assistance;
- (b) The provisions of Section 3(h) shall apply to all categories of public assistance, excepting that the *Proviso* thereto shall not apply to general assistance;
- (c) The provisions of Section 4(b), (c), (d), and (e), and Section 5(a)(1), (2), and (3) and Section 5(c) and (d) of this act shall apply in determining eligibility for and the amount of Aid to Blind grants;
- (d) The provisions of Section 3(i) shall apply to all categories of public assistance, excepting that the exemption of \$200.00 in cash or its equivalent contained in subsection 3(i)(1) shall not apply to general assistance;
- (e) Section 4(e) and Section 5(a)(1) shall apply to applicants for and recipients of, grants of Aid to Dependent Children and General Assistance to the following limited extent:
 - (1) In determining need and computing the amount of grants the same standards of needs and budgetary standards of assistance established in Section 5(a)(1) for shelter, clothing, personal incidentals, household supplies, fuel, light, water and other utilities, shall be used; and the department shall provide for other needs in special cases; the provisions of section 5(a)(1) establishing minimum standards of \$1.00 a day for food shall apply to adults;
 - (2) Grants to two or more recipients who have joint living arrangements may be computed on a family basis; and
 - (3) Nothing herein shall be construed as establishing a minimum monthly grant of \$65.00 for each recipient to

Aid to Dependent Children or General Assistance;

- (f) The department shall establish residence requirements for General Assistance, but in no event shall the department impose a requirement of longer than one year's residence in the state, and shall have the power and is hereby instructed to make special provisions for emergency cases where the applicant for General Assistance has less than one year's residence.

SEC. 17.

- (a) It is hereby declared to be the intent of the people of the state of Washington to take the fullest possible advantage of the provisions of the Federal Social Security Act to provide grants and other assistance to Senior Citizens, and others covered by this act, as liberally as is consistent with receiving matching funds under the terms of the Federal Social Security Act.
- (b) If any portion, section or clause of this act shall be declared or found to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such adjudication shall not affect the remainder of this act. If any plan of administration of this act submitted to the Federal Security Agency shall be found to be not in conformity with the Federal Social Security Act by reason of any conflict between any section, portion, clause or part of this act and the Federal Social Security Act, such conflicting section, portion, clause or part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative to the extent that it is so in conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the remainder of this act.

SEC. 18. Codification of Public Assistance Laws. It is the intent of the people of the state of Washington in enacting this measure that all laws of the state relating to public assistance, including this act, shall be codified to eliminate duplication, provide uniformity and otherwise simplify such laws, and the enactment of this measure shall not be construed

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to prohibit the rearranging, renumbering or otherwise changing the order or form of this act without changing the substance thereof.

SEC. 19. The legislature shall appropriate sufficient funds to carry out the purposes of this act, and to pay grants in the amount provided for herein, and the department shall expend such appropriation in the manner and on the basis provided in this act; and no provision of Chapter 196, Laws of 1941, or of Chapter 6, Laws of 1925, or of Section 8, Chapter 216, Laws of 1939, or of any other law, shall be construed to permit the department to make ratable reductions from such grants.

SEC. 20. *Meetings of Social Security Committee.* The Social Security Committee shall hold a meeting at least every quarter at which the public shall have an opportunity to be heard on matters relating to the administration of this law and to the administration of the social security laws of this state generally.

SEC. 21. *Surplus Commodities.* The director is hereby empowered and directed to acquire and distribute through the county welfare departments surplus commodities available through agencies of the federal and state governments, *Provided*, that such commodities shall not be used as a substitute for any part of the cash grants provided in this act, but solely to supplement the standard of living provided through the cash grants.

SEC. 22. The following being in conflict with this act, are hereby repealed: Section 1, Chapter 216, Laws of 1939, as amended by Section 1,

Chapter 289, Laws of 1947; Section 16, Chapter 216, Laws of 1939; Section 7, Chapter 170, Laws of 1941; and Sections 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34, Chapter 216, Laws of 1939; and all other acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith are also hereby repealed.

SEC. 23. The effective date of this act shall be January 1, 1951, and grants payable hereunder shall be paid as of January 1, 1951.

SEC. 24. *Confidential Nature of Information.* All files and records of the department concerning any applicant or recipient shall be confidential and shall not be open to inspection or examination by any person, or agency of the state or United States government, excepting the employees of the department or representatives of the Federal Security Agency in connection with their official duties directly related to the administration of public assistance; and such records shall not be subject to subpoena or other legal process by any court, or department of government, excepting in a criminal or civil action against a recipient or applicant for obtaining or attempting to obtain assistance by fraud, or contrary to law; *Provided*, nothing herein shall be construed to limit the rights of any appellant, or his authorized representative, as provided in sections 8 and 9 of this act.

SEC. 25. In order to provide for the operation of this act until such time as the legislature shall have had an opportunity to make an adequate appropriation, there is hereby appropriated for the remainder of the biennium the sum of six million, five hundred thousand (\$6,500,000.00) dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, from the general fund.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State April 20, 1950.

EARL COE,

Secretary of State.

ARGUMENT FOR INITIATIVE MEASURE NO, 176

Dear Fellow Citizen:

This November you will have your choice of two initiatives, 176 or Langlie's 178.

The major purpose of 176 is to stop the cuts in the grants to Senior Citizens, dependent children, the physically handicapped and others made by the Langlie administration, and to add \$5.00 a month to the minimum grants in order to meet the rising cost of living.

The major purpose of 178, on the other hand, is to destroy nearly all of the social security guarantees that have been won by the people in the last ten years—and to make savage slashes in the old age pensions and other categories.

(1) 176 raises the present minimum grant of \$60 a month to \$65 for the Senior Citizens and the Blind. 178 destroys the present \$60 floor. Under 178 the Senior Citizens would have no legal rights to a pension in any amount; they would be at the mercy of the Director of the Department.

(2) 176 continues the prohibition now in the law which prevents the Department from forcing sons and daughters and other relatives to support the Senior Citizens. 178 repeals this prohibition.

(3) 176 permits a recipient to own his home, car, and personal belongings without interference and without any lien being taken against his property. 178 empowers the Department to set "ceiling" or "maximum" values on a Senior Citizen's home, his car, and on all his personal belongings. If a Pensioner—or other recipient—has a home, car, or belongings exceeding the maximums set by the Director, he will be cut off the pension rolls until he sells them and lives up the proceeds. **This is a "living lien law!"**

(4) 176 continues the fine program of free choice of doctor and dentist and other medical services that has lengthened the lives of the Senior Citizens and the Blind. 178 repeals this program and makes possible a return to the "out-patient" program at county hospitals. Initiative 176 does not look upon our Senior Citizens and the prolongation of their lives as a "Waste"—as Langlie's measure does.

(5) Under 176 once a Senior Citizen's need is established he will receive the full amount to meet those needs each month. Under 178, which legalizes percentage cuts, a Senior Citizen or other recipient would never know from one month to the next what the size of his grant would be.

176 is a test of our willingness to spend for peaceful purposes for the benefit of our own people who are in need. Langlie's 178 is a product of the "cold war," which is costing our state and nation billions every single month. 178's philosophy is based upon spending an ever increasing share of our state's resources for armaments—for which the money is always found—and cutting drastically the share going for the needs of the elderly, the blind, the dependent children, the handicapped.

Your vote for 176 and against 178 are votes for peace and for continued pension progress in our own state and nation. They are votes against war and impoverishment of the people. REMEMBER—100% of all pensions, aid to dependent children, general assistance and blind grants goes back into the channels of business in our state within 30 days, benefiting labor, the farmer, the merchant—unlike expenditures for vast armaments, which mean principally profits for the corporations.

DON'T FORGET—You have TWO VOTES ON THESE TWO INITIATIVES. BE SURE TO READ BOTH IN THEIR ENTIRETY—THEN WE KNOW YOU'LL CAST ONE VOTE FOR 176 AND ONE AGAINST 178.

For more information write to

WASHINGTON PENSION UNION,
610 Eitel Building,
Seattle 1, Washington.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State July 22, 1950.

EARL COE
Secretary of State.

ARGUMENT AGAINST INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 176

You now Face the Threat of State Bankruptcy — or Oppressive New Taxes

Washington state is virtually bankrupt now. This is largely due to wasteful spending under Initiative 172—the present welfare law.

Initiative 176—backed by the same forces who “put over” Initiative 172—is designed to aggravate and continue this waste.

Under the present welfare law the state has plunged from a \$32 million surplus in 1948 to a deficit upwards of \$50 million. A special session of the legislature was required for the sole purpose of increasing all-time record welfare appropriations by an additional \$16 million. Even this will not be enough, say the backers of Initiatives 172 and 176.

WELFARE COSTS MORE THAN SALES TAX RE- TURNS

Your state of Washington now is spending at a rate of \$9,250,000 a month for public welfare alone. That is **ALMOST HALF AGAIN AS MUCH AS PRESENT SALES TAX RECEIPTS**. It accounts for nearly half of all general fund expenditures. It is money needed by schools and other institutions.

But, Initiative 176 would increase this outlay by at least **ANOTHER MILLION DOLLARS PER MONTH**.

In addition, Initiative 176 would:

(a) Tie the hands of the legislature and the courts for at least another two years in alleviating this chaotic state of spending.

(b) Raise present **artificial** minimum standards counter to the spirit of the federal law governing “matching funds” which provides that assistance be based upon “need.”

(c) Breed **idleness and contempt** for the American way of life by encouraging people to accept relief **more liberal** than their working, tax-paying neighbors **can earn**. This situation that occurs under the present Initiative 172 would be aggravated under Initiative 176.

In brief, Initiative 176 would hasten the bankruptcy of the state—well started under Initiative 172, OR bring on new, oppressive taxes. This, at a time when the federal government requires all that the economy can bear to meet an international crisis.

New demands by Initiative 176 would be squarely in line with the **SOVIET** policy of compelling us to spend ourselves to destruction.

Whatever their motives, the sponsors of Initiative 176 are the same who demanded that “we get the Yanks out of Korea.” They have circulated the so-called Stockholm “Peace” petition that follows the Moscow party line to outlaw “aggression,” NOT on U. S. but on **RUSSIAN** terms. They have consistently echoed the Kremlin line. If you have any doubt of this, read the last three paragraphs of the **sponsor’s own argument** calling for “peace” and pensions **INSTEAD** of the arms so desperately needed in Korea and elsewhere.

VOTE AGAINST 176

Americans, don’t be fooled again! Vote **AGAINST** Initiative 176.

Make no mistake! The issue is whether we are to have a welfare law designed to serve the needs of our own **aged, blind and needy** people—or to serve the designs of the **Supreme Soviet at Moscow**.

Do not be confused! Only one measure on your ballot is designed to **CORRECT** the present abuses of public welfare. That is Initiative 178, presented elsewhere in this pamphlet.

Initiative 176 would, on the contrary, aggravate and prolong the present mess to the point of bankruptcy, chaos and oppressive new taxation.

For **YOUR Freedom—and Freedom from Waste!**

Vote: **FOR** Initiative 178
Vote: **AGAINST** Initiative 176

*Remember—Vote **AGAINST**
Initiative 176

WASHINGTON STATE TAX-
PAYERS ASSOCIATION

By Daniel L. Hill
Acting Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

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EARL COE,
Secretary of State.