

SIGN ON...

I WAS GLAD TO SEE THAT OUR CONGRESSMAN, JARED HUFF-
MAN WAS GOING TO TRY TO SURVIVE ON \$4.70 A DAY FOR FOOD.
IT'S A NICE GESTURE, BUT MERELY TOUCHES THE TIP
OF THE ICE BERG. ~~WE'LL~~ I'LL GET BACK TO THAT IN
A MINUTE. NOW, I HATE TO BEAT ON A DEAD HORSE,
BUT I SEE WHERE THEY (WHO EVER THEY ARE) ARE
TARGETING FOOD STAMPS FOR BUDGET CUTS AGAIN.
AS MOST OF YOU REGULAR LISTENERS KNOW, I WORK-
ED IN THE RETAIL MEAT AND GROCERY INDUSTRY
ALL MY LIFE. I NEVER MADE A LOT OF MONEY, BUT
FOR THE LARGEST PORTION OF THAT TIME, I HAD
BENEFITS. THANKS TO THE UNION AND A GENEROUS
BOSS, MY WIFE WORKED AS WELL, SO WE MANAGED.
SO, OVER THOSE YEARS, I SAW THE INTRODUCTION OF
FOOD STAMPS AND WIC, WHICH STANDS FOR WOMEN WITH
INFANT CHILDREN. BOTH PROGRAMS WERE MEANT TO
GIVE THOSE ON LOW INCOMES SOME HELP IN FEEDING
THEIR FAMILIES. THERE WERE, AND STILL ARE, RULES
AND REGULATIONS AS TO WHAT YOU COULD BUY AND
HOW MUCH OF ANY ITEM COULD BE PURCHASED. AS
WITH ANY PROGRAM THAT INVOLVES MONEY OR MONET-
ARY VALUE, THERE ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS
WILL BE CHEATERS AND MANIPULATORS, BUT ALL
IN ALL ~~IF~~ THEY ARE PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT THOSE
WHO NEEDED AND USED THEM. BECAUSE OF THE "GUILT
ASSOCIATION" THAT GOES WITH THIS TYPE OF HELP, MANY
PEOPLE WHO COULD USE FOOD STAMPS AND WIC, DON'T. SOME
TIME BACK, ~~THE~~ PROGRAM CHANGED TO A CREDIT CARD
TYPE OF TRANSACTION, ~~SO~~ MAKING THE PROCESS LESS
OBVIOUS. SO, GETTING BACK TO CONGRESSMAN HUFF-
MAN AND THE ICE BERG HE'S DEALING WITH ~~BY~~ TRYING TO

EAT ON \$4.70 A WEEK. AS I SAID, THAT IS JUST THE TIP OF THE PROBLEM. LET'S SAY YOU MAKE \$1500 AN HOUR. THAT'S A GROSS OF \$600.00 FOR A FORTY HOUR WEEK. MORE THAN MANY LOW INCOME WAGE EARNERS ^{MAKE} THAT'S \$2400.00 = ^{LESS} SOCIAL SECURITY, ^{RTG} A MONTH. DEDUCT RENT, AUTO ^{MOBILE} MAINTAINANCE, FOOD, CLOTHING, UTILITIES, MEDICAL EXPENSES AND ALL THE OTHER NORMAL COSTS OF DAILY LIFE, PLUS (OR MINUS) UNEXPECTED COSTS OR EXPENSES AND, LET ME TELL YA - THERE AIN'T MUCH LEFT! THEN THE GOVERNMENT TELLS YOU - "YOU HAVE TO BUY INSURANCE, WHAT KIND OF INSURANCE, YOU ASK? I'VE NEVER SEEN JUST WHAT KIND OF INSURANCE THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT. MEDICAL I IMAGINE. WHERE IS THAT MONEY COMING FROM? WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, MANY TIMES I WAS DOWN TO MY LAST DIME. FORTUNATELY, I HAD AN ACCOUNT AT THE STORE I WORKED IN, SO WE DIDN'T STARVE. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE BROKE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE IDIOTS IN WASHINGTON DC ARE TOTALLY OUT OF TOUCH, UP THERE IN THEIR IVORY TOWERS, WITH THEIR STAFFS AND CARS AND GOOD WAGES (WHICH THEY SELDOM EARN) AND PERKS AND BENEFITS. THEY ALL NEED TO TRY TO LIVE ON 1500 PER HOUR WITH ALL THE EXPENSES THAT COME WITH LIVING IN A RENTED, OR PERHAPS THEIR OWN HOME. YES, THEY WANT TO TRY TO BALANCE THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF THE NEEDLEST, BUT WANT TO SPEND BILLIONS ON A BORDER FENCE TO KEEP THE IMMIGRANTS OUT. WHAT DO THEY HAVE AGAINST THOSE CANADIANS, ANYWAY?