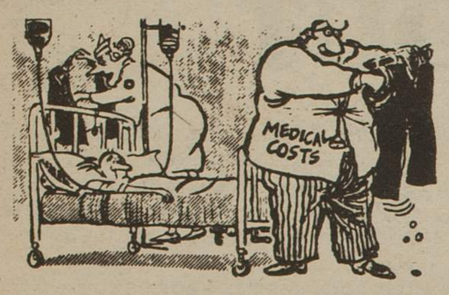
# MEDICAID AILING

Kansas Medicaid is in deep financial trouble. The Medicaid program began this fiscal year $6.4 million in the hole, and the debt is increasing with every year. Obviously, something must be done. The Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services, SRS, (of which Medicaid is a part) held an open meeting May 3, where the official cutback for handling the crisis was revealed. Unfortunately, it's the people who are on Medicaid who will be hurt most by these proposals.




Some of the cutbacks are:
DENTAL CARE. At this time, virtually all routine dental care is offered to the Medicaid recipient. If the SRS proposal goes into effect, all dental services to recipients over 21 years of age will be limited to "relief of pain and suffering",(treatment of painful abcesses, tooth pulling, and the like.) Routine cleaning, fillings, and general preventitive dentistry will no longer be available. No more dentures for old people either.

EYEGLASSES. Medicaid now pays for eyeglasses and all optometrist's fees for any recipient. With the proposals, only those under 21 will be able to get glasses. Subsequent sets of glasses will require written information. In other words, if your child breaks their glasses and needs a new pair, you'll have to go through alot of red tape before permission will be granted. For those people over 21, Medicaid will not pay for glasses at all, only for an optometric examination.
MENTAL HEALTH. There will be limits concerning mental health care services, which are now entirely open to the Medicaid recipient.

The most drastic of the proposals concerns eligibility requirements for Medicaid for those families who are not receiving Public Assistance. About 900 households in Douglas County receive medical assistance, and there are about 100 new cases each month. The SRS proposal will make it impossible for many of these low-income families to continue receiving medical assistance, because they are planning to lower the maximum allowable income for eligibility by $100 a month. For example:

If the maximum monthly income of a family of four is $410, then that family is automatically eligible for Medicaid. If the SRS proposal

is accepted, the maximum monthly income for this family must be $310 in order to be eligible. This proposal will seriously effect the working poor and elderly on fixed incomes if they are suddenly denied Medicaid benefits.

What can you do? If you do not like these proposals, and have some alternative proposals that you think are more fair, then come to the official public hearing June 7, at the Staff Development Center in the Topeka State Hospital. All recommendations must be in writing. If you also want to present your ideas orally, summarize them so that your presentation is under 3 minutes.

A final decision concerning the Medicaid reform will go into effect July 1. For further information on the hearing, contact the local SRS office.

# DON'T FORGET

*Phase 3 of the East Lawrence Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, June 11. Residents of the 13-1500 blocks from New Hampshire to the railroad tracks should put any trash that the regular city pick-ups don't get, in the alley. Those wishing to help should be at the East Lawrence Center at 8:30 on Saturday.*

Anne Moore from Volunteer Clearing House, will give a seminar on Creative Problem Solving on Thursday, June 9th in the Lawrence Room at the Community Building. She will explain and show how to pull together unrelated resources to solve a problem. The time is 9-11:30 and the fee is $2.

## The Guest Word

OUT OF NECESSITY from the Los Angeles Times

A group of architecture students at UC Berkeley have concluded most folks could easily reduce their water consumption by 80% through such water saving techniques as keeping a spray bottle of water handy for quick washing of hands and face.

*As the cancer wave surges in America, more victims are testifying to the curative properties of Laetrile, or Vitamin B-17.*

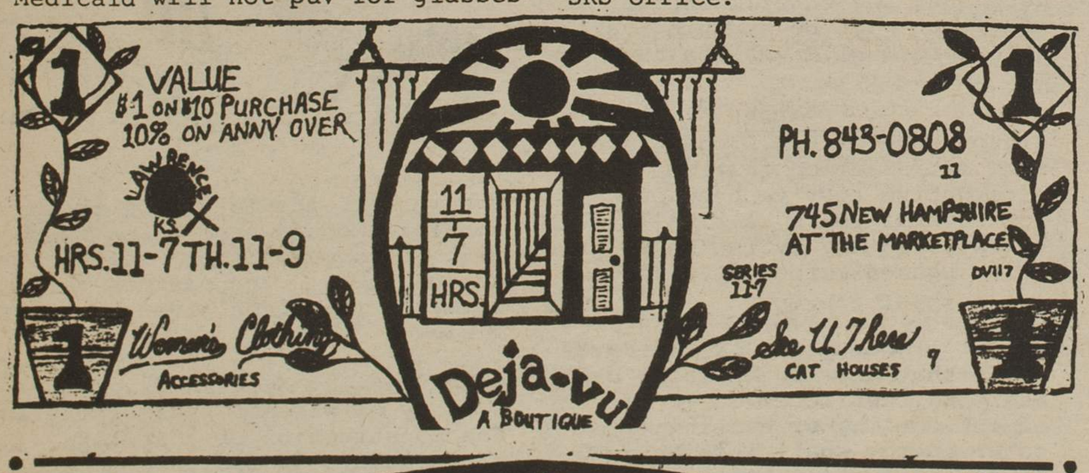
*Here, according to Well-Being Magazine and the Freedom of Choice Committee, is a partial list of Laetrile-containing foods: kernals/seeds of Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, and Prunes; Sprouted Lentils, Mung Beans, Alfalfa and Wheatberries, Chick Peas and Lima Beans; all wild berries; Oat and Buckwheat groats, Barley, Brown Rice, Chia and Flax seeds, Millet, Rye, Vetch and Wheat; Bitter Almonds and raw Macadamia nuts*

# A Part of Me

Dowers/cpf

I have walked upon this earth,
With my folks and my friends,
And been happy as could be.
I have walked in the gardens, the flowers and the greens. I am a part of it, it's a part of me.

I have walked in the woods under the trees.
I have walked by the little brooks that someday go out to sea.
I am a part of it, it's a part of me.

I have walked on the mountain, more beauty I could see.
But woe: I just walked up on a dump. It's a mess of a sight to see.
I am a part of it, it's a part of me.

by Wilbur Ray-- member of Lawrence Writers' Club