

Dec. 77  
Jan. 78  
Vol. I - Issue 3

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Dokey

Newsletter

Food Co-op

The success of the Food Co-op has caused a dream to reawaken within me. It is a dream of a co-operative community, one where each person may share in the ownership and management of the sources which supply her/him with daily goods and services. I believe such a community can arise within the Olympia area. I would like to share my ideas on this subject with the hope others of like mind will join me in planning ways to make this dream a reality in the near future.

Structurally the community would center around a co-operative corporation. People could purchase a membership share in this co-op. The membership would enable them to shop at all stores run by the co-op and receive a reduced rate. The membership also would give them the ability to participate in deciding how the whole community should be run.

To finance this project two avenues are available. They are interrelated and complimentary. First, there would be an initial membership fee of \$20 and a yearly renewal of \$5. per person. Another aspect of this first part would also be a \$30 accumulated cash reserve required from each member. The actual member fees would not be refunded but the cash reserve money could be received back by anyone giving up their co-op membership.

The second part of the community financing comes via establishment of a co-op consumer credit union. Co-op members would be members of the credit union also. They could use it to handle all their banking needs. With money from member deposits and from the co-op cash reserves, the credit union could finance the expansion of the co-operative community.

I see the co-op community concentrating growth in three major areas; retail stores, transportation needs and community services. The retail stores would be centered mostly on necessity items, such as food, clothing, hardware and home supplies. However, stores concentrating on personal pleasure items like books, music, recreation etc. could also come eventually. Transportation services could include the maintenance of autos and bicycles as well as providing community transportation needs. Purchase of parts and tools could also be included. The services area could include daycare, shelters and halfway houses, etc. they would have to be financed from the revenues generated from the other co-op operations.

When the co-op community begins, our F.O.O.D. co-op would be dissolved into it. I would see the transition occur by giving all present F.O.O.D. Co-op members the option of purchasing co-op community membership at the yearly renewal rate of \$5. The F.O.O.D. Co-op assets could be easily transferred to the new organization because of a clause in our bylaws permitting such actions when we dissolve. People who are F.O.O.D. co-op members but who do not wish to become members of the new organizations could have their membership fee refunded.

As I said in the beginning of this article the co-op community is just a dream. Yet it is also a very real possibility, within our means even now. What will make it happen is the desire of many people to see it come into being; the dedication and commitment to make it work. I would like to hear from anyone willing to work toward this goal with me.

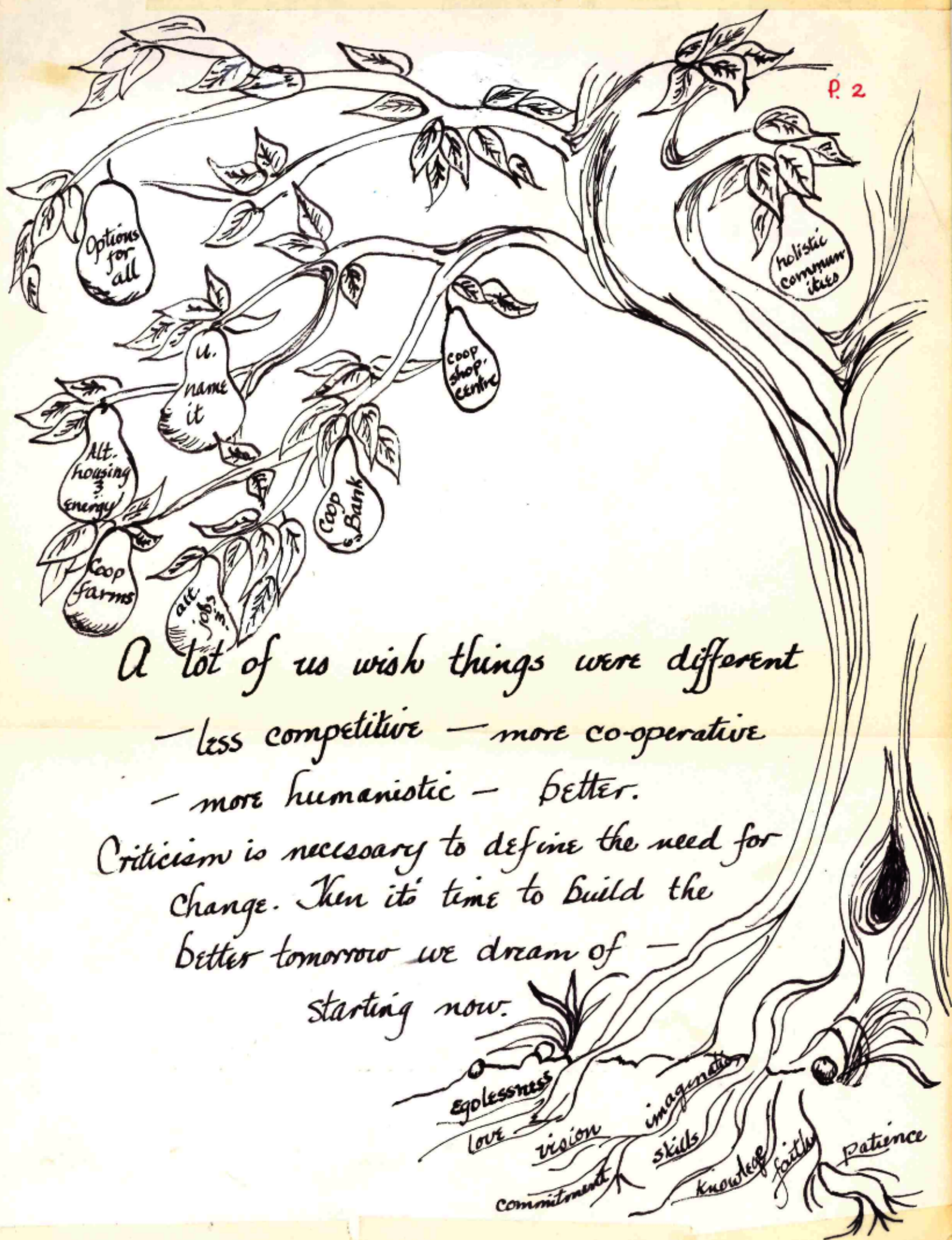
love,

Jim Cunningham  
P.O. Box 7342  
Olympia, wa. 98507  
Ph. 866-1055

If you read only one page this month, let it be this one!

An invitation to be a founding member of the community you dream of - Now!





A lot of us wish things were different

- less competitive — more co-operative
- more humanistic — better.

Criticism is necessary to define the need for change. Then it's time to build the better tomorrow we dream of — starting now.

A note from she who puts this newspaper together.....

Please try to submit your news items print ready —

I cannot continue to spend so much time in preparation. Typing ... single space ... corrections done — everything else should be good contrast — red or black ink. — with some help this will come out often

Thanks — Kathy



# Economics/Human Nature

P. 4

By Steve Newhall

One question the President's Council of Economic Advisors never deals with is the effect of economic forces on people. The way a society produces, distributes, and consumes goods and services has immense effect on the people doing the producing, distributing and consuming. A socio-economic system will encourage personality traits that further that socio-economic system.

In a system based on competition, people are taught to compete, to only be concerned with their own problems and not to care about others...that is why the "screw you, I got mine" attitude is so prevalent in this culture.

If you looked in an intro economics book you would see that the factors of production are land labor, capital and management. People (who does all the labor?) are treated just like a machine to produce. This society is based on using people and people learn to use each other and to relate to each other like machines. It seems most relationships, particularly sexual relationships in this culture are using relationships.

People in this society are trained to consume. People are taught that human needs can be satisfied by buying something. It is a great way to sell things and a terrible way of meeting human needs. People try to have more and more rather than being more and more. Most people are convinced that all they need to be happy is more money to buy a bigger car, a swimming pool, a color T.V., more cocaine. It is an endless cycle which keeps the economy going, but causes the people to be materialistic and ignore their own humanness. In a society that values making as high an income as possible, people sell their labor to the highest bidder. People are encouraged to make themselves as saleable as possible. They consider themselves a product to be sold, not a human being.

When people work only to earn money, try to shape themselves to the job slot, it is not surprising that 80% of the people dislike their jobs. Most of the jobs in this society are boring, alienating, non-human jobs. People end up working eight hours of boredom and then coming home and passively consuming. Is it any wonder we have a bored, alienated society? People never experience their own productivity, the joy of creating.

Most people in this society have lost the ability to think and feel for themselves. People are manipulated, particularly through television to drink, wear, buy, eat, whatever will make profit for whoever sells it. People have lost the ability to listen to their own organism which can tell them what to eat, drink, etc. People are other directed, rather than being self-directed.

Basically, economic relationships in this socio-economic system are dehumanizing they destroy the creativity, the productivity, the activeness of people and turn them into passive workers and consumers. This dehumanization extends beyond just economic relationships and affects all relationships including all social ones, and those with ones self.

As hopeless as things seem sometimes, you can avoid the dehumaness by making your own relationships human by treating others as human by being in touch with yourself. You can escape the dehumanization. You have the ability to take control over your own life ...to make your own life productive and human...and by helping build a human economic system, you can help us all become human. I'll finish with a another Woodie Guthrie quote.

No one living can ever stop me

As I go walking my freedom highway

No one living can make me turn back

Cause this land was made for you and me

*from Bill Smith*

Bill Smith wanted everyone to know he loves the people and community here and will be back in spring from his travels to again share his gifts with us as he has in the past. He left before Christmas to visit his family in Arkansas and was then planning to head to Greece for two quarters.



# Consumer Co-operative Bank Act

There is presently before the United States Senate, a bill to establish a National Consumer Co-operative Bank. This bill (S.B. 1010) known as the "National Consumer Co-operative Bank Act" was submitted by Sen. McIntyre, N. H., and 31 co-sponsors in March of this year. At that time it was referred to the committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. Present plans call for its consideration in December or in January, 1978.

The bill is far-reaching in scope. It would create a special national bank for consumer co-operatives. This bank initially would receive funding from the federal treasury via purchase of up to 250 million dollars of the bank's preferred stock each year. This arrangement would continue for three years, giving the bank a beginning guaranteed capital of 750 million dollars. The bank would also have a lending capacity equal to 20 times its total paid in capital and surplus from operation.

Administration of the bank would be the responsibility of a thirteen member board of directors. The first board would be appointed by the President, seven from government and six from co-operative organizations. As the initial federal funds were repaid, user co-ops would assume selection of 12 of the 13 board members.

Other facets of S.B. 1010 include the creation of a self-help development fund, technical assistance specifically designed for co-operatives and the creation of the Co-operative Bank and Assistance Administration. Of these, the self-help development fund is most important to the so-called 'New Wave' co-ops. This part of the bill provides a first year appropriation of 250 million dollars in addition to other monies. Loans could be drawn on this amount for those co-ops with insufficient capitalization, co-ops with a high risk status and co-ops whose membership is predominantly low income persons.

The technical assistance to be provided includes organizational assistance, cost and information surveys, management workshops, etc. The program would be a co-operative equivalent to the Small Business Administration.

The Co-operative Bank and Assistance Administration would be an independent governmental agency with responsibility to implement and to oversee the provisions of the Act. The Administration directors would be a five member board appointed by the President. Two of the five people would be required to have experience with consumer co-operatives.

The House companion (H.R. 2777) to S.B. 1010 passed that chamber July 14 by only one vote. This closeness occurred despite the fact that almost 100 representatives co-sponsored the bill. Opposition has come from private business people, retailing and financial organizations. The Carter administration was also opposed to the bill. Reportedly this opposition has weakened following the departure of Burt Lance from the Office of Budget and Management.

Opponents of the House bill were narrowly defeated in their attempts to cripple the bill via amendment. Two particularly dangerous ones likely to be introduced in the Senate are:

(1) a sunset amendment requiring the bank to cease existence in five years. This refers to new governmental policies of setting and dates on programs and requiring them to prove they should continue. Federal government financial involvement, however, is scheduled to cease in four years as far as the bank is concerned. Furthermore, this amendment would inhibit the Bank's ability to sell its stock or to guarantee long term loans.

(2) Holding implementation of the bill until completion of a two year 20 million dollar pilot study on co-operative needs. This amendment is unacceptable for a number of reasons. First, it is a waste of time and money to provide a legislative camouflage for opposition to the bill. It also calls for the study to be done by predominately non-co-op experienced people. Furthermore, the amendment would eliminate the technical assistance portion of the bill and drastically reduce appropriations for the self-help development fund.

Opponents of the Bank Act are expected to increase the intensity of their opposition when the bill is considered in the Senate. Many people and groups are rallying in support of it to offset the opposition. Among them are: the AFL-CIO, The Consumer Federation of America, The Co-operative League of the United States, Common Cause, Ralph Nader, and The National Association of Housing Co-operatives. More support is needed, however, if this important consumer legislation is to become law. People interested in passage of an unamended S.B. 1010 should write their Senators urging them to vote for it.

The following is a list of the four Senators of Oregon and Washington. Also included is a brief statement of their position on the bill, if known, and addresses to which people can write.

(next page)



Mark Hatfield, R.-Or.  
bill co-sponsor  
Oregon addresses:  
471 Cottage N.E.  
Salem, Or. 97301  
Ph. 399-5731  
Pioneer Courthouse  
Portland, Or. 97208  
Ph. 221-3386

Robert Packwood, R-Or.

Oregon address:  
1002 N.E. Holiday  
Portland, Or. 97208  
Ph. 233-4471

Washington D.C. address:  
U.S. Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Washington D.C. address:  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Henry Jackson, D-Wa.  
bill co-sponsor

Warren Magnuson, D- Wa.  
has policy of refusing comment on  
bills prior to voting.  
Washington state address:  
1010 5th St.  
Seattle, Wa. 98104  
Ph. 442-5545

Washington state address:  
1010 5th St.  
Seattle, Wa. 98104  
Ph. 442-7476

Washington D.C. address:  
Room 137 Russell building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Washington D.C. address:  
Room 127 Russell Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

*Addresses for  
Consumer Cooperative Act*



*Extensive study by Paul Fink show  
Food Coopers save and eat better.*

*Currently posted at the Coop are the detailed  
results of a comparative shopping research  
project. The Coop prices used were non-working  
member - so the savings would be 10%  
greater for senior citizens and workers.*

Food Coop	23.53
Mark-it	24.43
Safe(?) way	25.59
Ron's	27.00

*Also bear in mind  
that of the 40 or so  
items priced, most from  
Mark-it and Safe(?) way  
weren't organic and  
contained more harmful  
chemicals, etc.*

*More proof of the  
good things that come  
from people working  
together for the common  
good*





January 9, 1978

# Human Needs Forum

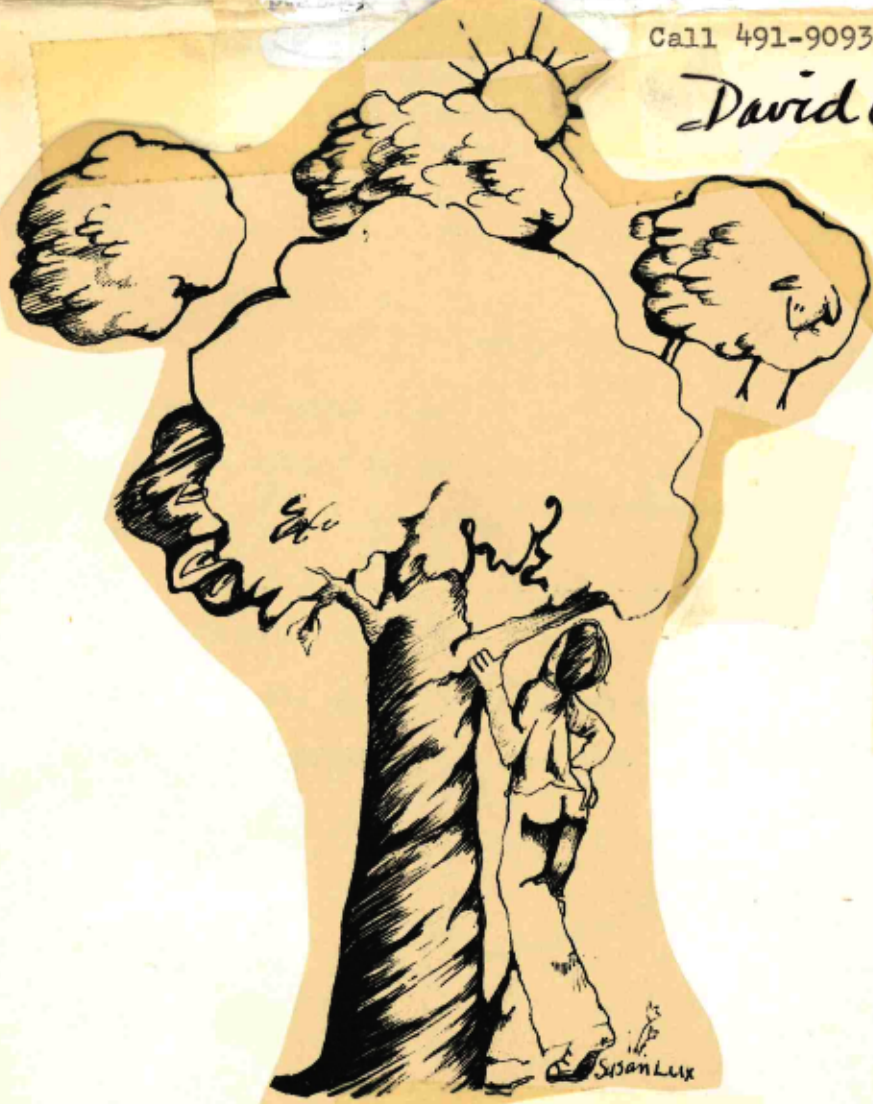
A community-wide Human Needs Forum will be held this Spring according to Olympia's Mobilization for Survival leaders. The forum is in response to the large turnout for the Olympia teach-in held December 3 which focused on the nuclear power and jobs issues. The nationwide effort for passage of the Transfer Amendment will be the main topic of the March meeting. Congress now has to vote on the entire budget once because of new voting procedures established in 1975 which speeds up legislation.

The transfer amendment has been endorsed by many leading city, state, and national organizations. In Olympia and Washington, expenditures for human services will be hurt if new weapons systems are approved. The expense for Trident is already costing more than first planned, and unemployment in Washington is soaring because the word has spread that Washington has a boom in construction. Groups endorsing the transfer amendment nationwide include the Urban League, National Council of Mayors, Americans for Democratic Action, and numerous church and peace groups. This coalition unites nearly 40 national organizations and is focusing on 1) zero nuclear weapons 2) stop the arms race 3) ban nuclear power 4) fund human needs.

The Olympia Mobilization for Survival needs support and an organizational meeting January 18th at the home of Glen Anderson.

Call 491-9093 for further information.

*David Groves*



*Do buy a Coop  
Calendar  
Now only \$2 -  
A great help in  
preparing good food*