

## Atlanta Welfare Mothers Carry Story To Washington

A bi-racial group of four Atlanta mothers who will be affected by the "welfare freeze" are going to Washington Thursday to personally tell their stories to Senator Talmadge, Senator Russell, Congressman Thompson, and Congressman Blakburn. The mothers will tell their representatives what the welfare cut-back will do to their families.

The trip is being sponsored by the Atlanta Community Relations Commission. "The four mothers are representatives of those who are trying to help themselves," stated Nat Welch, CRC's executive director who will accompany them.

The "welfare freeze" on Aid to Families with Dependent Children will go into effect July 1 unless repealed by Congress.

"The maximum \$154 monthly grant for a family is barely enough to afford sustenance. Any reduction in payments would bring about untold hardships that stagger the imagination," said Welch.

These hardships could cause further breaking up of families, more school dropouts, malnutrition and the subsequent showing down of mental processes. Remedial or rehabilitative programs, which are not always successful, are more costly than programs of prevention in the opinion of the Commission.

"The Atlanta Community Relations Commission is concerned that our nation is spending billions on sending a man to the moon and two-thirds of the national budget to pay for past, present and future wars yet unless repealed, the welfare freeze will reduce by up to 40 per cent payments to 35,000 mothers and 114,000 children in Georgia most of whom do not now have enough money for an adequate

diet.

The Commission calls on the Congress to repeal the welfare freeze before it goes into effect July 1," said Welch.

## 4 at D.C. Urge End Of Freeze

Four Atlanta mothers living on welfare visited the office of Georgia lawmakers in Washington Thursday to plead for elimination of the "freeze" on welfare money scheduled to take effect on July 1.

Sobbing, one mother told Sen. Herman E. Talmadge, "I'm going to have to give up because I can't survive."

Mrs. Wanna Mitchell told the senator, "I worked and I tried to take care of my kids," but said the loss of her welfare money would leave her family without enough money to live.

The welfare freeze as approved by Congress would lock the level of federal payments to state programs at their current level, a move that Georgia officials says would cause as much as a 40 per cent reduction in payments by June 1970.

The freeze was set to take effect last year, but was later delayed until July 1.

In an effort to marshal support for elimination of the freeze, the Atlanta Community Relations Commission arranged for the four mothers to go to Washington to describe their plight to the legislators.

The four also visited the offices of Representatives Fletcher Thompson, Ben Blackburn, W. S. Stuckey Jr. and Phil Landrum.

Talmadge told the women that he had voted last year to delay the freeze and is inclined to do so again. Two of the women told him they had been abandoned by their husbands, and the senator said, "We have to implement federal laws" to outlaw abandonment.