

# Metropolitan Briefs

## Legal Help Unit Struck

Lawyers and staff workers of New York City's Community Action for Legal Services struck yesterday, demanding higher wages, better working conditions and the scuttling of a proposed bookkeeping system that they said would interfere with their clients' privacy.

But Catherine Mitchell, the acting general counsel of the federally financed agency, which provides free civil legal assistance to the poor, said that the only issue was wages and that the other demands were "disingenuous." She said management's wage offer was comparable with salaries paid to Legal Aid Society lawyers, who also represent the poor.

With 270 members of the agency's employee union on strike, the agency's 16 neighborhood offices were staffed yesterday by management personnel. In addition, the Legal Aid Society has agreed to handle emergency matters if necessary.

## Westchester Bus Accord

Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union and three private bus companies serving Westchester County reached tentative agreement on a 3-year contract, ending the threat of a strike that could have stranded an estimated 100,000 commuters in the county.

The agreement between union negotiators and the Westchester Street Transportation Corporation, Liberty Coach and Club Transportation must be approved by the 600 drivers and maintenance workers. Details were not

released, but one source close to the talks said that it did not meet the union's original wage request of equalization with New York City bus drivers.

## Crimmins Petition Denied

A petition to overturn the conviction of the former Alice Crimmins for her daughter's death was dismissed in Manhattan by the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She served 30 months in prison and nine months in a work-release program, but remains on parole for the rest of her 20-year sentence. In July she married Anthony Grace. Her petition to the appeals court sought to clear her name and end her parole.

## Ruling on Abortions

The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that the Jersey Medicaid system did not have to pay \$100,000 for 550 elective abortions performed on its residents in New York City prior to Jan. 22, 1973. That was the date that the United States Supreme Court ruled that a woman had a right to an abortion in the first three months of her pregnancy.

Planned Parenthood of New York City had asked New Jersey for reimbursement for the abortions prior to the date that they were declared legal by the Federal court. But in its decision, the Jersey Supreme Court upheld a ruling by the Appellate Division of Superior Court. The court said abortions performed prior to Jan. 22, 1973, were illegal, and the only abortions allowed before that time were those performed to preserve a woman's life.