

Mother on welfare can't get food for her six children

By Michael Sneed

MRS. NANCY MORTON was told yesterday that the pantry was bare.

Mrs. Morton, a Viet Nam war widow, depends on public aid to support her six children. But when she visited the Emergency Pantry, 2440 N. Lincoln Av., yesterday, she was told the food was gone.

"We gave out our last can of food Wednesday," said the Rev. Iberus Hacker, who had donned a Santa Claus suit earlier in the week and led a hunger hike to Springfield in a protest against hunger among the poor. Hacker and his followers gave up the protest march in Joliet because of bad weather Wednesday.

"Mrs. Morton is an example of how this new policy is starving needy people," he said. "At issue is a new state welfare provision that removes the power to grant emergency funding from local public aid units. Poor people must now have their requests handled by a handful of welfare officials in Springfield—and that takes time.

"MRS. MORTON IS expect-

ed to go without food until after Christmas," he said.

"She informed her caseworker that her check had been stolen and asked for emergency food. Her caseworker is powerless to help her until Springfield processes the case.

"We've had dozens of caseworkers call us since Wednes-

day asking us to supply food to needy families that they are unable to help immediately.

"One mother had been starving herself in order to feed her three young children and had to be rushed to the hospital. It's time for the state to take the responsibility for feeding and clothing poor people.