Debt Blindf...

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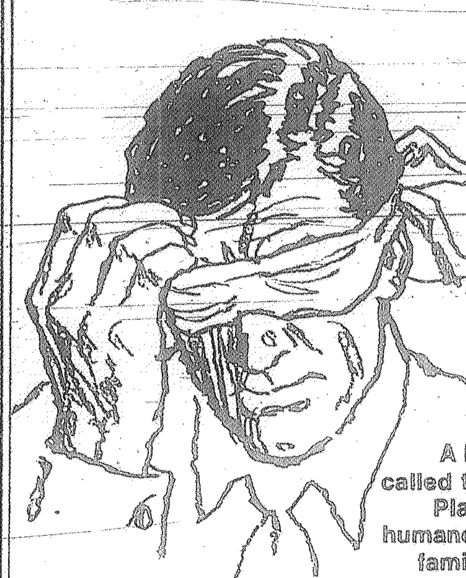

A little-known law, called the Wage Earner Plan, is a relatively humane alternative for families who are "in over their heads."

If your monthly payments are getting beyond you, and your creditors are making threatening sounds, what can you do? For some reason, almost everyone seems to know about the four *unpleasant* ways of coping with overwhelming debts: 1) declaring personal bankruptcy; 2) borrowing on your signature at high interest rates; 3) having your wages garnisheed; or 4) having your partially-paid-for property repossessed.

But practically no one seems to have heard of the Wage Earner Plan, the one relatively humane way of paying pressing debts when you haven't the money.

Take a typical family, John and Jennie Smith. As with many other couples, John's and Jennie's financial problems may have developed through no fault of theirs. They may have had months of unemployment. Or it could have been long-term medical bills that left them unable to make their many other payments.

If John's salary is garnisheed, things could be even worse. Very possibly there wouldn't be enough money left to live on. And with salary garnisheeing, there'd be the very serious matter of John's having to explain matters to his co-workers and boss.

"Companies go into bankruptcy; private people can too," a well-meaning friend tells John. But when John investigates, he finds that declaring personal bankruptcy has many unpleasant side effects. Anything he has bought on secured credit (credit obtained by putting up accepted collateral) can be repossessed to pay off the creditors. That may mean the car John needs to get to work or the bed he needs to sleep in at night. John also discovers that once he declares himself bankrupt, he'll find it practically impossible to obtain normal credit or any job that has anything to do with money.

But there is hope—*if* John and Jennie are among the fortunate people who hear about the Wage Earner Plan. The first thing they'll have to do is find a reliable attorney. *If John is now employed and genuinely anxious to pay his debts, and could do so if granted an extension of payment time,* John's lawyer will tell him that he and Jennie meet the necessary requirements of the Wage Earner Plan.

Jennie and John will find that the lawyer's fee for setting up their Wage Earner Plan will be somewhere around $200-$300 (which is considerably less than it would cost if they hired a lawyer for personal bankruptcy proceedings).

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