

ACORN is the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, a grassroots membership organization of low and moderate income people. Founded in Arkansas in 1970, it has grown to a membership of over 23,000 families organized into some 600 local neighborhood groups.

ACORN is now firmly rooted in 17 states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.

ACORN members have organized to improve their communities and to win a fairer share and a greater voice for all low and moderate income Americans.

ACORN's winning ways have . . .

Abolished the sales tax on medicine (Arkansas, Missouri) and blocked sales tax increases (Tulsa, OK; Ft. Smith and Fayetteville, AR).

Secured passage of a bill outlawing insurance redlining (Missouri) and curbed redlining by banks (St. Louis, MO; Dallas, TX; Memphis, TN; Little Rock, AR).

Exposed and stopped Community Development rip-offs (Arkansas; Denver, CO; Grand Rapids, MI; Durham, NC; Memphis, TN).

Increased the school tax exemption for senior citizens (Houston, TX).

Won Lifeline telephone rates (Texas), Lifeline rates for electricity and gas (California), and put Lifeline electric rates on the ballot (Little Rock, AR; South Dakota).

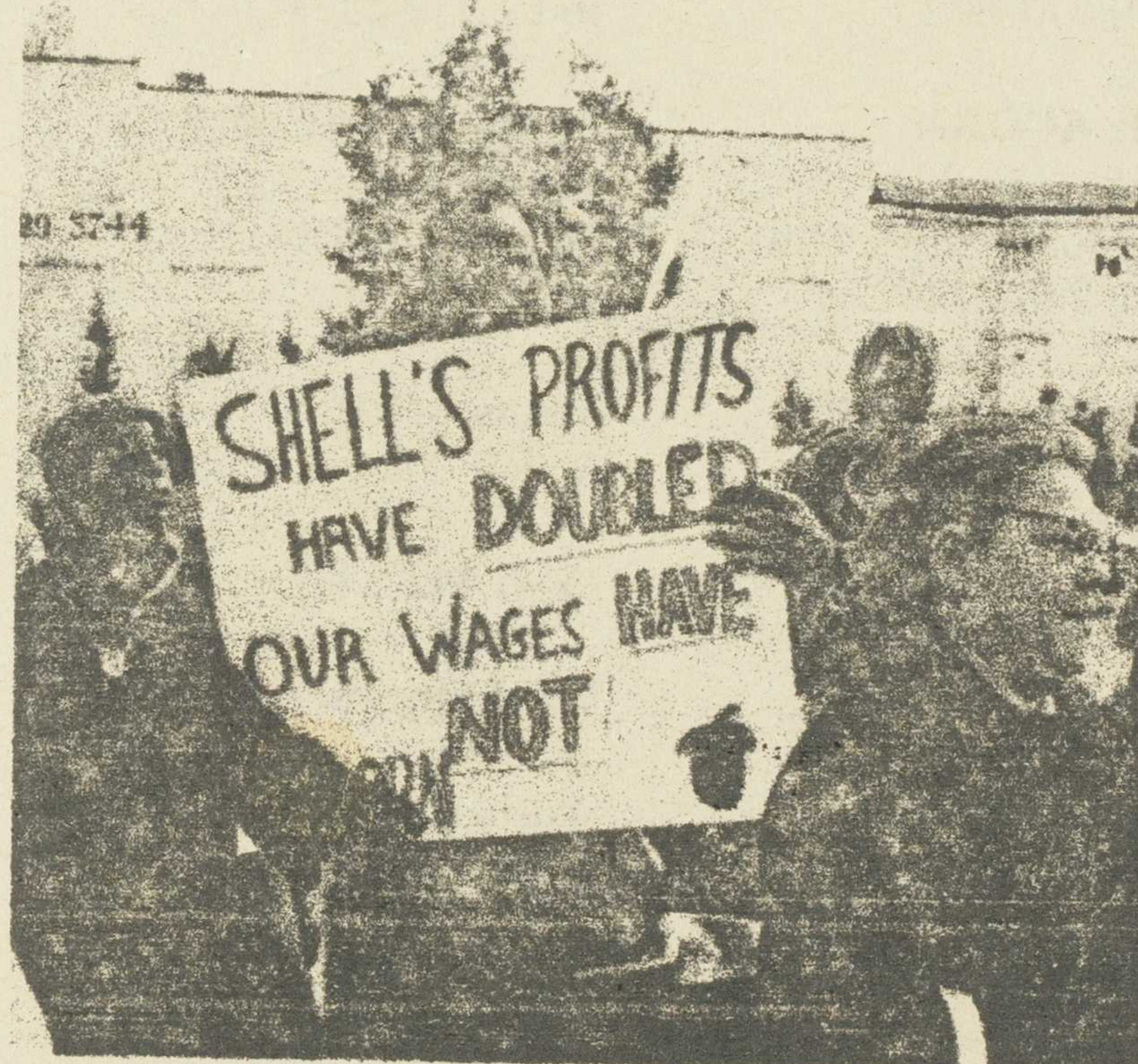
Blocked major street expansion projects and expressways through residential neighborhoods (Sioux Falls, SD; Pine Bluff and Little Rock, AR; Durham and Greensboro, NC; Memphis, TN).

Ended legal restrictions on eyeglass advertising and prescription drug pricing (Arkansas).

Established strict regulations on utility shut-offs and other utility consumer rights (Colorado, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Tennessee).

Won a new \$2 million youth jobs program (Philadelphia, PA).

Elected ACORN members to city councils, county legislatures and school boards (Arkansas, Sioux Falls, SD; Jacksonville, FL; Durham, NC).



It has been said that . . .

"In the eight years since its inception, ACORN has become best known for its vigorous and successful local battles, which have embraced direct action as well as electoral successes."

The Village Voice

"ACORN is a community organization with which we have often, although certainly not always, disagreed on specific issues. Nevertheless, ACORN is unique and the public interest is well served by its existence. Essentially it is a citizens committee of people of low to low-middle income who do not feel they have been heard in public affairs."

Arkansas Gazette editorial

"An unusual political force that began in Arkansas is nettling the economic and political establishment in a widening swath across this region. It is the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now."

The New York Times

Members say it best . . .

"We're no longer the little people. We're thousands stretched across 17 states now and the people in power are going to have to start listening. They won't listen to one little guy but they will listen to thousands and when thousands raise their voices, their voices become loud."

*—Charles Crewes
Florida*

"All the organizations are welded into one. All of our problems run close together and all issues boil down to one thing — group betterment. The philosophy is. 'I can, you can, and above all — we can.'"

*—Harold Medlock
Arkansas*

"Some people ask, 'What does ACORN want?' The answer is simple. We want sufficient power in our states and cities to speak, and be heard, and be heeded. We want to participate in community and civic affairs, not as second-class citizens but as men and women committed to a better future: a future where our concerns are met with justice and dignity, a future where, as ACORN's slogan goes, 'The people shall rule.' That is what America is. That is what ACORN wants."

*—Steve McDonald
ACORN Board President*