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EDITORIALS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AND THE NEGRO

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Today, the Negro, as well as other groups in our country, feels the effect of a mechanized industrial and agricultural society. His social and economic life has been drastically changed and his search for suitable employment, sufficient earnings, and employment security is a major problem.

During the period 1920-1940 there were two distinct population movements of Negroes. Approximately two million Negroes migrated from the South to urban industrial centers in the Midwest, and to cities along the North Atlantic Seaboard. About the time that this movement was taking place, one million Negroes from the rural areas of the South moved to the larger urban industrial centers of the South. Thus, today large numbers of Negro workers face a dual problem of combating the ill-effects of the depression and making adequate occupational adjustment to a more complex, industrial social order.

How has the Negro fared in his search for employment in this new or changing order? What steps have been taken to alleviate his economic stress? As with the unemployment of other racial groups the Negro has been forced by economic necessity to look to his State and Federal Government for assistance in finding productive, continuing employment. To the 1500 public employment offices the Negro has turned for occupational guidance and job placement assistance.

Kinds of Job Openings—

Employment opportunities for Negroes may be said to fall into three categories. First, there are the jobs in which Negro workers vie with white workers. Usually these jobs are unskilled and semiskilled—the lower bracket industrial occupations. It is in this class of jobs that Negro workers have made their greatest advance along with white workers. Here also, however, they have experienced the greatest losses since the depression. Many Negroes feel that they are "the last to be hired and the first to be fired".

The second category includes the jobs in which Negro workers formerly had a virtual monopoly. They represent the extremely low-paid jobs in the industrial scheme as well as those considered as having the least prestige. Domestic service is typical of this field. At one time the Negro domestic seldom had to compete against the white worker. Even in this field today however, the Negroes' job opportunities are perhaps decreasing for in many States young white girls are being

trained for domestic service. In the industrial field many of the lower paid jobs, originally filled by the Negro worker, are now done by machine. Ditch-digging is representative of this type of work. Today a mechanical trench-digger supplants many pick and shovel men.

A third category may be designated as that class of jobs in which few Negroes are today employed. Included in this group are the jobs in which employers are unaccustomed to seeing Negroes work. Here also are the jobs in which white workers sometimes offer decided objections to the employment of Negroes, and those occupations in which Negroes are not permitted to secure training or apprenticeship. Negroes are restricted in employment in other types of jobs by the employment policies of some labor unions.

The services performed by public employment offices are passing through a period of transition and of increasing public scrutiny of their objectives, their methods, and their accomplishments; and it is significant that efforts are being made to create sound policies and to formulate suitable criteria for measuring employer-employee needs. It is recognized that the responsibility of every public employment office is to give equal placement assistance to all workers and to refer job applicants to employers on the worker's ability to perform the job satisfactorily and meet the employer's qualifications. Within this fundamental principle there is still room, however, to give particular consideration and attention to the employment needs of the Negro group.

Negroes in Employment Security Program

The Bureau of Employment Security is interested in all aspects of Negro occupational development and in cooperative efforts to study this problem. Recently the Negro Placement Service completed a survey which had as its broad purpose the evaluation of services to Negroes by employment security offices in 15 selected states. Eight and one half millions, approximately two-thirds of the total number of Negroes in the United States, live in the area studied. More specifically, the purpose of the survey was to describe in the case of each city the socio-economic and racial environment in which the local employment service operates; the industrial opportunities available; the size and movement of Negro population and workers with their implication in the general labor market; job opportunities for Negroes and depression fluctuation of these opportunities; the general inclination of employers, and of organized labor toward the employment of Negro workers; and the attitude of employment security personnel toward the referral of Negroes to job openings for which they are qualified.

The survey revealed the need for an intelligent awareness on the part of employment security personnel relative to the employment needs of the Negro applicant, and there was also indicated the need for a revision of employment security field-visiting techniques and procedures, if the Negro worker is to fully share in job openings on a broader occupational base. In an effort to meet these and other problems in the field of Negro placement activities, the Negro Placement Service functions as an administrative unit of the Special Placement Problems Section in the Bureau of Employment Security.

(Continued next week)

DARK HUMOR

BY RAY WILLIS



Ah has it, Brothah, on good hear say, in th' vote at th' lodge las' night you slip me a black ball.

From The Bottom Up H. McNEIL AWARDED FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Irvyn M. McNeil, 3026 South thirty-second street, who rose from the ranks to become superintendent of distribution of the Nebraska Power Company ten years ago, completed thirty years service with the company on August 16. He was the dean of fourteen company employees to receive service awards last month.

Mr. McNeil began work in 1910 as a wireman and through a series of promotion became general foreman of substation, repair and meter departments on July 1, 1924. A year later he was promoted to assistant superintendent of the distribution department, and became superintendent on January 1, 1930.

Six men received twenty-year service pins. They are Erick W. Carlson, 4557 Pierce street, blacksmith at the main power plant; Walter W. Krueger, 2219 South Eleventh street, Council Bluffs, meter tester; Fred C. Steffs, 1902 Spring street, brickmason at the power plant; Henry Roesky 2241 Larimore avenue, mechanical inspector; Clifford Ludington, 1007 South Forty-eighth street, paymaster, and Edgar R. Ostrand, 3925 Castelar, line foreman.

Fifteen-year service pins were received by John J. Moylan, 3420 North Forty-fifth, office manager, sales department, Harry T. Faulhaber, 5403 Hickory, meter tester, and Ralph Curry, 3124 Eighth avenue, Council Bluffs, turbine room officer.

First service awards granted by the company, for five years service, were presented to Mrs. Veronica Wagner 918 South thirty-seventh street, sales clerk; James S. Olsen, 1308 Hiatt avenue, Carter Lake, lineman; Freeman E. Boynton, 2885 Bristol, sub-station compartment, and Frederick H. Lane, 1915 South Fiftieth, garage employee.

MUSICIANS CONVENTION AT CHICAGO A SUCCESS Chicago, August 29 (ANP) Attracting musicians from every section of the country, the National Association of Negro Musicians opened its convention here at the Metropolitan Community Church.

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New Location
1906 North 24th St.
Meals 15c & Up

The Welcoming addresses were brought to the group by outstanding civic leaders, including Wendell E. Green, civil service commissioner, who spoke on behalf of Mayor Kelly and Dr. Joseph M. Evans, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church. The president of the Association, Mary Card Well Dawson of Pittsburgh, responded.

The opening session brought a great surprise for the audience in that they were privileged to see Mrs. Edward McDowell, wife of the great composer and benefactor of many musicians, artists, writers and poets, at her McDowell Colony, and to hear her play. A pianist of note, Mrs. McDowell rendered one of her husband's most beloved numbers, "To a Wild Rose She is 83 years old."

The musical program opened with "Lift Every Voice and Sing" with Grace Thompkins and Elmer Simpson at the pianos, Walter L. Gossette at the organ and J. Westly Jones, directing, Mrs. Maude Roberts George, presiding officer was introduced by George H. Hutchinson, Mrs. George, one of Chicago's foremost musicians presented the artists to delegates and visitors.

By special request of Mrs. McDowell, the Metropolitan Community

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ity Choir, under the direction of J. Wesley Jones, sang several numbers. Others appearing on the program were the Progressive Treble Clef Ensemble, Idna Winters Johnson, director, and the Pilgrim Baptist Gospel Choir under the direction of Thomas A. Dors-ey. Plans of the week included an artists program for Friday night when Aubrey Pankey, baritone, Orrin Clayton, Southern II, organist, Etta Moten, contralto and George

and Ethel Pierson, duo-pianists were presented.

WHITES HELD FOR FLOGGING

Spartanburg, S. C., Aug. 29 — (ANP) Five white men were placed under \$2,500 bonds each last week to await preliminary hearings on charges that they donned masks and disguises on July 13 and flogged four Negro tenant farmers on the Sam Snoddy farm here.

The five, J. George Sherbert, 46 Earl Porter, 34, Ed Watson, 27, and Arrow Bennett, 32, were arrested after a four week investigation. The reported victims said they were dragged from their homes by their assailants, carried several miles and flogged with a leather strap.

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