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NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

News Letter -

February 1, 1938

The opening of a Negro Youth Center in Birmingham and the organization of vocational classes for Negroes there has been the outstanding achievement in the vocational guidance field. While these classes are being conducted by both the NYA and the Birmingham Department of Education, the NYA has acted in a coordinating capacity, and has enabled the sponsoring agency to make full use of the facilities of the Youth Center. Aubrey Williams, Executive Director of the National Youth Administration delivered the opening address for the two units of these buildings. He stated: "The Negro occupies the most tragic and interesting phase of American life. He prepares himself for the better life and finds the doors closed to him through no fault of his own and only because of his color. I made up my mind long ago to use my power to help those at the bottom of the social and economic ladder in America. I have and will continue to play that part. I don't care who knows it. I want it and it is possible for all to have a better life. I want to say as a Southerner, I covet that the black man shall have his share in that better life. I believe in organization and collective bargaining. Pool your efforts. Join with the white men in organizations for better life.....I hope to see the day come when you will be truly free. I want the same opportunity for your children as for my children....."

Fifty (50) Negro girls have been selected from all over the state of Alabama for this project. A program of instruction has been outlined by the State Department of Education. These youths have an opportunity to gain practical experience in the crafts and subjects taught in regular classes, with

special emphasis on homemaking, agriculture and child care.

In New York State, with the aid of local citizens, every effort is being made to present correct information and encourage additional training through night courses and adult education classes to Negro youths. This was brought about because it was realized that comparatively few of the Negroes on NYA projects, who had completed three and four years of high school work, had made vocational choices or had any vocational training. Although there are probably many reasons, the most obvious one was that the school counselors discourage Negro youths from taking the vocational courses, using as an explanation the difficulties encountered by the group in obtaining certain skilled work.

In Cincinnati, Ohio, 104 Negro youths and 87 white youths were employed to construct and develop a 23 acre tract of land in the heart of the city into a public playground, providing the community with an amphitheatre with a seating capacity of 2,000 persons, tennis courts, track facilities and a recreation building. The youths are given experience in the various types of work skills involved, such as fine grade work, laying of forms, building of asphalt walks, carpentry, brick laying, electrical work, roofing, etc. Contacts were made with union leaders before starting this project, so that it was possible to start this project without complaint from the local union.

Mary McLeod Bethune
Director, Division of Negro Affairs

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

News Items
February 8, 1938

The National Director of Inter-racial Activities, Boy Scouts of America, in a recent letter to the Director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration, commented as follows on the Resident Training Center for Negroes in Georgia:

"Yesterday I visited the new camp project for Negroes which you are developing just out of Fort Valley, Georgia. I was delighted with it. It certainly will offer a great opportunity for camping, and if it can be administered so as to make the overhead expense reasonable enough I think a great many boys will use it. Our organization in the state, undoubtedly numerically the largest organization outside of the Federal or school system organizations, will be happy to cooperate to the fullest.

If you should be developing additional camp projects at this time it might be that we could be of some service to you and we assure you we would be glad to do it without any cost to the government. We have plans for camp huts, as well as mess halls, etc....."

"We have had great difficulty in Georgia as in all the Southern states, with one or two local exceptions, getting camping facilities for the Negro boys. All our Councils now approve developing work for Negro boys and this camp project in Georgia will be a godsend to us if we can make arrangements to use it at a price that will not be prohibitive...."

In the appendix of the Congressional Record, February 1st, appears a letter from the Virginia State NYA Director to Congressman Clifton A. Woodman, describing NYA activities in Mr. Woodman's District. Included are brief descriptions of three "typical" NYA work projects, two of them for Negro youth: 1) Construction project, employing 17 Negro boys, to build an addition to the Addison High School at Roanoke City; 2) Resident Training Center at Christiansburg Industrial Institute in Montgomery County, employing 20 boys and 20 girls. This is the first Resident project to be set up in Virginia; another for Negro girls is to follow at Hampton.

The Division of Negro Affairs is cooperating with the Negro History Week program of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The Director will deliver an address at Hampton Institute, Virginia on February 13th and the Assistant will address the faculty of Students at Armstrong High School, Washington, D. C. on February 10th.

News Items
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The National Tuberculosis Association asks the cooperation of the National Youth Administration, both national and state staffs, in publicizing their 1938 Essay Contest for Negro college and high school students. The subject is: "Why I should know about Tuberculosis and what I should know." For details write: G. St. C. Guild, M.D., Field Secretary, Committee on Tuberculosis Among Negroes, National Tuberculosis Association, 50 West 50th Street, New York City.

A Negro Press Digest, containing newspaper excerpts on WPA and NYA is released each week by Edward Lawson, Division of Information Service, Room 704, Walker-Johnson Building, Washington, D. C. For the week ending January 29th, 1938, there are stories on the NYA from the Chicago Bee, The Dallas (Texas) Gazette and the St. Louis Argus.

Mary McLeod Bethune
Director, Division of Negro Affairs

National Youth Administration
Division of Negro Affairs

News Letter
February 15, 1938

During National Negro History Week, February 6 - 12, 1938, the National Youth Administration of Illinois conducted a drive for books in cooperation with existing youth welfare agencies, which went to centers and settlements in order that youth may understand the Negro as an American and a neighbor. A bibliography on "Books by or about the Negro in Africa and America," released by the Tennessee Department of Education and Compiled by the Division of School Libraries was considered so valuable that it was used as a guide for groups interested in the "Book Sharing Drive." In answer to the need for guidance in the selection of books and information about the Negro a bibliography entitled, "Books By and About the Negro" was compiled from other available bibliographies, annotated with books classified for use in elementary grades and high school. Prices and publishers are indicated.

The NYA publication: "A Study of NYA Projects at the Ohio State University," indicates on page 17 - "The Ohio State University during the academic year 1936-37 registered 480 Negroes, or 3.0% of the total number of students registered in the University. Of the 1252 students included in this study 37 or 4.35% were Negroes indicating that the Selections Committee has been fair and impartial in the distribution of NYA appointments with respect to race.

A study of "The Negro's Struggle for Survival" by S. J. Holmes, Professor of Zoology in the University of California, recently published by the University of California Press at Berkeley, California, would justify increased emphasis upon the development of NYA health projects among Negro youth, especially as deterrents to tuberculosis and venereal diseases.

The Negro Press Digest, compiled by Edward Lawson, NYA Information Service, 704 Walker Johnson Building, Washington, D.C., contains news items on the Illinois NYA Book-Sharing Project; a construction project employing 36 Negro boys and girls at Astary, Park, New Jersey; and reports a conference between Meyer E. A. Fenney of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Earl Logan, Commissioner of Finance and Ira Filchner, County NYA Director, relative to the establishment of an NYA project in the Negro district.

The Chicago Defender carries a front page story and a picture of the last week visit of the Director of the Division of Negro Affairs to the NYA projects in Chicago.

Mary Melrod Bethune
Director, Division of Negro Affairs

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

News Letter
February 22, 1936

The National Youth Administration for Pennsylvania in cooperation with the Armstrong Association sponsors an Eastern District Youth Conference at the Southwest Belmont Branch Y. W. C. A., Philadelphia, on Saturday, March 28th, as a feature of the Sixth Vocational Opportunity Campaign of the National Urban League. The purpose of the conference is "to direct the attention of Negro youth to a more positive consideration of the vast problem of vocations." Featured speakers include James A. Atkins, Specialist in Negro Education, OPA; Dr. Leslie F. Hill, President, Cheyney State Teachers College; Dr. John P. Turner, member Board of Education of Philadelphia; Dr. Frank Houns, Division of Negro Affairs, NYA; Dr. Harold L. Holbrook, Assistant State Director, NYA. Conference groups will be conducted by tradesmen and professional workers in the fields of business, professions and allied services, industry and institutional service. A Youth Panel, with members of Youth Groups participating, will discuss: "How Can Negro Youth make Progress Toward Occupational Success?"

A thousand copies of Mrs. Bethune's address on "Self-Reliance" delivered at Hampton Institute were released this week to Negro newspapers, colleges and other significant organizations and individuals throughout the country.

The Negro newspapers for the past week gave prominent play to a summarized story of the participation of Negro youth in NYA as reported by the Director of the Division of Negro Affairs to the recent meeting of the National Advisory Committee in Washington and to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt. Special emphasis was given to the development of resident training projects for over 1,000 Negro youth in twenty-five southern communities, located at or near the campus of Negro educational institutions in thirteen states.

The Director of the Division of Negro Affairs plans during April and May, a trip to the west coast for the observation and study of NYA activities among Negro youth. The tentative itinerary includes Milwaukee and Madison; Minneapolis and St. Paul; Des Moines; Omaha and Lincoln; Denver; San Francisco and Los Angeles; Tulsa and Oklahoma City; Wichita, Topeka and Kansas City, Kansas; Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri.

Mary McLeod Bethune
Director, Division of Negro Affairs

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

News Letter
March 3, 1938

The National Youth Administration for Mississippi has released a mimeographed booklet describing the Resident Training Project for Negro boys at Alcorn A & M College, Alcorn, Mississippi. The center provides work experience and related training to Negro boys in vocational agriculture, including a well-rounded program in general farm shop, soil conservation, rotation and diversification of crops, and animal husbandry. The project is sponsored jointly by NYA and the college with the Vocational Division of the State Department of Education cooperating through the vocational teaching staff at the college.

The first unit opened February 1st, 1938, and closes June 30th, enrolling 50 boys. Each will be paid \$21.00 per month, of which \$15.50 will go to the school for subsistence and the remaining \$7.50 to the youth for personal expenses or for family use at home. The object of the five months training course is to give ambitious youth a well-rounded experience in what constitutes good farming practices. The farm shop work includes carpentry, farm machinery repairs, plumbing, minor and farm buildings construction. Other subjects include soil conservation, floriculture and orchard husbandry, dairy and work stock swine, husbandry and home gardening.

A pertinent observation on the problem of unemployment among Negro youth and the contribution of NYA is made in an address by Benjamin P. Groves, District Supervisor, NYA Projects, Cincinnati, Ohio, entitled "The NYA - Its Work with Negro Youth": - "During the past year, forces have been at play which have brought noticeably to our attention the problem of Negro youth. At this moment, 63.8% of the 604 youth on work projects are Negroes. Comparing these figures with those of a year ago, we find an 18.8% increase in Negroes on NYA projects. The question is raised why are there two Negro youth to one white youth working now, whereas a year ago, there were a few more white than Negro. A possible explanation is that the depression lowered all classes in our community to a relief level. Employment opportunities for all stopped with a resultant frozen reservoir of the jobless. Then with an up-swing in the business cycle in the spring of 1937, white youth, both male and female, began to find jobs. It is interesting to note that an analysis of youth leaving our program for private employment during the past year shows that 60% were white and 40%, Negro.....Occupational opportunities for the Negro youth in this community must be provided or an entire generation will be impoverished and will become a burden to our community."

The National Negro Congress announces the Second all-Southern Negro Youth Conference to be held at the First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, April 1, 2, 3, 1938. 534 official delegates representing 250,000 southern Negro youth met in the first all-southern Negro Youth Conference held at Richmond, Virginia in February, 1937. They met "to provide a medium of expression for southern youth and to determine how Negro youth in this area may work together to advance their mutual welfare" and established the Southern Negro Youth Congress, a federation of Southern Youth organizations.

Mary McLeod Bethune

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

March 8, 1938
News Letter

A letter from the Dean of Men at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee indicates the significance of the NYA Negro Graduate Aid Fund to one of the leading Negro universities of the country:

"Were it not for the special Negro Graduate NYA funds made available to more than forty Fisk graduate students, practically none of these young people would be able to remain at Fisk to engage in the very interesting and creative projects which they are carrying on in their fields of concentration. In fact, they would not be in school at all. We have divided thirty college NYA grants among some forty-five undergraduates to enable them to remain in school this year. Every one of these boys and girls is working faithfully and earnestly to earn these grants; and we are requiring them to maintain a satisfactory scholarship average in order to enjoy these benefits.

We sincerely hope that not only the NYA aid will be continued as a means of helping deserving boys and girls obtain an education, but that the grants will be made available to a larger percentage of the youth who are enrolling in our colleges and graduate schools. We have had 115 undergraduate applications, for the thirty scholarship grants allowed to Fisk students, and about the double number of graduate applicants for the grants available to them."

E. P. Dutton and Company, Inc., of New York has just published a unique little school reader titled, "Country Life Stories." The book is intended to serve as a social studies reader for Negro pupils on the elementary level in small rural schools. The stories are designed to help develop appreciation for rural community helpers. It is written by two outstanding Negro women educators, Elizabeth Perry Cannon, M.A., Instructor, Department of Education, Spelman College and Atlanta University and member, Julius Rosenwald Rural Council, and Helen Adele Whiting, M.A., State Supervisor of Elementary Schools, Georgia. There is an introduction by Mabel Carney, Professor of Education, Columbia University in which she says: "It is cause for rejoicing to have Mrs. Whiting and Mrs. Cannon come forward with these charming little stories and their captivating pictures for the teaching of Negro children in rural communities of the south. In imagination one can visualize the great pleasure and happy understanding these little books will bring to their proud possessors. But children will not be the only ones to profit from these pages. For read again, more discerningly between the lines, and note the clever suggestions to parents, teachers, preachers, Jeanes Supervisors and other community workers....." The book is attractively illustrated with racial characters by the expert pen and brush of Vernon Winslow, B.F.A., Art Instructor at Tennessee State College. The format is attractive and the book sells for 65¢.

The Director of Negro Affairs spoke recently at the 11th Annual dinner of the Memorial Center and Urban League at Buffalo, New York. One of the New York District Supervisors writes an interesting reaction:...."It was my impression that this lady gave a better "sales talk" for the NYA, dwelling entirely on the human principles involved,.....The whole speech left me with an inordinate pride in the organization of which I am a part....."

Mary McLeod Bethune

Please return ①

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

News Letter
March 22, 1938

At a meeting of the Social Workers' Institute conducted by the Rhode Island Social Workers' Club, a discussion of the problem of Negro participation in the group recreational programs will be conducted at the Narragansett Hotel in Providence on April 28th. Mr. Donnelly who is Chairman of the Group Work Section has invited Mrs. Bethune to talk to this group on this subject. Mr. Julian Steele, an outstanding leader in the field of recreation for colored youth and Director of the Robert Gould Shaw House in Boston, is to present a picture of the situation as it affects the New England states.

As part of the program of the Sixth Vocational Opportunity Campaign of the National Urban League, the NYA of New Jersey is conducting a stenographers' and typists' contest at the YMCA in Newark on March 24th. The contest is open to all youths between the ages of 18 and 25 who have had typewriting and stenography. Similar contests are being held in Camden, Trenton, Asbury Park, Jersey City. In each center in addition to the contests, there will be talks, musical events, discussions, movies, etc., pertaining to the work and achievement of the Negro people. There will be several programs planned by Negroes with the white groups also.

The State Normal School at Elizabeth City, North Carolina, has purchased an 85-acre farm on which NYA boys from the Training Center are working renovating the houses and barns. One boy is interested in firing stationary engines. He has spent practically all of his time in the fire-room helping with the heating system. The engineer in return is teaching the boy all fundamentals regarding pressure, water in boiler, fire, (active and backed) reading of meters, fixing minor leaks, making pipe connections, etc. The boy is progressing very rapidly.

The classes in agriculture at this Center are very interesting and are being followed up by actual work on the farm.

At the Fayetteville, North Carolina Center, the State Normal School is offering excellent training for both boys and girls. The girls particularly are doing valuable work in renovating furniture and are very much interested in their work in home economics and practical nursing. This group is also planning to go into dramatics as a form of recreation, and plans are now being made to perfect a play and present it before the student body.

Mary McLeod Bethune
Director, Division of Negro Affairs

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

News Letter
March 31, 1938

The National Youth Administration for Indiana distributed booklets to its Negro project workers outlining qualifications for jobs and lists of books on job opportunities for colored youth. These booklets, compiled by Mercer M. Mance, NYA supervisor of Negro Activities, were issued in connection with the National Urban League Campaign this week (March 20 to 27) which is centering attention on the need for occupational information and vocational guidance for Negro youth.

At the Resident Training Project located at Rochester Academy in Liberty County, there are 25 Negro boys receiving training in educational subjects according to their needs as well as practical training in gardening, chauffeur-ing, cooking, sewing, butlering and general valet work, and 15 Negro girls are receiving training in home economics, domestic service, gardening, marketing and elementary education. The school officials state that they anticipate no difficulty in placing the boys and girls in private employment as fast as they complete their training of six months.

At the Georgia State College in Savannah, there are 40 Negro boys on the Resident Training project receiving trade training which includes auto mechanics, shoe repairing, sign painting, mechanical drawing, wood and metal shops, electrical work, plastering, carpentry and brick-laying as well as practical and modern agricultural methods in connection with the farm and dairy operated by the school and practical work experience from construction work on the school buildings and farm. There are 40 Negro girls assigned to this resident project who receive training in home economics, sewing, crafts, dining hall and kitchen technique, dairy care and poultry raising, as well as instruction in practical elementary subjects.

There are 35 Negro girls and 75 Negro boys assigned to the Resident Training project at the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School at Fort Valley, Georgia. The boys have constructed 24 cabins and a large combination dining and assembly hall which will be used as a Negro youth recreational camp for practically all agencies in the state. They are clearing lake site and building a dam for a 20-acre lake to be used in connection with this camp. The girls are receiving training in home economics and crafts and both boys and girls receive training in elementary courses as needed.

Mary McLeod Bethune

News Letter
April 5, 1938

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
Division of Negro Affairs

Prominent women from many sections of the country gathered in Washington on Monday, April 4, with Mary McLeod Bethune, to confer with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and some of the administrative heads and assistants in the various departments of the government, on the participation of Negro women and children in the federal programs. When Mrs. Roosevelt questioned the administrative heads as to the advantage of having a Negro woman in a pivot position, Mrs. Atha G. Jordan, Administrative Assistant of the National Youth Administration stated: "The experience of placing Mrs. Bethune in a strategic administrative position definitely helped the work of our department."

Micrographed copies of a proposed study of Negro youth have been sent to the Director of the Division of Negro Affairs from the American Youth Commission. The aim of this study is threefold: To determine the effects of a minority racial status upon the personality development of Negro youth who reside in communities where their socio-racial position is relatively stable; in communities where their socio-racial position is relative mobile and to determine the effects of a minority racial status upon the personality development of Negro youth who shift from one type of community to another. It is expected that such information about the racial adjustment of Negro youth would be invaluable to institutions responsible for his education, to private and public agencies concerned with his economic welfare, to religious and humanitarian groups that have regard for his social status, and to the large public whose understanding of the problems faced by Negro youth might well be a factor in their charge.

On April 2, a revised copy of NYA circular #7 was released, entitled, "New Opportunities for Negro Youth". This circular shows that some 36,000 Negro students have been benefited by the National Youth Administration during the past year; some 12,000 have been employed on work projects, gaining experience in efficient work habits and modern techniques and approximately 1200 have been employed on resident training projects which are located on the campuses of Negro educational institutions.

When faced with the problems of choosing and preparing for their occupational future, the Negro youths are practically confounded unless they confine their choices to a very limited number of well-known occupations which are already becoming too crowded to offer much more than a bare subsistence remuneration. In recognition of these facts, the NYA of Georgia has made it a part of its regular program of vocational guidance each year to cooperate with the National Urban League and other organizations working among Negro youths over the state, in planning and promoting the Annual Vocational Opportunity Campaign.

Mary McLeod Bethune

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

News Letter
April 19, 1938

The Director of the Division of Negro Affairs is visiting a number of far western states, observing and studying NYA activities in that section of the country. A number of letters have been received in the national office commenting on the benefit of having had Mrs. Bethune speak to the various groups in these states. One Urban League secretary writes: "The new positions were created on a county sponsored visiting housekeeper NYA project this morning for Negroes. I have reasons to believe this came as a direct result of your visit.....Another interesting and significant occurrence happened within ten minutes after your train departed... ..The Chairman of the State Board of Control summarily said they just that day had agreed to comply with our five year request - that a trained young woman be given supervisory work at the State Home for Delinquent Girls..... He went further to say that he had been convinced of the injustice that was being done young Negro college graduates in keeping job opportunities from them especially in the state in which they had received their training. To say the least he now feels it his responsibility to help create new work opportunities for this class of young Negroes."

In a recent bulletin "The Secretariat" issued by the National Urban League the Secretary of the Springfield Urban League in Springfield, Illinois, makes the following comment on the Illinois NYA: "Let me suggest that they do not shove things at us. We have to go after them, sometimes very vigorously, even to the extent of feigning a show of bad temper. But we do have a remarkable NYA set-up in Illinois. I doubt whether there's an abler State Director in the country than Mr. William J. Campbell, Director for Illinois. And as his assistant in charge of Negro work, we have an enthusiastic, energetic young man, Charles P. Browning, who gets a great number of things done."

"In Indianapolis, every Wednesday night a group of Negro boys don white aprons and caps, sharpen paring knives and get to work at the business of preparing a meal. This is no lark for them - these boys are hoping to prepare themselves for a job, and are taking this NYA sponsored course at the Flanner House outside their working hours in the hope of obtaining a job as chef in restaurant or dining cars." This statement was made by Mr. Richey, State Director for Indiana in a radio talk. He further stated that the work of the NYA on behalf of the Negro youth is a continuous process - when private employment is a widespread problem for all young people, it becomes increasingly difficult for the young Negro to obtain a job. In every instance the NYA has attempted to provide work experience for its project employees in a field in which they can later hope to find a job for themselves. There is no stepping up beyond their abilities, no creating false hopes.

Mary McLeod Bethune

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

NEWS LETTER
April 26, 1938

A visitor at Camp Moore, New Brockland, South Carolina, writes: "I have seen some of the camps for men, and have seen many camps of one sort or another for women and men, but on the whole, this camp seems to be rendering a more complete service in educating and training the people who come here than any other camp that I can recall."

Excerpt from Annual Report of Flint-Goedridge Hospital, New Orleans, La.

"Beginning in January we have conducted a training course for nurse maids in cooperation with the NYA. The course includes classroom and practical instruction in such matters as personal hygiene, the proper care of dishes, ice boxes, baby bottles, clothing, bedding, the preparation of ordinary formulas, the general care of the sick room, the preparation of surgical dressings, answering telephones properly and proper methods of ordinary house cleaning. 122 young women who are receiving NYA assistance have been included in this project. Our aim is to prepare them to work as maids in hospitals or in private homes.

In April we began a project with young men receiving NYA assistance for training in work as hospital orderlies. Colored orderlies are used by all New Orleans hospitals. The course was designed to train unemployed young men to qualify for these jobs. They are given lectures and practical instruction in services to patients, elevator operation, gardening, care of floors, walls and windows, proper disposal of waste and garbage and in painting and general repairs. 26 young men have been included in this course. Each orderly employed at Flint-Goedridge Hospital since the course began has come from this group.

A supervisor is placed at the hospital by the NYA to supervise these projects. While the hospital has contributed to the training of these young people, they in turn have rendered very valuable services. Acknowledgment is also made of the assistance given by the NYA through the assigning of persons to work in our offices, laboratories and dietary department. Almost all hospital sewing has been done by the NYA sewing project.

Three other persons were given opportunities for training in the hospital during the year. A dietetic internship was given to one young lady who immediately upon completion of her course was employed by St. Agnes Hospital, Raleigh, N. C. Another young lady was taken into our medical record room to be trained for a job at Parkside Hospital, Detroit. A third person, employed as an X-ray technician in Knoxville, spent six weeks observing in our X-ray Department in an effort to improve her technique."

Mary McLeod Bethune

"Unclassified" by vocal authority Forrest
Williams 7/21/58 JR.

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON THE NEGRO PROGRAM

WEAK POINTS

1. There is no really outstanding NYA project for Negroes in the country.
2. No one really knows the extent of participation of Negro youth because all State Directors do not indicate the number of Negro youths employed on work projects.
3. Negro participation is most nearly equitable in the college aid program, although the comparatively small enrollments in Negro schools prevent these benefits from being far reaching.
4. The program in Georgia and Illinois represent high spots in Negro participation. This reflects the fairness and intelligence of the State Directors and the high efficiency of the Negro assistants. In these two states alone do the Negro assistants act as real state supervisors, with adequate compensation and staff assistance.
5. Negro youth have practically no part in the program of apprentice training.
6. The resident training projects hold real promise for Negro youth providing their scope is not kept too narrow.
7. Very few of the states show adequate participation of Negroes in administration, supervision or clerical employment.
8. Negro youth have very little share in the Vocational Guidance Program, either in counseling or placement activities. Outside of the State of Georgia, Chicago, East St. Louis, Durham and Charlotte North Carolina, Negro youth misses the potential advantages of guidance and placement.
9. Work projects for Negro youth are generally poorly organized and supervised and his participation is not equitable nor does it begin to approach his need.
10. The health program is weak among Negro youths.

STRONG POINTS

1. Participation of Negro youth in the college and graduate aid programs, especially the operation of the special Negro graduate aid fund.
2. Youth center work at Birmingham, Alabama and Chicago, Illinois.
3. Guidance activities in the State of Georgia and in Chicago, Illinois. Also in Charlotte and Durham, North Carolina.
4. The rural life center at Fort Valley, Georgia
5. Resident training centers as in Texas, Louisiana and Georgia
6. The commercial dietetics course at Tuskegee Institute
7. Health project at Flint Goodrich Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana and Freedmens Hospital in Washington, D. C.
8. Small construction and building repair as in Florida.

RECOMMENDATIONS (National Office)

1. All projects, plans, correspondence and other matters affecting Negroes in any way should be cleared through the office of the Division of Negro Affairs.
2. An Assistant Director of the Division to share the field work in addition to office duties.
3. (A Research Assistant to the Director for the compilation of reports statistics, Negro press contacts, collection of speech and other publications material, etc.)
4. (At least one Negro regional representative for the area west of Chicago.)
5. (A Negro guidance specialist in the Division of Guidance and Placement)
6. (Negro representation in the administration of the program of Apprenticeship Training.)

(State Offices)

1. A real Negro state assistant in each state have an appreciable Negro population. He should be a full-fledged member of the state staff, adequately paid and supplied with the necessary office space and clerical assistance.
2. State Directors should include in monthly reports accurate breakdowns to indicate the participation of Negro youth in the work project, resident training and guidance and placement programs.
3. In states having large Negro populations, the leadership of Georgia should be followed by employing on the state staffs in addition to the

state assistant, a Negro staff member for the guidance and placement program, and a Negro nurse.

II. STUDENT AID

1. Reports as to Negro participation are needed from many states that make no "breakdown" reports.
2. The Graduate Aid fund for Negroes should be materially increased and college aid funds extended.

III WORK PROJECTS

1. The tendency is to confine Negro projects to manual labor, agriculture or domestic training. While these are all necessary, the scope of projects for Negroes needs widening.
2. The resident training program needs ~~expansion~~ with expansion with projects set up for training in other fields besides agriculture and domestic service

IV. GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT

1. Negro guidance and placement workers should be employed in a number of the states.
2. Materials to meet the specific and peculiar guidance needs of Negro youth should be prepared and widely disseminated.

V. SPECIAL ~~PROJECTS~~ PROJECTS

NYA should promote a few, definite, well organized outstanding projects for Negroes in key cities of the nation, including something permanent and imposing in the way of construction. We make a few suggestions:

1. The building of a Little Theatre and Art Center, certainly in the city of Washington. There is much talented leadership here: Negroes are barred from the few legitimate theatres; Negroes admittedly have a flair for the stage and other artistic expression. The building of an imposing and beautiful art center for Negroes here could offer facilities for a Little Theatre, for music and choral groups, for painting, for display of African Art, etc. NYA and WPA could cooperate in such a project.
2. NYA should foster, and gain the cooperation of WPA for the setting up of a curative mecca for crippled Negro children similar to the nationally famous Warm Springs Foundation from which Negroes are barred.
3. In a number of salient cities, real effective and attractive youth centers, need to be built and set up, offering facilities for recreation, guidance, etc.

Practically all of the above observations and recommendations have been made by the Director of the Division of Negro Affairs in quarterly and yearly reports for the past two years. We strongly urge that now is the time for putting them into effect. Stanley High's recent articles on the Negro in the Saturday Evening Post accentuate the fact that with all of NYA and other youth activities, The chances of Negro Youth to get a job are mighty slim." NYD has before it an opportunity to help Negro youth smash through the vicious restrictions that bind him. It remains now for us of NYA to accept the challenge.

Camp

REPORT ON VISIT TO CAMP BETHUNE
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS

Date of Visit-March 27 and 29-30

Elle Ketchin

General Comments

✓ The tent camp seems to be working out very well except that more space is needed. It seems that at first the college students looked askance at the camp girls, but things seem to be adjusted now.

Number in Camp

✓ At the time of the visit there were fifty-five girls on the active enrollment list and ten staff members, including the chief clerk and his assistant who are white persons in the Pine Bluff office. Since the program was not started until February 1 no definite break in the term was being planned. New girls were still coming in.

Physical Set-up

✓ There are sixteen tents, two of which are occupied by staff members, one of which is used as a small wood-work shop and another of which is used as an infirmary. Rooms in the gymnasium nearby are used for work project office and storeroom. Showers and toilets in the gymnasium are used by campers; class rooms, library and gymnasium are also used along with college students as the schedule can be worked out. The girls and some of the staff members have meals in the regular dining room which is rather well equipped. Gas stoves are used for heating the tents and the rooms used in the gymnasium. The tents are lighted by electricity.

Health Examination

Health examinations had not been completed because of needed supplies. All tests were to be made, however. Attention was called to the fact that staff members must also have an examination if they had not already done so.

Laundry

Personal and household laundry were being done in the college laundry which is well equipped.

Dining Room and Housekeeping

The girls were taking turns helping in the regular dining room under the supervision of the college dining room manager. The service leaves some things to be desired, but it is difficult under the circumstances for the camp Home Economics teacher to do much about it. Girls are serving as hostesses.

... seem to be working
... it seems that to answer
... the camp girls, but things seem to be working
... at the camp girls, but things seem to be working
... about 12 weeks ago
... attempt, started
... 08-2, 1944
... 10 22 44

Camp

Housekeeping seems to be satisfactory

Schedules

The girls work three hours a day up to 66 hours a month. Some credit is given for household maintenance. English and Social and Economic problems are offered three times a week. Health and Home Economics twice, special recreation twice for each group. Some supervised library work is provided for.

Some work in arts and crafts is being offered, and in music and dancing.

The staff members have rather full schedules, but probably not too full with one exception. The Home Economics teacher also supervises the indoor project; she is, however, assisted by others.

Program

The program is reasonably strong. The Home Economics teacher has the use of the college Home Economics laboratory. The teacher of Social and Economic problems seems to be having difficulty in talking the language of the girls, but is certainly reaching some of them. Here as in the white camp, the use of original drama, and of pictorial methods was suggested.

Project

A plant nursery and a garden, a simple wood-work shop and sewing constitute the project. Some very good work was being done, but the lack of sewing machines was a handicap. Also there seemed to be some confusion as to the disposition of finished products, and some of the staff members had spent money for paint, etc. This situation was mentioned to Mr. Smith, the chief clerk and supply officer who is in the Pine Bluff office. An attempt was made to explain to the staff the difference between the "status" of articles produced in the arts and crafts classes and those produced on the project.

Workshop

The nurse had done some work on charts and posters. This method of teaching could be used to advantage more generally than it is being used.

Library Facilities

Access to the college library solves this problem to some extent, although if there were room available, it would be highly desirable to establish an informal reading room.

unbalanced program work is provided for.
Home Economics times, special recreation for
and Economic problems are offered three times
Some credit is given for non-credit material.
The girls work three months a year.

Recreation

Non-credit work is given to girls

Cooperative Store

A store on a small scale had been started, but I had not been fully determined as to whether or not it would be run as a cooperative. Emergency funds are so badly needed in the camps that there is a tendency to use the stores as a means for building up a small petty cash fund.

Infirmary

One tent had been set aside as an infirmary. There had been no serious illnesses, very little illness of any kind.

Group Government

A city government plan had been set up with a mayor and various departments, but there had not been time to develop it very far. Staff members were urged to throw as much responsibility as possible on the girls and to strive to develop initiative and a sense of responsibility in the girls. The group government plan is necessarily limited by the fact that the camp is associated with the college, but restrictions are not oppressive.

Recommendations

There is need of at least a part-time clerical worker in the office (although the chief clerk and his secretary handle the bulk of the work). This person probably cannot be employed however until the camp grows.

Space is also limited, but efforts are being made to rectify the cramped condition and probably nothing can be done at the moment.

July 27, 1935

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Dr. L. R. Alderman and Mr. John L. Corson

FROM: Ambrose Caliver

SUBJECT: Youth Program as it Affects Negroes

In view of the social and economic status of Negroes, representing as they do the most disadvantaged minority group in the country, and in view of the general lack of educational opportunities provided them, their high rate of illiteracy among persons 15 to 24 years of age, the small number of high school age who are in school (only 10 percent), the excessive pupil mortality rate (74 percent drop out before reaching fifth grade), the resulting relatively slow rate at which they are progressing, and the increasing and exacting demands which society makes upon them, a comprehensive youth program is probably more necessary in their case than for any other group. This is particularly true if they are to function effectively as individuals or as a group in the new social order.

Because of the conditions cited above and several others not mentioned there are many problems of Negro Youth requiring special attention. We are, therefore, making the following recommendations with a view to facilitating the solution of some of these problems. It is believed that favorable consideration of the recommendations, which it is hoped will be given, will assure a greater amount of employment and a more equitable distribution of benefits among Negroes, and will make for a smoother administration of the program. The recommendations are:

1. That one or more Negroes be appointed on the State and local advisory committees. In case the plan of group representation as was used in the National Committee is followed for these State and local committees it is suggested that the Negroes be appointed as sort of representatives-at-large. There is ample precedent for such.
2. That, in keeping with Section 6 of Bulletin #19, this office urge the employment of Negroes on the State and local staffs.
3. That, in view of the disproportionate number of Negroes of high school age who are not attending school, the high school aid be distributed on the basis of population ratios. If high school enrollment ratios are used it will result in great discrimination against Negroes.
4. That, in view of the increased volume of work resulting from the Youth Program, and because of the special nature of the problems involved, a Negro assistant and stenographer be added to our staff.
5. That, as soon as such assistant is appointed, we be permitted to organize a small local advisory committee to advise with us from time to time on special problems.

The Conference on Negro activities in the National Youth Administration program was held in the President's room of the Washington Auditorium, Thursday, August 8, 1935.

The following persons were present:

Dr. Channing H. Tobias, National Council, Y.M.C.A., 347 Madison Ave., New York
President David D. Jones, Bennett College for Women, Greensboro, N. C.
Mrs. Mary M. Bethune, Bethune-Cookman College, Florida, a member of the NYA
National Advisory Council
Ira Reed, Sociology, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia
William Valentine, Bordenstown, N. J.
Dean Frank Horne, Ft. Valley High & Industrial School, Ft. Valley, Georgia
Dr. Robert Weaver, Advisor on Negro Affairs, Dept. of Interior, Washington
William Henry Hastie, Assistant Solicitor, Dept. of Interior, Washington
Eugene Kinckle Jones, Advisor on Negro Affairs, Dept. of Commerce, Washington
Walter White, Secretary, National Association Advancement for Colored People,
Washington, D. C.
James A. Atkins, Assistant in Educational Activities of Negroes, F.E.R.A.
Washington, D. C.
Dr. Mordcai Johnson, President, Howard University, Washington, D. C.
Miss Marion Cathbert, Lexington Avenue Y.M.C.A. New York City
Mrs. Elizabeth Perry Cannon, Spellman College, Atlanta, Georgia
Mr. Aubrey Williams, Director, National Youth Administration
Mr. Ivan Asay, Administrative Assistant, National Youth Administration
Mr. Charles Kramer, Administrative Assistant, National Youth Administration
Mr. John J. Gerson, Assistant Director, National Youth Administration
Dr. Mary Hayes, Director of Guidance and Placement, National Youth Adm.
Mr. C. F. Klinefelter, Assistant Director, Education, National Youth Adm.

Mr. Williams opened the meeting, asking their advice and suggestions concerning Negro participation in the National Youth Administration program. He gave a resume of the purposes and policies of the program, and explained that we were going to cooperate with already existing agencies rather than set up new ones.

Mr. Williams gave a brief summary of the qualifications of some of the State Directors.

Dr. Mary Hayes was introduced by Mr. Gerson. Dr. Hayes gave a resume of the Vocational Guidance program, and expressed her opinion that, although it would probably not be possible to work out an extensive program which would include Negroes, it would be well for them to take advantage of the opportunities presented for training Negroes in this work.

The following persons were present:
Mrs. Bethune, National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Klinefelter, National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Williams, National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Jones, National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.
Mr. [Name], National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.
The following persons were present:
Mrs. Bethune, National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Klinefelter, National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Williams, National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Jones, National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.
Mr. [Name], National Youth Administration, Washington, D. C.

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Mr. Klinefelter gave a resume of the Student Aid Program.

Mr. Williams asked that the leaders present at the meeting give thought to the following questions.

- (1) The integration of general leadership of Negroes with the general leadership of the local communities.
- (2) The problem of handling High School Aid in communities where school facilities are limited or non-existent.
- (3) Special problems relating to Negroes which would come under the National Youth Administration.
- (4) How to get more opportunities for Negro people.
- (5) Send in recommendations of persons who could work on the Administrative staff.

The meeting was adjourned at one o'clock and the afternoon was devoted to a general discussion of Negroes' participation in the program.

The following complaints were raised:

Mrs. Bethune called to the attention of the National Youth Administration the necessity of having Negro assistants to the state directors who could interpret their needs.

The question was raised as to how the Negro in the South could benefit equitably under the program when it was impossible for them to even get on relief. Mrs. Bethune suggested that Negroes be selected for aid on the basis of their need whether they had been permitted to register for relief or not. Mr. David Jones commended this suggestion.

Members of the conference discussed with Mr. Klinefelter the law which states that Negroes shall teach Negro students in all cases where there are qualified persons to take the jobs. Mrs. Bethune objected saying that in Florida they got around this by setting up schools for White people only, and refused to set up schools for Negroes.

Mr. Klinefelter explained the method of selection for High School Aid, that is, i.e.; taking the total number of children in relief families who are of high school age, striking a percentage which will arrive at a figure of 250,000, and estimating the number of schools that these children could attend. Mr. Klinefelter also explained that the chief school officer will have the right to tell these children where they shall attend school.

Dr. Weaver stated that an objective standard should be used for equitable selection. He said that if the figure giving the number of people on relief was used it would be much less than if the figure giving the number of people who are eligible for relief was used. Mr. David Jones did not think this should be the basis for selection. He explained instances in Mississippi of obvious discrimination.

Mr. Klinefelter stated that Mr. Williams' announcement regarding Negro teachers' in Negro schools' have been sent to all State Works Progress Administrators, and they would be expected to follow it.

Dr. Tobias explained that the Negro program of post-graduate aid was necessarily limited because of the scarcity of institutions in the South that would give graduate work. He brought up the question, "Would Negroes desirous of pursuing graduate work be confined to these institutions, or would Negroes leaving college desirous of pursuing graduate work somewhere else be given an opportunity in these colleges?" Dr. Weaver believed that the Negroes would be penalized and discriminated against if they went to schools in the North. Dr. Weaver suggested that they be given student aid on the same basis that is given at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Weaver stated that the failure to bring a proportion of the funds for Negroes equal to the proportion of such Negro population to total population would be considered of itself as evidence of discrimination. He said the relief ratio will be used as a standard of equity where the figures differ appreciably from the census figures. Mr. Eugene Hamble Jones suggested that if the relief figures are less than the census figures, the census proportion would probably be taken.

Mr. Klinefelter explained that the allocation of funds would be made to the college or graduate institution, and suggested that the colleges in the South be asked to recommend students for post-graduate work.

The question was brought up as to whether or not there is a tendency to push Negro students along one educational line rather than another -- to group students in one place rather than in another.

Dr. Weaver suggested that having various heads of Negro institutions recommend Negroes for scholarships might be bad because it might discriminate against Negroes not in Negro institutions.

Mr. Williams said he had thought of a Committee made up of such persons as Stuart Chapin of the Research Council, and Max Mason of the Rockefeller Foundation and others, might make decisions on such points as,

- (1) That Negroes were not forced into studying a limited number of subjects.
- (2) That the best persons who could really make a contribution got the scholarships.
- (3) That there be no discrimination on the basis of groups.

Dr. Weaver brought in the advisability of a person on the staff to take care of such matters. He realized, however, he said, that his hands might be tied, by rulings of how the money should be spent.

Dr. Johnson said there was no doubt as to an adequate number of highly qualified persons to participate.

Mr. Taylor brought up the question as to the limitation on students of their choice of a graduate school.

Mr. Klinfelter suggested that any questions on education and research might be considered by the Committee on Negro students.

Dr. Weaver suggested that having the heads of various Negro institutions make recommendations for scholarships might bring about discrimination.

Mr. Corson mentioned that in the South a great many of the young people were in rural districts, and raised the question of how we are going to reach them.

Mr. Williams brought up the question as to the advisability of setting up offices and agencies where people will come when we have nothing to offer but counsel.

Mr. Reed brought up the question of employment and reemployment offices in the South with no constructive program.

Mr. Reed suggested that the question of apprenticeship training would have to be worked out through state and land grant institutions. Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones stated that young Negroes had not had a chance in the business field and suggested that opportunities be extended to help young Negroes participate on a larger scale in the business field. Mr. Williams asked the delegates for suggestions of the type of service Negroes can be trained for, and said they ought to be represented in scholarships and be trained Negro social workers. Mrs. Bethune stressed the necessity of Negro supervision for Negroes and said that the opinion of the Negro people in the South is that the Administration in Washington is on the right side, but the difficulty is in getting ordinances carried out in the states.

Mr. Horne suggested that the time might better be spent discussing technique to be used rather than discussing the difficulties of discrimination. He stated that one of the difficulties involved in the student aid program in his state is that young Negroes did not want to attend some schools, because they were not accredited and more advanced institutions would not recognize their work.

Mr. Williams explained that ^{many} unfair things were done without our knowledge, and that there should be no difference between the budget set up; there would be no discrimination between race, color, religion, or basis of political belief. He explained the difficulties encountered in the shift from direct relief to work relief.

Mr. Asay explained his idea of community participation and agency relief.

Mr. Horne asked what was to be done in communities where schools run only a few months a year and there was no Y.W.C.A. or Y.M.C.A. or similar organization. Dr. Tobias suggested the possibility of conducting intensive training courses which would help young Negroes. He explained the facilities through which these courses could be set up, that is, through the Negro Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Urban League, etc. Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones recommended the tie in of these agencies in the spirit of cooperation, and the possibility of instituting vocational guidance in the Urban League. He stated that Negro youth cannot be treated as white youths are on the matter of vocational guidance, because many fields were not open for colored people. He stated that they should not, however, go on the theory that they should not be trained; that it would be better to train them whether or not there is any possibility for their use.

Mr. Tobias suggested that serious thought be given to the problem of keeping young Negroes in rural communities rather than having them congregate in the city. Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones advised wide press publicity to bring about better thinking.

Mrs. Bethune stated that private organizations are the only agencies through which any civic or community work is being done among Negro people, and that it would be well for us to cooperate with them in extending their work. Mr. Corson said he felt this could be done. Dr. Tobias suggested that the Bethune-Cookman College in Florida, and Mr. Horne's College at Fort Valley should be considered as a type of organization through which to work.

Miss Cathbert discussed the colored Y.W.C.A.s and the possibility of incorporating the National Youth Administration program in the "Y". She brought out the opportunity of working with the older girls groups and the possibilities of training them for schools and giving them a public affairs program. She made recommendations for the employment of secretaries and suggested that it would be well if the Negro members of the Advisory Board were consulted on state and local personnel. She stressed the necessity of helping young Negro girls to consciousness of themselves as working women and as members of a minority group who must work out their own problems.

Mr. Corson explained our financial limitation, and Dr. Caliver asked for equitable distribution of funds -- a certain amount of money for a certain number of jobs.

Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones stated that white collar projects were all taken up by white people and that when white collar projects were submitted for Negroes they were turned down on the basis that they could not duplicate any projects. Negroes therefore, had to go into sewing rooms, etc., at much less money.

Mrs. Bethune asked if it were not possible to set up definite projects for Negroes and definite projects for whites in the various communities. She stated that if it were possible to do this, then it would be up to Negro leaders to make some kind of a survey of the needs and recommendations to help the largest number of persons. She said that she felt that whatever projects were set up for Negroes, if a similar project were set up for whites, the rate of pay should be the same.

Mr. Weaver brought up the question of employment, and asked how many Negroes they are going to use, and stated that playgrounds are scarce and are particularly needed. He suggested the possibility of having youths direct them, and therefore be supervisors of persons younger than themselves. Mr. Artis stated that there were a number of projects which could be planned and executed for Negroes as well as be supervised by them.

Miss Sadler suggested the formulation of discussion groups in neighborhood centers that would be run entirely by young people.

Mrs. Bethune brought up again the question of the Rural set-up and suggested a group training center which would go into the rural districts to select and train leaders. She suggested, also, that some of the outstanding young people be placed in Summer Rural schools to be taught youth leadership.

Mr. Horne suggested the possibility of developing Negro camp projects. Miss Cathbert suggested the possibility of developing Farm projects as training centers for boys and girls for farm work. Mr. Caliver said he hoped that the proper apportionment of projects would be made among Negroes -- that the group would in further suggestions.

Mr. Weaver stated that a plan to insure Negro participation on the work for F.W.A. projects of housing have been developed by the Department of Interior whereby a prima facie evidence of discrimination based upon census figures was established for the various states. Mr. Tobias said it would probably be necessary to insert a clause in contracts stating that such types of work as Negroes were qualified to do would be open for Negroes.

Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones stated that the delegates to the meeting made a representative showing for their race with the exception of representation for the Church.

Mr. Williams asked that all people attending the conference send in names of persons to be appointed on the Advisory Board.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Gerson to be chairman of a committee to draw up a report on the questions brought out as a result of the conference.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

August 9, 1935.

Mr. Williams:

The attached copy of a message
from the Administrator to the
NAACP might be of interest to
you.


Robert C. Weaver

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
to the
ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Meeting in St. Louis, June 30, 1935

RECEIVED

AUG 10 1935

FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF
ADMINISTRATION

MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE:

I am very sorry that pressure of business makes it impossible for me to accept the invitation of your Secretary to address you in person. It is a pleasure, nevertheless, to have the opportunity of putting before you certain aspects of the Public Works program which are of particular interest to you.

At the very onset of this program there was a good deal of apprehension that Negroes might not share fairly in its benefits. Unfortunately, the history of our country and, in many instances, of our government, justified this apprehension. As I was particularly anxious to avoid this result in the administration of PWA, I took the unprecedented step of adding to my staff a person who was particularly charged to see to it that Negroes were not discriminated against.

Now for two years PWA has been in operation. Thousands of useful projects have been completed and millions of people have participated in the employment which they furnished. There is no question but that PWA has greatly affected the present and future history of this country. Its dams, its roads, its buildings will for many years be signals of the enlightened administration of President Roosevelt. But I take it that you are particularly interested in the relationship of this work to the Negro population, so I shall briefly consider that phase of the program.

...before to ...
...before to ...
...before to ...
...before to ...

The Public Works Administration has had a two-fold purpose - the building of useful projects, and the giving of employment to those in need of it. With regard to the first of these, I am delighted to be able to say that there has never been a question of discrimination against any project submitted by or for the benefit of Negroes. Every project coming before PWA has been subjected to the same routine examination, regardless of the race, creed or color of the beneficiaries. Most of our work, to be sure, has been for the good of the general population and there is, therefore, no way of figuring to what extent Negroes as such have benefited from it. All that can be said is that they, like the rest of the American population, now have much better facilities in many lines than existed before.

With regard to employment, our problem has been more difficult, although our determination to prevent discrimination has been no less emphatic. On September 21, 1935, I issued a general order reciting that it was our established policy that "in the employment of mechanics and labor, preference be given to local labor to the extent that it is available and competent, and that there be no discrimination exercised against any person because of color or religious affiliation."

In announcing this, I felt that we were setting up a rule that would prevent discrimination. However, it soon became apparent that we had not accomplished our purpose. The difficulty was that there was no criterion by which we could determine whether there was in fact discrimination. We then decided to set up a concept of prima facie discrimination. Thus, when PWA began to draw up specifications and accept bids for low cost housing projects, it had perfected a plan for the integration of Negro labor. The

first Federal housing project was the Techwood development in Atlanta, Georgia. The specifications for that project contained the following provision:

"In the employment of labor under the Contract there shall be no discrimination exercised against any person because of color or religious affiliation. For the purpose of determining questions of such discrimination as concerns Negro skilled labor, it is hereby provided that the failure of the Contractor to pay to Negro skilled labor at least 12% of the total amount paid in any one month under the contract for all skilled labor (irrespective of individual trades) shall be considered prima facie evidence of discrimination by the contractor against Negro skilled labor."

It was felt that this provision would lead to the employment of Negro skilled labor and it was believed that as a natural result unskilled colored men would find jobs without benefit of any contractual condition. The results, as reflected by our payroll data, seem to justify our hopes. On the Techwood project, most of the labor employed on demolition was furnished by unskilled Negro workers. About 90% of the unskilled laborers used in laying the foundation were Negroes, and for the first two-month construction period, February and March, 12.7% of the wages paid skilled workers was earned by Negro artisans. Skilled, intermediate, and unskilled labor employed on the Techwood project received \$54,235.37 for the period from March 29 through May 29. Negro workers received \$16,256.37 or 31% of the amount paid in wages during this period. Skilled Negro workers were paid \$4,508.78, which represented 14.1% of the total payroll going to skilled labor during this period.

In other cities where we are faced with threatened discrimination against Negro unskilled labor, we are also setting up prima facie rules of discrimination against such labor. Thus, in Cleveland, Ohio, the specifi-

ORGANIZATION

The National Advisory Committee has two Negro representatives. It was suggested by Mrs. Bethune that the group called here to the meeting should be known as an Advisory group on Negro questions. This group will probably be assembled again within the next two or three months. The group heartily approved Mr. Williams' suggestion that there be colored members on the State Advisory Committees, and welcomed his suggestion that the group be given some recognition in recommending names for the state committees.

Staff:

The Committee felt that the degree of success with which it was able to make suggestions concerning general policy and detailed problems illustrated the necessity of having adequate Negro personnel in the central administrative body of the National Youth Administration. The object of such representation would be the integration of the Negro into the program of the National Youth Administration from its inception. The Committee would like to counsel in the selection of personnel appointed to treat Negro problems.

The Committee concurred in the suggestion made by Mr. Williams that insofar as it is possible Negro personnel be included in strategic positions in the various state staffs in the National Youth Administration.

EDUCATION

High School:

Due to the difficulties of Negroes' registering on relief rolls in various sections of the country, it was felt that some objective measure of participation of colored citizens be established in order to assure adequate participation by Negroes. It was the opinion of the Committee that the school census distribution as between races should serve as a prima facie measure of discrimination in the allocation of funds for aid to high school students. The committee concurred in the interpretation of high school to include any school for which graduation from high school is not a requisite for entrance. We believed there was an important group of schools requiring special consideration, namely, secondary schools with boarding facilities. We did not feel that the existing plans made adequate provision for financial aid to students in such institutions.

COLLEGES:

We agreed that the general arrangements for colleges in the past have proved satisfactory, and the Committee felt that the success in this venture has been due in no small measure to the fact that the funds have been administered directly by the heads of the various institutions. The Committee concurred with the liberalization of the interpretation of "need", and the type of work acceptable for work scholarships under the program.

GRADUATE:

The Committee felt that graduate fellowships should be apportioned to Negroes (as a whole) on the basis of the ratio between the number of Negro college graduates and the total number of college graduates within the available age limits. We feel that the

recipients of graduate fellowships should be free to choose the universities where they will work. They will, of course, accept the counsel of any advisory committee appointed to deal with graduate fellowships. We concurred with the suggestion for the appointment of such a committee and would suggest the advisability of having Negro representation on it.

COOPERATION WITH INSTITUTIONS:

We agreed with Mr. Asay's statement on the cooperation of existing agencies with the Youth Administration. The Committee noted that private organizations among Negroes are more important than would possibly be true of other groups. It is also true that among Negroes there is less prejudice on the ground of religion, and the church organizations can often be used effectively and without unfavorable reaction. Organizations specifically mentioned were the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Urban League, and Boy Scouts.

APPRENTICESHIP:

There is great need for training opportunities for young Negroes, but the development of a program for this group required further study. The Committee concurred with Mr. Williams' statement in regard to the advisability of training Negroes in all phases of social and public service work.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE:

There is great need for vocational guidance among young Negroes, but this, too, is a problem which calls for further study.

WORK PROJECTS:

We suggested that the Administration here in Washington should not have undue fear in issuing orders to states and local communities affecting general policies. We agreed also that a criterion of prima facie evidence of discrimination based upon census figures should be established for the various states in order to insure Negro participation in the work on these projects. Such provisions would be in line with the policy and practice which has been carried out by the Housing Division of the P.W.A. in setting up its specifications for contracts for P.W.A. Housing.

We agreed that the individual members of the group should be requested to submit in writing any projects in line with the purposes of the Administration.

FOR THE COMMITTEE BY

Frank Horne
Channing Tobias
A.A. Taylor
Robert Weaver

(SIGNED) ROBERT WEAVER

LIST OF NEGRO LEADERS AT CONFERENCE

AUGUST 8, 1933

Dr. Channing M. Tobias, National Council, Y.M.C.A., 347 Madison Avenue,
New York City

President David B. Jones, Bennett College for Women, Greensboro, N.C.

Miss Mary M. Bethune, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Ira Reed, Sociology, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia

William Valentine, Bordentown Institute, Bordentown, N. J.

Dean Frank Herne, Ft. Valley High & Industrial School, Ft. Valley, Ga.

Dr. Robert Weaver, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Eugene Kinckle Jones, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

William Hastie, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Marion Cuthbert, Lexington Avenue, Y.M.C.A., New York City

Mrs. Elizabeth Perry Cannon, Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia

A. A. Taylor, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

L. F. Artis, Director Education & Youth Dept., Indianapolis, Ind.

Dr. Mordecai Johnson, President, Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Walter White, National Association for Advancement of Colored People,

65 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard E. Brown
FROM: Jaunita J. Saddler

December 16, 1935

A brief report of what I have been doing may serve as a basis for discussion when you have the time for an interview with me.

As would be expected, I have spent a great deal of time talking with people, getting acquainted and discussing various phases of the NYA program. This includes interviews with such persons as: Dr. Johnson of the National Committee; Mr. Cohen and Miss Fyehkoff of the United States Employment Service here in the District; Superintendent Wilkinson, Mrs. McAdoo of the Y.W.C.A.; Mr. Reynolds; Mr. Murphy of the Afro-American, and staff members here.

Correspondence has come in for a full measure of time also. I have sent letters to all Negro State Advisory Committee members and staff, to all of the Negro leaders who attended the August 8 meeting here in Washington, and answered regular correspondence referred to me and received by me.

Dr. Johnson and I have spent some time together making plans for a meeting of the Negro committee. I have worked with Superintendent Wilkinson on plans for a local committee to get proposals under way for employing youth under the four projects.

I am now carrying on correspondence with Miss Elizabeth Herring of the National Y.W.C.A. regarding the rural youth development project. I am hoping that with the help of Miss Herring, and Mr. Evans of the Rural Resettlement Administration that we may get a clear picture

of what can be done so far as rural work is concerned. Miss Herring has had a great deal of experience in this field.

At your convenience I should like to discuss with you:

- 1) The best strategy for increasing staff and committee representation in the various states.
- 2) The situation here in the District seems to me to make it very advisable to have a Negro staff member working with Mr. Reynolds. It has occurred to me that if a well qualified person could be found he or she might be employed to give part time as my assistant and part time to the program of the District. There may be reasons I have not considered which would make this an unwise plan of procedure, but at the moment it seems to me one way of meeting our needs. I realize, of course, that such a proposal would have to meet the approval of the District office.
- 3) The following indicates the kind of responsibility I will be carrying: (This, of course, is subject to revision as the work becomes more clearly defined).
 1. There will always be a heavy volume of correspondence.
 2. The work with Dr. Johnson's committee, which will really begin to function now, I think, is important.
 3. Keeping satisfactory relations with the Negro press.
 4. Analysis of press sentiment.
 5. Indexing of current published material.
 6. Cooperation with Dr. Calliver in an effort to develop a more comprehensive and permanent youth program for Negroes.

7. Building up satisfactory files on Negro agencies, etc., and fostering close cooperation with such agencies.
8. Making significant facts regarding Negroes available to interested persons or groups.
9. Keeping channels of communication open with Negroes on State Advisory Committees and state staffs.
10. Travel to help in the development of work in the communities by:
 - (a) Fostering Coordinating Councils on Negro Youth programs.
 - (b) Relating such councils to the work of the Negro state staff member and to the state advisory committee.
 - (c) Setting up state or sectional conferences on Negro youth programs under the joint cooperation of school boards, social agencies, and churches. These conferences would not be for the purpose of defining Negro needs, but would be for the specific purpose of discovering and sharing knowledge of available resources and the development of methods.
 - (d) The national worker would need to make direct contact with state and local authorities in the more difficult places. Contacts would not, of course, be limited only to difficult places.
11. Direct contact with state and local authorities.
12. Special work on rural youth development program.
13. Serving as special resource on programs in various states.
14. Since the Negro work is a cross section of all phases of the program, I will need to keep close relation with all divisions.
15. Circulation of pertinent written material on Negroes to staff who may find material useful for their contacts.
16. Frequent interviews with many different people.

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION OF NEGRO YOUTH

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

* * * * *

I. STUDENT AID * Total - 28,097, representing 8.0% of the total aided

1. School Aids: Total aided, 22,912, representing 10.2% of total number of youth receiving school aid.
2. College Aids: Total aided - 5,057, representing 4.1% of the total
3. Graduate Aids: Total aided - 128, representing 2.5% of the total

II. WORK PROJECTS *

Total aided - 21,150, representing 11.0% of the total aided

Total Negro youth aided by Student Aid and Work Projects Programs - 49,247, representing 9.1% of the total number aided, 11.2% of the Negro youth on relief (1935) as compared to 20.1% of the white youth on relief (1935) receiving aid. (In March, 1935, 18.1% of total Negro youth were on relief and comprised 15.3% of the total relief load).

III. CAMPS FOR WOMEN

538 young women attended 5 camps (Florida, Kansas, North Carolina, South Carolina (2)) employing 77 Negro staff members.

IV. VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

5 Junior Counselors placed in State Employment offices in Chicago (2) Durham and Charlotte, No. Carolina and in Washington, D.C. (Oct. 1936)

V. ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION

1. National - a) Advisory Committee - 2 Negro members
b) Division of Negro Affairs - Director, Assistant and two office aides
2. Local - a) 16 State Administrative Assistants
b) Members of State Advisory Committees in 21 states
c) Numerous project supervisors

* Statistics from State Director's Reports, March 1936

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

PARTICIPATION OF NEGRO YOUTH IN THE PROGRAM OF THE NYA

PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. ADMINISTRATION

- (1) In a number of states, directors find no need for "segregated" programs and, therefore, find no need for Negro supervisors and administrators. However, both because of the employment needed and the opportunity for training in administration and supervision offered, Negroes should be given opportunity to serve in the various administrative and supervisory capacities in states having integrated programs as well as in states having segregated programs.
- (2) Reports requested from State Directors should be so organized as to indicate the extent of Negro participation under each phase of the program - student aid, work projects, camps, vocational guidance, etc. rather than a separate section on "Negro Activities."
- (3) Accurate reports should be requested from State Directors of the amounts of money allocated to Negroes for student aid, work projects, camps, etc.
- (4) Most states cite the population percentages to indicate the proportionate allocation of opportunity and funds to Negro youth. The aim in the states should be to meet the need of the youths.

B. STUDENT AID

1. School Aid - While in most states, Negroes have shared at least to the extent of their proportion of the total population, there are a number of exceptions:

(1) Arkansas:	25.8% of total population;	comprised 12.8% of School aid pupils				
(2) Delaware:	13.7% of total population;		"	11.3%	"	" etc.
(3) Louisiana:	36.9% " " " "		"	51.8%	"	" "
(4) Mississippi:	50.2% " " " "		"	38.7%	"	" "
(5) New York:	3.8% " " " "		"	1.7%	"	" "
(6) Tennessee:	18.3% " " " "		"	11.4%	"	" "
(7) Texas:	14.7% " " " "		"	9.8%	"	" "

In these states with large Negro groups, no Negro Administrative Assistants had been appointed (appointed in New York, Aug. 27, 1936, in Arkansas and Louisiana, Nov., 1936)

2. College Aid - Since the enrollment of Negro college students is comparatively very low, Negroes represent only 4.1% of the total receiving this aid.

NOTIFICATION
 (Y) IN A NUMBER OF STATES, PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKS PROGRAM HAS BEEN DEFICIENT. HOWEVER, THIS DEFICIENCY IS NOT NEARLY AS SERIOUS AS IN THE PAST. THE DEFICIENCY IS BEING CORRECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE STATES.

SECRETARY OF LABOR

3. Graduate Aid - The small number of Negro graduate students resulted in only 2.5% of the total aided being among the Negro group. Special Negro graduate aid fund will assist greatly this year. (See appended statement)

C. WORK PROJECTS

While in a number of the states, Negroes have shared in the works program in proportion to their population percentage, the main barriers in states of large Negro population have been: -

1. Difficulty of Negro youth to get certified as to need and properly classified.
2. Difficulty of designing work projects for unskilled girls.
3. Difficulty of designing projects for scattered rural youth.

States showing deficient participations: -

Mississippi:	50.2%	of total population;	comprised	7.2%	of work projects people
Louisiana:	36.9%	" " " "	" "	22.2%	" " " "
So. Carolina:	45.6%	" " " "	" "	34.6%	" " " "
Alabama:	35.7%	" " " "	" "	33.5%	" " " "
Arkansas:	25.8%	" " " "	" "	24.5%	" " " "
Georgia:	36.5%	" " " "	" "	33.5%	" " " "
Florida:	29.4%	" " " "	" "	26.9%	" " " "
Kentucky:	8.6%	" " " "	" "	6.0%	" " " "
Michigan:	3.5%	" " " "	" "	2.7%	" " " "
Texas:	14.7%	" " " "	" "	11.7%	" " " "
Virginia:	26.8%	" " " "	" "	24.1%	" " " "
W. Virginia:	6.6%	" " " "	" "	3.0%	" " " "

D. TOTALS

While in March, 1936 a total of 49,247 Negro youth received aid through the student aid and work projects programs representing 9.1% of the total number aided, this number represented only 11.2% of the Negro youth on relief while 20.1% of the white youth on relief received aid. At this time, 16.1% of the total Negro youth population was on relief, making up 15.3% of the total relief load. In 13 states, the percentage of Negro youths aided in these programs fell below the Negro percentage of the total population:

Mississippi:	50.2%	of total pop.;	comprised	21.4%	of total aided
Louisiana:	36.9%	" " " "	" "	23.7%	" " " "
So. Carolina:	45.6%	" " " "	" "	39.4%	" " " "
Alabama:	35.7%	" " " "	" "	30.5%	" " " "
Arkansas:	25.8%	" " " "	" "	18.4%	" " " "

Florida:	29.4%	of total pop;	comprised	26.9%	of total aided
Georgia:	36.8%	" " " "	"	33.0%	" " "
Kentucky:	8.6%	" " " "	"	6.8%	" " "
Michigan:	3.5%	" " " "	"	2.8%	" " "
New York:	3.3%	" " " "	"	2.8%	" " "
N. Carolina:	29.0%	" " " "	"	27.5%	" " "
Texas:	14.7%	" " " "	"	11.7%	" " "
Virginia:	26.8%	" " " "	"	23.4%	" " "

E. GUIDANCE, PLACEMENT AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

As time proceeds, this phase of the program must become the focus of all efforts. The major criticism of the NYA among Negroes is the fear that Negro youth will be placed upon the permanent "dole" of student aid and "made" work-projects, rather than integrated into regular employment in all fields of industry and work. Economic opportunity and jobs will make it possible for Negroes to more fully undertake the burden of ~~his~~ own education and recreation. This phase of the program needs emphasis and expansion among Negroes.

- (1) Trained junior counselors should be placed in the industrial centers of large Negro populations. In most cases, they should be Negroes cognizant of the peculiar problems involved, but placed in and acting as an integrated unit of the state employment office.
- (2) Establishment of centers for the training of adequate guidance personnel.
- (3) Fostering of programs of guidance in cooperation with schools and educational associations.
- (4) Offering opportunities for the study of Negro youths - their capacities, interests, needs, opportunities, etc., and specifically to determine what is happening to Negro youth in the industrial world of today.

F. FUTURE NYA PROGRAM

The Division of Negro Affairs has prepared a statement as to the future program of the National Youth Administration as it might apply to the peculiar problems of Negro youth.

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NEGRO YOUTH

February 12, 1936

Representation

There are 25 Negroes serving on State Advisory Committees in 17 states. In 8 states separate Negro Committees have been organized, and in 3 white persons are on the Committee representing the interests of the Negro group. There are 18 Staff Members in the various states.

Educational Aid

4,740 college students, 15,181 high school students, and 76 graduate students are receiving aid.

Work Projects

In most communities Negro youth participate in the general community-wide projects, and also in special Negro projects set up to take care of larger numbers.

Vocational Guidance and Junior Placement

In Durham, North Carolina, a Negro office for young workers is being established. Negro Counsellors will be in charge.

Problems

In several states Negro families were cut off from the relief rolls prior to May. Many young people, as a result, are unable to qualify for work though they are in dire need. The Southern states are particularly hopeful that some adjustment can be made to meet the pressing needs of these people.

Such states as Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri and Michigan, where the Negro population is large, should have Negro staff workers to insure full participation by this group in the program of the National Youth Administration.

W. B. HATCHER
State Director

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
FOR LOUISIANA
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
P. O. Box 829
March 5, 1936

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE PROGRAM OF NEGRO WORK IN LOUISIANA UNDER THE
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

LOUISIANA
School Aid

1. Six Negro Colleges and Universities are participating in the Federal College Aid plan.
2. In the six institutions, 342 Negro youth are receiving Federal pay for part-time work.
3. At Southern University, Scotlandville, Louisiana, near Baton Rouge, 104 college students are receiving assistance.
4. In New Orleans, 195 colored youth are receiving Federal Aid. These are apportioned among the following institutions: Xavier, 82, Valena C. Jones Normal, 21, Dillard University, 92.
5. With the large number of Negro youth at the three institutions in New Orleans which are participating in the Federal College Aid Program, several activities are carried on which would make interesting and suggestive scenes in a motion picture.
6. At Southern University, various activities carried on by young people on the Federal Aid Program would lend themselves admirably for motion picture scenes. Among these are spraying crews at work on shrubbery and plants, milking and other work in the dairy barn, live stock activities, gardening, pruning, poultry work such as selecting eggs, culling hens, and operating brooders, laundry work and covering of records, dining room service and work in the mechanical department.
7. The number of Negro pupils receiving Federal Aid at the rate of \$6 per month in the high schools and graded schools of the state is 950. These young people are distributed among 100 schools. It is not my opinion that this part of the program lends itself to motion picture purposes.
- * 8. Five of the work projects of the National Youth Administration in Louisiana are exclusively Negro and 42 provide employment for both white and colored.
- * 9. ~~Orleans Parish Project No. 8. - in New Orleans, - - -~~ project is being conducted under the supervision of the staff of the Negro YMCA. We have provided two full-time Negro supervisors. Boys' Clubs are being formed at 24 colored schools. Club meetings are held after school hours, and various activities are being conducted including Athletic

*Colleges and Universities are heading
Marked School Aid*

*Insert
This should come
after 12/1/36*

Work Project

B. HATCHER
State Director

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

FOR LOUISIANA

Highlights of Negro Work

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Page 2 of 3 pages

Contests, Craft Work, Study Forums, etc. The principals in these schools are giving splendid cooperation. These clubs number from 20 to 30 boys or girls. Clubs are conducted by N.Y.A. Youth Leaders.

1. ~~Orleans Parish Project No. 4~~ ^{New Orleans} ~~One half of this project is devoted exclusively to the Negro Lemann Playground. This is the most modern Negro playground in New Orleans, and our activities there have caused very favorable comment. We are not only conducting games, but are actually building up and promoting the use of the playground by distributing invitations in the neighborhood, holding band concerts with the WPA Negro Band, vaudeville shows from the Federal Theatrical Project, etc. A Lemann Playground Association has already been formed, and plans to carry on the work if we are forced to give it up at the end of the present allocation of funds.~~

2. ~~East Baton Rouge Project No. 22~~ ^{Baton Rouge} ~~This is a Negro project operating under a Negro supervisor who is a college graduate. The activities carried on under this project are chiefly in connection with the physical training and playground work of McKinley High School and six other schools in the Parish of East Baton Rouge. A great many school children and Negro youth who are not in school are profiting from the instruction and leadership furnished under this project.~~

3. ~~First and Second District Project No. 31~~ ^{Baton Rouge} ~~This is a community activity project established for the employment of both white and colored youth. It is the largest project in operation under the National Youth Administration in Louisiana, and it covers the territory in and around New Orleans. Following are some of the high lights among the activities carried on under this project, to-wit:~~

(a). Under this project a part of the program is carried on in cooperation with the Negro YMCA of New Orleans. The library is being cataloged and its operation extended; playground activities are supervised; and craft classes, gymnastic classes, and instruction in singing and dramatics are provided. Some guidance, including the placement of small groups of NYA Negro youth among Negro institutions is carried on under this project.

(b). The Sylvania F. Williams Community Center, which has been closed for a period of three years is being reopened under this project. Copy of the invitation distributed in connection with the formal reopening of this center is attached hereto, and also clippings from the Louisiana Weekly, a Negro paper, and the Item-Tribune and Times-Picayune, relating to this opening.

(c). Under this project we are operating on the West side of the Mississippi River in the town of Algiers, in conjunction with the principal of the McDonogh Colored School No. 32. A part of the building is used

B. HATCHER
State Director

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

Highlights of Negro Work

FOR LOUISIANA

Page 3 or 3 pages

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

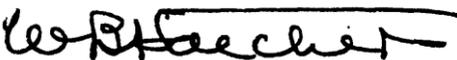
as a community center, through which the project officials hope to reach many colored young people in Algiers.

(d). Part of the program of activities under this project includes the formulation of a labor squad among its Negro youth who are not competent to lead in recreational or cultural work. This squad is moved around from one to another of the city playgrounds and community centers, as the needs require, for physical improvement and minor repairs wherever needed. The cost of materials and supplies for this work is borne by the organizations that are served.

V. Under several of our projects, both white and colored, the youth who are employed have been prevailed upon to attend at least two classes per week carried on under the Emergency Adult Educational Program, but largely under the general supervision of NYA directors and supervisors. This is notably true with regard to the Negro Projects in Orleans Parish and vicinity. This school work is decidedly for the general intellectual improvement of our Negro youth and for instruction and training in the particular type of work that they may be doing under our projects.

* ~~The projects described above are representative of the activities carried on by our Negro youth under the projects of the National Youth Administration, whether such projects are distinctively Negro or are joint projects for white and Negroes.~~ Other types of projects on which Negro youth are employed include rural sanitation, assistance in promoting rural health, extend the facilities of parish libraries to rural Negro communities, work under the Federal Writers Project in the preparation of the American Guide, and a survey of the social and recreational needs of communities.

Yours very truly,


W. B. HATCHER, STATE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

WBH/len

P. O. Box 829
March 5, 1936

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE PROGRAM OF NEGRO WORK IN LOUISIANA UNDER THE
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(a). Under this project a part of the program is carried on in cooperation with the Negro YMCA of New Orleans. The library is being cataloged and its operation extended; playground activities are supervised; and craft classes, gymnastic classes, and instruction in singing and dramatics are provided. Some guidance, including the placement of small groups of NYA Negro youth among Negro institutions is carried on under this project.

(b). The Sylvania F. Williams Community Center, which has been closed for a period of three years is being reopened under this project. Copy of the invitation distributed in connection with the formal reopening of this center is attached hereto, and also clippings from the Louisiana Weekly, a Negro paper, and the Item-Tribune and Times-Picayune, relating to this opening.

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TO: Director, National Youth Administration, Washington, D.C.
FROM: State Director, National Youth Administration, New Orleans, Louisiana
SUBJECT: Highlights of Negro Work
Reference is made to the report of the State Director, New Orleans, Louisiana, dated 10/15/41, and the report of the State Director, New Orleans, Louisiana, dated 10/15/41, and the report of the State Director, New Orleans, Louisiana, dated 10/15/41.

HIGHLIGHTS OF NEGRO WORK

Highlights of Negro Work

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Yours very truly,

W. B. Hatcher
W. B. HATCHER, STATE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

WBH/len

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

March 9, 1936

TO: Mr. Alfred E. Smith

FROM: William Christy,
National Youth Administration

SUBJECT: Motion Picture Material of Negro
Activities in the NYA Program

We have found that our State Directors are keenly interested in motion picture recording of their respective state programs. In some instances shots have been made of various work projects quite successfully. In the selection of the highlights of the Negro participation in the NYA program for motion pictures, we have consulted our directors.

There is naturally a tendency among these men to recommend activities which are fundamentally good but pictorially no good. Some of this material may therefore be of that disposition.

I shall be happy to cooperate further with you on this if you believe it necessary.

NEGRO ACTIVITIES UNDER NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

Suggestions for Possible Motion Pictures

Student Aid Objectives

The National Youth Administration is helping approximately 19,000 Negro youth to continue in school through payments for part-time work under supervision of school authorities. These young people range in age from 16 to 25. There are approximately 5,000 of these students in the under-graduate class and 70 graduate college students. The average monthly rate per college student is \$15.00, while the graduate students receive from \$25.00 to \$30.00 monthly. The remaining 14,000 of the high school class are being paid a maximum of \$6.00 per month.

Work Objectives

Under the four NYA official projects, i.e., (1) Community Development and Recreational Leadership, (2) Rural Youth Development, (3) Public Service, and (4) Research, out-of-school Negro youth are participating in the work program of the NYA. In each field, social development as well as wage earning has been considered. The scope of each is broad. A project worker works one-third of the time of the regular security wage earner and accordingly receives one-third the security wage up to a maximum of \$25.00 per month.

Negro Leadership

In some states, special Advisory Committee members have been added to handle Negro plans. In Texas, a special Advisory Committee composed entirely of Negro members has recently been appointed and is operating successfully. The NYA through its National Advisory Committee represents the colored race through Dr. Mordecai Johnson, President of Howard University and Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College. Miss Juanita J. Saddler is Administrative Assistant in Charge of Negro work on the National staff in Washington. Various prominent Negro citizens in the States represent their race on State Advisory Committees.

In Durham, North Carolina, a junior placement office for Negroes, manned by Negro counselors is being established with Miss Louise Latham in charge.

The following states have the most prominent Negro programs of the entire forty-eight. They have been selected because of the psychological and geographical differences between the North and the South, going as far west as Texas and Illinois. In each instance, special descriptions of these projects have been briefed and the outline is herewith submitted.

ILLINOIS

Under the direction of Mr. William J. Campbell, the NYA Director for the State of Illinois, Mr. Charles P. Browning, Administrative Assistant in charge of Negro affairs.

ILLINOIS (con'd)

PROJECTS

- A. Chicago - The Wabash YMCA has a Community Civic and Improvement Project where young people are taught by WPA workers to remodel hats and wearing apparel. Similar classes in sewing, lamp shade making, flower making, etc, general home economics and community work is also in operation.
- B. Walker Center is a recreational project with game rooms, physical culture rooms, etc., where negro youth indulge in recreational activities under expert supervision.
- C. Chicago Urban League - A class is conducted for young unmarried mothers and for youth leadership, and in such practical job training as apprentice-instructors, group leaders, messengers, typists and laborers.
- D. In the Church Centers there are community libraries. This project may make an interesting story, as books are collected from homes in the community, classified and repaired and placed in libraries where NYA under the direction of trained librarians gives instruction to Negro youth in library science. This project also consists of Community Art Classes where a competent expert in commercial art is training NYA workers in the making of health posters and safety campaign posters to be used in communal work. This is especially interesting, owing to the fact that these posters will depict various phases of Negro History. NYA youths are used to form choral groups in the community, setting dates, arranging schedules and assisting the trained choral instructor in the conduct of the group. There is also a Youth Forum attached to this particular phase of the project.

SCHOOL AID PROGRAMS

Negro boys and girls working in the Chicago colleges and Illinois colleges as research students, librarians, members of Glee Clubs and community workers under university trained workers. In the High Schools there is general work program for Negro youth including book-binding, messengers, typists, etc.

East St. Louis - An extremely pictorial and colorful relief project is being sponsored by the Lincoln High School, using NYA students and employees.

INDIANA

PROJECTS

Under the direction of Mr. Edward E. Edwards, the NYA Director for the State of Indiana, Mr. Mercer M. Mance is developing projects for Negro youths and is acting as advisor on such project operations.

Marion County - 314 colored youths are employed on a recreation project. The girls have completed training in sewing, handcraft work, social recreation, music, dramatics, art and art appreciation, and athletics and are now being assigned to recreational work phases of the project. The boys, of which there are 149, are employed at Holliday Park where they are working to beautify this 80 acre municipal area by clearing out dead timber and underbrush, grading land to provide greater recreation facilities such as baseball diamonds, horse shoe courts and picnic grounds; developing natural springs and relocating shrubbery. All of these youth are given training in vocational guidance, safety and personal hygiene.

SCHOOL AID PROGRAM

Negro High Schools - The Roosevelt High in Gary, the Crispus Attucks in Indianapolis, the Lincoln High in Evansville and the Booker T. Washington School in Mt. Vernon have NYA students employed as library assistants, office assistants, helping in cafeteria, checking enrollment in study halls, supervising pupils at lunch hour and helping instructors who are having difficulties with students behind in their work.

KENTUCKY

PROJECTS

Mr. Frank D. Peterson the NYA State Director for Kentucky has as his Administrative Assistant in charge of Negroes under NYA Mr. T. E. Brown.

Louisville - A project is under way which employs 70 Negro girls and is operated at seven different centers. The activities include classes in sewing, cooking, handcraft, games and general domestic science.

Louisville also provides a full recreational program employing 56 Negro youths who are engaged in assisting recreational leaders in renovating community centers, repairing and building furniture and equipment. This project affords an excellent source for motion picture material.

Paducah - At the West Kentucky State Industrial College for Negroes, is a project giving manual training instruction to young Negroes employed, making it possible for them to turn out serviceable articles which have been renovated. There are 36 Negroes employed.

Lexington - 31 Negro boys are employed to improve and beautify the Negro school grounds. A motion picture can very easily be made of this work.

SCHOOL AID PROGRAM

(unless the school is actually colored it would be difficult to get any of this)

There are 591 high school students in the various high schools in Kentucky under the NYA and 89 college students. They are employed in the cafeterias, assisting teachers with supervision of students during lunch hour and helping in the offices and libraries.

TENNESSEE

PROJECTS

The NYA Director for the State Of Tennessee is Mr. Bruce Overton.

Knoxville - A project providing supervised recreational activities among the young Negro boys and girls employs 26 boys and 30 girls, and will directly benefit 2,500 colored youth in and about Knoxville.

Memphis - A project employing 310 Negro boys is under way for the construction of a recreational center for colored youth. Boy scout huts will also be built in colored parks for the benefit of overnight camping and recreational shelter. This project provides for the general beautification and improvement of all colored parks and recreational fields in the city. It will directly benefit 5,000 colored youth in and about the city of Memphis. This project should make excellent material for a motion picture.

Nashville - At the Agricultural and Industrial State College is a project employing 110 Negro boys and 30 Negro girls. These youth will plant shrubs, flowers, trees and generally improve and beautify campus grounds and buildings of the College. They will also construct tennis courts, croquet courts and other types of play fields on the campus grounds. This institution is a state owned and operated Negro college.

Chattanooga - 50 Negro boys are employed to conduct recreational activities with organized groups of Negroes. It will benefit approximately 1,000 Negro youth in the city.

SCHOOL AID PROGRAM

There are 376 high school students, 344 college (undergraduate) and 1 college (graduate) receiving aid under the NYA. At the Lane College in Jackson, Negro boys and girls are employed to assist with recreational activities, sponsoring music clubs in the community as well as a Little Theatre Movement and conducting a program of Health and Home Beautification.

At Fisk University and LeMoyne College work is being done in the field of social service and recreational supervision. Plans are being made by Fisk NYA students to construct a lake on the campus. Research work is being done in the Social Science Department at Fisk University.

TEXAS

PROJECTS

Under the direction of Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, State Director for NYA in Texas, an excellent Negro work and educational program is being carried out in that State.

TEXAS (con'd)

Austin - Negro NYA workers are employed on the construction of a swimming pool and park improvement project.

Dallas - Excellent motion picture material showing Negroes working on highway park.

Barton Springs - Negroes employed on construction of a swimming pool and park improvement project.

SCHOOL AID PROGRAM

(There may be special Negro schools)

459 Negro youths who could not otherwise do so, are enabled to remain in 13 Texas colleges.

The Freshman College Center in Texas is an educational organization sponsored by the NYA offering college work of the first year level that is taught by teachers who are certified for work relief to students whose families are subject to work relief. The teachers are employed by the NYA.

LOUISIANA

SCHOOL AID PROGRAM

Six Negro Colleges and Universities are participating in the Federal College Aid plan. In the six institutions, 342 Negro youth are receiving Federal pay for part-time work. At Southern University, Scotlandville, Louisiana, near Baton Rouge, 104 college students are receiving assistance. In New Orleans, 195 colored youth are receiving Federal Aid. These are apportioned among the following institutions: Xavier, 82, Valena C. Jones Normal, 21, Dillard University, 92. With the large number of Negro youth at the three institutions in New Orleans which are participating in the Federal College Aid Program, several activities are carried on which would make interesting and suggestive scenes in a motion picture. At Southern University, various activities carried on by young people on the Federal Aid Program would lend themselves admirably for motion picture scenes. Among these are spraying crews at work on shrubbery and plants, milking and other work in the dairy barn, live stock activities, gardening, pruning, poultry work such as selecting eggs, culling hens, and operating brooders, laundry work and covering of records, dining room service and work in the mechanical department.

WORK PROJECT

Five of the work projects of the National Youth Administration in Louisiana are exclusively Negro and 42 provide employment for both white and colored.

New Orleans - A project is being conducted under the supervision of the staff of the Negro YMCA. We have provided two full-time Negro supervisors. Boys' Clubs are being formed at 24 colored schools. Club meetings are held after school hours, and various activities are being conducted, includ-

LOUISIANA (con'd)

ing Athletic Contests, Craft Work, Study Forums, etc. The principals in these schools are giving splendid cooperation. These clubs number from 20 to 30 boys or girls. Clubs are conducted by NYA youth leaders.

New Orleans - The Negro Lemann Playground is the most modern Negro playground in New Orleans. They are actually building up and promoting the use of the playground by distributing invitations in the neighborhood, holding band concerts with the WPA Negro Band, vaudeville shows from the Federal Theatrical Project, etc. A Lemann Playground Association has already been formed, and plans to carry on the work if we are forced to give it up at the end of the present allocation of funds.

East Baton Rouge - This is a Negro project operating under a Negro supervisor who is a college graduate. The activities carried on under this project are chiefly in connection with the physical training and playground work of McKinley High School and six other schools in the Parish of East Baton Rouge. A great many school children and Negro youth who are not in school are profiting from the instruction and leadership furnished under this project.

Baton Rouge - A community activity project has been established for the employment of both white and colored youth. It is the largest project in operation under the National Youth Administration in Louisiana, and it covers the territory in and around New Orleans. Following are some of the high lights among the activities carried on under this project, to-wit:

(a) Under this project a part of the program is carried on in cooperation with the Negro YMCA of New Orleans. The library is being catalogued and its operation extended; playground activities are supervised; and craft classes, gymnastic classes, and instruction in singing and dramatics are provided. Some guidance, including the placement of small groups of NYA Negro youth among Negro institutions is carried on under this project.

(b) The Sylvania F. Williams Community Center, which has been closed for a period of three years is being re-opened under this project. Copy of the invitation distributed in connection with the formal re-opening of this center is attached hereto, and also clippings from the Louisiana Weekly, a Negro paper, and the Item-Tribune and Times-Picayune, relating to this opening.

(c) Under this project we are operating on the West side of the Mississippi River in the town of Algiers, in conjunction with the principal of the McDonoghue Colored School No. 32. A part of the building is used as a community center, through which the project officials hope to reach many colored young people in Algiers.

(d) Part of the program of activities under this project includes the formulation of a labor squad among its Negro youth who are not competent to lead in recreational or cultural work. This squad is moved around from one to another of the city playgrounds and community centers, as the needs

require, for physical improvement and minor repairs wherever needed. The cost of materials and supplies for this work is borne by the organizations that are served.

Comment: Other types of projects on which Negro youth are employed include rural sanitation, assistance in promoting rural health, extend the facilities of parish libraries to rural Negro communities, work under the Federal Writers Project in the preparation of the American Guide, and a survey of the social and recreational needs of communities.

MISSISSIPPI

PROJECTS

Mr. J. C. Flowers, State NYA Director.

Meridian - A group of high school graduates are working under a Negro probation officer in checking school attendance with juvenile delinquents. There is a training school for domestic servants, including instructions in the proper preparation of meals, serving tables, care of utensils, house cleaning and the supervision of playground activities in the colored section. This includes several groups engaged in community singing classes and provides for supervised reading and story telling, offers instructions to assistants in the day nursery program where colored children of pre-school age are cared for.

Rankin County - Negro youths are employed in the beautification of the New Hope colored school, the work being done altogether by out-of-school youth under the supervision of the Superintendent of the school.

Vicksburg - A recreational center has been set up in a thickly settled colored residential section in the third largest town in the State. This project was set up to do grading and draining of the school grounds and installing playground equipment. This project employs nothing but Negro labor and is being supervised by the Negro school principal.

SCHOOL AID PROGRAM

Some of the most promising work in the student aid program is that being carried on in several of the larger Negro colleges, such as Alcorn A & M, Piney Woods, located at Piney Woods, Mississippi. Both of these colleges are of the agricultural type and a very wide variety of work assignments is found in each doing landscaping and experimental farming.

FLORIDA

PROJECTS

Under the direction of Mr. Robert C. Beaty, State NYA Director for Florida, is Mr. E. E. Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant in charge of Negro activities.

Duval County near Jacksonville - 25 Negro boys are employed beautifying the

Negro school grounds. The City Recreation Department of Jacksonville have a large group of Negro youth supervising the playgrounds.

SCHOOL AID PROGRAM

Under the school aid program there are several schools which have developed good projects on which students are working. Among those are the Florida A & M College at Tallahassee, Bethune-Cookman College at Daytona Beach, Edward Waters College at Jacksonville and the Florida Normal and Industrial Institute at St. Augustine.

Edward Waters College - 50 youths are employed in clearing land for agricultural purposes, felling trees which are later used for fuel for schools and needy families and in the construction of log cabins, used for picnics, etc., under the supervision of the school.

GEORGIA

PROJECTS

Savannah - Negro boys are engaging in games and receiving vocational guidance at the Savannah Boys' Club, assisting in the library and night classes for Negro community.

Columbus - Negro girls are employed in the School Home Economics Departments in preparing lunches and receiving instruction in home arts.

Twiggs County - A project is under way to eradicate malaria bearing mosquitoes by draining the swampy areas. This might make an interesting motion picture depicting an effort to promote sanitation and better health conditions.

SCHOOL AID PROGRAM

From the wide variety of projects which are being conducted under the College Aid and High School Aid programs, there is ample material for the construction of a motion picture depicting Negro youth participating in the School Aid Program.

VIRGINIA

PROJECTS

Under the direction of Mr. Walter S. Newman, State NYA Director for Virginia, Mr. J. A. Oliver is Administrative Assistant in charge of Negro activities.

Norfolk - 10 Negro youth are employed to improve Berraud Park for Negroes and the only one available for Negroes, and 11 Negro girls are employed in school cafeterias to serve hot lunches to undernourished children.

Richmond - 20 Negro youths are acting as recreation leaders in the community recreational centers.

Powhatan - 18 boys and girls are employed on a tailoring project.

VIRGINIA (con'd)

Roanoke - An excellent Nursery School employing Negro youths is being conducted.

Danville - 14 girls are caring for children of relief workers. They prepare meals and serve them as well as direct their play activities. This is done in a newly established Negro Nursery at the Negro Elks' Hall.

SCHOOL AID PROGRAM

847 Negro youth in secondary schools are receiving aid. Activities of this group include the following ones and would be excellent material for a motion picture. Assisting in libraries; serving school lunches; assisting in school laboratories, school work shops, etc., patrolling school halls, and playgrounds to protect property during play hours, assisting school principals in general services for the school, repairing school furniture and checking absentees records and assisting school officials in encouraging better attendance in schools having no truant officers.

The colleges cooperating with NYA in student aid are: Bishop Payne Divinity School, Hampton Institute, which would be especially interesting in a motion picture, due to the fact that the school is well known because of musical programs rendered by the Hampton Choral group, the St. Paul Normal and Industrial School, the Virginia State Normal for Negroes, Virginia Theological Seminary and College, Virginia (Richmond) Union University and the Virginia Union at Norfolk.

RHODE ISLAND

Mr. Ralph Winterbottom, State NYA Director for Rhode Island.

South Kingstown - There is a colony of less than 100 Negroes which has been a sore spot in that part of the State for many years. Young Negro social workers have gone into this community conducting recreational and educational activities with excellent results. This is an unusual situation to find in such a staid old New England community.

There is very little division in the School Aid Program.

NEW JERSEY

Mr. John A. McCarthy is State NYA Director for the State of New Jersey.

Newark - The most interesting highlights in the Negro youth program in New Jersey are involved in the Toy Library operated in the congested Negro center. Sufficient used toys have been contributed to enable this project to operate for the remainder of its life - until June 30th. These toys are now being reconditioned in the shops which were set up for this purpose under this project. Toys are then distributed to Negro youths in this district on the same lending basis as books are loaned in a book library. This project involved the development of manual skills in the reconditioning of toys. It also provides recreational opportunities for Negro youth that are more healthful than those that are involved in the destruction of windows of vacant houses and factories in the neighborhood.

NEW JERSEY (con'd)

It gives employment to from 16 to 25 year old youth who in turn, provide recreational opportunities for the very young people who can not directly participate in the youth program.

PENNSYLVANIA

Under the direction of Mr. Isaac C. Sutton, State NYA Director for Pennsylvania, is Mr. Rufus Watson, Administrative Assistant in charge of Negro activities.

Pittsburg - There are two activities which lend themselves to special photographic treatment, one being a vocational shop and the other a very colorful band.

Philadelphia - In two of the Negro hospitals, youth are being assigned to dietetic kitchens and other in-service training activities. 460 Negro youth are employed on projects in Philadelphia, improving playgrounds, clearing vacant property for play purposes with the consent of the property owners.

SCHOOL AID PROGRAM

There are a goodly number of Negro students at Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, Cheney State Normal under NYA whose activities might make interesting photography. In the Philadelphia High Schools Negro youth are employed mending broken furniture, book binding, etc.

March 13, 1936

Mr. Richard R. Brown
Asst. Executive Director
National Youth Administration
1340 G Street, NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brown:

I hand you herewith a statement written by Mr. W. B. Crumpton, NYA Director of WPA District VIII. This District has its center at Asheville, North Carolina.

The five kodak pictures enclosed were taken at NYA work projects employing Negroes. I am afraid you will not approve of Mr. Crumpton's decision to use the private dwelling as a laboratory for teaching carpentry to these Negro boys, but as he explains, there was no shop available and it was necessary to train these young people in the use of tools. I believe the other pictures will meet with your approval.

I shall send forward other material just as rapidly as it can be had from projects which employ Negroes.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

G. E. McIntosh, Director
National Youth Administration
of North Carolina

CEM:mb

NEGRO NYA RECREATIONAL PROJECT #10117 - District #8.

At the beginning of this Program, there was held under the direction of S. G. Blackus, Recreational Leader for the Negroes of Asheville and Buncombe County, a study course and schools for the leaders selected from the relief rolls for this project. At the present time, he has twenty-two female and twenty-one male leaders among the youths on this project.

It was their hope and aim to rehabilitate the Negro boys and girls so that after a period of training they might readily be absorbed by private industry. Training is being given in Dramatics, Handicrafts, Art, Carpentry, Health Education and Music.

Having no shop or place where these young people could be trained in carpentry, it was decided that, where it could be done without causing a feeling of criticism, homes of some of the Negro owners would serve as the laboratory. In this way, perches, steps, and roofs have been repaired under the direction of a carpenter. In this way, three of the youths who were working on the project to begin with have proved themselves able to do better work and have already secured positions with private concerns. The work in progress now of the carpentry section consists in cleaning and repairing the walls of the Negro division of the Federal Employment Office; repairing gates; and the construction of playground apparatus for the schools.

Recreation Classes for girls and boys have been formed and other classes will be started just as soon as the weather will permit.

Basketball Tournaments for girls will be held March 21, and one for boys will be held March 28, at the Y. W. C. A. of the City.

Handicraft Classes for boys and girls are being held to teach the adolescent boys and girls to use small tools and to make small toys and novelties.

The Girls Handicraft Class has as its project the painting and dressing of dolls for a doll exhibit that is to be held next month.

Those that are members of the Dramatic Group will take part in three one-act plays on March 27: "Keg Alley", "Uncle Charlie and Aunt Jemima", and "The Country Boy".

All three of these plays are written by the Dramatic Group.

Some of the girls have been selected to take a course in Hygiene under the City Board of Health and they in turn act as the teachers to a number of women's groups throughout the City.

Another section of the Handicraft Group is at work making puppets and studying a puppet play to present to the school children of the City. This group, in turn, will take groups of children and form Junior Puppet Clubs.

Many of these individuals when they reported for work had no knowledge as to the making of the ordinary things used in a Recreation Program but have since then learned a number of individual group games, how to make many articles in handicraft, some of the fundamentals of dramatics and much personal hygiene.

Signed: W. B. Crumpton, NYA District Director
in District VIII.

March 28, 1936

Mr. Richard R. Brown

Juanita J. Saddler

Visits to Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, Kansas
Oklahoma and Texas.

INDIANA

Interviews with Mr. Mance and Mr. Edwards, Miss Belcher of the YWCA and Miss Brown of the Central Association of the YWCA.

Work projects just getting under way. Great emphasis on recreation. Discussed with Miss Belcher, projects in her building. She felt there were a large number of youth not receiving aid at that time and that the classification was not satisfactory. Many unskilled youth are put on recreational projects who did not have the ability or desire to serve as recreational assistants. This was no doubt cleared up after the training program for this group.

Mr. Mance at that time was having difficulty in getting office help. He was out of his office a great deal, traveling over the State and found it extremely difficult to keep up with his correspondence. I visited no projects here.

MISSOURI - (St. Louis)

Met with the special committee called by Mr. McGuiston to advise with Mr. Rainey and Mr. Zook relative to the needs of Negro youth in the American Youth Commission. The committee discussed special problems peculiar to Negro youth and the need for some study as a part of the Youth Commission's responsibility. A small committee was appointed to make further contact with Mr. Rainey. Mr. McGuiston has asked me to serve on that committee.

Interviews with Mr. Buckner, Mr. Riley of St. Louis, Mr. Clark of the Urban League, Mr. Russell and a number of interested citizens. Of special interest in my discussion with Mr. Buckner was the matter of State Camps for Negro girls. Mr. Buckner expressed an eagerness to do this if a suitable site could be secured. Some progress has been made concerning this, I understand. Mr. Russell is the Negro supervisor of recreation projects in St. Louis. He has been giving special attention to the counties, trying to organize recreation work there. I saw youth at work in the Urban League as clerical assistants, etc. The Park beautification is using a large number of Negro youth.

Telephone and Texas
Affairs to Indiana, Missouri, K

Mr. Richard B. Brown

Mr. Brown
Page 2
3/18/36

In Kansas City, Missouri, I saw the toy project in action.

KENTUCKY

Interviews with Mr. Peterson's assistant, Mr. Brown, the Negro Assistant Project Supervisor, Mr. Cole, the Editor of the Louisville Leader and interested Negro citizens. Visited seven centers where Negro girls were engaged in sewing, handcraft, etc. The supervisor here is in reality responsible for the heat and light in all of these centers. Mr. Peterson turned to her for aid in getting Negro projects under way. She had in the past, organized groups in seven church centers, reaching large numbers of youth. She saw this as an opportunity to encourage new opportunities and gladly cooperated in writing recreation projects. She secured the Municipal College as her sponsor, but is actually carrying the budget. I should say that there is a tendency to put upon the Negro sponsors and members of the Advisory group full responsibility for some of the projects - more than seems to me advisable.

I was unable to visit other places in the State because Mr. Brown had already left when I arrived.

ILLINOIS

Interviews with Mr. Campbell's assistant, Mr. Burrs regarding exposition, Mr. Browning and a group of Negro citizens. Mr. Browning is very energetic and a hard worker. He is making every effort to see that Negro youth participate in the program and I think is careful to see that his projects have value. The NYA School in Chicago is a very interesting and worthwhile project. The inter-racial aspect is proving satisfactory. There are two Negro teachers on the staff who seem to be doing an excellent piece of work. The library project and forums are especially useful.

Visited East St. Louis and Springfield, saw youth conducting recreation programs in East St. Louis and making preparation for the community gardens in Springfield. Difficulty in East St. Louis is largely that of getting Negro youth certified.

The Negro group in Illinois feel strongly that they should have a representative on the State Committee. Mr. Browning is very eager to travel more in the State to be sure Negro youth were being certified. There was reason to believe that the Negro youth in the counties were not being included. There is a real need for a camp for Negro girls in Illinois.

KANSAS

Interviews with Miss Laughlin, the Project Supervisor and interested Negro citizens. Miss Laughlin is a very active and energetic person who has a thorough command of the situation and from my point of view is doing a very excellent piece of work in the entire state. She and I visited a number of

There are 2 Negro Councils working in connection with State Department Affairs.

April 1, 1936

Mr. C. A. Barnett, Director
The Associated Negro Press
3507 South Parkway
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Mr. Barnett:

Upon my return to Washington, I found your letter of March 18th and also your letter of March 17th addressed to the President regarding the possibility of a person being appointed to the staff of the National Youth Administration to furnish information to the Negro Press regarding our activities for Negro young people.

As you perhaps know, we have here in Washington a very small staff. However, the President has expressed a desire that we furnish the Negro Press with every possible cooperation in securing information regarding our activities. I am asking Miss Juanita Sandler, Administrative Assistant in charge of Negro affairs, to act as my representative in meeting with representatives of your Association and giving to them full information regarding our activities in behalf of Negro young people.

Sincerely yours,

Aubrey Williams
Executive Director

E. Dickerson
EJW

April 29, 1936

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NEGRO YOUTH

* * * * *

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Negroes are represented on the committees in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, South Carolina, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York City, New York State, California, Illinois, Tennessee and in Texas there is a special committee composed of Negroes. In some of these states they are called upon frequently to offer advice and to help in the general interpretation of the program. In several states various Negro members have interested themselves in trying to increase the number of supervisory jobs given to Negroes and have spread knowledge about the program among the people. In some states where there is no Negro staff member, the Advisory Committee has often assumed a full measure of responsibility for certain phases of the program. Whereas it has been advantageous to have the splendid cooperation of these volunteers, they, because of pressure of their own duties, have not always been able to give the time that was needed to the NYA program. There are a number of very strong local committees. In New Jersey, the heads of the agencies cooperating with the NYA meet from time to time to discuss ways of improving the type of work being done both from the point of view of their cooperation and the effect the program is having on the young people themselves.

STAFF

The fourteen (14) staff members on the State Administrative payrolls have been active in developing projects, especially for the Negro group and in seeing that they are sharing in the program as equitably as local conditions will allow. In some states it is fairly accurate to say that many supervisory positions have been made available for Negroes while in others there are very few Negro supervisors, several projects having white supervisors.

EDUCATIONAL AID

High School - The number of high school students receiving aid has increased from 14,000 in November to 21,331 in February. On the whole, high school principals are very enthusiastic about this phase of the NYA program. I know of only one who has taken no interest in making funds available to needy youth. He claims not to have time to give to the details involved in administering the program. The few criticisms heard have to do with the age limit, which is considered too high and the amount paid to individuals, which is considered too small. Many principals divide the amount in an endeavor to spread it among more students. A great variety of work is being done by high school students throughout the states, including book-binding, clerical help, studies in sanitation and health, conditions in school communities, tutoring and repairing of school furniture.

College Aid - Practically every Negro college in the country participates in the college aid program. 5,057 students in approximately 110 colleges in the country are receiving monthly allotments. The work done covers a wide range of activities such as research work, assisting in libraries, in laboratories and conducting recreational programs in the communities.

Graduate aid - 128 students are receiving graduate aid in the following institutions: University of Southern California, University of Denver, Howard University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois, Atlanta School of Social Work, Atlanta University, Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Butler University in Indiana, Indiana University, Indiana State Teachers' College, University of Iowa, University of Kansas, Harvard University, University of Michigan, Ohio State University, Fisk University, Columbia University, Western Reserve, University of Minnesota, New York University, Columbia University and the University of Wisconsin. Statements such as this one from Chicago University have been received concerning the need for increased aid for Negro students.

"We have had applications from more Negro advanced graduate students for NYA assistance than our allotment equips us to assist. How many more applied than we could aid, I do not know, for as soon as we reached our quota, which is 4.8, I instructed those who applied that we could not be of assistance to them. Only last week, however, one very promising young Negro boy asked about the NYA funds for Negro students and of course was told that our quota for this year was being used and so far as I knew, would continue to be used for those who are now working under NYA*****If additional funds are available, I should like to know that fact, so that if any Negro students inquire, I can communicate with you and upon your authorization, could give them promise of assistance. I await word from you."

Some of the southern states have asked that an appropriation be made to the State NYA for graduate aid for Negro students which would allow them to provide for students from their states at northern institutions, which have no stated ban on Negro students. This kind of provision would be similar to that made by certain southern states which grant funds to Negroes to attend universities outside the state.

FRESHMAN COLLEGE CENTERS

This type of educational aid, whereas it has many disadvantages, does seem to offer help to a large number of youth who are not able to attend college. In Texas, fifteen (15) out of twenty (20) centers are for Negroes, with an enrollment of Three hundred and eighty (380) students.

PROJECTS

NYA work projects for Negro youth are in operation in many states. The following are typical of projects designed to benefit Negro Youth:

ILLINOIS

Four community centers set up and operated by the NYA are now going concerns in Chicago. Six other locations outside of Chicago are also being used exclusively for Negro groups. Many volunteers are helping in training youth personnel to enable them to do the job assigned with the maximum efficiency. These centers are being used as nuclei of youth activities and organizations of boys' clubs and girls' clubs, art, music, dramatics, citizenship and others are being conducted in these centers by WPA and NYA instructors. Special forums are being conducted on health, Negro youth problems and Negro history. A special poster contest, sponsored by the NYA is being held for Negro Health Week. Many valuable pieces of work are being produced. Many NYA workers have been assigned to the Chicago Urban League and are aiding in the League program of home making. Domestic Science clubs are being organized to abate delinquency and other social problems confronting Negro youth.

The Springfield Urban League is operating an experimental community farm for the NYA youth in their community. Other youth, especially the girls, have been assigned to aid in their Federal Regulated Nursery Schools.

In East St. Louis, the NYA has inaugurated two projects among the Negro youth. A nursery school, sponsored by the Federated Womens' Clubs of that city, is being pushed with great zeal and enthusiasm by our District Supervisor in that area. The community center, which has been established by the NYA, is something new for the colored youth of East St. Louis. Competent workers have been assigned to promote this project.

Community libraries are being stressed, because of inadequacy of library facilities for Negro youth in many colored communities. A special project has been organized for community singing, choral groups and glee clubs. These glee clubs have given seven concerts to date in various churches in Chicago. Many interested groups such as radio clubs, stamp clubs, citizenship clubs, handiwork, needlework, have been organized with a view of establishing definite ways of occupying leisure time of all colored youth. Special story hours for little children have been inaugurated in libraries which are held on Saturday mornings. Our block beautification plan in Chicago is beginning to function. In general, colored youth have shared in all projects and in all activities of the NYA in Illinois.

INDIANA

In Marion County, 314 colored youth are employed on a recreation project. The girls have completed training in sewing, handicraft work, social recreation, music, dramatics, art and art appreciation, athletics and are now being assigned to recreational work phases of the project. The boys, of which there are 149, are employed at Holiday Park where they are working to beautify this 80 acre municipal area by clearing out dead timber and underbrush, grading land to provide greater recreation facilities such as baseball diamonds, horse shoe courts and picnic grounds; developing natural springs and relocating shrubbery. All of these youth are given training in vocational guidance, safety and personal hygiene.

TENNESSEE

In Knoxville there is a project providing supervised recreational activities among the young Negro boys and girls which employs 26 boys and 30 girls, and will directly benefit 2,500 colored youth in and about Knoxville.

In Memphis there is a project employing 310 boys in the construction of a recreational center for colored youth. Boy scout huts will also be built in colored parks for the benefit of overnight camping and recreational shelter. This project provides for the general beautification and improvement of all colored parks and recreational fields in the city. It will directly benefit 5,000 colored youth in and about the city of Memphis.

In Nashville at the Agricultural and Industrial School is a project employing 100 Negro boys and 30 Negro girls. These youth will plant shrubs, flowers, trees and generally improve and beautify campus grounds and buildings of the college. They will also construct tennis courts, croquet courts and other types of play fields on the campus grounds. This institution is a State owned and operated Negro college.

TEXAS

In Austin, Negro NYA workers are employed on the construction of a swimming pool and park improvement project.

The entire Negro residential section of Taylor has been covered by the workers on the project. Of the 400 questionnaires sent out, 332 have been returned. The City of Taylor has been mapped and plotted to show the number and location of all open surface toilets and shallow wells. The records of the city health office have been examined to determine the number of deaths among Negroes from malaria, typhoid, dysentery and tuberculosis. The city dump-grounds have been examined and statements taken from Negroes who live in that vicinity have been recorded. Public mass meetings have been held and problems of health and sanitation have been discussed by local physicians, ministers, teachers, nurses and others. Literature from State Dept. of Health, the Texas

(Projects Continued)

Tuberculosis Association and the United States Public Health Service on "Fly and Mosquito Control" has been distributed. "A General Mass Meeting has been planned for Sunday April 5th, 1936, at which the report of the survey will be given in detail by the workers." The 332 questionnaires returned have disclosed the following facts:

- A. 192 families live in rented houses
140 own their homes
164 houses have no screens at all
98 or about 6.4% are screened to keep out flies and mosquitoes.
276 or about 89.1% of these families use open surface toilets
27 families have standard pit-type toilets
5 families have indoor sewerage connection
9 families have installed bath tubs in their homes
459 (Of this number, less than 25% of the open surface toilets among the Negroes as reported by the City Sanitary Inspector, are serviced regularly once each month. Others go from 3 months to 3 years without any attention.
- B. Every Negro man, woman and child in Taylor last year lost an average of 15 days on account of illness from malaria, typhoid, dysentery and tuberculosis.
- C. The city dump ground was found to be a menace to the health of the people living in that vicinity. Most of the typhoid seems to originate in this section and along Bull Branch.
- D. The Negro Public School was given a thorough cleaning under the direction of the supervisor. Special health talks were delivered to the student body. Health essays are now being written by the pupils. General clean-up Week is now in progress under the direction of the supervisor and the workers. Prizes are being offered for the cleanest yard, etc.
- E. The Negroes of Taylor have no recreational facilities whatever. The children who are forced to play in the streets, go to the unsanitary and undrained alleys to play tops, marbles, etc. Boys and girls and even men and women frequent the city dump ground to dig and scratch in the trash and filth for playthings, wood, and even food.

A general summary of the work, together with the results, is being prepared for publication. The actual supervision of the work project is being done by the NIA supervisor. The work of the Sponsor's supervision is of the nature directing the movement and suggesting plans of attack. Much time is given in planning tables, grafts, for the workers to execute.

(Projects Continued)

LOUISIANA

The Negro Lemann Playground is the most modern Negro playground in New Orleans. They are actually building up and promoting the use of the playground by distributing invitations in the neighborhood, holding band concerts with the WPA Negro Band, vaudeville shows from the Federal Theatrical Project, etc. A Lemann Playground Association has already been formed, and plans to carry on the work if we are forced to give it up at the end of the present allocation of funds.

In Baton Rouge a community activity project has been established for the employment of both white and colored youth. It is the largest project in operation under the NYA in Louisiana, and it covers the territory in and around New Orleans. Following are some of the high lights among the activities carried on under this project, to-wit:

(a) The Sylvania F. Williams Community Center, which has been closed for a period of three years is being re-opened under this project.

(b) There is also operating on the West Side of the Mississippi, a community center through which the project officials hope to reach many colored young people in Algiers.

(c) Part of the program of activities under this project includes the formulation of a labor squad among its Negro youth who are not competent to lead in recreational or cultural work. This squad is moved around from one to another of the city playgrounds and community centers, as the needs require, for physical improvement and minor repairs wherever needed. The cost of materials and supplies for this work is borne by the organizations that are served.

Other types of projects on which Negro youth are employed include rural sanitation, assistance in promoting rural health, extend the facilities of parish libraries to rural Negro communities, work under the Federal Writers Project in the preparation of the American Guide, and a survey of the social and recreational needs of communities.

MISSISSIPPI

In Meridian a group of high school graduates are working under a Negro probation officer in checking school attendance with juvenile delinquents. There is a training school for domestic servants, including instructions in the proper preparation of meals, serving tables, care of utensils, house cleaning and the playgrounds activities supervision in the colored section. This includes several groups engaged in community singing classes and provides for supervised reading and story telling and offers assistants in the day nursery

MISSISSIPPI (continued)

program where colored children of pre-school age are cared for, instructions.

Negro youths are employed in the beautification of the New Hope Colored School in Rankin County, the work being done altogether by out-of-school youth under the supervision of the Superintendent of the School.

In Vicksburg a recreational center has been set up in a thickly settled colored residential section in the third largest town in the State. This project was set up to do grading and draining of the school grounds and installing playground equipment. This project employs nothing but Negro labor and is being supervised by the Negro school principal.

FLORIDA

25 Negro boys are employed beautifying the Negro school grounds. The City Recreation Department of Jacksonville have a large group of Negro youth supervising the playgrounds.

As far as part-time employment is concerned, our Community Development Project which is located in six centers throughout the State, is today employing approximately 175 boys who receive the 1/3 Security Wage scale, according to the respective counties in which they reside. Aside from affording actual employment for these young people and, again, whose parents depend upon this bit of earning to help out in the home, the project on which they are working is providing some type of training, community development, land clearing and the building of some rustic type of cabin or tavern to be used as a sort of Recreation or Community House when the program is completed. In some instances they are building roads, re-planting landscape around the centers, building and repairing tennis courts and quite a deal of wood and timber have been taken from the forest, being used for fuel in institutions and some distributed among the needy. This is a project written exclusively for Negroes and has received most favorable comment and endorsement in the communities in which they are operated.

The project on Collection of Library data for Extension Education, to be compiled at the University of Florida is being conducted locally, the Kiwanis Club cooperating. It provides for 24 young women who earn the 1/3 Security Wage scale. The material gathered will be classified under 27 leads. Beyond the financial assistance which these young people receive, it is an excellent training in compiling literary data.

GEORGIA

In Savannah Negro boys and girls are engaging in games and receiving vocational guidance, assisting in the library and night classes for the Negro community. In Columbus, Negro girls are employed in the School Home Economics departments in preparing lunches and receiving instruction in home arts. At Twiggs County, a project is under way to eradicate malaria bearing mosquitoes by draining the swampy areas. This might help in an effort to promote sanitation and better health conditions.

Po

(Projects Continued)

VIRGINIA

In Norfolk, 10 Negro youth are employed to improve Berrand Park for Negroes and the only one available for Negroes, and 11 Negro girls are employed in school cafeterias to serve hot lunches to undernourished children.

In Richmond, 20 Negro youth are acting as recreation leaders in the community recreational centers.

There are 18 boys and girls employed in a tailoring project in Powhatan.

In Roanoke there is an excellent Nursery School employing Negro youths.

In Danville 14 girls are caring for children of relief workers. They prepare meals and serve them as well as direct their play activities. This is done in a newly established Negro Nursery at the Negro Elks' Hall.

NEW JERSEY

The most interesting highlights in the Negro youth program in New Jersey are involved in the Toy Library operated in the congested Negro center in Newark. Sufficient used toys have been contributed to enable this project to operate for the remainder of its life - until June 30th. These toys are now being re-conditioned in the shops which were set up for this purpose under this project. Toys are then distributed to Negro youth in this district on the same lending basis as books are loaned in a book library. This project involves the development of manual skills in the reconditioning of toys. It also provides recreational opportunities for Negro youth that are more healthful than those that are involved in the destruction of windows of vacant houses and factories in the neighborhood. It gives employment to from 16 to 25 year old youth who in turn provide recreational opportunities for the very young people who cannot directly participate in the youth program.

* * * * *

d Construction of recreation centers and beautification of parks are providing for the first time in many communities, adequate facilities for leisure time activities for Negro people. Nursery schools, which have proved such a boon to working mothers, as well as providing work for young people, are among the most useful projects from the standpoint of the Negro group.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

This is one of the most important services needed by Negro youth at the present time. Unfortunately there are not many places where special help is being given this group. In Chicago, two Negro counselors are working in connection with the State Employment office. In Texas, Negro youth are served by white counselors, it is hoped that the tendencies there will not be to advise Negroes to seek out only the usual manual jobs. The direction should be rather towards widening the vocational interest, though openings in new fields are not at present evident. In Georgia, the Assistant State Director is working in close cooperation with the schools over the State in an effort to evolve a type of vocational guidance service that will function through the various community agencies and organizations in each community for the benefit of Negro youth. In Durham, North Carolina, the NYA is providing a Junior Counseling Service to assist the State Employment Service in the counseling and placement of young people. As a part of this program, the Negro counselor has charge of the counseling and placement of Negro youth. Her office is in connection with the office of the North Carolina State Employment office for Negroes in Durham.

PUBLICITY

On the whole, press comments have been favorable. Criticism has been directed however, to the failure on the part of some State Administrators to employ a proportionate number of supervisors on projects; to the difficulties the Negro group has in getting on relief rolls and to the tendency to classify Negro youth as unskilled, no matter what their training has been. There have been individual complaints that Negro supervisors have received less pay for the same type of work than white supervisors.

June 20, 1936

Mr. Richard R. Brown

Juanita J. Saddler

Correspondence from NAACP concerning
Tulsa projects

Mr. Tate, writing as President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Tulsa branch, states: "Regarding the state organization, there has not been a Negro representative appointed to serve on the state board. Much of the work of supervision is in charge of persons already gainfully employed. In the Tulsa District, we have no Negro Supervisor, nor Time-keepers on the roll. The projects of the Negro Youths are therefore without proper supervision and sympathetic interest." When I was in Oklahoma in March, I talked with Mr. Pilcher about the work in Tulsa. He was just setting up the project at that time. I visited his office where he was hurriedly interviewing youth in an endeavor to get them assigned before the deadline. He thought at that time that a Negro supervisor should be appointed. He recognized the need for such in that community. Mr. Fletcher, the Negro supervisor for the state, has taken this matter up with Mr. Pilcher on several occasions. Now it seems that Mr. Pilcher feels the Negro youth can serve the project satisfactorily as supervised. The community evidently does not agree with him on this point.

The publicity in the Negro press shows excellent work being done in other communities in the state where separate projects have been set up for the Negro group. In Oklahoma City, recreational centers have been established, there is a Junior Employment Exchange, Vocational Guidance and various club activities have been provided. In El Reno, a training school for women has been established. In Beaks, a very good gardening project is under way and in Langston, there is a satisfactory Negro project. Mr. Tate refers to the fact that in these other communities the work is going along so well, whereas in Tulsa it is not. He feels that this is due to lack of proper supervision of the Negro work. It would seem to me that there are enough Negro youth available from the relief rolls in Tulsa to justify a supervisor. I have no figures on this as yet, however.

Considering the size of Tulsa and the fact that it is the leading city in the state and perhaps has the largest Negro group, the community is justified, I think, in feeling that there should be more outstanding projects there and better supervision. Mr. Fletcher reports that whereas he feels the program in the state is developing in a very splendid way,

Mr. R.N. Brown
Page 2
6/23/36

his greatest difficulty has been in convincing white supervisors and co-sponsors that the Negro youth should participate in the program just as the white youth.

There are five approved Negro projects. I should like to have a report concerning them directly from Mr. Fletcher or included in Mr. Wright's monthly report. I should like also to know whether or not Mr. Fletcher is paid from the State administrative budget or whether he is paid from the amount allocated for projects. There is no record of his appointment at all in Miss Schaffter's office.

Mr. Tate also calls attention to the fact that there is no Negro representative on the State Advisory Committee. There is a very strong representative group in the state and it would not be difficult at all to choose a strong community-minded person to serve on this committee.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
COLORED PEOPLE

808 East Pine Street
Tulsa, Okla

June 12, 1936

Mr. Aubrey T. Williams,
National Director NYA,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Our attention has been called to several alleged irregularities and cases of discrimination in effecting the program of the NYA in Oklahoma, with requests that our organization take the matter up with you.

Regarding the state organization, there has not been a Negro representative appointed to serve on the state board. Much of the work of supervision is in charge of persons already gainfully employed. In the Tulsa District, we have no Negro supervisor, nor time-keepers on the roll. The projects of the Negro youths are therefore without proper supervision and sympathetic interest.

To explain our situation here in Tulsa, I am sending clippings taken from a weekly newspaper dated June 6th, to show by comparison what is being done in other communities and not being done here. The reason as given: - "Lack of supervision or proper supervision of Negro work."

I am hoping that you will give this matter due consideration and see that the Negro youth of Tulsa is allowed the same opportunity under the state set-up, as all other American youths. Sincerely hoping that you will give this your immediate attention. Thanking you very kindly for the service.

Very truly yours,

C. D. Tate

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1538 Division Street
Baltimore, Maryland**

July 18, 1956

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune

Juanita J. Saddler

Special points requiring emphasis

STAFF

It is very essential to have Negro staff members in the following states: Ohio, Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Missouri.

SALARIES

The recommendation from the Conference was that the salaries of the Negro State Administrative Assistants be commensurate with the salaries of other Assistant State Directors. In our discussion of this matter as an informal group, there was a strong feeling that the Negro staff member should receive a salary next highest to that of the State Director. This group also felt that the state staff member should be consulted in the appointment of Negro supervisors. It is also important that this national office be consulted in the appointment of state staff members.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CONFERENCE OF NEGRO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

I think it would be well to go over these recommendations very carefully with Mr. Brown. They contain important points in establishing the status of Negro staff members and procedures suggested here should be getting under way as early as possible.

BASIS FOR NEGRO PARTICIPATION

Some definite word needs to be said with regard to what is the determining factor in deciding the basis for Negro participation. Is it on the basis of the relief population or the general Negro population?

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

It seems to be very important to bring into this office someone who has had connection with the National Youth Administration in the field. Such a person would know the technique involved in administering the program, would be familiar with all of the mechanics and technicalities of project procedures and would be ready to do a good job of project evaluation, which is very important at this time as we make our plans for the future. Such a person would have some experience in dealing with the present problems in the field of vocational guidance which is a phase of the program that is of extreme importance to this group.

Page 2

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

This is one part of the National Youth Administration program in which it is somewhat difficult to include Negro youth, but it is so important to us as a group that I think some special time should be spent in an endeavor to increase the opportunities for apprenticeship training.

VOCATIONAL COUNSELORS

It would be well if you and Dr. Hayes discussed together at length the possibility of increasing the number of Negro counselors throughout the country. I think in most instances the Junior Placement offices which have been set up under the National Youth Administration take care of Negro youth, but there are no Negro counselors attached to their staff to take care of the Negro youth who apply. The situation in the Indianapolis employment office would bear looking into.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Early in the year a committee was organized under the chairmanship of Mr. Wilkinson to help in the planning for the set-up of projects here in the District. The committee, I think, has felt it was not very successful in this nor very useful to us since we were handicapped at every point because of lack of cooperation in the District WPA office. In reality, they were very helpful because they were able to point up the difficulties we faced. I hope if the committee is willing that it might work along with you in selecting a staff member and in working out new projects. The projects in the District include the Community Center project at Dunbar High and Dean Graded School, the Gallinger Hospital and the Freedmen's Hospital projects. The one at Gallinger Hospital is the least desirable from my point of view. I had hoped to work more closely with the two women supervisors of this project than I have been able to do in the past, but I think they need to be under the direction of this office. Mr. Reed, who is the Assistant to Mr. Reynolds, who is the Assistant to Mr. Allen, the NYA Director for the District, is proving very cooperative and is much more interested in the Negro group than anyone else in the set-up. He and Mr. Cochran, who is the Senior Interviewer in the District Employment office are now working out a project for clerical workers, which I think is very good, because it will make it possible to take from the Gallinger Hospital those young people who should be doing skilled jobs and receiving higher pay.

BULLETINS

I am compiling at the present moment a bulletin giving a few of the very best projects being carried on where we have state staff members. From time to time bulletins which give a picture of the work throughout the country should be prepared for distribution. They could be much more elaborate than this one, including pictures which would give visual interpretation of the work. There should also be articles from time to time in such magazines as Opportunity and the Crisis, which interprets the work being done in different sections of the country. Such an article is appearing in Opportunity for this month.

Page 3

Page 3

CAMPS

There have been very few camps for Negro girls the last year. Plans are under way to provide for them in several of the states. It may be well to consider the advisability of having someone on your staff to give special attention to this whole camp program. They need to be visited from time to time by one who will be thoroughly in sympathy with the thorough development of them in a way comparable to other camps. They need to have the right kind of personnel in charge of them.

LIST OF THINGS TO BE DONE

1. Studies -

(a) Gathering information with regard to educational background work experience, economic health conditions of youth on projects in all states.

(b) Survey of present opportunity for employment of Negro youth with a view towards opening up more occupational opportunities.

(c) Making available to State Assistants and others, interesting and useful occupational information resulting from above studies.

2. Establishing contact with Negro youth groups. Send material to them from time to time.
3. Issue regular bulletins regarding work of Negro youth.
4. Serve as clearing house for records and reports pertaining to youth.
5. Send to State Assistants and Supervisors useful material on such subjects as recreation, community organization and employment data.
6. Prepare material on vocational guidance for groups and leaders (Bulleck)
7. Work with state staffs on training courses in group work and plan supervisory institutes.
8. Give special consideration to rural youth problems.
9. Make special effort to equalize salaries paid State Assistants.
10. Talk with Dr. Hayes regarding increasing number of counselors for Negro youth
11. Discuss value of having special Negro camp supervisors giving special consideration to camps for Negro girls.
12. Subscribe for Negro Journal of History by Carter G. Woodson and Journal of Negro Education published by Howard University

August 8, 1935

Mr. Milford, Press Room, 1734 New York Ave.

John J. Corson, Assistant Director, N. Y. A.

Conference of Negro Leaders

Following is a list of invited guests to the Negro conference being held August 8, 1935.

Dr. Channing H. Tobias, National Council, Y. M. C. A., 347 Madison Avenue, New York City
President David D. Jones, Bennett College for Women, Greensboro, N.C.
Miss Mary M. Bethune, Bethune-Cookman College, Florida
Ira Reed, Sociology, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.
William Valentine, Beardentown Institute, Beardentown, N. J.
Dean Frank Horne, Ft. Valley High & Industrial School, Ft. Valley, Ga.
Dr. Robert Weaver, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.
Eugene Kinckle Jones, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Hastie, Solicitor General's Office, Washington, D. C.
Miss Marion Cuthbert, Lexington Ave., Y.W.C.A., New York City
~~Mrs. Elizabeth Perry Cannon, Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga.~~
Charles S. Johnson, Head of Dept. Sociology, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn
F. E. DeFrantz, 450 N. Seattle Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
Dr. Mordecai Johnson, President, Howard University, Washington, D. C.
Charles H. Thompson, Education, Howard University, Washington, D. C.
Walter White, National Association Advancement for colored people, Washington, D.C.

AGGENDA FOR MEETING OF NEGRO LEADERS

August 8, 1935

- 1- Introductory remarks by Mr. Aubrey Williams, Director of the National Youth Administration.
- 2- Statement of the scope and purpose of the Conference by Mr. John J. Corson, Assistant Director of the National Youth Administration.
- 3- Introduction of directors of several divisions of the program of the National Youth Administration - Mr. Corson
- 3- Student Aid - College, high school and post graduate aid - Mr. Klinefelter.
- 4- Vocational Guidance and Job Placement (Relationship of the U.S. Employment Service and Federal Committee on Apprentice Training to the National Youth Administration) - Dr. Mary Hayes
- 5- Relationship of the Works Progress Administration to the National Youth Administration - Mr. Kramer
- 6- Agency Relationship and Community Participation - Mr. Asay

held August 8, 1935.
Following is a list of the
Conference of Negro I
John J. Carson, Assistant Director
Mr. Milford, Press Room, 1734 New York Ave.

- 2 -

August 8, 1935

Mr. Milford, Press Room, 1734 New York Ave.

John J. Carson, Assistant Director, N. Y. A.

Conference of Negro Leaders

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Special Problems to be discussed:

- (a) Comparison of Negroes and whites 16-24 group on relief.
- (b) Special Occupational Data (Occupational classifications for domestic and personal service)
- (c) Non-enrollments in the schools as it affects the Negro
- (d) Special rural problems
- (e) Negro participation in community recreation.

CONFERENCE OF HONORABLE MEMBERS
CONFERENCE OF HONORABLE MEMBERS
APRIL 1, 1900, 10:00 AM, 1307 NEW YORK
IN OFFICE, ROOM 1307

and Dr. Weaver, Dr. Tobias, Mr. Horne and Mr. Taylor were chosen to do this work.

August 29, 1936

Mr. Claude Barnett
Associated Negro Press
3705 South Parkway
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Mr. Barnett:

I am enclosing a news release which I wish you
would give as wide circulation as possible.

Your kind cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Director, Division of Negro Affairs

MM: C
Encl.

August 26, 1936

Mr. Lawson

Dr. Frank S. Horne

Enclosed is a statement of the type of contact Mrs. Bethune is making throughout the country which we deem wise to bring to the attention of the Negro people everywhere through the press. They are interested in her as an individual and want to know where she is going and what she is doing. We should ask that you give this type of material as wide a circulation as possible.

Frank S. Horne

COPY

ASBURY PARK URBAN LEAGUE

September 5, 1936

Mr. Aubrey Williams
NYA Administrator
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Williams:

The National Urban League with its 45 branches of social work among Negroes, has played a large part in the initiation of many of the projects of the New Deal, and many of its members of the National and Local staffs have been loaned to the government for the promotion of these programs. Especially has the League been interested in the NYA program, and in Asbury Park the Urban League has played an important part in the development of our County program.

I would like to call your attention to the possibility of a State NYA activity. At one time Negroes enjoyed about 91% of the employment in the Hotels in our seashores of this State especially in our city, but the opportunity of training for young Negroes was so limited that the work formerly given to Negroes went to other races because the Negro youth was unable to meet the qualifications. I believe that the field for a training school would present an excellent way to promote work for juniors which they once held in this states.

We have a very practical city for this activity in Bordentown, in the Bordentown Industrial Vocational School. It is an excellent way to develop this program for Negro youths and I am quite sure we could get the cooperation of the State Department of Education. While I understand that the money has more or less been allotted to the State of New Jersey it does seem to me that the work is so practical that a special grant for this project might be made. I have not attempted to go into all of the details as to the development of the project, but I think I have presented enough at this time to give you some idea of the practicability of a work of this nature. I know the Negroes and also several of the various hotel associations in this State would be only too glad to cooperate in the development of work of this type.

I would be very glad indeed to have an early reply.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Paul G. Prayer
Executive Secretary

N.J.
September 11, 1936

Mr. William A. Smith
Administrative Assistant
New Jersey Youth Administration
153 Court Street
Newark, New Jersey

My dear Mr. Smith:

We have just replied to a letter from Mr. Paul A. Frayer, Executive Secretary of the Asbury Park Urban League, which he sent to Mr. Aubrey Williams, in which he outlined the possibility of a training center at Bordentown, New Jersey for hotel employees. We advised him to put the project in writing and bring it to the attention of Mr. Kealey, the State Director, and yourself.

The project appears to have definite merit and we should be pleased to cooperate with you in making it possible.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune
Director, Division of Negro Affairs

MMB:3

COPY

Charles S. Johnson
Director

Department of Social Science
Fisk University
Nashville, Tennessee

September 12, 1936

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
National Youth Administration
1340 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Bethune:

I have a letter from Mrs. Irma Neal Henry of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, stating that she has been recommended for a position as field representative for the Unemployed Women's Camp of the National Youth Administration, and requesting that I write you in further support of this recommendation. I am very glad to do this because the character of Mrs. Henry's work in the State makes it possible for me to commend her, without reservation, to your serious consideration. She has both careful academic preparation for social work and several years of successful experience in social agencies of this State. So far as I have observed, she is one of the two or three really outstandingly competent workers in North Carolina.

Her special training was received in Columbia and the New York School of Social Work, and she is, I believe the only Negro worker holding a certificate in Public Health (from Columbia) in the State, and one of the few in the country. She has poise, tact, and a genuine social concern, and what is very important, a genuine working acquaintance with the social problems of the Negro population of the State. I believe that she would insure the success of the work of the NYA with unemployed Negro women in the State.

Very sincerely yours,

Charles S. Johnson.

THE NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, INC.

NANNIE H. BURROUGHS,
PRESIDENT
LINCOLN HEIGHTS, D. C.

Nov. 9, 1936

Camp

My dear Mrs. Bethune:

I am enclosing copy of the letter and memorandum. It is for your personal information, so that you will know what I have said to Miss Black.

Sincerely yours,

Nannie

B:p
Enc.

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune
316 T Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

THE NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, INC.
NANNIE H. BURROUGHS,
PRESIDENT
LINCOLN HEIGHTS, D. C.

COPY

November 9, 1936

Miss Francis Black, Director
National Youth Administration of D. C.
Room 20 - District Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Black:

I am replying to your letter of November 6 and enclosing
memorandum.

The one thing in which we are most interested is the type
of young women to whom you plan to offer this training -

1. What will be the character requirements ?
2. " " " " educational background?
3. Is it confined to young women on relief, or is it
also offered to young women who might be on relief
if the opportunity were not given them?
4. What are the general requirements of your staff? Are
they selected wholly from people on relief?
5. Are you planning a definite educational experiment,
with specific character and educational requirements
for the young women who are accepted?

Very truly yours,

Nannie H. Burroughs

THE NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, INC.

NANNIE H. BURROUGHS,
PRESIDENT
LINCOLN HEIGHTS, D. C.

Nov. 9, 1936

COPY

M E M O R A N D U M

To: The N. Y. A. of D. C.
Room 20 - District Building
Washington, D. C.

HEAT - All buildings are heated from a central heating plant. The pipe lines are in need of reconditioning. This would have to be done by the agency using the building.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS - We can allow accommodations for only sixty-eight young women. We cannot furnish beds, cots or bedding. Space can be provided in sixteen rooms for three girls to room (48). There are ten rooms which will allow space for two girls each (20). Twelve of the rooms will have to be kalsomined or painted and some other minor repairs. This can be done at little expense. *Chairs & dressers are in the rooms.*

KITCHEN FACILITIES - The space and ranges are adequate. All utensils will have to be ~~procured~~. *furnished by agency.*

CLASS ROOMS - We can provide three class rooms on the first floor; four on the second floor and ^{there are} two on the second floor that can be used either for offices or class rooms. *We can furnish seats & desks.*

SPACE FOR WORK PROJECTS - In the building in which class rooms and offices may be located, there is a large kitchen used for teaching domestic science. Work projects may also be taught in any seven class rooms listed above.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ROOM - A chapel in which one hundred and fifty people can be seated.

INFIRMARY - We have a room on the second floor of the library building that has been used as a baby clinic. It can be used as an infirmary.

OFFICE SPACE - The two rooms mentioned above. Since they are not small, one might

COPY

-2-

be sufficient.

STAFF ROOMS - One room on the first floor of the class room building.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES - Quite limited. We have a small recreation room that can be put in condition; outdoor space for basketball and tennis. There is a swimming pool on the ground. This too is in need of minor repairs. What we now use as a club room can be used by you as a living room.

DINING ROOM - Ample space. We can provide tables and chairs, but neither dishes, silver nor linen.

TOILETS AND BATHS - These are doubtless adequate, but we do not have showers.

HEATING AND LIGHTING - The institution will not be responsible for ^{fuel for} heating or ~~lights~~ lights.

STORE ROOM AND REFRIGERATION - We have a room that was formerly used as a shop that can be used as a storeroom. We cannot furnish a refrigerator.

LAUNDRY - This would have to be done off the premises or, it may be done on the grounds, in the laundry that is being put in condition to be operated by our Cooperative. We do not know just how soon this work will be completed. It would afford fine opportunity for teaching ^{girls} the laundry trade.

Finally, we would allow the use of the space described above, under conditions mentioned, for the sum of three hundred (\$300.00) dollars per month.

Yours truly,

Warrner H. Burroughs

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

January 19, 1938

Items for "News Letter"

Resident Training Centers for Negro youth are now in operation in nine states - Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia with accommodations for approximately a thousand young Negro men and women. Practical courses in home-making, domestic and personal service and vocational agriculture predominate. The State Land Grant Colleges and other vocational schools are cooperating and in a number of states, the State Vocational Education officials are supplying supervisory instructors.

Pennsylvania NYA is making considerable preparation to cooperate with the National Urban League's Sixth Vocational Opportunity Campaign to be held March 26-27, 1938. The state office has conferred with the Philadelphia NYA Negro Advisory Committee and has requested the presence of a representative of the Division of Negro Affairs from the National Office.

The Pittsburgh Courier, national Negro news weekly, reports this week that 1750 youths will be added to the NYA rolls in Pennsylvania as announced by State Director Walter S. Cowing.

The Texas report for December describes an interesting project for forty Negro NYA girls employed at the City-County Hospital at Fort Worth. The girls assist in the preparation of balanced and special diets, help in making surgical supplies and in doing routine hospital work. On their own time, they follow scheduled courses of instruction in first aid, personal hygiene and elementary civics. One of the project girls has been given permanent employment by the hospital at a salary of \$31.00 per month.

The Douglas Park project in Shelby County, Tennessee has employed as many as 250 Negro boys and girls for the planting, harvesting and canning of vegetables to be used in various county schools for serving hot lunches to the undernourished children.

Negro youth in the NYA resident project at West Virginia State College are constructing a milk house. The concrete floor is now nearing completion.

A few instances of individual rehabilitation of youths through NYA projects have been reported, - cases where a "down-and-out" young person has been employed on an NYA project for a period and is now placed in a self-supporting job. It would seem a good idea for states to record a number of representative instances of such Negro youths to give a cross-section picture of the actual rehabilitation work of the NYA project program.

Such are ^{a few of} the NYA milestones on the March of youth.
The story is one of rehabilitation. Our young people come to our projects ~~down and out~~, ^{un}untrained, "down and out", often broken in morale. We place a few of the neediest - all our limited funds will permit - at work on these NYA projects. They begin to learn their way; they learn the habits of work; they receive specific skills; they get counsel and advice; their health is improved. Gradually, numbers of them get their chance at a job in private industry. All NYA wants to do is to bridge the terrifying gap between schooling and private employment. And as their March of youth goes by my heart sings at the chance given me to help.

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

News Letter -

February 1, 1938

The opening of a Negro Youth Center in Birmingham and the organization of vocational classes for Negroes there has been the outstanding achievement in the vocational guidance field. While these classes are being conducted by both the NYA and the Birmingham Department of Education, the NYA has acted in a coordinating capacity, and has enabled the sponsoring agency to make full use of the facilities of the Youth Center. Aubrey Williams, Executive Director of the National Youth Administration delivered the opening address for the two units of these buildings. He stated: "The Negro occupies the most tragic and interesting phase of American life. He prepares himself for the better life and finds the doors closed to him through no fault of his own and only because of his color. I made up my mind long ago to use my power to help those at the bottom of the social and economic ladder in America. I have and will continue to play that part. I don't care who knows it. I want it and it is possible for all to have a better life. I want to say as a Southerner, I covet that the black man shall have his share in that better life. I believe in organization and collective bargaining. Pool your efforts. Join with the white men in organizations for better life.....I hope to see the day come when you will be truly free. I want the same opportunity for your children as for my children....."

Fifty (50) Negro girls have been selected from all over the state of Alabama for this project. A program of instruction has been outlined by the State Department of Education. These youths have an opportunity to gain practical experience in the crafts and subjects taught in regular classes, with

special emphasis on homemaking, agriculture and child care.

In New York State, with the aid of local citizens, every effort is being made to present correct information and encourage additional training through night courses and adult education classes to Negro youths. This was brought about because it was realized that comparatively few of the Negroes on NYA projects, who had completed three and four years of high school work, had made vocational choices or had any vocational training. Although there are probably many reasons, the most obvious one was that the school counselors discourage Negro youths from taking the vocational courses, using as an explanation the difficulties encountered by the group in obtaining certain skilled work.

In Cincinnati, Ohio, 104 Negro youths and 87 white youths were employed to construct and develop a 23 acre tract of land in the heart of the city into a public playground, providing the community with an amphitheatre with a seating capacity of 2,000 persons, tennis courts, track facilities and a recreation building. The youths are given experience in the various types of work skills involved, such as fine grade work, laying of forms, building of asphalt walks, carpentry, brick laying, electrical work, roofing, etc. Contacts were made with union leaders before starting this project, so that it was possible to start this project without complaint from the local union.

Mary McLeod Bethune
Director, Division of Negro Affairs

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF NEGRO AFFAIRS

News Letter
March 17, 1938

The Director of the Division of Negro Affairs will be the guest speaker at Columbia University on Friday evening, March 18th in Horace Mann Auditorium. The African-American program celebrates the Tenth Anniversary of the Teachers College Negro Education Club. Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones of the Phelps-Stokes Fund will speak on "Emerging Leadership Among Africans", while Mrs. Bethune discusses "American Negro Youth and Their Problems Today." The program features African and modern dance rhythms by the Creative Dance Group of Hampton Institute.

A number of requests have been received for copies of Mrs. Bethune's address entitled, "Self-Reliance", a message to Negro youth, delivered recently at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia.

State offices plan cooperation with the Sixth Vocational Opportunity Campaign of the National Urban League, March 20th to 27th. The Director of the Division of Negro Affairs will speak to groups in Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton Ohio and in Covington, Kentucky; the Assistant Director will attend conferences and address the young people in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

NYA circular #7 entitled, "New Opportunities for Negro Youth," which describes the participation of Negro youth in all phases of the NYA program has been revised to date. The summary indicates that some 55,000 young Negro men and women received direct benefits of approximately a half million dollars a month during the fiscal year ending, June 1937 from the Student Aid and Work Projects Program.

MEMORANDUM

March 30, 1958

TO: Mr. David R. Williams,
Miss Ella Ketchin,
Mrs. Camille Ross,
Mr. John Pritchard,
Mr. Thatcher Winslow

FROM: Karl Jensen

SUBJECT: The New Bulletin

I am suggesting the following approach to our problem of restating the work program in clear terms because I believe that merely issuing another bulletin is not sufficient. To issue another conglomeration of procedural information on top of what already exists will not have any constructive effect on the work program. To send out a collection of such technical information as we have and can prepare in a short time may be helpful to individual state directors but will not make for greater coherence of the program as a uniform attempt to deal with fundamental maladjustments.

I am, therefore, proceeding on the basis of another set of conclusions which are as follows:

1. Time: Anything stated about the work program should be formulated in time for the next state directors' meeting, probably held soon after the next fiscal year begins. That gives us about three months to do it in and precludes extensive research and detailed planning of the contents. There is no time. We will have to confine ourselves to fundamentals.
2. The essential contents of the bulletin should be:
 - a) The first principles and experience governing the present "attitudes" toward the problem;
 - b) predicated on this valuation - an analysis of the immediate trends and objectives;
 - c) a definition of the rules governing facilities and tools;
 - d) the administrative problems and
 - e) specific suggestions for the construction program in the form of technical data and plans.

Mr. John B. McFarland,
Mrs. Constance Moore,
Miss Alice K. Ketchum,
Mr. Deane W. Williams,

1953

11/11/53

10:

With this bulletin aiming not so much at a present situation as at the immediate future confronted by the work program, we will have anticipated certain developments, chief of which are these.

- a) The conviction that self-support and not relief is the only answer to the rural youth problem. This means they must have land. It means they must be shown methods to work that land. They must have houses and they must build these themselves.
- b) That all facilities built and all production in shops will accrue to the benefit of youth (from their own age down) and not to assorted groups older than the youth workers.
- c) That the resident training program will be expanded and must work toward this idea of self-support.
- d) That the home-economics cottage should be the primary facility built in rural areas.
- e) That the integrated youth and community center, as a permanent well built facility, should be the minimum contribution any village town or suburban community make to the youth in their community.
- f) That a personal hygiene course (including "Wassermann test") and a short course in conservation be given to every youth who receives aid from NYA.

Finally at this state directors' meeting we can and should show the ideas presented in this bulletin both in a graphic and three dimensional exhibit which would help to make manifest these ideas in a concrete setting. This exhibit could consist of the following: (* already made or being made)

- * 1. Photographic record of accomplishments.
- * 2. Graphic statistical record of trends.
- * 3. "Before and After" conservation models.
- * 4. The youth and community center for village and urban youth.
- * 5. The home-economics cottage for rural youth.
- * 6. The rural industrial community plan for youth showing the economy of such a community in small scale with a large scale detail of a typical "farm" and the house (partly prefabricated) a youth can build for himself.

7. Furniture samples (Resettlement) as a suggestion for shop production.

* 8. Health exhibit in three color posters designed by Federal Art Project printed by NYA.

The detailed contents of the Bulletin are tentatively planned as follows:

PART I

- a) Youth in Democracy
(a definition and a re-statement of a constitutional guarantee from "How Fare American Youth" by Homer Rainey)
- b) Youth Trends Elsewhere
(condensed valuation of the foreign work programs from "Youth a World Problem" an article by Winslow. "The International Aspects of Modern Youth Problems")
- c) The Size and Rate of Growth of Unemployed Youth in U. S.
(condensed vital statistics)
- e) Summary of NYA experience from operating the work program to date:

Student Aid
Passamaquoddy
The Work Program
The Resident Training Program
The Conservation
The Vocational Guide and Placement Program
Cooperation with Community Groups
Health and Youth

PART II

- a) The Expansion of the Resident Training Program.
- b) The Home-Economics Cottage in Rural Areas.
- c) The Integrated Youth and Community Center as an organ of the village, town and suburban community.
- d) Land - Home and Family
(Youth in rural industrial communities.
Intensified agriculture plus cooperatives plus industrial crops plus decentralized industry.)

Record of telephone conversation

Mary McLeod Bethune to Robert S. Richey, State Director for Indiana
September 29, 1938 - 10:30 A.M. - After preliminary "How are you's"

Mrs. Bethune: Now, Mr. Richey, I had a very full conference with Mr. Lull yesterday.

Mr. Richey: Please repeat Mrs. Bethune - I can't hear a word you are saying.

Mrs. Bethune: Repeated former statement.

Mr. Richey: Fine, I am glad to hear that.

Mrs. Bethune: I told him of our situation there locally and he agrees with the idea that you and I concluded upon - that it will be wiser for you to select someone that can give to you the service that you need there and who can get the cooperation of the people.

I have tried to get hold of Porter, but it has come to my attention that Porter has resigned his position and has accepted a professorship in one of the Junior High Schools here in the city - therefore, we are free from that. I will talk with him today so that he will understand that we are not depending upon any future arrangements so far as he is concerned.

You are at liberty to go forward and get your set-up there.

A very strong recommendation has come in here from Congressman Louis Ludlow, recommending Paul Hill. I do not know who Paul Hill is.

Mr. Richey: I will check on him. What about Administrative Funds, Mrs. Bethune?

Mrs. Bethune: I am sure that what you lack, Mr. Lull will take up with you.

Mr. Richey: I will have to have that. I cannot make the appointment on our administrative staff until I can get administrative funds for this person. Of course, I could put him on the project payroll - you can tell Mr. Lull that - but he could not get leave privileges, etc.

Mrs. Bethune: We do not want that. We want these people on the administrative staff. We do not want them on the project payroll. I will talk to Mr. Lull when I am through with this conversation with you.

Mr. Richey: Well, you tell Mr. Lull that I can put him on the project payroll but he will not be entitled to annual leave.

Mrs. Bethune: But, we don't want him on the project payroll. We want a strong

Mrs. Bethune: -administrative person. We have been playing with this thing for three years.

~~I am going to Mr. Williams at noon today.~~ If I can't get the kind of help I need to give you men the kind of cooperation you need and intelligent cooperation - there is no use putting them on. There is no use putting anybody on unless you pay them well.

Mr. Richey: I can put on a strong person, but would rather that you get you understand - additional administrative funds.

Mr. Bethune: I will talk with Mr. Lull as soon as I get through talking to you.

I am simply asking for administrative leadership of Negroes in the states.

Have you the man that you want for Indiana?

Mr. Richey: Yes, we have three application of well-qualified young men. I will send them to you to look over before I make any selection.

Mrs. Bethune: I am doing some work today on this matter for all the states that need Negro leadership.

Will you get hold of Ransom and give him the instructions as I asked of you when I was there?

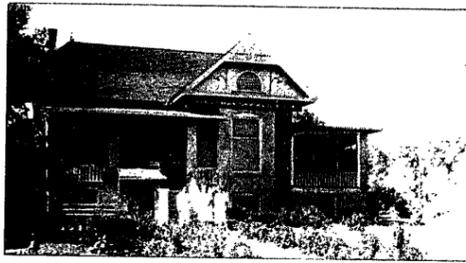
Mr. Richey: I will be happy to to that.

Mrs. Bethune: Well, good-bye and you will hear from me.

Mr. Richey: Thank you Mrs. Bethune. Good-bye.

DR. W. C. HACKETT
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR
OFFICE
216 EAST WASHINGTON ST.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HOSPITAL, Inc.
MEMORIAL



1342 EAST JEFFERSON ST.
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

(1)

My dear Arabella,
Just a few lines to give you a little
key to the Courier story. I have been
having a marvelous time during my last
days in California. The visit to the Hollywood
studios, to Shirley Temple and Bill Robinson
was thrilling. I met many of the out-
standing stars, — had luncheon in the
dining room with them. Genevieve and I
had been having one thrill after another.
The faculty club of the University of
Southern California entertained for us in
the Cap + gown hall last Wednesday.
George Garner and Paulyn ~~opened~~ were
at their best famous breakfast club
meeting last Sunday morning. Mrs. John
Hill gave a very magnificent honoring

DR. W. C. HACKETT
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR
OFFICE
216 EAST WASHINGTON ST.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HOSPITAL, Inc.
MEMORIAL



1342 EAST JEFFERSON ST.
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

- 2 -

Mrs. Geneva Hope & myself, here we met throngs of the real folk of Los Angeles, Mrs. Judd Mitchell my hostess entertained us at breakfast in the same way, Mr & Mrs. Alexander entertained at dinner. A visit to the home of Dr. Ernest King, was one of the rare treats, Lillian Luckey and Allida left no stones unturned. The Delta girls were on the job every moment. ~~The Festival~~ The last Friday evening a sponsored a city wide reception made up of the sororities and women's organizations and men's fraternities were there. The courtesies and hospitalities of San Diego and other points of California cannot be forgotten. At 9:00 Friday morning I arrived in Phoenix with a fine delegation of civic workers & educators. Every moment of the two days have been filled. A mass meeting last night with a reception by the Delta Girls following.

DR. W. C. HACKETT
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR
OFFICE
216 EAST WASHINGTON ST.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HOSPITAL, Inc.
MEMORIAL



1342 EAST JEFFERSON ST.
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

-3-
A visit today at the Phoenix Indian
schooling was informing and interesting. I
was received by the President of Arizona
State Teachers College at Tempe. My visit
is being culminated by a luncheon given
by the Progressive Club, a unique
organization under the leadership of Mrs. W. C.
Hackett. This is a great field for development.
Possibly the most outstanding development
is Booker T. Washington Hospital under
Dr. W. C. Hackett. The most outstanding
business among women, ^{is} a costume shop
by Mrs. Charles Gardner. I am having a
glorious time. I am working hard but
the thrill keeps the weariness away. My
hostess Mrs. R. L. Mack has been most
gracious to me. I have found the hours
of the day too short to meet the demands
of my friends. It is close to 9:00 and

DR. W. C. HACKETT
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR
OFFICE
216 EAST WASHINGTON ST.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HOSPITAL, Inc.
MEMORIAL



1342 EAST JEFFERSON ST.
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

- 4 -
my train will be pulling out to
Albuquerque.

To my great surprise I found Elsie
Webb Markoe who is little and fine
enjoying Arizona sunshine in the valley
of the sun. She is the daughter of Honorable
John L. Webb, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

I found my little girl Gertrude Harris
who I held in my arms in a baby show
in Daytona Beach, Fla. She is the daughter
of my friend Joseph Harris, Daytona Beach,
Fla. The world is small after all.

Get the story from this - read it if
you can.

Sincerely,
Mrs. M. M. Bethune

I saw some of Arizona's natural beauty & scenery, the like of which I have not seen before. The Camel Back Mountain gives one the impression that a camel just lay down to rest. I saw the Salt River which has no water in it only when the mountains in the Northern part of the state give up their snow.

Phoenix itself is located in a valley completely surrounded by the Rockies. Not far away is located the Papago National Park in which are found Indians living just as Nature created them live perhaps. These Indians are located just at the back of the hole in the rock, a retreat for people who are seeking shelter from the hot sun. It has been called the 7 ear round.

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NEGRO YOUTH

Negroes are represented on the committees in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, South Carolina, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York City, New York State, California, Illinois, Tennessee, and Texas. In many of these states they are called upon frequently to offer advice and to help in the general interpretation of the program. In Illinois there is no Negro member on the State Committee, unless very recently appointed, a fact which the group there finds very difficult to understand, though they have not attempted to do anything about it. In several states various Negro members have interested themselves in trying to increase the number of supervisory jobs given to Negroes and have spread knowledge about the program among the people. In some states where there is no Negro staff member, the Advisory Committee has often assumed a full measure of responsibility for certain phases of the program. Whereas it has been advantageous to have the splendid cooperation of these volunteers, they, because of pressure of their own duties, have not always been able to give the time that was needed to the NYA program. There are a number of very strong local committees. In New Jersey, the heads of the agencies cooperating with the NYA meet from time to time to discuss ways of improving the type of work being done both from the point of view of their cooperation and the effect the program is having on the young people themselves.

STAFF

The thirteen (13) staff members on the State Administrative payrolls have been active in developing projects, especially for the Negro group and in seeing that they are sharing in the program as equitably as local conditions will allow. In some states it is fairly accurate to say that many supervisory positions have been made available for Negroes while in others there are very few Negro supervisors, several projects having white supervisors.

EDUCATIONAL AID

High School - The number of high school students receiving aid has increased from 14,000 in November to 21,331 in February. On the whole, high school principals are very enthusiastic about this phase of the NYA program. I know of only one who has taken no interest in making funds available to needy youth. He claims not to have time to give to the details involved in administering the program. The few criticisms heard have to do with the age limit, which is considered too high and the amount paid to individuals, which is considered too small. Many principals divide the amount in an endeavor to spread it among more students. A great variety of work is being done by high school students throughout the states including book-binding, clerical help, studies of sanitation and health, conditions in school communities, tutoring and repairing of school furniture.

...tions from more
have been received concerning the new increased
University of Wisconsin. Statements such as find
Western Reserve, Ohio State, Clark University, Du
Soyne, College, University of Minnesota, New X
in Africa, Butler University of Iowa, University
Africa School of Social Work, Africa University
Denver, Howard University, University of Chicago,
following institutions: University of Southern C
Georgia via - ISB students are receiv
communities.
fing in libraries, in laboratories and conducting
The work done covers a wide range of activities and
2021 students in attendance are re
College - via e-mail
participate in the college
every Negro co

PROJECTS

Construction of recreation centers and beautification of parks are providing for the first time in many communities, adequate facilities for leisure time activities for Negro people. Nursery schools, which have proved such a boon to working mothers, as well as providing work for young people, are among the most useful projects from the standpoint of the Negro group.

The development of a community garden, which will give a large group work as well as provide fresh foods for many needy families, is being carried forward successfully in Illinois. In New Jersey there is a toy lending project. Workers on this project will repair discarded toys and games at the Repair Shop to be established in the Court Street YMCA. The toys will be secured from Social Agencies, Salvation Army, Goodwill Home, Industries and Department Stores. The repaired toys will be distributed through seven library branches and will be available as a loan to the children patronizing the branch toy library of their district. Additional toys will be distributed to Children's Wards of hospitals, Day Nurseries located in Newark. There are no other means of making available toys to the underprivileged residing in the section to be covered except by the work of this project. The results to be obtained will be of practical value to all organizations dealing with youth as well as to youth participating in the development of the project.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

This is one of the most important services needed by Negro youth at the present time. Unfortunately there are not many places where special help is being given this group. In Chicago, two Negro counselors are working in connection with the State Employment office. In Texas, Negro youth are served by white counselors, it is hoped that the tendencies there will not be to advise Negroes to seek out only the usual manual jobs. The direction should rather be towards widening the vocational interest, though openings in new fields are not at present evident. In Georgia, the Assistant State Director is working in close cooperation with the schools over the State in an effort to evolve a type of vocational guidance service that will function through the various community agencies and organizations in each community for the benefit of Negro Youth. In Durham, North Carolina, the NYA is providing a Junior Counseling Service to assist the State Employment Service in the counseling and placement of young people. As a part of this program, the Negro Counselor has charge of the counseling and placement of Negro youth. Her office is in connection with the office of the North Carolina State Employment office for Negroes in Durham.

PUBLICITY

On the whole press comments have been favorable. Criticism has been directed however, to the failure on the part of some State Administrators to employ a proportionate number of supervisors on projects; to the difficulties the Negro group has in getting on relief rolls and to the tendency to classify Negro youth as unskilled, no matter what their training has been. There have been individual complaints that Negro supervisors have received less pay for the same type of work than white supervisors.