

DR. ROBERT C. WEAVER *(Correspondence)*

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

April 20, 1934

Mr. Lawrence A. Oxley
Commissioner of Conciliation
Department of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Oxley:

I am sending you herewith a copy of my study of the tobacco industry in North Carolina. This study was done for the Joint Committee on National Recovery. Excerpts from it have been published in newspapers and, I believe, in periodicals. The survey is based upon research and investigation which I did this past fall.

I am also sending you a study on Negro efficiency. This, too, was done for the Joint Committee but has been revised recently. It has been published in several of the Negro newspapers and may appear elsewhere in the near future. The material is based upon available studies and is, I believe, a fairly complete review of most of the literature in this field. Although it proves nothing, it does offer a rather striking refutation to those who argue that Negroes are less efficient than whites.

I hope these studies will prove useful to you.

Yours sincerely,

Robert C. Weaver
Robert C. Weaver

Enclosures

P. S. I am also sending you my article on racial wage differential which is to be published either in May or June.

R. C. Weaver

Prepared in
Nov. 1932.

THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY IN NORTH CAROLINA

I. General Statement

(11) The tobacco manufacture industry is concerned with the manufacture of four principal types of products: cigars, cigarettes, chewing and smoking tobacco, and snuff. The total value of the products of the industry, including \$422,026,576.00 paid as internal revenue tax, was, in 1931, \$1,155,851,190.00. The three branches of the industry covered by the proposed code, the manufacture of cigarettes, chewing and smoking tobacco and snuff, accounted for 84% or \$927,210,653.00 of this total value. The value of cigarettes alone was in 1931, \$672,652,572.00.¹

Although the degree of concentration of the manufacture of all branches of the industry is difficult to measure, that for cigarettes can be estimated with a certain amount of accuracy. According to a statement of Professors Seager and Gulick appearing in the New York Evening Post of April 23, 1929, 94% of the country's total production of cigarettes was accounted for by the output of the four leading brands. These brands were, in turn, manufactured by the four leading tobacco manufacturing companies.² Another estimate for the spring

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- 1 - These data are taken from the 1932 returns of the Census of Manufacturers.
- 2 - John P. Troxwell, Labor in the Tobacco Industry (an unpublished Ph.D. thesis at the University of Wisconsin), 1930, p. 38

of 1929 places the output of the "Big Four" at 90% of the total.³ Although these companies were engaged principally in the production of cigarettes, they also engaged in the manufacture of other tobacco products. It is, however, impossible to estimate the value of their other tobacco products, although new data do show that for the state of North Carolina over 90% of the laborers engaged by the industry were concentrated in those plants which specialized in the production of cigarettes and smoking tobacco.⁴

In order to appreciate the tobacco manufacturing industry in general and the North Carolina branch in particular, it is interesting to note the growth of net earnings of the Big Four and those of the industry. The chief plants of the Big Four are located in North Carolina at Winston Salem, Durham and Reidsville. One of the group has another important center in Virginia. The smallest of the Big Four has its chief plant in a third state. These earnings as reported by the Charles D. Barney Company are shown in Table I:

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3- Loc. cit.

4 - See C. Tinsley Willis, Negro Labor in the Tobacco Industry in North Carolina (an unpublished Master's thesis at New York University), 1930, p. 43; and Census of Manufacturers, 1929: Tobacco Manufacture and Tobacco Pipes.

TABLE I
Net Earnings Available for Dividends
(in thousands of dollars)

	<u>R.J. Reynolds</u>	<u>American Co.</u>	<u>Liggett & Myers</u>	<u>P. Lorillard</u>	<u>Total</u>
1914	\$ 2,916	\$11,636	\$ 5,391	\$ 3,221	\$23,164
1915	4,729	11,234	6,800	3,528	26,291
1916	8,043	12,510	8,589	4,583	31,527
1917	10,340	13,321	7,363	5,928	36,954
1918	7,042	16,621	8,154	5,627	37,445
1919	11,272	15,972	5,929	4,980	38,154
1920	10,691	15,151	7,597	6,545	39,985
1921	16,258	18,254	9,854	6,371	50,738
1922	20,479	18,968	9,724	6,888	56,060
1923	23,039	17,768	9,622	5,038	55,469
1924	23,777	20,784	11,969	5,204	61,737
1925	25,221	22,238	15,289	5,841	68,591
1926	26,249	22,499	17,636	4,117	70,503
1927	29,080	23,257	18,743	2,490	73,572
1928	30,172	25,014	19,408	1,817	76,413
1929	32,210	30,178	22,017	1,336	85,742
1930	34,257	43,295	24,002	3,614	105,168
1931	36,397	46,190	23,121	4,896	110,554
1932	33,675	43,267	23,075	--	100,018 ^a

It is worth while to note that the earnings of the Big Four steadily increased through 1931 and that although there was a slight decline in 1932, the figures were still substantial. In the case of North Carolina, 90% (18,000) of the workers attached to tobacco factories (exclusive of those making cigars) were, in 1930, employed by the plants of three of the Big Four.⁵

In order to present more graphically the exact nature of the returns on investments during recent years, a quotation from Professor Troxell's study is presented at this point:⁶

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⁵ - Shilka, p. 100.

⁶ - Troxell, Op. cit., pp. 40-41.

"The Federal Trade Commission found the average rate of return for the Big Four during the years 1916 to 1920 to be 15.78% on the investment. The rate varied among them from 14% to 21.8%.⁷ According to a compilation of the Standard Statistics Company, the tobacco industry (using twenty representative companies) showed a yield on capital of 11% in 1924 and 10.5% for the four-year period 1921-24, the return being not less than 10% in any one year. This is to be compared with a rate of 7.5% for 1924, and 6% for the four-year period, for the entire group of industries.⁸ The results of such earnings is shown in the appreciation in stock values of the large companies. If 100 shares of R. J. Reynolds Company had been purchased in 1914 when its market price was \$250 a share, and if \$10,000 had been invested in stock subscription subsequently made available to stock-holders, making \$35,000 investment in all, the value of these shares in July, 1924, would have been \$254,000, and meanwhile the investor would have received cash dividends during the decade of approximately \$39,000.⁹ By June, 1929, these stocks would have a market value (including a 25% stock dividend issued in 1927) of nearly \$600,000. Somewhat less spectacular results would have been obtained by an investment in American Tobacco Company's stock, according to an advertisement by that company in the Wall Street Journal of August 30, 1929. The wise investor who expended \$14,250 in purchasing 100 shares of that company in January, 1918, and held them (with stock dividends) until December, 1928, would have been the fortunate recipient of nearly \$29,000 in cash dividends and the owner of shares worth over \$86,000; he would have received an average annual income (including appreciation) of 64% on his investment, a sum equal to about ten times the average wage of the workers in the tobacco industry."

At the same time that these impressive returns upon investments were being made, important changes were occurring in the laboring conditions of the workers. The average amount of leaf used per worker in the period between 1909 and 1927 more than doubled in all branches

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7 - "Prices of Tobacco Products" (Washington, 1922) pp. 35 and 89.
8 - "The Tobacco Industry, 1925", Chas. D. Barney & Co., (N.Y. 1925) p. 9.
9 - "The Tobacco Industry, 1924", Chas. D. Barney & Co. (N.Y. 1924) p. 41.

of the tobacco manufacture and increased more than four-fold in cigarette manufacture. This movement is illustrated by the data taken from the Census of Manufacturers and included in table II:¹⁰

TABLE II

Leaf Used in Tobacco Manufacturing, Number of Wage-Earners Employed, and Leaf Used per Wage-Earner, by Branches of the Industry, Census Years 1899 to 1927.

Leaf used (in thousands of pounds)

	In all branches	In cigar & cigarette	In tobacco and snuff mfg.
1927	721,456	442,974	278,482
1925	692,099	393,316	298,783
1923	662,064	352,148	301,916
1921	633,732	347,905	285,827
1919	670,921	363,346	307,576
1914	554,850	220,966	333,884
1909	504,710	160,385	344,325
1904	448,512	141,020	307,492
1899	367,139	108,163	258,976

Average Number of Wage-earners

	In all branches	In cigar & cigarette	In tobacco and snuff mfg.
1927	129,299	116,174	13,125
1925	132,132	117,108	15,024
1923	146,337	130,136	16,201
1921	149,985	133,357	16,628
1919	157,087	138,773	18,314
1914	178,872	152,892	25,980
1909	166,810	139,578	27,232
1904	159,406	135,416	23,990
1899	132,526	103,365	29,161

Leaf Used per Wage-earner
(In thousands of pounds)

	In all branches	In cigar & cigarette	In tobacco and snuff mfg.
1927	5.58	3.70	21.2
1925	5.22	3.35	19.9
1923	4.53	2.70	18.5
1921	4.23	2.62	17.1
1919	4.27	2.61	16.8
1914	3.10	1.44	12.8
1909	3.02	1.15	12.7
1904	2.80	1.04	12.8
1899	2.76	1.05	8.9

¹⁰ - See page 6.

TABLE II (con'd)

Number of Wage-earners and Leaf Used in Cigar and Cigarette Manufacture, 1909, 1919, 1927.

<u>Product</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Number Wage-earners</u>	<u>Leaf Used (in thousands of pounds)</u>	<u>Average amount used per worker (in thousands of pounds)</u>
Cigars	1927	24,556	151,049	1.6
Cigars	1919	114,299	162,257	1.4
Cigars	1909	129,518	132,260	1.0
Cigarettes	1927	21,618	290,368	13.4
Cigarettes	1919	22,642	197,881	8.7
Cigarettes	1909	8,159	23,558	2.9

An index to the movement of labor's share of the total value of the output can be roughly estimated by comparing wages and value added by manufacture. The Census Bureau's figure "Value Added by Manufacture" includes internal revenue taxes; this item must be subtracted in order to facilitate our comparison. Thus the data are presented as "Value Added Less Taxes". These data represent the value of products less cost of materials, supplies, containers, fuel, power and internal revenue taxes. "Looking at these figures from the opposite angle, they represent the manufacturers' expenditures for salaries, wages, advertising and other selling expenses, insurance, rent, transportation, taxes other than internal revenue taxes, capital costs, other miscellaneous costs and profits."¹¹

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10 - These tables are taken from Professor Troxell's study. See Troxell, op. cit., pp. 96-97.

11 - Troxell, op. cit., p. 124.

TABLE III
Wages, Value Added by Manufacture, Taxes and Ratio
of Wages to Value Added, Less Taxes

Tobacco Industry as a Whole, 1899 to 1927
 (000's omitted)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Wages</u>	<u>Value Added by</u> <u>Manufacture</u>	<u>Taxes paid on</u> <u>Tobacco prod.</u>	<u>Value Added</u> <u>Less Taxes</u>	<u>Labor's share</u> <u>of Value Added</u> <u>Less Taxes</u>
1931-	\$ 69,411	\$ 792,375	322,086	\$370,349	.19
1929-	94,706	877,708	321,785	382,953	.25
1927-	105,251	743,102	374,891	368,211	.29
1925-	111,558	665,232	344,058	321,174	.35
1923-	120,462	528,327	306,887	221,440	.55
1919-	123,998	529,365	190,240	339,125	.37
1914-	77,856	283,031	79,986	203,045	.38
1909-	69,355	239,509	51,886	187,623	.37
1904-	62,639	205,026	44,656	160,370	.39
1899-	47,975	170,847	51,274	119,573	.40

Cigarette Manufacture, 1909, 1919, 1927

1927	18,119	459,215	279,016	160,200	.113
1919	19,795	197,817	90,603	107,214	.185
1909	2,863	23,271	6,126	19,145	.150

Snuff, Smoking and Chewing Tobacco

1927	10,661	112,934	71,978	40,956	.260
1919	12,675	109,000	62,626	46,374	.273
1909	8,923	82,141	24,946	57,195	0.156

"It is obvious that these figures are too much of a catch-all to throw much light on the question as to how the proceeds of the industry are divided among the factors of production; nevertheless, for a year-to-year comparison they will serve. They show that labor's share in the industry's proceeds have been declining rather steadily since 1899, except for the abnormal year 1923, when price reductions and tax increases combined to make capital's share in the industry low. They show, also, that this decline has been relatively more rapid in the last few years, and that it took place in the cigarette and cigar

branches, rather than the manufactured tobacco branch."

These tendencies find an expression in the wage rates for the workers in the industry. Thus, for three of the leading tobacco manufacturing states, Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina, the average earnings per hour of all workers in the industry were, in 1930, 31.8 cents per hour. This average is not a representative figure in any sense of the word because its magnitude is augmented by inclusion of such highly paid workers as mechanics, making-machine operators, machine fixers and the like. But most of the workers in the tobacco manufacture in these states are engaged in the preparation of leaf for manufacture. They are doing such work as stemming, searching, picking and the like. The average hourly wage for these classes of work was, in 1930, 19.2 cents an hour to 28.9 cents an hour. A representative figure would be slightly over 20 cents an hour. The full-time weekly earnings for these classes averaged about \$10.00 a week.¹²

On the basis of these data it would seem that the tobacco industry is in a position to pay much higher wages than the rates of the past. The data indicate that the unduly high profits in the past have been facilitated by the extremely low wages. Since one of the purposes of the National Industrial Recovery Act is to increase consumer purchasing power and prevent unduly high profits' causing overinvestment and economic disruption, the code for the tobacco industry should establish a minimum wage sufficiently high to accomplish these aims of the Recovery Program.

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12 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Wages and Hours of Labor in the Cigarette Manufacturing Industry, 1930, p. 2, Table I.

The Negro as a Tobacco Worker in North Carolina

According to the 15th census of the United States, there were 103,715 operatives in cigar and tobacco factories. Of these 80,721 were Negroes and 14,976 of the latter were women. Of the 20,581 laborers attached to the industry, 12,254 - or over half - were Negroes.¹ The majority of the Negro workers were engaged in the production outside that of cigars - that is, they were manufacturing cigarettes, smoking and chewing tobacco and snuff. The majority of them were processing tobacco for cigarettes.²

In North Carolina, the leading cigarette producing and the most important southern tobacco manufacturing state of the union, the proportion of Negroes in the total labor supply is striking. According to employers' returns to questionnaires sent out in 1929-1930, there were 19,860 workers engaged by plants manufacturing cigarettes, smoking and chewing tobacco and snuff. Of these, 15,282, or 77%, were Negroes.³ These colored tobacco workers were engaged in practically every capacity in the industry but they predominated in the leaf department where they prepared the leaf for stemming and stemmed it.⁴ The majority of the Negro women are engaged in "rehandling the tobacco leaf before the leaf goes through the machine process to be manufactured into finished products".⁴ On the other hand, the men are,

1 - Fifteenth Census of U.S., 1930, Occupational Statistics, United States Summary, Table 13.

2 - Willis, op. cit., et. seq.

3 - Willis, op. cit., p. 43 (Census for 1930 lists 76% of workers (including cigar workers) as Negroes)

4 - Ibid., pp. 35-36

for the most part, engaged in hauling, helping in the various departments, sweeping, and acting as porters. Most of the work that is assigned to the colored workers is disagreeable and often dangerous. Thus Professor Landon of Duke University has summarized the situation in the following words: "Working conditions are worse in the departments which take the tobacco through the preliminary stages, especially where the leaves are packed in hogsheads. There is a great deal of tobacco dust in this department. This dust burns the membranes of the nose and eyes. In certain of the operations some of the workers wear masks over the nose. This work is done chiefly by Negroes."¹

The one operation in which the largest number of Negroes was concentrated was stemming. There were, in 1930, 7,412 Negroes - mostly women - doing work of this type in tobacco factories of North Carolina. The majority were machine stemmers.² In addition, 2,315 Negroes in tobacco factories were engaged in tying and hanging and 1,770 were classified as pickers and searchers.³ Thus these three main types of work - processes preliminary to manufacture - occupied 11,497 Negroes in 1930. The Negroes thus engaged represented, in 1930, 75% of all Negroes ^{and 58% of all workers} in tobacco factories in North Carolina.⁴ These colored workers practically monopolized these occupations in the state.

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- 1 - Charles E. Landon, "Tobacco Manufacturing in the South", The Annals of the American Academy of Political Science, Vol. 153, p. 48.
- 2 - Willis, op. cit., p. 36 et. seq.
- 3 - Loc. cit.
- 4 - These data are those of Mr. Willis. They were obtained by questionnaires sent by him to manufacturing establishments in late 1929 and 1930.

Investigations of working conditions in tobacco factories have discovered that the work, while it is not particularly heavy, is, for the most part, monotonous, confining and unwholesome. It also requires the close attention of those who execute it.¹ We have already indicated that the preliminary work - the type that Negroes execute generally - is the most disagreeable and often the most unhealthy.

In 1930 the Bureau of Labor Statistics conducted a study of wages and hours in cigarette factories. According to the data presented in this study, female machine stemmers in North Carolina received an average hourly wage of 20 cents, male hand stemmers 21.2 cents an hour, and female hand stemmers 19.3 cents an hour. Male strip searchers received 28.5 cents an hour, while women doing the same sort of work received 19.9 cents an hour. Female Turkish pickers were paid on the average of 18.7 cents an hour, while male laborers received 29 cents an hour as compared to 19.3 cents an hour for female laborers.

In 1930, workers engaged in the preparatory stages of cigarette manufacture in North Carolina were averaging about 86% of a full time week of 49 hours.³ This average figure, like most averages, is misleading. Certain workers were subjected to almost constant work in 1930 while others were employed seasonally. Thus, one of the tobacco

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1 - Landon, op. cit., p. 48

2 - Wages and Hours of Labor in the Cigarette Manufacturing Industry, Tables A and B.

3 - Ibid, Table A.

plants in Durham makes a specialty of preparing leaf for other subsidiary manufacturing plants of the company. The work of the employees in this particular plant is extremely seasonal, beginning in July with the marketing of tobacco and ending in March. During the busy season of 1930, the factory employed 900 Negroes.¹

1 - Willis, op. cit., p. 36.

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Conditions in the North Carolina Tobacco Manufacture
Industry under the President's Reemployment Agreement
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On August 15, 1933, the petition to the Administration for the N.R.A. for substitute paragraphs of the President's Reemployment agreement for the cigarette, chewing and smoking tobacco and snuff industry was approved. The substitute for paragraph six established the following labor provisions: The minimum wage rate was established at 40 cents an hour "unless the hourly rate for the same class of work on July 15, 1929, was less than 40 cents an hour, in which latter case not less than the hourly rate on July 15, 1929, and in no event less than 30 cents an hour; provided, however, that learners during a 6 weeks apprenticeship and hangers, stemmers, searchers, pickers and those employees engaged in the processing of plug and twist manufacture shall be paid, for those who work upon an hourly rate, not less than 25 cents per hour....." There are provisions to assure the same minimum rate for piece workers.

The effect of this substitute paragraph is to set a minimum wage of 30 cents an hour and less for the vast majority of tobacco workers in North Carolina and throughout the South. This follows from the fact that the majority of tobacco workers were receiving less than 30 cents an hour on July 15, 1929.¹

1 - Wages and Hours of Labor in the Cigarette Manufacturing Industry, 1930, Tables A and B.

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An extremely small percentage of the rather large number of Negro tobacco workers of the South are receiving, as a result of the blanket code provisions, over 30 cents an hour.

The substitute paragraphs are, however, even more discriminatory than this, for they create certain occupations, to wit: hangers, stemmers, searchers, pickers, and those employees engaged in the processing of plug and twist manufacture, which are singled out for especially low wages. Workers engaged in these operations are to receive a minimum of only 25 cents an hour. The first four of these groups accounted for about 75% of all Negro tobacco workers in 1930, ^{in North Carolina} and were practically exclusively Negro operations.¹ The last class is one which includes almost all Negroes engaged by factories producing plug and twist tobacco excepting those who fall in the other four classes which are awarded the low minimum of 25 cents an hour.² Thus, the blanket code has, in effect, established a southern wage differential. It has done more; it has established an occupational differential which will, in North Carolina and in the South, create a low minimum for occupations which are predominately Negro and which employ practically all of the colored labor attached to the industry.

The social results of the perpetuation of these low wages are obvious. They are certainly inconsistent with an act which is intended to decrease human misery. Thus, in 1930 an observer noted that "in most of the southern tobacco centers, the workers' homes are

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1 - See above, p. 10.

2 - This statement is based upon the author's survey in October and November, 1933.

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as good as those of other industrial centers of the region (except for certain of the cotton mill villages), but the squalor of the districts inhabited by the colored tobacco workers of Winston-Salem is beyond description. In no other city known to the writer are the effects of low wages so clearly evident in the living conditions of the workers."¹

Since the adoption of the President's Reemployment Agreement, certain pernicious practices have been introduced and/or perpetuated in tobacco factories. The effect of these practices has been the violation of either the terms or the spirit of the N.R.A. The following brief description is based upon a survey made by the writer in the fall of 1933.

In the first place, efforts have been made to evade the minimum wage provisions of the blanket code. This has been facilitated by the fact that much of the work in the industry is paid on a piece-work basis. This is particularly true in the case of hand stemming and the manufacture of plug tobacco. In Durham, women workers in one of the largest tobacco factories there reported that although the piece rate had nominally increased, their hourly wages had either become less or remained the same. They declared that

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1 - Trexell, op. cit., p. 108

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in many instances work that was formerly satisfactory was thrown out and not paid for. In addition, they had no means of checking the weight (and they are paid by the pound) of their output, so that the foreman was autocratic in his recording of production. If these female tobacco workers (practically all of whom are Negro women) complain, they are fired by the foreman.

Her has this form of evasion been restricted to the unskilled. In Winston-Salem it has been extended to skilled male workers. The leading plant there has so changed its classification of a piece in its plug tobacco division as actually to decrease hourly earnings. In the particular department in which this has occurred, there are about 265 workers. Of these, 250 are skilled Negroes. They are the highest paid Negro workers in the factory. Prior to the code these workers were paid \$1.00 for two and a half drafts of 40 pounds each. After the code, the size of the draft was reduced to 35 pounds and the rate of pay was \$1.20 for three 35 pound drafts. Although the rate is higher per pound, the hourly earnings are, in fact, decreased because making more pieces requires more time.

The gravest abuses in the tobacco industry are due to two features of working conditions therein: the system of payment and the autocratic powers of the foremen. In one of the Durham plants, workers are paid by checks. These simply contain the worker's name and the amount of the weekly wage. There is no record of hours of service. Another company having a factory in Durham and Reidsville pays its employees in cash. There is no record of either the amount of wages or the hours of service. The leading manufacturer of tobacco products

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in Winston-Salem pays its workers by means of a pay envelope. Prior to the code, this company used envelopes upon which its name appeared. Since the adoption of the code, the envelopes have contained a serial number (identifying the worker) and a crayon record of the weekly wage. There is no indication of the hours of service. Such systems of pay as these hamper the administration of a minimum wage provision. They prevent the effective checking of hourly rates of pay. This danger is complicated in the case of Negro tobacco workers by two factors: the fact that these workers have not enjoyed full-time weeks and the fact that many of them are not capable of rapid calculation.

Since the tobacco industry has not been operating on full-time recently, there is no way of checking actual rates of pay save through knowledge of hourly rates. Thus in Exhibit A there are four pay envelopes of a Winston-Salem Negro tobacco worker. From the serial number it can be seen that they are for the same worker, and the fact that the envelope is plain indicates that they are for the period subsequent to the date of the adoption of the code. The weekly pay for this worker was as follows: \$6.35, \$5.95, \$5.50 and \$4.40. From these envelopes, however, it is impossible to learn whether or not the minimum wage is being paid. This is true because the worker has no record of her hours of service and cannot herself, or have another, calculate the hourly rate of wages. Exhibit B illustrates two things: first, the change in the nature of the envelopes and, secondly, the difficulty indicated above. All these pay envelopes, save that with the name of the company, are for the week of October 16, 1933. (They

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were issued October 20, 1933). Most of the weekly earnings recorded were less than the minimum rate for a full time week, \$10.00. In the absence of a record of hours of service, the time worker is not able to know or object to a possible violation of the minimum created by the code.

It has been indicated above that the piece worker is at the mercy of the foreman. The time worker, too, is placed in a peculiar situation. He is, in the Winston-Salem factory under discussion above, paid by the foremen in these envelopes. The latter may well change the amount on the face of the envelope and deduct a part of the weekly earnings. The fact that workers were told in October to destroy their envelopes rather than carelessly dropping them, would indicate that this or some other abuse is a live possibility. Then, too, since the foreman often has the power to hire and to fire, the worker has little opportunity to prevent this possible practice.

In Durham, Negroes in a leading tobacco factory were laid off during October. This was due to the fact that the company had installed new machines subsequent to the adoption of the code. The operation of these machines had led to the over-stocking of the store-rooms with finished goods. The code had, in fact, led to a lessening of, rather than an increase in, employment.

In the light of these existing conditions, certain reforms should be initiated in the tobacco industry in order to assure the enactment of the spirit and the letter of the proposed code. Wage

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payments should be accompanied by a statement of hours of service.
Provisions should be included which would prevent the revision of
piece rates in such a way as to decrease the hourly earnings of
skilled workers. A check-off system should be established for those
occupations which are paid for by the piece. Foremen in the tobacco
factories should have their powers of hiring and firing modified so
as to give the worker more opportunity to protect his rights.

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TABLE II*

Factories and Distribution of Workers 1930

Name of Firm	Negro	White	Per Cent Negro	Per Cent White
American Tobacco Co.	2,500	600	81%	19%
Apple, J. V. & Co.		160		100%
Brown & Williams Tob. Co.	1,200	140	90%	10%
T. M. Bohannon Tob. Co.	400	20	95%	5%
Liggett & Myers Tob. Co.	2,177	723	75%	25%
Piedmont Cigar Tob. Co.	5	115	4%	96%
R. J. Reynolds Tob. Co.	9,000	3,000	75%	25%
Total	15,282	4,758	76%	24%

* Willis, op. cit., p. 43.

April 21, 1934

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

My dear Dr. Weaver:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter under date of April 20th, together with copy of your study of the Tobacco Industry in North Carolina. Receipt of copy of the study on Negro efficiency is also acknowledged.

I am indeed grateful for this tangible expression of cooperation on your part.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley,
CHIEF, DIVISION OF NEGRO LABOR

LO:LW

April 30, 1936

Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Weaver:

I am enclosing copy of letter
received from Mr. John A. Simms, Edward Waters College,
Jacksonville, Florida.

I hope you will give this mat-
ter the attention which its importance may merit.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:EWB

A. and T. College
Greensboro, North Carolina
October 28, 1934

The United States Dept. of Labor
Division of Negro Labor
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I am seeking information concerning the Negro and The NRA.
Is any study being made on that subject by your department, or
is any information readily available? If so, kindly let me know
how I may go about getting it. I shall be very grateful to you
for this service.

Very truly yours,

A. Russell Brooks
A. Russell Brooks

October 30, 1934

Mr. A. Russell Brooks
A. & T. College
Greensboro, North Carolina

My dear Mr. Brooks:

Your letter of October 28 request-
ing information concerning Negroes in the NRA has today
been referred to Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on the
Economic Status of the Negro, Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C. I understand his Department has some
facts and figures on the matter referred to in your
letter.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley,
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LW

November 6, 1934

Mr. Theodore H. Johnson
101 West 126th Street
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Johnson:

Your letter of November 1 is acknowledged.

I am indeed grateful for your kind congratulations and best wishes for my success.

In the matter of your inquiry, I would suggest that you address a letter to Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. I understand Dr. Weaver's department has some available information on the Negro under the NRA.

If there is any other material I can furnish you on the Negro in the field of labor, that is not related to the NRA, I shall be glad to have same forwarded to you.

With kind personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley,
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LW

101 W. 126St.

New York, N.Y.

Nov. 1, 1944

My dear Mr. Oxley,

I am writing to request of you any literature which might be obtained from the department of labor concerning the labor problems of the Negro under the N.R.A.

I am doing graduate work at New York University in Sociology and Economics, such material will prove very helpful in my study of labor problems. I will appreciate any material concerning that subject.

In conclusion I wish to congratulate you upon the good work you have thus far rendered in your department. I have followed ^{you} through the news papers. I am quite sure that your ability and efficiency will ~~off~~ set any criticisms directed toward you by any of ^{your} political enemies. I will assure you that you have the confidence of all who know you with the exception of those who are jealous of your success. I am quite sure that you are big enough to use them as stepping stones as you have done in the past.

I am respectfully yours,

Theodore H. Johnson

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

December 18, 1934

To: Mr. Lawrence A. Oxley
From: John P. Murchison
Subject: EDUCATIONAL AID TO THE NEGRO THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In the month of January there will be a meeting of the Inter-departmental Committee to discuss the subject, "Educational Aid to the Negro Through the Present Administration." We are attempting in our office to collect and assemble such data on this subject as are available in the various governmental departments. Consequently, we shall appreciate any assistance you can give us in this undertaking. While we want any information on the subject stated above that is available in the Department of Labor, we are especially interested in obtaining the following:

1. An outline of the educational program fostered or promoted by the Department of Labor.
2. A summary statement of the extent to which this program embraces the Negro.
3. The total expenditure to date by the Department of Labor in promoting its educational program.
4. What aid already has been received by the Negro from the Department of Labor under the "New Deal" ?

John P. Murchison

John P. Murchison,
Associate Adviser on
Negro Affairs.

December 17, 1934

Mr. Charles F. Robinson
710 Myrtle Street
Bristol, Virginia

My dear Mr. Robinson:

Replying to your letter of December 13, you might write to Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior on the Economic Status of the Negro; to Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones, Advisor on Negro Affairs to the Secretary of Commerce; and to Mr. Edgar G. Brown, Special Assistant to the Publicity Department of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. These men may be in a position to inform you of the advantages of the New Deal to the Negro. For disadvantages you may refer to the last six copies of the Crisis, the organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Arguments on both sides of the question can be found in this journal.

I trust this information will be of some value to you.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LW

14 Lefferts Place
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Dec. 8, 1934

Mr. Laurence A. Orley
Washington D.C.

My dear Mr. Orley:

Please pardon the liberty

I am taking in writing you.

I am attending Columbia University,
doing work toward the M.A. degree
in Economics placing special emphasis
in the field of labor. I am seeking
information concerning ^{the} Negro
labor under the N.R.A. and I thought
perhaps you might be in a position
to supply some material on the question,

2

Or you may be acquainted with some source or sources from which I may gather the desired knowledge. I realize that the information sought is of a general nature, but it can be limited to one or two particular codes easier once the general information is at my disposal.

I will greatly appreciate any information, statistics, advice or suggestions which you may find convenient to offer.

Respectfully,

Irving Green

710 Myrtle Street
Bristol, Virginia
December 13, 1934

Mr. Lawrence Oxley
Department of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have advised me where I might secure
information on the subject: The Advantages
and Disadvantages of The New Deal to
the American Negro.

I will appreciate a reply at your
earliest convenience.

Yours truly
Shaw F. Robinson

December 12, 1934

Mr. Irving Green
14 Lefferts Place
Brooklyn, New York

My dear Mr. Green:

Your letter of December 8, requesting information concerning the Negro worker under the NRA, is acknowledged.

I understand that Dr. Robert Weaver, Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro, U. S. Department of the Interior, has gathered some valuable information on this subject, which I am sure he will gladly send to you upon request.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LW

October 26, 1934

Mr. O. E. Saffold
Main Post Office
Montgomery, Alabama

My dear Mr. Saffold:

Your post-card of October 24, requesting printed information concerning the effect the NRA has on the Negro, is acknowledged.

I am today referring your request to the office of Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro, with the request that such information be furnished you.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley,
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LW

*File
Cleveland
Federal Housing
Project*

April 13, 1935.

The Honorable Harold H. Ickes,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I attach suggested drafts of letters to Mr. Albert Dalton of the Building Trades Council in Cleveland and to Mr. William H. Connor, Executive Secretary of the Negro Welfare Association in Cleveland. These letters cover the substance of an agreement arrived at by Mr. A. F. Hinrichs, Chief Economist of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with those men. He has further reached an agreement with each of the individual Trade Unions affected in the Cleveland area.

I interviewed personally Mr. William Carroll, Secretary of the Contractors' Association in Cleveland, who was in Washington at the time that our representative was in Cleveland. Mr. Carroll informs me that ~~my~~ agreement reached with the unions will be satisfactory to the contractors of Cleveland.

Certain points connected with this Cleveland agreement should be specifically noted:

1. Mr. Hinrichs became convinced that the Census percentages of 21.5% for negro carpenters and cement finishers was unreasonably high and reached an agreement with the business agents of the two unions affected that negro employment should be at least 10% in the case of carpenters and 15% in the case of cement finishers. Agreement is not possible on the basis of higher percentages and the Department of Labor would regard it as unreasonable to attempt to urge a higher standard than the percentages agreed upon.

2. The agreement was negotiated upon the assumption that there was qualified negro mechanics in each of the occupations provided for. In certain of the occupations, notably in the case of electricians and structural iron workers and painters in the case of painters, it was more desirable to secure adequately qualified mechanics. Mr. Hinrichs assured the labor representatives that the clause covering negro employment in the contract would not be applied to any occupation in which this will be detrimental to the welfare of the unions remain unemployed.

2.

3. Mr. Lincoln has suggested to Mr. William Conway of the Negro Tailors Association that he cooperate closely even though informally with the Building Trades Union, with the contractors and with the Public Works Administration to secure that only competent negro mechanics are referred to the job. This point is one in which the Department of Labor has a vital interest. We must be distinctly embarrassed by our part in the negotiations if provision is not made in the Public Works Administration for the careful selection of negro mechanics, even though the procedure may have to take the form of informal and unofficial action.

Cordially yours,

Isador Rubin,
Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

Mr. William T. Connors, Executive Secretary,
Negro Welfare Association,
2034 N. 40th Street,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Connors:

Mr. A. F. Haricks, Chief Economist of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, has informed me of his recent conference with you relative to the employment of negro labor on the Public Works Administration housing projects in Cleveland.

It is my understanding that you accept as equitable an arrangement whereby the distribution of employment will give negroes 25 percent of the payroll for unskilled labor and 4.0 percent of the payroll for skilled labor. The jobs on this project are to be so distributed that the percentage of negroes employed in each skilled craft shall equal the ratio that the number of negro skilled workers in each craft bore to the total number of workers in that craft in the City of Cleveland as shown by the Census of 1930. These percentages are shown in the following table.

LABOR IN CLEVELAND BUILDING TRADES

<u>Skilled</u>	<u>% Negro</u>
Brick and Stone Masons, and Tile Layers	3.0
Carpenters	0.5
Electricians	1.0
Stationary Engineers	2.3
Painters, Glaziers and Varnishers	0.0
Plumbers, Gas and Steam Fitters	3.0
Paper Hangers	11.5
Plasterers	10.0
Cement Finishers	15.0
Roofers and Slaters	4.2
Structural Iron workers	3.0

2.

I have been further informed by Mr. Harison that in order to make possible the employment of the proper number of negroes in each craft it will be arranged, wherever necessary, to secure work orders for unaffiliated negro workers, from those locals which do not have a sufficient number of negroes in their membership.

I shall appreciate your acknowledging this letter and confirming my understanding of the facts.

Sincerely yours,

Administrator.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

C O P Y

March 28, 1935.

Mr. Claude A. Barnett,
Associated Negro Press,
3501 South Parkway,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Barnett:

I have just read your ANP article on Public Works housing, and I think it is an accurate account of the situation. There is one point, however, that I should like to draw to your attention. Although the writing of the condition specifying the use of a percentage of Negro workmen comparable to the population ratio has been included in the contract as a result of the Public Works Administration's activities, further negotiations to assure the smooth operation of these provisions are being carried on by the Department of Labor. I think that care should be taken to credit the latter Department for its activities in this direction.

I might further call to your attention the fact that the percentage of Negro workmen is not on the basis of population figures, but on the basis of occupational figures. I think that you understand this situation, but I fear that a casual reader might be misled by your phraseology.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Robert C. Weaver

Robert C. Weaver

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

March 28, 1935.

Memorandum to Lieut. Lawrence A. Oxley:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have
sent to Mr. Barnett which may be of
interest to you.


Robert C. Weaver

Enclosure

Office Of
The Secretary of the Interior

March 28, 1935.

Memorandum to Lieut. Lawrence A. Oxley:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have sent to Mr.
Barnett which may be of interest to you.

(Signed)
Robert C. Weaver

Enclosure

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary

Washington

COPY

March 28, 1935

Mr. Claude A. Barnett,
Associated Negro Press,
3501 South Parkway,
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Mr. Barnett:

I have just read your ANP article on Public Works housing, and I think it is an accurate account of the situation. There is one point, however, that I should like to draw to your attention. Although the writing of the condition specifying the use of a percentage of Negro workmen comparable to the population ratio has been included in the contract as a result of the Public Works Administration's activities, further negotiations to assure the smooth operation of these provisions are being carried on by the Department of Labor. I think that care should be taken to credit the latter Department for its activities in this direction.

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Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Robert C. Weaver

Robert C. Weaver

May 2, 1935

Mr. Benjamin Boozer
1227 Heidt St.
Columbia, S. C.

My dear Mr. Boozer:

In the absence of Lieutenant Oxley
I am acknowledging receipt of your letter of recent date.

I shall call this matter to the
attention of Lieutenant Oxley immediately upon his re-
turn to the city.

Very truly yours,

Secretary to Lieutenant Oxley

May 20, 1935

Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on Economic Status of the Negro
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Weaver:

Enclosed please find copy of letter
received from Mr. Benjamin Booser of Columbia, South
Carolina. I am informing Mr. Booser of this reference.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LW

May 17, 1935

Mr. Benjamin Booser
1227 Heidt Street
Columbia, S. C.

My dear Mr. Booser:

Upon my return to the office from
an extended field trip I find your letter of May 1 on my
desk.

I am today referring this matter
to Dr. Robert G. Weaver and am sure that his office will
give it the consideration which it may merit.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LW

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON



Mr. Murchison
Notes report
from Murchison
file for my

September 13, 1935.

Mr. Lawrence A. Oxley, ✓
Chief, Division of Negro Labor,
United States Department of Labor,
Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Washington, District of Columbia.

My dear Mr. Oxley: I thank you for your letter of
September 10 and the enclosures.
I am enclosing a quotation from the report of Mr. Murchi-
son, who has been in the field and who has dealt directly
with the situation referred to in the correspondence
addressed to President Roosevelt by Mrs. Ford.

I might call to your attention
the fact that recently there has been some difficulty
with the local carpenters' union; but we are hopeful
that it may be straightened out. In any event, it is a
matter of detail which, though important in itself, is
not the matter referred to in the article Mrs. Ford
enclosed in her recent letter.

I trust this information will
be satisfactory, and I will be glad to furnish you with
any other material that you desire.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Weaver
Robert C. Weaver,
Adviser on Negro Affairs

Enclosure

The Recorder

LABOR UNIONS HANDED CONTROL OF FEDERAL JOBS

Policy of Unions in Not Ad-
mitting Colored Workers
Dims Hope of Em-
ployment

MANY JOBS INVOLVED

Under Hopkins Ruling Not
More Than Few To Get
Jobs on Huge Hous-
ing Project

Hopes of colored workers for employment as skilled and even unskilled laborers on the federal government's \$3,000,000 low cost housing project for colored people were forced back into the mire of extreme uncertainty last week by a ruling of Harry L. Hopkins that union labor may be employed exclusively on all work relief projects carried out under contract.

The order issued by the Works Progress administrator is applicable to both skilled and unskilled labor and in effect returns all heavy construction—including slum clearance, non-federal PWA, rivers and harbor projects—to the status under the old PWA program.

It provided that contractors who so desire might recruit both skilled and unskilled labor from union rolls instead of from the United States employment service, as formerly specified. Preference must be given union men on relief, the order states, and the contractor may go to the employment service if the local labor unions cannot supply sufficient workmen within forty-eight hours after he presents a request.

Employs Union Labor Only.

The local project being constructed by the government on the site opposite the City hospital is in charge of the N. P. Severin company, Chicago, general contractors. R. M. Curtis, representative of the Severin company and in charge of the work here, said his company employed only union labor and would follow that policy in construction of the slum clearance project here. Agreement of his company with government officials, he said, called for the employment of a certain percentage of colored workers, both skilled and unskilled, provided they were union members. Under the new ruling by Hopkins, no colored workers would be employed unless they were members of labor unions, he said.

In view of the fact that with the exception of the hod carriers and cement finishers unions no colored workers are admitted to union membership, the conclusion is easily reached that colored workers will be generally barred from employment on the huge project. The large investment of the government and a smaller one by local citizens are expected to be repaid from rentals paid by colored tenants who will occupy the buildings.

A consistent effort has been made by local colored leaders to insure the employment of colored workers on the project. Overtures were

Employs Union Labor Only

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In view of the fact that with the exception of the hod carriers and cement finishers unions no colored workers are admitted to union membership, the conclusion is easily reached that colored workers will be generally barred from employment on the huge project. The large investment of the government and a smaller one by local citizens are expected to be repaid from rentals paid by colored tenants who will occupy the buildings.

A consistent effort has been made by local colored leaders to insure the employment of colored workers on the project. Overtures were made to union labor heads to admit colored workers in all unions, but so far the doors have remained tightly closed against their entrance. A tentative agreement was reached, however, under the old PWA set-up headed by Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior then in control whereby special permits would be issued by the unions to colored workers in order that they might be employed in the various crafts up to certain percentages. These figures were based on the ratio of the number of colored workers in each craft enumerated in the 1930 census to the total number of such workers, in Marion county.

Mr. Curtis said the agreement as to the number of colored workers would be adhered to provided they were union members. Heads of the local unions have made no statement recently as to whether they would admit colored men as members, but in view of their past attitude, it is hardly probable the bars will be let down now, when so many white workers are idle.

A total of more than 2,000 workers will be employed on the project during its construction. With union labor in control of employment, it is considered obvious that very few colored workers will find opportunities for gainful, lucrative employment.

COPY

Indianapolis, Indiana

August 26, 1935.

President Roosevelt:-

I am sending you a clipping out the "Recorder". I just read and I would like for you to read this article and see how the Negroes are being treated. There is a good many on relief that need work. The project opposite the City Hospital are to house colored families. I really think the Negro men should have a chance to work on the project as much as the white men. As they are American citizens just like the white men. I hope you will consider this letter.

Respectfully,

(Negro)

Mrs. Fred Ford
1664 Columbia Avenue

To Oxley

September 10, 1935

*Call to Weaver
10/10*

Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Weaver:

I am enclosing file on the case
about which I talked to you yesterday.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

*also
attached, 10/10*

LO:LW
Encl.

September 10, 1935

Mrs. Fred Ford
1664 Columbia Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Ford:

Your letter of August 26 addressed to the President of the United States, with regard to alleged discrimination against Negroes on the Federal Government's low cost housing project, has been referred to this Bureau for consideration. This matter will receive the consideration which its importance deserves.

Thank you for your letter.

Very truly yours,

Isador Lubin
Commissioner of Labor Statistics

LO:LW

September 10, 1935

Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Weaver:

I am enclosing file on the case
about which I talked to you yesterday.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LW
Encl.

Original

O. H. H. H.

September 17, 1935.

Mr. Robert Weaver,
Special Advisor,
Office of the Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Weaver:

This letter confirms our conversations today with reference to negotiations on P. W. A. housing in Atlantic City and Nashville. I am not in a position to advise that negotiations in Nashville are unnecessary. However, I feel that the negotiations would meet with substantial difficulties in view of the high percentages and in view of the fact that we know the limitations of the Census occupation definitions. Specifically in the case of the bricklayers we know that there is no color bar as negroes have for long been been members of the Union. Negro membership has declined very greatly since 1923, however, and the attempt to place 64% of the brick work with negroes I should expect to meet with the most strenuous resistance. Therefore it will be quite satisfactory to the Department of Labor if negotiations are made with reference to an overall percentage for skilled workers.

We are prepared to undertake the necessary negotiations in Atlantic City and to complete arrangements by October 5th. I feel that it will be most satisfactory from your point of view and from our point of view to have the preliminary negotiations carried on by representatives of organized labor who will be in Atlantic City from September 30 onward. I understand that you have been informed by people in the Housing Division that the October 5th deadline will be satisfactory.

Very sincerely yours,

A. F. Hinrichs,
Chief Economist.

October 14, 1935

Mr. C. A. Franklin, Editor
The Call
Kansas City, Missouri

My dear Mr. Franklin:

Your letter of October 8 has
my attention.

The matter to which you refer
comes within the direct responsibility of the Department
of the Interior and I am today taking it up with Dr. Robert
C. Weaver, Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro, U. S.
Department of the Interior. I am sure Dr. Weaver will be
glad to advise you relative to your proposed housing project.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LWB

October 14, 1935

Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Weaver:

I am enclosing copy of letter from
Mr. C. A. Franklin, Editor, The Kansas City Call, for
such consideration as you may be able to give it.

Very truly yours,

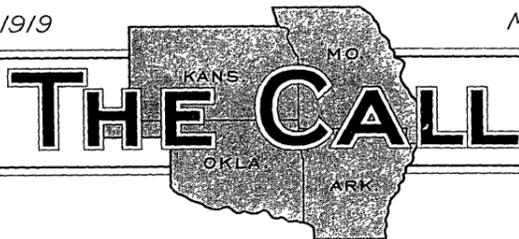
Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

Encl.
LO:LNB

Established 1919

Member A. B. C.

SERVING THE
940,845 NEGROES
IN THE
SOUTHWEST



PRINCIPAL OFFICES
KANSAS CITY, MO.
KANSAS CITY, KANS.
TULSA, OKLA.
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

October 8, 1935

Mr. Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor
U. S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Oxley:

Thanks for your reply to my letter on Negro housing in
Kansas City.

My problem is the method by which such a project can be
set on foot now that the city as a whole has decided against federal
low cost housing. It came to that decision because there were
plenty of houses for whites. Real estate men represented to the
city authorities that federal housing meant an increase in this va-
cancy and was therefore undesirable.

But the same real estate men admit that the area in which
Negroes are permitted to live in peace has no suitable dwellings.
But the tail went with the hide.

Now I am faced with the problem of how to initiate a pro-
ject which the Federal housing department will accept. If it will
state the conditions I think I can comply. The old set required a
city wide sponsoring committee. Naturally that was white with a
single Negro member. It is its projects which have been abandoned.
Ask the housing department how my all Negro project can be made to
comply with their regulations.

I am sorry to give you this task because I know you are
busy.

Trusting you are well, I am

/es

Yours,

C. A. Franklin
C. A. Franklin, Editor

THE CALL

1227 Heidt St.
Columbia, S.C.

Mr. Lawrence L. Opley:
Chief Division of Negro Labor
Dear Sir:

I am writing you this letter asking that you please investigate the school job at Rock Hill, S.C. This is a P. F. A. job, and they are working white men out of North Carolina, and refuse to give our colored bricklayers from South Carolina a part of the work that's due them.

Colored bricklayers have applied from the National employment office of this city and they said that they were only working white. And I was informed that these white men are of D.C. We would like to get some of our men on this job as there

are a lot of colored bricklayers in
South Carolina without employment.
We will await an early reply.

Respectfully Yours
Benjamin Boyer

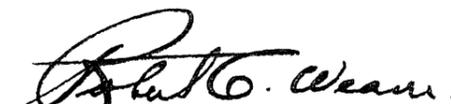
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1936

Memorandum for Lieutenant Lawrence A. Oxley:

The Public Works Administration has conducted, recently, an investigation of alleged discrimination against Negro labor on PWA projects in Savannah, Georgia. According to the material assembled in the report, few specific facts have been presented to the investigators. Mr. Benjamin Hubert declares that he does not have specific facts and cases, but that he has been reliably informed on several occasions that colored workers have not been certified by the CWA, FERA, and the early set-up of the WPA organization in Savannah. He also complains that the closed-shop agreement on PWA jobs will limit the number of skilled Negroes employed on these projects. Mr. John W. Hubert, Principal of Cuyler High School, testifies in the same vein as does Mr. Benjamin Hubert; namely, that the use of union labor will limit the number of skilled Negroes employed on the projects.

The problem of the employment of Negro labor on PWA projects in Savannah seems to be one of getting referrals for colored workers to PWA projects in that city. With the trend toward unionization of labor on projects, the problem becomes one of the relation between the unions and Negro labor. In this situation it seems to me that there is little that the Public Works Administration can do directly, and that there is still something that can be done by the Department of Labor in dealing with the local unions in Savannah.


Robert C. Weaver,
Adviser on Negro Affairs

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

Jefferson City, Missouri

Office of the President

April 8, 1936

Lieut. Lawrence Oxley
Division of Labor
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lieut. Oxley

I am herewith enclosing correspondence which is self-explanatory.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Charles W. Florence
President

CWF:a
Encl.

*Correspondence mentioned
referred to Mr. P. H. E.
W. S. Dept. of the Interior*

April 28, 1936

Dr. Charles M. Florence, President
Lincoln University
Jefferson City, Missouri

My dear Dr. Florence:

Your letter of April 8 enclosing correspondence between your office and PWA officials in Missouri was received in the office while I was in Florida on an extended two-weeks field trip; hence the delay in sending acknowledgment.

I am today taking this matter up personally with Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro, U. S. Department of the Interior, as I feel this is a matter that should have the attention of his office. I trust that we may be able to help you with this problem.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LWB

April 28, 1936

Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Weaver:

Enclosed find correspondence
received during my absence from President Charles W.
Florence, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri.

I am sure that this is a
matter that you would like to have brought to your at-
tention. I am submitting it, therefore, for such
action as you may deem expedient.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

Encl.
LO:LWB

COPY

1145 Davis Street,
Jacksonville, Florida
April 28, 1936

To Lieutenant Oxley
Labor Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,-

I am writing to express my desire to make application to your department for a position with the Federal Housing Administration in Florida of which you are the National Head for colored.

I have had a professional education in Chemistry and Pharmacy, have had 20 years of business experience in Retail Pharmacy and Real Estate, having been a Broker at one time, and am now Treasurer of The College Park Realty Company of St. Augustine, owners of a large holding there.

Can furnish good references from City Manager Tax Collector, Realtors, Business men, Bishops of the Country, and some of the leading Educators.

Please advise me the proper approach to this matter and for whatever help you may be able to give, I shall thank you and greatly appreciate.

Awaiting most earnestly, for your reply

I am yours very truly,

(Signed)
R. E. Smith

April 28, 1936

Dr. Howard D. Gregg,
Dean of Education
Wilberforce University
Wilberforce, Ohio

My dear Dr. Gregg:

Your letter of April 24 has
my attention.

For information relative to
qualifications and appointment of housing managers of
Federal properties, I would suggest that you address a
letter to Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on the Economic
Status of the Negro, U. S. Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

For your information I would
state that the PWA Housing Program is a responsibility
of the Department of the Interior. I am sure Dr.
Weaver will be glad to send you full and complete in-
formation on future schools that may be held for housing
managers.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Orley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:MSB

April 30, 1936

Mr. John A. Simms
Edward Waters College
Jacksonville, Florida

My dear Mr. Simms:

Your letter of April 23 requesting information relative to the position of housing manager of the Durkee Ville Low Cost Housing project, Jacksonville, Florida, has my attention.

I am today referring your letter to Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro, U. S. Department of the Interior, who I am sure will be glad to send you full information relative to future housing management training schools under the auspices of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LWB

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED AS LINCOLN INSTITUTE 1866
BY THE 62ND AND 65TH UNITED STATES COLORED INFANTRY
AND SUPPORTED BY THE STATE OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 1, 1936

Lieut. Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor
U. S. Department of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lieut. Oxley:

The labor problem mentioned in previous correspondence is now under investigation. Two men from the Bureau of Investigations have visited Jefferson City.

As stated in my letter, I feel that any investigation of this nature should include all of the P. W.A. projects in the district or the state and not merely the practice on one job.

Since the complaint was made there has been a more liberal and satisfactory attitude shown toward Colored labor on the Lincoln University project.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Florence
Charles W. Florence
P R E S I D E N T

CWF:a

May 2, 1936

Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Weaver:

I am enclosing copy of letter received from Mr. N. E. Smith, 1145 Davis Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

I hope you will give this matter the attention which its importance may merit.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LOALAE

May 2, 1936

Mr. R. E. Smith
1145 Davis Street
Jacksonville, Florida

My dear Mr. Smith:

Your letter of April 25 requesting information relative to the position of housing manager of the Darkseville Low Cost Housing project, Jacksonville, Florida, has my attention.

I am today referring your letter to Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro, U. S. Department of the Interior, who I am sure will be glad to send you full information relative to future housing management training schools under the auspices of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LSB

May 8, 1936

Mr. J. G. Sams
Negro Welfare League
704 Broad Street
Jacksonville, Florida

My dear Mr. Sams:

Your letter of recent date has
my attention.

For information relative to the
Federal Housing project in Jacksonville I would suggest
that you address a letter to Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro, U. S. De-
partment of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:INE

May 7, 1936

Rev. John E. Culmer, Secretary
Greater Miami Negro Civic League
1025 North West Second Avenue
Miami, Florida

My dear Rev. Culmer:

Your letter of May 4 relating to matters of vital interest to our group in Miami is acknowledged.

In regard to the several matters relating to the Federal Housing Project in Miami and the employment of skilled Negro labor and policy regarding management of the project when completed, I am today forwarding copy of your letter to Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro to the Secretary of the Interior.

I am also taking up the matter of the Negro employment problems in Miami with Mr. Walter Burr, Associate Director for National Reemployment Service, U. S. Department of Labor.

I wish to assure you that these several conditions complained of will receive the attention which their importance merits.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

103:148

May 7, 1936

Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on the Economic Status of the Negro
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Weaver:

Enclosed please find copy of
letter received from the Greater Miami Negro Civic
League. I trust that you may be able to do some-
thing to help these people.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

7

ENCLOSURE

August 5, 1936

Mr. Oscar J. Edwards
360 N. W. Eighth Street
Miami, Florida

My dear Mr. Edwards:

In reply to your letter of July 10 I would refer you to the office of Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on Negro Affairs, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. I am sure Dr. Weaver will give your letter the attention which its importance merits.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LEW

August 5, 1936

Mr. William Thomas
2305 East 63rd Street
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Thomas:

Your letter of July 25 has
my attention, also your several enclosures.

I note particularly your
difficulty in securing assignment to one of the Federal
Housing projects in Cleveland and am of the opinion that
this is a matter which comes within the purview of the
Labor Relations Board in the Department of the Interior.
I would suggest, therefore, that you address a letter
to Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on Negro Affairs, U. S.
Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., who I am
sure will prove helpful in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:WE

Oxley

August 12, 1936

Mr. T. J. Gray
1803 Marmora Avenue
Atlantic City, N. J.

Dear Mr. Gray:

I am referring your letter of August 8 addressed to Mr. Oxley to Dr. John A. Lapp of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works.

The administration of agreements with reference to the employment of skilled Negro workers on housing projects is in their hands. I trust that they will bring about satisfactory adjustments in Atlantic City.

Very truly yours,

Isador Lubin
Commissioner of Labor Statistics

AFH:IKB
Chief Econ.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION
OF PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Refer to file:
Fla. 0101-C PW

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

Docket B-4602 (HRA) Fla.
Liberty Square Housing
Inspection: 7-25-48

Memorandum to DR. ROBERT C. HEAVE:

We refer to your memorandum of September 24 relative to the availability of skilled negro mechanics in certain trades at Miami, Florida.

Attached hereto you will find copy of letter dated September 30 from S. Bobo Dean, Manager, Florida State Employment Service to Project Engineer T. E. Landvoigt, and copy of letter dated September 30 from Project Engineer Landvoigt to this office.

The attached letters are self-explanatory, and inasmuch as negro mechanics are not applying to the Florida State Employment Service for referral to the Liberty Square Housing Project, it is our opinion that the contractor has not discriminated against negro labor.

Please advise if you desire this Division to take further action in this case.

J. E. McGuinness,
Acting Director, Inspection Division.

Attachments.

CC: Division of Investigations
Housing Division
Mr. T. E. Landvoigt,
Project Engineer, FWA.

September 30, 1936

Mr. F. M. Landvoigt
P. O. Box 711
Miami, Florida

Dear Mr. Landvoigt:

Complying with your request you are advised that you have in our active files approximately thirty negro carpenters who, so far as we know, are available for work. We also have a few painters and plasterers.

Since the strike condition involving carpenters on the Negro Housing Project, and the advertisement in the daily newspapers for men by the Walter Butler Company, we have had no negro mechanics apply to us for referral to the Negro Housing Project.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W. Robb Dean

W. Robb Dean, Manager
Florida State Employment Service
29

1401 N. W. 62nd Street
Miami, Florida.

September 30, 1936.

Boxet H-1602
Liberty Square.
INSPECTION: TEL. 8.

Mr. J. S. Gholston
Director, Inspection Division
F. E. A. of Public Works
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In reference to that portion of your telegram, dated September 28, in which you state that "SOMETHING MUST BE DONE IMMEDIATELY TO RAISE RATIO OF NEGRO SKILLED LABOR", there is enclosed herewith letter, dated September 30, from S. Robo Dean, Manager, Florida State Employment Service.

From this letter it will be evident to you as to why it is impossible for the General Contractor to obtain negro skilled labor for work on this Project.

Very truly yours,

T. E. Landvoigt
Project Engineer.

Enclosure (1)

July 27, 1936

Mr. Alfred E. Smith,
Administrative Assistant
Works Progress Administration
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Smith:

Please find copy of letter received from Mr. W. B. Barnett, Secretary of the Painters, Paperhangers, and Decorators Association, 518 Auburn Avenue, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, together with copy of my reply.

I trust that you will be able to render some help to this group.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LWB

July 27, 1936

Mr. W. B. Barnett, Secretary
Painters', Paperhangers', and Decorators' Association
518 Auburn Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

My dear Mr. Barnett:

On my return from an extended field trip I find your letter of July 14 on my desk and hasten to send acknowledgment.

I note your complaints relative to the alleged exclusion of Negro painters from WPA and PWA jobs in Atlanta. I am today taking this matter up with the office of Alfred E. Smith, Administrative Assistant, Works Progress Administration, and Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Advisor on Negro Affairs, U. S. Department of the Interior. Both of these gentlemen have direct responsibility in WPA and PWA projects where Negro workers are concerned. I am sure you will find each of them helpful.

With reference to that part of your letter which refers to the action and methods practiced by the House Painters' local, I would state that this matter will be brought to the attention of the proper authorities who I am sure will give the problem the attention which its importance merits.

I plan to be in Atlanta July 29, 30, and 31 attending the sessions of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools. You can contact me at Atlanta University where I shall be glad to see you and talk over this matter in person.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LWB

Mr. Oxley

August 13, 1936

Dr. Robert C. Weaver
Adviser on Negro Affairs
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Weaver:

On March 6 you requested us to investigate the situation of painters in Atlanta. Mr. Tolles worked with Mr. Carmalt of the PWA. We thought that a satisfactory adjustment had been worked out.

The understanding which was arrived at has been impossible of execution because of an extension of the number of hours to be worked in Atlanta. This means a substantial decrease in the number of painters who will be employed on the project.

It is not practicable under these conditions to attempt to introduce Negro workers who are not now members of the union with a still further reduction of employment for union men now on the job.

Very truly yours,

A. F. Harries
Chief Economist

AFH:IKS

DATE
DEC 21 1934
Dept. of Labor
Washington, D. C.
Division of Employment
Mr. S. P. Lawrence
Mr. Lawrence

5. When you register as a skilled mechanic with a recommendation of good standing, they take good precaution to have you sent to the ditch or other common labor.
6. When a person is sent on a job, he is given old worn tools to work with. The scaffolds are too high or too short and the paint is not made right. They assign him more than he can do in one hour, then curse the colored painter out and run him off the job within an hour after he is hired.

We want to know directly from you how we may get something to do in the New Relief Setup. How may we eliminate the evils of the past?

Thanking you for any consideration you may give,

Respectfully yours

PAINTERS, PAPERHANGERS AND
DECORATORS' ASSOCIATION

(Signed)
W. B. Barnett, Secretary

(Signed)
H. A. Sayles, Business Manager
and Field Agent

HAS/L

October 2, 1936

Dr. Charles A. J. McPherson
1630 - Fourth Avenue
North Birmingham, Alabama

My dear Dr. McPherson:

On my return to the city to-
day I find your letter of September 22 on my desk and hasten
to send this acknowledgment.

You may be assured that I
shall be glad to do what I can to further the best interests
of our group in Birmingham in the matter of adequate housing
facilities. I shall contact Dr. Weaver today to see what
steps we can take that will prove helpful.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LWB

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

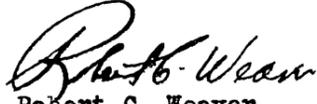
October 8, 1936

Mr. Lawrence A. Oxley,
Chief, Division of Negro Labor,
U. S. Department of Labor,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Oxley:

I am referring the attached copies of
correspondence concerning the employment of skilled,
Negro labor on the Liberty Square Housing Project in
Miami, Florida, to your attention for any advice or
action possible.

Sincerely yours,


Robert C. Weaver,
Adviser on Negro Affairs

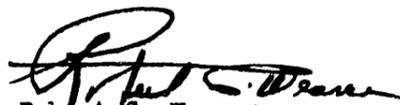
Attachments

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1936

MEMORANDUM for Lieut. Lawrence A. Oxley:

Transmitting: Copy of a letter from
Dr. John W. Chenault of
Tuskegee Institute. The communication
has been acknowledged, and Dr. Chenault
advised that this letter was being called
to your attention; also, that our office
will cooperate in any way possible.


Robert C. Weaver,
Adviser on Negro Affairs

Attachment

TUSKEGEE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

C O P Y

etc.

Office of the Medical Director

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

October 22, 1936

Mr. Robert C. Weaver
Advisor on Negro Affairs to the
Secretary of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Weaver:

I have noted with considerable interest the recent newspaper accounts of the Warm Springs Foundation policy with regard to Negro crippled children.

Since the Negro press is greatly agitated about this matter and much publicity of a nature unfavorable to the present administration has been raised, I feel that you may be interested to know that we are attempting to organize an efficient and complete crippled children's hospital at Tuskegee Institute. It is hoped that this work will receive the approval and support of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor.

During my recent visit to Washington, I had the pleasure of meeting you and I believe at that time probably mentioned my hopes for some type of crippled children's hospital for Negroes. Any assistance that you may be able to grant us in the accomplishment of this work will, I am sure, be of mutual benefit to us at Tuskegee and the present administration.

I shall be pleased to furnish you with any further information about this project if you feel that it is of interest, and Mrs. Chenault will personally be able to discuss it with you.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) John W. Chenault

John W. Chenault, M. D.

JWC/f

C
O
P
Y

9214 First Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
October 13, 1936

Mr. J. Arthur Weiseger
Division of Research Negro Labor
Dept. of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We, the Organized Emergency Protective Union of Louisiana, we want information concerning the Federal Government Laws concerning the wages of the P.W.A. and W.P.A. the highest amount paid to colored labor.

We would like information about having a labor Negro (bureau) down South here because they are doing labor class of work on the W.P.A. project, just as they want. We have organized to that effect and has did lot of work and it has been accomplished. Do we need a charter? We sponsor this under churches heading "information." Please, the Negro are starving to death, dying for the want of food, clothing, and the wages are so low until their salary is \$22.50 a month and it is three weeks before they get a penny. I am expecting to wire the President soon, a change don't be made and made soon. They have promised the labor 47¢ an hour. They give only 35¢ and 40¢ which their money should be \$52.50 per a month, should be paid 1st and 15th. They are even thrown out people in the street for rent, the Government promised to take care of needed people.

Please give me some kind of answer right away because we are in need and are not being treated just. People are losing their mind from being hungry.

ORGANIZED EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE UNION
OF LOUISIANA

(Mrs.) E. B. Wilkins, President
Emily Moore, Vice President
A. Francis, Secretary.

New Orleans, Louisiana

October 18, 1936

Mr. J. Arthur Weisyer
Division of Research Negro Labor,
Dept. of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Mr. J. Arthur Weisyer,

Dear Sir, We the Organized Emergency
Protective Union of Louisiana we went in Washington
Consul. of The Federal Government, Lawer, Conser
The wages of the P. W. A. and P. W. A. The highest
Amount, paid to Colored Labor,

We would like infor marking about,
having a labor, Negro (bureau) down South
here because they are doing labor class of
workers in the W. P. A. projects, just as the
Went to we have organized to that effect and
has did lot of work and its has been accomplish
do we need a Charter? We spencer this under
Churchs heading infor marking "please
The Negro are starving to death dying

Out for the want of food clothing and the
wages so low intell, their Savings is \$38.50, a
month and its is three week before they get a
penny pay. Expecting to wire the President
soon a change dont be made and made
soon they have present the Labor 47¢
an hour they only give them 35¢ and 40¢
which their money should be 52.50. a per.
month, should be paid 1st and 15th they are
even thrown out people in shut for rent
the Government present to take care of
needed people.

please give me some kind of
assured right away. because we are in
need and we cant be treat just "people
are lose their mind from being hungry.

Organized Emergency Protective Union of
Louisiana

E. B. Wilkins

President

Emerald Mae Vice Pres.

Alitha Florin Secretary

C
O
P
Y

9214 First Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
October 13, 1936

Mr. J. Arthur Weiseger
Division of Research Negro Labor
Dept. of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We, the Organized Emergency Protective Union of Louisiana, we want information concerning the Federal Government Laws concerning the wages of the P.W.A. and W.P.A. the highest amount paid to colored labor.

We would like information about having a labor Negro (bureau) down South here because they are doing labor class of work on the W.P.A. project, just as they want. We have organized to that effect and has did lot of work and it has been accomplished. Do we need a charter? We sponsor this under churches heading "information." Please, the Negro are starving to death, dying for the want of food, clothing, and the wages are so low until their salary is \$28.50 a month and it is three weeks before they get a penny. I am expecting to wire the President soon, a change don't be made and made soon. They have promised the labor 47¢ an hour. They give only 35¢ and 40¢ which their money should be \$52.50 per a month, should be paid 1st and 15th. They are even thrown out people in the street for rent, the Government promised to take care of needed people.

Please give us some kind of answer right away because we are in need and are not being treated just. People are losing their mind from being hungry.

ORGANIZED EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE UNION
OF LOUISIANA

(Mrs.) E. B. Wilkins, President
Emily Moore, Vice President
A. Francis, Secretary.

The Houston Engineers Assn.,
State College,
Orangeburg, S. C.
December 4, 1936

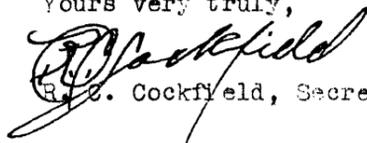
Lieut. Lawrence Oxley,
Advisor of Negro Affairs,
Office of Department of Labor,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lieut. Oxley:

Mr. P. V. Jewell has suggested that the department of Interior may have available some film showing the construction of some of the famous technical contributions of the present Administration such as Boulder Dam, the Norris Dam, the Grand Coulee Dam, which could serve in an Educational capacity at the college here.

If such film or film slides are available we would be interested in knowing the proper procedure for acquiring them as a loan. Mr. Jewell feels that you are best equipped to give us this information and render us this deed.

Yours very truly,


R. S. Cockfield, Secretary

December 10, 1936

Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on Negro Affairs
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Weaver:

I am enclosing copy of letter from
Mr. P. V. Jewell for your attention and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LSB

January 16, 1937

Mr. John R. James
12905 Farringdon Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. James:

Your letter of December 29, addressed to the President of the United States, has been referred to this Bureau for reply.

I am bringing your problem to the attention of Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Adviser on Negro Affairs of the Department of the Interior, who deals with Negro problems arising on P.W.A. projects. This Bureau was asked to negotiate the agreement to which you refer, but enforcement of such agreements rests with the Public Works Administration.

I am sure that Dr. Weaver will be **everything** possible to aid you.

Very truly yours,

Isador Lubin
Commissioner of Labor Statistics

AFH:IKB
Chief Econ.
CC - Dr. Weaver
CC - Lt. Oxley

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

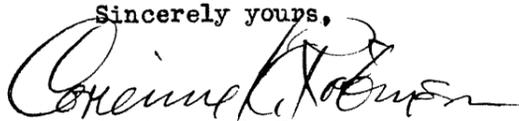
June 11, 1937

Mr. Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor
U. S. Department of Labor
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Oxley:

In the absence of Dr. Weaver from the city, I wish to
thank you for your letter of June 9 and the enclosure.
I am sure Dr. Weaver will be most grateful to you for
your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Corienne K. Robinson,
Secretary to
Robert C. Weaver

June 9, 1937

Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Advisor on Negro Affairs
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Weaver:

Your letter of May 24, in which you request an outline of the activities of the Division of Negro Labor, U. S. Department of Labor, as they relate to the subject, "The Negro in the New Deal", has been brought to my attention.

I am happy to enclose a prepared statement and trust that it may answer your purpose.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor

LO:LB

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

May 24, 1937

Mr. Lawrence A. Oxley
Chief, Division of Negro Labor
Department of Labor
Washington, District of Columbia

My dear Mr. Oxley:

I have been asked to speak at the mass meeting at the Annual Conference of the NAACP relative to the Negro and the New Deal. In order that my remarks may be as complete as possible I would appreciate your sending me an outline of the activities of your division of the Department of Labor as they relate to this subject. Of course, the sooner I can receive this material the easier it will be for me to correlate it with the other data available and present it in its proper setting.

I wish to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Robert C. Weaver,
Adviser on Negro Affairs