

# URBAN LEAGUE HEAD MAKES LOCAL SURVEY

## Ira DeA. Reid, Director Research and Investigation Department, Seeking Important Data On Social and Economic Conditions.

NEW YORK CITY, Oct. 17.—When Charles S. Johnson left the National Urban League to take up work at Fisk University, he was succeeded in the Department of Research and Investigation by Ira DeA. Reid, a young man who had during the past three years been industrial secretary of the New York Urban League, and more recently Mr. Johnson's assistant as research secretary for the National Interracial Commission.

Three important surveys have been made since Mr. Reid became director of the Department of Research and Investigations last October 15th. They are a Survey of the Negro Population of Albany, N. Y., a survey of the Negro Population of Worcester, Mass., and a survey of the economic and social status of the Negro population of Denver, Colo. Mr. Reid himself conducted the Albany and Denver surveys, but the Worcester survey was made under his direction by R. Maurice Moss of the Baltimore Urban League and Joseph S. Jackson, an Urban League fellow at the New York School of Social Work. A survey of the Pittsburgh "Hill" district is now in process of completion, which was made personally by Mr. Reid.

The Department of Research and Investigations of the Urban League is seeking to build up a body of practical and current literature on the Negro's social and economic problems. The surveys are used as a basis for organized social procedure in the communities in which they are made. The league, however, never voluntarily makes a survey. It is always requested. In the case of Albany, N. Y., which has a Negro population of 2,000, the Interracial Commission of Albany, of which H. P. Winchester, white, is secretary made the request. Mr. Winchester is treasurer of the J. B. Lyon Co., a large printing firm. At Worcester the Interracial commission made the request. Dr. Dudley Williard, white, is secretary of the commission. He is professor of sociology at Clark University. Worcester has a Negro population of 1,200. In the case of Denver the Interracial Commission made the request. W. W. Grant, a prominent colored lawyer of Denver, is chairman of the commission, and Fritz Cansler, executive secretary of the local Y. M. C. A., is secretary of the commission. (1) At Pittsburgh the request for a survey came from the advisory committee, representing 38 co-operating social agencies. The "Hill District" survey was to ascertain (1) the social needs of the Negro population of the district; (2) how these needs are being met; (3) what needs are not being met. The Steering Committee, which worked with Mr. Reid in behalf of the Advisory Committee, was composed as



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follows: John Ihlder, Pittsburgh Housing Association, chairman; Edward N. Clopper, Federation of Social Agencies, secretary; Edwin C. May, chairman of General Committee; Homer S. Brown, N. A. A. C. P.; Miss Nell Scott, Family Welfare Association; R. Templeton Smith, Urban League, and Sidney A. Teller, Irene Kaufmann Settlement.

The survey at Albany took note of the Negro population; housing, health, occupations and earnings, recreation, delinquency, the public schools, social welfare agencies, religious, social and cultural groups and Negro business. The survey reports: "In general there is a low standard of housing for the Negro population in Albany. The scanty equipment and poor repair of the average Negro dwelling making the rent paid, comparatively high. . . . Though the Negro population forms slightly more than one per cent of the total population the per cent of Negro deaths is twice as high as the proportion to the population while the percentage of births remains at a comparative par. . . . The occupational data of 203 male workers covered in this survey, showed the

following occupations with more than 10 workers: truckers, semi-skilled workers railroad, laborers, musicians, porters, waiters and cooks. At least one worker was found in the following occupations: stamper, plumber helper, moulder helper, baker, foreman in brick yard and electrician. . . . There is a serious lack of adequate recreation and leisure time activities among the Negro population of Albany. Aside from the 24 city parks, four of which are more than 40 acres in size and have playground equipment, there are no non-commercial recreational facilities for Negroes."

At Worcester, Mass., it was found Negroes have few opportunities for work, despite the fact it is an industrial city. . . . A canvass of 98 firms employing 30,610 people revealed only 40 Negroes among this number. South Carolina has contributed more Negro residents to the city than the State of Massachusetts itself. The local white papers are extremely fair in things regarding Negroes. There are no restrictions on recreation and the city has no black belt. Negroes live all over the city.

At Denver it was found the Negro has never formed more than 3.8 per cent of the total population. On housing the report states: "An analysis of the equipment of 109 rented homes showed that 54.1 per cent had bath tubs, while 61.5 had inside toilets. . . . Rents for Negro properties in Denver are comparatively high, considering the scanty equipment and the poor repair of the average Negro dwelling. . . . The most helpful trend in Negro housing improvement in Denver is to be found in the increased number of home owners. Within recent years many attractive home sites have been purchased on desirable streets. A compiled list of real estate holding among Negroes shows that there are 811 Negroes in Denver holding 857 parcels of property with an estimated value of \$3,731,000. . . . The number of Negro workers revealed was small. No more than eight plants employed them in numbers of more than ten. Data was secured from 214 industries. Of this number 31 had Negro employes, the total number of which was 314.