

Approved
5/11/32
Cal

UNEMPLOYMENT IN PITTSBURGH WITH
REFERENCE TO THE NEGRO

By
John V. Anderson,
Bachelor of Science, University of Pittsburgh.

Submitted to the Graduate School
of the University of Pittsburgh in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
1932

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
FOREWORD	v
I. INTRODUCTION	1
A. A statement of the problem.	1
B. Previous studies of the Negro in Pittsburgh	1
C. Time and method of the investigation.	3
II. THE NEGRO POPULATION IN PITTSBURGH.	6
A. Extent and increase of Negro Population.	6
B. Source of migration.	7
C. Negro unskilled labor and problem of adjustment	9
D. Social classes among the Negro	10
III. UNEMPLOYMENT IN PITTSBURGH WITH REFERENCE TO THE NEGRO	11
A. The extent of unemployment in the Pittsburgh District	11
B. The extent of Negro employment in past years	16
C. The Classification of the Unemployed relief cases	19
D. The employer and the length of service of the unemployed relief cases	20
IV. THE HOMELESS MAN WITH REFERENCE TO THE NEGRO	23
A. Homeless Man defined.	23
B. Status of the Homeless man	23
C. Extent of relief for first eight months in 1931.	27
V. THE EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN PITTSBURGH WITH REFERENCE TO THE NEGRO.	29
A. The cost of living in Pittsburgh with reference to wages paid laborers	29
B. The impairment of the family's living standard	32
C. The inadequacy of relief	34
D. The increased load upon charities	35

	iii
VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	37
A. Summary	37
B. Conclusions	42
C. Opinions	42
D. Need for Governmental aid and Social Legislation. 44	

APPENDICES

A. Face Sheets used in Study	47
B. Comparative analysis of family welfare and relief cases of the association for the improvement of the poor	49
C. Reasons for procedure ^{taken} by the association for the improvement of the poor	57

BIBLIOGRAPHY	63
------------------------	----

3 3

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE
I NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES BY DISTRICTS	4
II NEGRO POPULATION OF PITTSBURGH	6
III SOURCE OF NEGRO MIGRATION	8
IV UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS-CLASS A & B, BY SEX,	12
V TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CASES APPLYING FOR RELIEF AT ASSOCIATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POOR	13
VI NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES.	14
VII UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS, CLASS A & B, BY SEX AND INDUSTRY	15
VIII NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES -OCCUPATIONS	20
IX NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES -EMPLOYERS	21
X NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES -LENGTH OF SERVICE TO COMPANY	22
XI AGE OF APPLICANTS TO CENTRAL REGISTRATION OF HOMELESS MEN	24
XII NATIONALITY OF APPLICANTS TO CENTRAL REGISTRATION OF HOMELESS MEN	24
XIII MARITAL CONDITION OF APPLICANTS TO CENTRAL REGISTRATION OF HOMELESS MEN.	25
XIV OCCUPATIONS OF APPLICANTS TO CENTRAL REGISTRATION OF HOMELESS MEN	26
XV NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS OF 438 NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES	30
XVI RENT OF 438 NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES.	31
XVII DISTRIBUTION OF DEBTS OF 438 NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES	32
XVIII INSURANCE NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES.	33

3 4

FOREWORD

This study consists of investigations into the status of the unemployed in Pittsburgh with reference to the negro. They were undertaken after thirty-two months of one of the gravest financial and industrial depressions that the people of this country have ever experienced, and, when charitable and social agencies in Pittsburgh were plunged into inextricable difficulties in administering relief.

The writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Professor Francis D. Tyson, of the Economics Department for reading the manuscript and offering many helpful criticisms and suggestions.

I INTRODUCTION

1

A. Statement of the Problem

The effects of unemployment upon the Negro living standards in Pittsburgh for 1930-1931 loom as one of the gravest social and economic problems of this community. This present treatise does not pretend to be an intensive and comprehensive study of the unemployed Negro workers. Its aim is to present a view of the great inroads which unemployment causes on that portion of the Negro group which have been forced to seek relief through private and public agencies.

B. Previous Studies of the Negro in Pittsburgh

There have been several studies made of the social and economic problem of the Negro in Pittsburgh, but, as far as it is known, no specific attention has been given to the problem of unemployment. During 1917 a study of "Negro Migration to Pittsburgh" was made by Abraham Epstein. This study made special reference to the time of the Negroes' entrance into the city, his housing conditions, marital state, age, occupation, hours of work, wages, home state, firms employing Negroes, and difficulties in union membership. This survey included, also, a study of Negro delinquents, Negro mortality, morbidity, birth, ages, and cause of death. In 1924, Abram L. Harris, Jr. made a survey of "The New Negro Worker in Pittsburgh". This was an attempt to give a cross section of

1 Epstein, Abraham, The Negro Migrant in Pittsburgh
A. A. Thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1918.

2 Harris, Abram L., Jr., The New Negro Worker in Pittsburgh
A. A. Thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1924

the industrial, civic, and social problems of the colored² workers. It includes studies of population, living and housing conditions of Negroes employed in 13 plants, mortality for all and for specific diseases, births, crime and delinquency, including type of offense, prison and workhouse records, employment variations, view of new migrant school children, with recommendations and suggestions. Two similar studies were³ made by Pennsylvania Department of welfare in 1927 and Ira De⁴ Reid in 1929. Gerald M. Allen made a research of the "Negro⁵ Coal Miner in the Pittsburgh District" in 1927 to view the social conditions of Negroes in the mines of three coal companies and to include data on union and non-union wage scales and a discussion of unionization. In 1929, Wiley A. Hall made visits to 227 dwellings of Negro renters in the Hill District and made inquiries as to composition of families, length of residence, conditions of overcrowding, range of rents, conveniences, in all and in selected houses, and amount of weekly income. It can be readily seen that the problem of the Negro

³ Washington, Forrester B., Negro Survey of Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Department of welfare, 1927

⁴ Reid, Ira De, Conditions of the Negro in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, General Committee on Hill Survey, 1930

⁵ Allen, Gerald M., The Negro Coal Miner in Pittsburgh District, M. A. Thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1927

⁶ Hall, Wiley A., Negro Housing and Rents in the Hill District in Pittsburgh, M. A. Thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1929

has been carefully observed.

3

C. Time and Method of the Investigation

This investigation was begun November, 1931 with a two-year depression still on the downward trend and studies were made throughout the first four months of 1932.

In very general terms the method of investigation comprised a study of records, published and unpublished, of organizations and institutions in Pittsburgh; personal visits to and observation of these organizations and institutions in operation; gathering such facts as are available through census studies of the population; special studies of the activities of a particular agency or group of agencies and interviews with officers in charge; and first-hand observation of conditions throughout the city.

The particular agencies studied were those that handled most of the Negro unemployed relief cases the American Red Cross and the Association for the Improvement of the Poor. The American Red Cross Association, although not a general relief organization, set up a temporary office for unemployed relief for the ex-service men and their families in January, 1930 with three field workers. The Association for the Improvement of the Poor is an established organization for the relief of the poor as its name implies. It has on the average throughout the year 13 professional field workers. From the files of these two agencies 438 Negro cases were selected from the various districts as shown in Table I. These cases are all unemployed cases and are distinguished under the relief

TABLE I NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES

4

By Districts

1930-1931

Districts	A. I. P. Cases		(i) Red Cross Cases		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hill	190	69.85	147	76.51	317	72.37
Northside	23	8.45	11	5.62	34	7.76
South Side	20	7.34	(ii) 28	16.87	48	10.98
East End	22	8.08	(ii) --	-	22	5.02
Lawrenceville	15	5.55	--	-	15	3.42
Hazel Wood	2	0.73	--	-	2	.45
Total	272	100.00	166	100.00	438	100.00

(i) Data only represent war veterans

(ii) Includes East End Cases also.

(iii) is included in the other three districts.

procedure of the Allegheny County Emergency Association from general relief cases. It is significant to note that 72 per cent of all the cases are found in the Hill District and 10 per cent found in East End District with smaller percentages shown for the other districts.

The family welfare Association of Allegheny County which carries the bulk of Negro cases refuses to admit persons not belonging to that organization to their case files. Thus, it was impossible to make a study of their cases as was done with the above two agencies. However, an analysis of the total number of cases carried, the total amount of relief given for each month and the percentage of Negroes cared for was obtained for the years of 1930 and 1931.

5

before any general conclusions may be drawn for these cases it may be well to digress from the main thesis to note the source and time of the Negro migration to Pittsburgh and to mention his problems of adjustment. Thus a very general and brief discussion of Negro population in Pittsburgh precedes the findings and conclusions of the present investigation.

II THE NEGRO POPULATION IN PITTSBURGH

A. extent and increase of Negro population in Pittsburgh

The Negro population of Pittsburgh according to the census of 1930, as shown in Table II was enumerated as 54,988 or approximately 13 per cent of all the Negroes in the state. In the 1920 census the Negro population of the city was 37,728 or

TABLE II NEGRO POPULATION OF PITTSBURGH (1)

Years	Negro Population		Total Population (White and Negro)
	Number	Percent of Total Population	
1920	37,728	6.41	588,343
1925 (1)	45,166	6.88	676,594 (11)
1930	54,988	8.20	669,817

(1) 1920-1930 census
Pennsylvania Department of Welfare Survey, 1925

(11) Gazette Times Dec. 28, 1925
10% increase over 1920 Census data.

6.41 per cent of the total population. According to a state estimate of 1925 the entire population of Pittsburgh had increased 15 per cent over 1920 census. The Negro population increased to 45,166 or 6.88 per cent of the total population for the same period. The Federal Census of 1920 shows the percentage increase of Negroes in Pittsburgh during 1910-20 period to be 47.2. It is calculated from the above data that the Negro population in Pittsburgh in 1930 had increased 45.7 per cent over 1920 census or 21.7 per cent over that of the Pennsylvania Survey of 1925.

Two facts stand out from these figures: first, that the

growth of Negro population was greatly increased between 1910⁷ and 1920, second, that there has been continued increase since 1920. This growth of the Negro population has been due in a large measure to emigration from the South. With the increase of industrial activity and the continued restriction of immigration, since the war period, new opportunities came to Negro labor. The aftermath of the war created greater demands. Possibly the greatest mass movement of Negroes in history occurred in the migration of 1922-23,⁷ as to the number of these migrants who settled in Pittsburgh, figures are unavailable. Nevertheless, it is known that the number has increased and with this increase the problems of adjustment of these Negroes from the rural South have become matters of increasing concern.

B. Source of Migration

In connection with the problem of adjustment of the new Negro in Pittsburgh, it is interesting and significant to point out the source of their migration. In this study, as shown in Table III, out of 438 cases and 21 states represented, the greatest sources of migration are Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. With the exception of Alabama, this is contrary to the survey made by the Pennsylvania⁸ Department of Welfare in 1925, in that, at this time it was found that the Negroes coming to Pittsburgh were principally from Mississippi, Tennessee and Louisiana. In this present

⁷ Reid, Ira De, op. cit., p. 20

⁸ Washington, F. B., op. cit., p. 10

TABLE III SOURCE OF NEGRO MIGRATION (1)

8

State		State	
Alabama	78	Maryland	5
Georgia	71	Arkansas	4
Virginia	51	Ohio	3
South Carolina	37	Wash., D. C.	3
Pennsylvania	35	Montana	2
North Carolina	34	New York	2
Tennessee	16	Illinois	1
Kentucky	12	Indiana	1
Louisiana	9	Oklahoma	1
Florida	8	West Virginia	1
Texas	8	West Indies	4
Mississippi	7	None Given	22
Total	359		79 438

(1) This table is based upon place of birth as taken from the records.

study Tennessee ranks seventh Louisiana, ninth; and Mississippi twelfth. In a comparison of the migrants to Pittsburgh with those of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Survey has stated that Negroes coming to Philadelphia are from Virginia, and the eastern portions of North Carolina and Georgia, and that these people fit more easily into the new conditions than those coming into the Pittsburgh district. The survey states this is not because the Negroes of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Eastern Georgia are necessarily of a superior grade than those of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Louisiana, but because the former have had superior educational advantages. The schools for Negroes, while not nearly as good as those of the whites in Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia, are superior to the Negro schools of Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. In fact, in many sections of the latter

⁹ Ibid. pp. 10-11

states no schools whatever exist for Negroes."

9

C. Negro unskilled labor and the Problem of adjustment

There is no doubt that education loomed as one of the large problems of the Negro adjustment. Thousands of Negroes came into Pittsburgh and industrial opportunities were opened to them, but they were often unprepared for them, since their former contacts had been in rural communities and in agriculture. Thus the larger number of Negroes following an industrial occupation were doing unskilled work. In 1916, 2,276 Negroes were employed in 19 of the basic industries in Allegheny County of 6.69 per cent of the total Negro male population in the county in 1910; at the peak of production in August, 1923 the number of these workers had increased to 33 per cent of the total Negro male population on the basis of 1920 census. There were 4,000 Negroes with the Carnegie Steel Company in 1918, 95 per cent of whom were engaged in unskilled work. In 1916, this company employed but 1,500. The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company had 1,500 in its employ, 90 per cent of whom were engaged in skilled labor. In 1916, there had been only 25 Negroes in the employ of this company. The Crucible Steel Company had 400 Negro workers, 90 per cent of whom were unskilled workers.

¹⁰ Wesley, Charles, H., Negro Labor in United States (1850-1925) p. 305

¹¹ Reid, Ira De, op. cit. p. 21

¹² Epstein, A., op. cit. p. 31-32

Except for a few skilled and professional groups, there has been no great dividing line in Negro social classes based upon income. This is due chiefly to the fact that the range between the poorest Negro and the richer has been so small and they both have been so close to the minimum-of-subsistence level that it has been impossible to develop class consciousness based upon degrees of wealth. True, that with the outbreak of the world war there has been such a material increase in wages that no group has been living far below the subsistence level. Nevertheless, the Negro has never lived as a group in any high state of prosperity. As a matter of fact, his is the only racial group which as a whole lives just above the level of subsistence. Seasonal unemployment has frequently pushed him below the line. There are Negro families in Pittsburgh and its vicinity who, because of reduced production in steel industry, have had some difficulty in maintaining themselves without assistance. This class does not correspond to the permanent pauper class of years gone by, for they have within themselves the capability of self-management and self-support, and they will 'get on their feet' when they again obtain regular employment.¹³

It is with this poorer group of Negroes who have been forced to seek assistance, because of unemployment due to an industrial depression that began in October 1929 and has continued for the past two and a half years, that this study is being made.

¹³ Washington, D. C., op. cit., p. 11

A. The extent of unemployment in the Pittsburgh district

As to the number of Negroes unemployed in Pittsburgh during the years 1930-31 no published record is available as far as investigation shows. Therefore it is only possible to estimate the approximate number of unemployed from such information as is available for the purpose, even though that information is quite inadequate. In the absence of definite quantitative figures showing current unemployment among Negroes, the data to be used in estimating the number of jobless must necessarily consist of figures, actual or relative, measuring employment from year to year. The application of the employment data is made feasible because of previous studies¹⁴ of Negroes and the censuses of 1920 and 1930. Given satisfactory data in major industries, the change in employment figures, all other things considered, should give an indication of the shrinkage in employment or rise in unemployment.

The United States Bureau of the Census, along with its decennial census of population, made an attempt to find out how many persons usually employed were out of a job in April 1930. An advance report of the Pennsylvania Unemployment Census officially places the number of unemployed for all persons in Allegheny County for October 1931 at 167,806 or¹⁵

¹⁴ See Introduction pp. 1-2

¹⁵ Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Statistics. Pamphlet, "How many are jobless in Pennsylvania?"

12
 31.2 per cent of the gainfully occupied persons of 1930. At the time of this writing, Ralph J. Watkins of the Bureau of Business Research announces, in an interview March 30, 1932, that unemployment has increased to approximately 197,000 in Allegheny County. In 1930, there were 537,097 gainfully occupied persons in Allegheny County.

In Table IV the gainful workers for Pittsburgh in 1930 were estimated to be 278,648 or 51.9 per cent of the county figure. Class B is added to this unemployment data because it

TABLE IV UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS-CLASS A & B, BY SEX

Pittsburgh, April, 1930

Total Popul.	No. of gainful workers	Class A Persons out of a job able to work and looking for work.			Class B Persons having jobs, but on lay-off without pay, excluding sick, etc.			
		Number	Per cent of pop.	Per cent of gainful workers	Number	Per cent of Pop.	Per cent of gainful workers	
Total	659,817	278,648	20,307	3.0	7.3	5,885	0.9	2.1
Male	332,876	208,331	17,849	5.4	8.0	5,243	1.0	2.5
Female	337,241	70,117	2,458	0.7	3.0	640	0.2	0.9

includes many persons who have been laid off from their jobs for long periods and in nearly all respects are in the same position as those in Class A.

It is justifiable in the present instance to assume that 50 per cent of increase in unemployment found in October 1931 was in the Pittsburgh district. In January, 1931, it was

¹⁶ The Bureau of Business Research, University of Pittsburgh

¹⁷ Unemployment bulletin for Pennsylvania, 1931 census of U. S.

18
 estimated that 28.5 per cent of the total workers or 79,315 were unemployed in Pittsburgh.

It is interesting to note in table V the monthly increase in the number of persons seeking relief at the Association for

TABLE V TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CASES APPLYING FOR RELIEF AT ASSOCIATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POOR 1930-1931

Month	1931	1930	Per Cent increase over 1930
January	538	309	74.1
February	643	334	92.0
March	1744	318	448.4
April	767	271	183.0
May	737	233	216.3
June	700	233	176.7
July	681	233	189.4
August	745	286	157.0
September	788	284	177.5
October	709	449	58.0
November	399	613	-2.6
December	638	418	52.6

the Improvement of the Poor for 1931-30. It may be significant to note that the great increases in the applicants for relief appear in the months of March to September inclusive with March having the greatest increase of 448.4 per cent of 1930 figure for the same month.

Data secured in table VI for 438 Negro unemployed cases shows a continued monthly increase beginning with October 1930 and lasting throughout 1931. May 1931 shows an exceptionally high percentage increase of 1300 per cent more than

¹⁸ Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, op. cit. p. 11

14

that for the same month of the preceding year. The last three months in 1930 and first three months in 1931 show the greatest increase of Negro unemployed cases for the two-year period. The number of applicants for unemployed relief in October,

TABLE VI NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES
1930-1931

Month	1931	1930	Per Cent Increase over 1930
January	55	8	588.9
February	31	11	181.8
March	13	10	30.0
April	9	8	12.5
May	10	4	150.0
June	14	1	1300.0
July	14	6	133.3
August	14	9	55.6
September	19	8	137.5
October	14	20	-30.0
November	14	43	-68.9
December	13	43	-71.1

November, and December of 1930 was greater than the same months in 1931.

The unemployment returns for Pittsburgh in 1930 as shown in Table VII, page 1b, have classified the employed and unemployed as to industry. As to the number of Negroes employed in these various industries no up-to-date figures are available. However, with the aid of the recent studies made of the Negro employment in Pittsburgh industry fair conclusions may be drawn as to the part he takes in industrial pursuits.

TABLE VII UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS-CLASS A & B, BY SEX AND INDUSTRY
Pittsburgh, April, 1930

Industry	Employment		Unemployed Class A		Unemployed Class B	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
	Workers	Workers	Male	Female	Male	Female
Agriculture	961	947	84	83	1	21
extraction of	1,200	1,155	229	229	-	38
minerals	108,812	96,528	10,232	9,764	488	3,656
fig. and	31,006	29,861	2,044	1,968	76	755
mechanical	61,000	44,508	2,910	2,294	616	340
transport-	8,696	7,692	262	250	12	104
ation	22,367	11,147	581	374	157	56
Public	36,172	12,989	1,817	906	911	191
Services	6,166	6,513	2,178	1,981	197	158
Professional						
Services						
Domestic						
Personal						
services						
not						
specified						

B. The extent of Negro employment in Past Years

16

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor figures show that in 1928, 10,867 negroes were employed in industries in the Pittsburgh district or 3.8 per cent of the total number of workers employed in industries in Allegheny County.¹⁹ Basing these figures on the 1930 census of total population of Allegheny County there were twenty negroes employed in industry in 1928 to every one hundred negroes in the county. At the same time there were eighteen whites to every one-hundred of the white population and nine foreigners to every one-hundred white persons in the county.

At the time of the 1920 census, eighty-seven out of every one-hundred negro males ten years of age and over were gainfully employed in Pittsburgh. At the same time seventy-six out of every one-hundred native white males and ninety-one out of every one-hundred foreign born males were gainfully employed.

Thirty-four out of every one-hundred negro women, twenty-six of every one-hundred native white women, and sixteen of every one-hundred foreign born white women were gainfully employed.

Thirty-five out of every one-hundred negro married women, and three of every one-hundred foreign born white married women were engaged in gainful occupations.

In 1920 there were seventy-one occupations in which more than twenty-five Pittsburgh negro males were employed, and eighteen in which more than the same number of negro women

¹⁹ Industry Division, The Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburgh, Summary of Industrial Information, The Pittsburgh District 1930 pp. 2 and 6

found work. Since that time there has not been any change in the scope of negro employment, though the volume has increased, particularly in the industrial fields.²⁰

Being first employed by the steel mills as strikebreakers, unacquainted with the industry, the negro workers were assigned to unskilled jobs. Although the negro has advanced very rapidly in industry, the vast majority follow the unskilled occupations. An analysis of 22 plants in 1928 showed that approximately 60 per cent of the negro workers were unskilled, 38 per cent semi-skilled,²¹ and 2 per cent skilled.

Ira De Reid reports that in 1929, in the Duquesne Reduction Branch of the Federated Metals Corporation, 70 per cent of the total work force of 163 employees were negro. The Park Works of the Crucible Steel Company had 161 negro workers or 11.3 per cent of its 1400 employees.²²

The Westinghouse Airbrake Company employed 140 negroes in 1929, or 3.7 per cent of its total work force. At that time 19 negroes were on salaries and 121 worked in the shop.

The Pittsburgh Railways Company employed, in 1929, 176 negroes, or 3.8 per cent of the total work force.

The Pittsburgh Coal Company for the same year employed 26 colored men in its maintenance force and approximately 2300 as operatives in the mines.

²⁰ Reid, Ira De, op. cit., p. 52

²¹ Ibid., p. 52. Material brought up-to-date in 1929 through inquiry by letter of Ira De Reid.

²² Ibid., p. 52

17

The Lockhart Iron and Steel Company employed approximately 1800 workers, 35 per cent of whom were Negroes.

The Negro worker in Pittsburgh has found his chief sources of work in such basic industries as iron and steel, as unskilled workers; the building trades, as laborers and construction and foundation workers; and as porters, janitors and messengers in the trade organizations. Negro women find their major outlet in domestic and personal service, as cleaners and as laundresses. More than 90 per cent of the employed Negro women in 1929 were engaged in these occupations.

In 1929 it was found that more 700 Negroes were employed in Public service in the city, county, state and federal offices in Pittsburgh. No complete distribution of these employees was secured at that time. However, it was found that there were 12 Negro firemen, 35 Negro policemen and 1 policewoman, 1 assistant city solicitor, several Negroes employed as clerks in the offices of the City Treasurer, Comptroller, Department of Public Welfare, and the Water Assessor, 1 Negro messenger to the Director of Public Works and another to the Head of the Bureau of Highways and Sewers, 1 woman in the Contagious Diseases Bureau of the Health Department, 8 in the bureau of recreation, 3 roller men for asphalt work, 25 rakers, 209 tamperers, 1 plant foreman, 10 truck drivers, 4 cement mixers, and 150 laborers. They were employed in the county offices 1 Negro clerk, 1 messenger and a deputy sheriff in the sheriff's office, and a messenger in the Prothonotary's office. Three

²³ Ibid., p. 53

women were employed in the register of Will's office, 2 in the Juvenile Court, and 2 in the Recorder's office. There were 200 Negroes employed as clerks and carriers in the Post Office. There was one Negro woman employed as a placement secretary in the State Department of Labor.

It is generally understood that in the event of an industrial crisis the Negro worker is usually among the first to be dismissed. Although a certain fixed percentage have been maintained by some still in the electrical, and other industries in Pittsburgh district, it may readily be assumed that his proportion is more than represented in the unemployed data given in Table VII, page 15.

It may be added that in our present crisis the most important cause of Negro unemployment in Pittsburgh is due to the fact that the Negro is proportionately most strongly represented in the unskilled occupations and in one badly hit luxury occupation--namely, domestic service. At one end we have the sharp curtailment of production in mining and the steel industry. At the other is the first form of retrenchment to which a hard-middle class usually resort--dispensing with household help.

C. The Classification of the unemployed relief cases

The occupational distribution of 438 Negro unemployed relief cases is given in Table VIII. The small number of miners is striking, in view of the importance of mining in Allegheny

²⁴ Reid, Ira De, Op. cit. p. 55

It was found in the winter of 1930-31 that 55.3 per cent of the persons seeking relief and 60 per cent applying for work represented laborers. Construction trades were represented by 11.3 per cent seeking relief and 13.2 per cent wanted work; in the mechanical trades 8 per cent ask for relief and 10 per cent non-relief; service (domestic and personal) 11.2 per cent relief, 5 per cent non-relief; miners 0.2 per cent relief and 0.3 per cent non-relief.

TABLE VIII NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES

OCCUPATIONS 1930-1931		
Agent	1	miner 10
Auto-mechanic	1	minister 2
Barber	3	sculpter 1
Carpenter	2	Painter 8
Chauffeur	4	Paper-Hanger 2
Cook	4	Fuddler 2
Dispatcher	1	Fullman-Porter 6
Engineer	1	Reportex 1
Hod-Carrier	4	Selesman 1
Janitor	9	Mailor 2
Laborer	324	Truck Driver 5
Mail Carrier	1	Waster 4
Mechanic	1	None Given 40 354
Merchant	1 354	Total 438

D. The employer and Length of Service of the unemployed relief cases

Table IX shows 81 large companies in Pittsburgh and various other organizations, representing every industry in this district which have helped to increase the number of unemployed Negroes.

25 Bureau of Business Research, "Two Groups of Unemployed in Allegheny County in Winter of 1930-31" Pittsburgh business review p. 15

EMPLOYERS 1930-1931

	NO. NEGROES	NO. NEGRO EMPLOYED
American Reduction	7	1
American Steel & Wire	3	1
Armour Packing	2	3
Baltimore & Ohio R. R.	2	2
Bethlehem Steel	1	1
Black Diamond Steel	2	1
Bloom & Flynn	2	1
Byers Steel Mill	7	1
Carnegie Steel	7	1
Crucible steel	3	1
Dept. Public Works	3	1
Frick Coal	1	1
Green Cab	2	1
Hubbard Shovel	1	1
Horne's	1	1
Jones & Laughlin	41	1
Kaufmann's Dept. Store	6	1
Mallon Street	1	1
Montgomery Ward	5	1
Murphy 5 & 10	1	3
Liberty Dairy	1	2
Lohrey Packing	1	1
Keystone Buick	2	2
National Lube	3	2
Allegheny Express	2	1
Fort Wayne Station	6	1
Incandescent Supply	1	1
Pennsylvania Power Plant	1	1
P. H. Suter	1	1
Pennsylvania R. R.	4	1
Pittsburgh Boiler	1	2
Pittsburgh Coal	11	1
Pittsburgh Forge & Iron	1	2
Pittsburgh Press	1	2
Pittsburgh Post Office	1	1
Pittsburgh Provision	2	1
Pittsburgh Railway	4	1
Pittsburgh Screw & Bolt	2	1
Rosenbaum	1	1
Spring Foundry	1	2
Standard Sanitary Mfg.	1	1
U. S. Glass	1	1
Ward Baking	2	94
Westinghouse Airbrake	1	34
Westinghouse Elec. & Mfg.	2	16
Valley Camp Coal	1	97 146
	1	total 438

22

In an attempt to find the length of service to the above companies 72 out of 272 unemployed Negro relief cases revealed information. It is interesting to note in Table X the range for years of service is from six months to twenty years with 2 to 5 years as the mode.

TABLE X NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES

LENGTH OF SERVICE TO COMPANY 1930-1931

Years	Years		
6 mo. -1	21	14 - 15	-
2 -5	33	16 - 17	1
6 -9	11	18 - 20	1
10 -11	2	None Given	<u>200 70</u>
12 -13	3 70	total	<u>272</u>

Regardless of this hazardous attempt to estimate the extent of unemployment in Pittsburgh, the main object of the foregoing facts is an attempt to make clear to what extent the effects of unemployment has upon the Negro of this community. In the following pages attention will be given to some of the effects of unemployment upon Negro living standards in Pittsburgh.

23

IV THE HOMELESS MAN WITH REFERENCE TO THE NEGRO

A. Homeless man defined

Another phase of unemployment in Pittsburgh is that of the homeless man. The homeless man is one who is without a domicile and does not possess the means by which he may afford ordinary lodging. The homeless man may be classified into two groups--transient and resident.

Transient men are those who are passing through the city in search for work; those who are traveling to a promising destination; those who are going to live with relatives or friends; and those who may be called "professional tramps", that is, vagabonds who know the art of begging for a living while making excursions over the country.

Resident men are those who have resided in Pittsburgh or Allegheny County and have been forced to give up or leave their home.

B. Status of the Homeless man

The status of the homeless man may be presented from the study of 10,301 applications for relief made to the Central Application Bureau for Homeless Men.

Seventy-nine per cent of the total applicants were white and 21 per cent were colored men.

The ages as shown in Table XI of the men range from below

²³ The following material was obtained through the courtesy of A. W. Grotfend, Director of the Central Application Bureau.

TABLE XI AGE OF APPLICANTS TO CENTRAL REGISTRATION OF HOMELESS

MEN, January, February, March, April, 1932.

Age in Years	transients		resident	
	White	Colored	White	Colored
Under 16	0	2	0	0
16-17	98	13	3	1
18-20	798	113	32	7
21-24	1131	286	99	23
25-29	1071	303	173	88
30-34	842	306	214	130
35-44	1133	360	736	183
45-54	646	120	557	95
55-64	199	26	251	35
65 and over	82	9	95	6
Total	6006	1543	2164	588

16 years to 65 and over, with the greatest frequencies between 21 and 44. It is significant to point out that 60.6 or 73.5 per cent of the white group and 72.4 per cent of the colored group were transients while the smaller percentages—25.5 per cent of white and 27.6 per cent of colored were Pittsburghers.

It is significant to note in table XII that 80.6 per cent

TABLE XII NATIONALITY OF APPLICANTS TO CENTRAL REGISTRATION

OF HOMELESS MEN, January, February, March, April, 1932

County of Birth	transients		Applicants resident	
	White	Colored	White	Colored
	Pgh. and All. Co. Penna. outside of Allegheny County U. S. outside of Pennsylvania	1086	262	775
Total born outside U. S.	1222	130	280	34
Total	2538	1161	203	362
	1160	0	936	0
Total	6006	1543	2164	588

of the transient white and all transient negroes were born in United States; 16.1 per cent of the white and 16.9 per cent of the colored came originally from Allegheny County. 20.3 per cent of whites and 8.4 per cent colored came from other parts of Pennsylvania; 42.2 per cent whites and 74.6 per cent negroes came from other states. The salient factor about these facts is that the Negro men are moving from state to state in a relative larger percentage than the whites.

Of the resident group it may be noted that only 44.3 per cent of the whites were born outside of the United States. On the other hand, all of Negroes were born in the United States with 61.7 per cent representing those who have migrated to Pittsburgh. The significance of these facts lead to the conclusion that there has been a need for social adjustment.

The marital conditions of the transient and resident group of the homeless men is shown in Table XIII. It may be pointed

TABLE XIII MARITAL CONDITION OF APPLICANTS TO CENTRAL REGISTRATION OF HOMELESS MEN—January, February to April 30, 1932

Marital Condition	Applicants			
	transients		resident	
	White	Colored	White	Colored
Single	4446	999	1157	274
Married	540	223	186	44
Widowers	269	92	200	73
Divorced	99	20	38	8
Separated	174	100	178	103
Total	5528	1434	1729	502

26

out that a larger percentage of the two groups are single men. Eighty and four tenth per cent of the white transients and 69.7 per cent of the colored transients were single men, while 66.7 per cent of the white residents and 64.5 per cent of the colored transients were single men. Of the transient group 9.8 per cent of the white and 16.3 per cent of the colored men were married, while in the resident group 9.0 per cent of the white and 8.8 per cent of the colored men were married; 3.1 per cent of the white transients and 6.9 per cent of the colored transients were separated from their wives; on the other hand in the resident group 10.2 per cent of the white group and 20.5 per cent of the colored group were separated.

It is found, as shown in table XIV, that the greatest number of the homeless men in any occupations were common laborers.

TABLE XIV OCCUPATIONS OF APPLICANTS TO CENTRAL REGISTRATION
OF HOMELESS MEN January to April 1932 inclusive

Occupation	Applicants		Resident	
	White	Colored	White	Colored
Common laborers	1303	936	1058	377
Iron and steel worker	283	19	83	7
Machinist	170	3	33	5
Carpenter	77	8	68	5
Bricklayer	40	5	26	2
Painter	198	14	59	6
Clerical and office worker	169	1	34	7
Salesman	106	1	23	2
Chauffeur				
Drayman	211	57	77	16
Teamster				
None	70	1	1	2
Other	2373	424	470	115
Total	5499	1469	1929	544

27

In the transient group 32.8 per cent of the white men and 63 per cent of the Negroes were common laborers, while in the resident group 64.8 per cent of the white men and 69.3 per cent of the colored men were common laborers.

The percentage of men claiming other occupations are negligible. Five and one tenth per cent of white transients and 1.2 per cent of the colored transients claimed to be iron or steel workers, on the other hand 4.3 per cent of the white resident group and 1.2 tenth per cent of the colored resident group were recorded as iron and steel workers. In all the other occupations in both transient and resident groups the white men ranged from one to three per cent while the Negro men were represented by less than one per cent in all occupations except in the chauffeur, drayman, and teamster group.

C. extent of Relief for first eight months in 1931

27

according to the Bureau of Social Research, 2900 homeless men and transients a night, on the average, were given lodging during the peak months of February and March in 1931. Nine agencies in the city of Pittsburgh reported nearly one and one-half million nights' lodging provided to homeless and transients persons during the first eight months of 1931.

Most shelters provide free lodging and meals; a few charge a minimum fee or allow beneficiaries to work as partial payment.

27 Lufts, Edith Miller, A Summary of Social Statistics for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County as reported monthly to the bureau of Social Research. January to August 1931.

Approximately 115,000 hours of work per month were thus performed. The combined capacity of the shelters was 3005 beds. Some nights during February and March this full capacity was used. How many times this figure must be multiplied to give the total number of different individuals receiving meals and lodging at some time during the eight months cannot be determined at present.

V EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN PITTSBURGH WITH REFERENCE TO

THE NEGRO

A. The cost of living in Pittsburgh with reference to wages paid laborers.

The effects of unemployment upon the Negro living standard in Pittsburgh are difficult to show statistically. The usual source of statistics for the subject under discussion are social agencies, governmental bureaus such as state and municipal boards of health, the courts and the like.

While no definite conclusions can be drawn as to the suffering and needs of the Negro group, certain facts, in general, may be pointed out. In 1929, the cost of living in Pittsburgh for the average family was estimated at \$1417.10.²⁸ This figure is based on 254 families studied by the Bureau of Labor. The average weekly earnings for 194 male heads of families in Pittsburgh during the month of June 17 to July 23, 1929 was \$27.24.²⁹ On a yearly basis this would approximately equal the cost of living figure of the Bureau of Labor or \$1416.48. The average starting rate for unskilled labor in July, 1930, was 43.1 cents an hour.³⁰ If the unskilled were therefore to work for 10 hours a day, their maximum daily earnings would be \$4.31, and if they worked 306 days during the year, their maximum yearly earnings would be \$1316. But in practice, the average, even without complete unemployment, is less than this. For not all of the unskilled are in occupations with a 10 hour day and there

²⁸ Industrial Division of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, op. cit. p. 6

²⁹ Reid, Ira W., op. cit. p. 30

³⁰ Monthly Labor Review, November, 1930, p. 187

is a considerable amount of broken time within employment which this class of labor necessarily suffers. In the Allegheny County Emergency Associations' study of 1930-31 it was found that out of 12,556 applicants that 26 per cent of white men and 39 per cent of the Negro men applying for relief had received wages ranging from \$3.50 downward. Among the group seeking employment 33 per cent of the white men and 45 per cent of the Negro men had received not over \$3.50.³¹ With these conditions of the wage system it is virtually impossible to expect that an unskilled worker receiving \$25.00 a week or less and who has a wife or more dependents to support can make any appreciable savings.

In 438 Negro cases studied the number of dependents for each family ranged as high as 13 in one family as shown in table XV. The number of dependents per family average 3.16.

TABLE XV NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS OF 438
NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES

Number of children	Families	Number of children	Families
0	36	8	6
1	88	9	3
2	91	10	1
3	78	11	-
4	60	12	-
5	26	13	1
6	34		438
7	14	Average	3.16

³¹ Pittsburgh Business Review, October 29, 1931 p. 15

In the study of the emergency association the dependents average 2 to 3 per family.³²

The range of rents paid by 438 Negro cases of the present investigation is from \$3 to \$75 per month as shown in table XVI.

TABLE XVI RENT OF 438 NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES

Rent per month	Number	rent per month	Number
\$ 3-5	2	\$36-38	5
6-8	10	39-41	9
9-11	20	42-44	-
12-14	32	45-47	7
15-17	48	48-50	4
18-20	70	51-53	-
21-23	25	54-56	1
24-26	64	57-59	-
27-29	15	60-75	2
30-32	43	None Given	60
33-35	21		438

The average rent paid is \$22.88. In the Emergency Association's study the average rents varied from \$20.30 per month, in the case of Negro women in the relief group, to \$25.80 in the case of white men in the employment group. Rents paid by Negro applicants averaged two or three dollars lower than those paid by white applicants.³³

³² Ibid. p. 15

³³ Ibid. p. 15

B. The Impairment of the Family's Living Standard

When unemployment strikes a group so close to the minimum-of-subsistence level, an immediate impairment in the family's living standards results. The rent goes unpaid, with the threat of eviction, and which often happens, as shown in reasons for cases seeking relief. The purchase of food is stopped, and very little credit is given by neighborhood merchants, and none by the chain stores. Fuel and clothes become inadequate. The doctors and insurance bills go unpaid, to say nothing of mortgages and personal debts.

In table XVII a distribution of debts of 159 cases show rents as having the greatest frequency or 86 per cent of all

TABLE XVII DISTRIBUTION OF DEBTS OF 438 NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES

Rent	137
Furniture	27
Food	28
Clothes	5
Gas-Electric	21
Insurance	26
Doctor	5
Mortgages	3
Others (Pawns, etc.)	5
Number of cases not reporting	279

cases revealing information. The debt for food ranks next with a much smaller frequency or 18 per cent of all debts

34 See appendix.

given in the table. Three cases show an attempt to buy homes, but have found it impossible to keep up payments with the results that they will lose the amounts which they have paid in the past. The same may be said for the 26 cases who have attempted to buy insurance.

In table XVIII an attempt has been made to show what happens

TABLE XVIII INSURANCE NEGRO-FAMILY UNEMPLOYED RELIEF CASES

Paid up	104
Due	26
Lapsed	52
None Given	236
	438

to those who have tried to buy insurance. As to the kinds of insurance no classification was available. Of the 104 cases listed as paid-up the premiums had actually become due at the time of the investigation. fifty-two or 28.5 per cent of those owning insurance had been given notice of their forfeit.

It is logical to assume that the impairment of the food, clothing, and housing standards of the families lead in turn to an increase in illness. No attempt was made to gather data as to sickness, disease and mortality in the present investigation. Nevertheless, the records were studied to see if any significant results were revealed. Due to the lack of sensitive statistics by which these facts could be measured, there was no clear cut picture of any increase in disease and death rates.

U. The Inadequacy of Relief

34

The principal protection which can be given these workers is through charity. This is grossly defective in that it is humiliating, inadequate, and uncertain. The relief problem is being met very inefficiently. There is no centralized administration and control, and no clear-cut and smoothly working program. Instead, Pittsburgh's unemployed are at the mercy of a multitude of agencies. These include the Allegheny County Emergency Association, the Family Welfare Organizations, the Poor Board, the Mother's Assistance, the Red Cross, the Catholic Charities, and numerous minor organizations. Because virtually all the charity cases are recorded with a clearing house organization, there is doubtless little duplication in the actual distribution of relief, whether it be grocery orders, clothing, fuel or 'made' work. But there is considerable duplication of overhead and similar charges.

The average amount of relief given per family ranges from \$5 to \$8 per week. This is wholly inadequate. The Charity Organization Society of New York estimates that a family of five must have at least \$25 a week to keep above the poverty level; to fall below that endangers the health of the children and the morale of the parents.

The Public Health Nursing Service has found that with the most painstaking economy in buying and cooking no Pittsburgh family can get along on less than \$6 a week for food alone, and

³⁵ Hallgren, Marjutz A., "Famine in the Steel Towns" The Nation March 30, 1932

³⁶ *Ibid.* p. 362

³⁷ *Ibid.*

that does not take into account such necessities as medical attention, fuel, light, clothing, and shelter.

D. The Increased Load upon Charities

The load upon charities is of course greatly increased. Relief in Allegheny County was estimated to be \$573,000 in January, 1932 which was 187 per cent higher than in January a year ago. In February, 1932, relief increased to \$740,000. This amount does not include administration expenses or relief given in kind, that is clothes, shoes and the like.

In 1926 the relief of private agencies was \$20,000 a month; in December, 1931 their relief load was \$80,000.

A tremendous growth in the calls for direct relief to needy families was shown in reports represented at the annual meeting of the Family Welfare Association March 18, 1932. The reports showed the organization had spent \$568,042 for relief in 1931 as compared with \$285,549 in 1930. Of the 40,325 different families cared for in 1931, 18,398 were new cases. This contrasts sharply with the record for 1930, when out of 13,090 families being cared for 6,061 were new cases. Twenty and four tenth per cent of the total cases carried in 1930 and 29.9 per cent in 1931 were Negroes.

Much suffering of the unemployed in Pittsburgh has been

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Stephan, Fredrick*, "Unemployed Relief in Allegheny County" lecture, University of Pittsburgh, March 30, 1932

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, March 19, 1932, p.4:1

alleviated by the relative success of the charitable organizations, but the difficulty in meeting the relief problem can not be solved by the agencies alone. The problem may never be completely solved, however, certain measures may be taken to reduce any causes that produce extreme misfortune.

The next section is designed to set forth the summary and conclusions of the effects of unemployment and recommendations by which the causes of the calamity may be reduced.

A. Summary

Although the conditions of unemployment in Pittsburgh are generally bad, and the index of payroll in manufacturing industries in which the Negro is largely employed has fallen to 48.9 per cent of the average monthly wage for 1929 the Negro group appears to experience equitable treatment and receive fair share of relief under the present set-up. There are no Negro relief agencies in Pittsburgh, nevertheless the bulk of Negro cases are cared for through three agencies. 29.9 per cent of the Family Welfare Association cases for 1931 were Negroes, 53.7 per cent of the Association for the Improvement of the Poor cases were Negroes and it is estimated that 30 per cent of the Red Cross cases are Negroes.

Even though the Negro unemployed relief load in Pittsburgh has been greater in proportion to the numbers of his race than the percentage of the white population, no charge of racial discrimination has been found. The relief agencies have been swamped with case work, however, the Negro, though not being shown any special favor, has been treated astoundingly well.

With the great increase in the unemployed relief load in Pittsburgh, it was necessary for the charitable and social agencies to increase their number of case workers. Some of the agencies, finding that the Negro was a large percentage of their clients, wisely employed 10 Negroes to their staffs. These case workers have had some training in social work and therefore fit into the situation very successfully.

A unique situation about this fact is that a few of these Negro case workers are handling white cases where it happens to be convenient to their regular territory. This has never been tried in Pittsburgh before. One young Negro woman in the Family Welfare Association is supervising the work of several white aides. This is not typical of the situation elsewhere. The executive secretary of the Pittsburgh Urban League believes this situation arises out of the industrial background of this city. "The coal and steel companies" he says, "filtered Negroes through-out their plants in nearly every type of job as a defense against unionization." Of course, the social agencies are not fearing a unionization of its workers, but the principle, of mixed workers in industry has worked so well, that the social agencies have not feared its effectiveness in the case of social work.

No special criticism has been brought forth as to the amount of relief given to the Negroes in Pittsburgh. As there are no separate agencies for Negroes, they have been given relief on the basis of the practices of the particular agency. If a reduction in the amount of relief is made for one, it is made for all clients regardless of racial differences. There is no rumor in Pittsburgh, as far as it is known, that the Negro has the ability to live much cheaper than the other races. In fact, in past studies of the social and economic conditions of the Negro, it has been shown that the Negro cost of living has been relatively higher in Pittsburgh. Rent paid per room by the Negroes has been shown to be relatively higher than the case of white tenants. As to food, fuel and clothing no segregated costs are known, but if their costs have been less it is not because they

voluntarily purchased less, for the wages paid labor in this city has been shown to be far below the actual cost of living, thus forcing labor to live on less.

Although no special set-up has been made for a Negro relief organization, a move has been made in that direction. The Negro churches have attempted, even in their weak financial conditions, to relieve the situation. In the Hill District, three large Negro churches give one meal a week to more than 300 unemployed. The Community Council, a city-wide organization promoted by the Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh, has undertaken to aid the effectiveness of the relief agencies of the city. The city is divided into districts and it is found that the principal applicants in the Hill district are Negroes. These particular organizations do not show any special favor to the Negro, they are only made possible through the present set-up of the relief agencies and are merely used to aid in the effectiveness of relief.

The reason that a relative large share of relief is given to Negroes in Pittsburgh is because more of them are unemployed. There is not much evidence as to Negro-job-holders being replaced by white. In only two instances in the past two and a half years, as far as the writer knows, has such a substitution taken place. In one case a crew of Negro waiters was laid off and a white crew employed. The second case was a construction company that let out its Negro labor and replaced them by white. There has been one case where the opposite situation existed, that is, one hotel replaced its white elevator crew with Negro girls--at less pay, of course. One coal company, it is reliably reported, in taking on men at the beginning of the last busy

season called back some 400 negroes and almost no whites. This perhaps was an indirect result of the union's efforts in the coal field. These cases illustrate the fact that ^{the} negro worker has not been discharged because he has been replaced, but because he represents the marginal worker and is relatively the larger percentage of those in that class. The negro is proportionately most strongly represented in the unskilled occupations and in the other badly hit occupation, domestic service. At one end there arises a sharp curtailment of production in mining and the steel industry. At the other, is the first form of retrenchment to which a hard-hit middle class usually resort--dispensing with household help.

There has been no noticeable competition for negro jobs in Pittsburgh, but there has been bids made by employers of domestic help that are outrageous, falling to two dollars a week. While I was in the office of one of the relief agencies of this city several people telephoned and asked for girls to work for their board and keep. One woman "preferred a white girl but would take a nice intelligent colored girl." The agency accepted this lady's generosity but no girl was found for the position. It is not infrequent that demands are made for domestic help, to be employed for three or four dollars per week. When one of these jobs was offered to a young white woman applying for relief, she blankly refused such "ridiculous" wages and emphasized the fact that she would be able to do better by "begging." Although there seems to be resentment on the part of both white and negro labor about accepting these conditions, the positions are often filled.

Radical movements among the negroes in Pittsburgh are unimpassioned. Communism has made a poor showing in this city. The only effective demonstration, of any kind due to unemployment in Pittsburgh, was Father Cox's orderly "hunger-march" to Washington, D. C. in which approximately 20 negroes paraded and it was no means a "red" movement. The seeming cheerfulness of the negro unemployed in Pittsburgh is remarkable. Case workers do not really understand why a group in such dire need can smile while giving account of their hardship or sing while in search for relief. Their spirit seems not be daunted by the present conditions for they feel that tomorrow will be a new day.

How long the present conditions for relief in Pittsburgh will last is doubtful. Social agencies have done fairly well under the circumstances, but their means are fast being exhausted. It is estimated that relief resources will last until June 1932, after which time, if finances are not raised, the agencies will be relatively helpless. There is hope that the city bond issue of \$500,000 will relieve the situation until other means may be obtained. But as it is understood, half of this amount had been spent before the issue had cleared the Supreme Court. A second ray of hope is that the Governor will call a special session of legislature to provide funds for relief of the unemployed. The present rate of employment is still on the decrease with no favorable sign of their improvement. The effect that these conditions will have upon the negro in Pittsburgh will be the same as that upon all

42

marginal workers. He will be at the mercy of either such governmental assistance as may be forthcoming or the benevolence of those who possess the means of a surplus, and are willing to share with the unfortunates of their community.

B. Conclusions

This study of unemployment in Pittsburgh with reference to the Negro indicates the following conclusions:

That the Negro unskilled laborer, being a larger proportion of his race than the white laborer, constitutes a much greater percentage of the unemployed among his group.

That the cost of living in Pittsburgh being higher than the laborer's former wage scale causes immediate impairment of the family's living standards and forces him to seek relief through public agencies and charitable organizations.

That ^{private and} public relief in Pittsburgh has been inadequate.

That the increased load upon charities has been more than their ability to cope with it.

C. Opinions

Efforts were made to secure opinions of the existing conditions and recommendations from agents handling the unemployed or administering relief in Pittsburgh.

The opinions of eight case workers of two relief agencies are significant. There is general agreement among these workers that "housing has been the most serious problem. The unemployed have failed to pay their rent and those that have not

E 5

43

been evicted have been threatened, and if a payment is not made they will be turned out of their houses. Next in order of relief are food, fuel and clothing. The social workers have found it possible to dole out niggardly the relief of the latter, but as to the former they have found it impossible to cope with the situation." At the time of this writing, no rent relief is given until the family has been evicted.⁴²

Interviews with the executives of the two relief organizations studied and the case supervisor of the Family Welfare Association of Allegheny County revealed that they are in agreement with the above conclusions, and when asked as to future relief for the unemployed, they replied that private agencies have done all they can, and now, the public must take hand and seek relief through governmental aid.

The opinions of the executive of the Bureau of Social Research of the Federation of Social Agencies and the industrial secretary of the Urban League of Pittsburgh are that Negro's immediate relief is in the hands of charities and public agencies and that the future of the Negro labor depends upon the extent of vocational education among his group.

The personnel manager of one of the large steel companies in Pittsburgh is of the opinion that "industry has found a surplus of Negro labor on its hands, some of which the companies will never be able to hire back. He recommends that the government should give land to these people in order that they might raise enough food for subsistence. He also emphasized the fact that there is no opportunity for Negro college men to hold important and skilled position in industry. Although he would

⁴² An interview: Miss M. Condon-Family Welfare Association of Allegheny County Case work supervisor.

E 6

like to place Negroes in the skilled jobs, he finds that it is impossible to do. "It just is not done," is his reasoning. Continuing he disputes himself by saying, "it is not because the Negro is not capable, for one of the best 'heaters' in our plant is a Negro."

The significance of these considerations lies in the fact that the difficulty in solving the relief problem and the problem of unemployment can not be solved by the private agencies or any individual concern alone, but must be taken under consideration by all the people, the representative of whom is the government.

D. Need for Governmental aid and Social Legislation

Before 1915 individuals requiring relief on account of industrial accidents resulting in inability to work were subjected to some what similar unscientific treatment as that of the unemployed today. But after thoughtful consideration this burden was in part shifted from the individual sufferer and the charities to the industry which failed to provide safe working conditions. Accident compensation legislation is now almost universally accepted as sound public policy.

Inability to work because industries fail to provide regular employment for the Negro labor or any other labor likewise creates a social as well as an industrial problem.

Moreover, the individual worker who can play an important part in accident prevention is particularly helpless in reference to unemployment. Society through advance planning of public works and free employment offices can do something. But it is industry--to the extent to which it fails to provide regular

employment throughout the year--that must be made responsible for compensating its reserve of labor during such periods of enforced idleness.

The necessity for providing this security for the worker will stimulate more continuous considerations of methods of stabilizing employment, just as accident compensation has furnished a constant stimulus to safety work. To this end the administration as well as the financial support of the unemployment reserve fund may well be placed largely upon industry. Legislation is necessary to make sure that industries act with reasonable promptness. In substantial measure the state and national governments may also cooperate in distributing information, in bearing in more orderly fashion the burden of unemployment, and in sharing the costs of administration. Legislation to create this plan of cooperation is about to be introduced.⁴³ In fact, it has been introduced in the state of Wisconsin by a bill passed in February, 1932 and will go into effect the first of June of the same year.⁴⁴

Whatever plans or measures that are made in the interest of society will undoubtedly benefit Negro labor. Even though great discrimination is sometimes made in public measures, there is a tendency in the long run for the Negro to receive a degree of equity. There is no doubt that the Negro has bene-

⁴³ Andrews, John B., "The American Dole" pamphlet, American Association for Labor Legislation, New York City

⁴⁴ The Wisconsin unemployment bill, New York Times February 15, 1932.

APPENDIX A
Face Sheet of the Association of the Improvement of the Poor, used
in this study.

NAME		CROSS REF.	SINGLE	MARRIED	WIDOW	DECEASED	DIVORCED	SEPARATED	
OR OTHER SPELLING									
FE	HOW LONG	ADDRESS	FL.	P. OR R.	RENT PER MO.	RMS.	LANDLORD OR AGENT	ADDRESS DIST. DATE	
FOR ADDITIONAL ADDRESSES SEE OTHER SIDE									
FIRST NAME		AGE AT 1ST APP.	DATE OF BIRTH	AT FIRST APPLICATION UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED				LEFT ADULT WORK AT AGE	BEGAN WORK AT AGE
S		S		OCCUPATION OR SCHOOL	WEEKLY EARNINGS	READ & WR.	AMT. OF INCOME	PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION	OTHER DEATHS
MAN'S MAIDEN									
DRENING MARRIED IF IN FAMILY									
S IN FAMILY—FULL NAME									
KINSHIP TO NO. BRDR. OR LOGR									
SOURCES OF INCOME (AT 1ST APPLICATION UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED)									
BIRTHPLACE	NATIONALITY OR RACE	RELIGION	TIME AT 1ST APPLICATION IN			CITIZEN	MARRIAGE		
			U. S.	STATE	CITY		DATE	PLACE	
BY WHOM									
PREVIOUS MARRIAGE									
NAME			PLACE	DATE	DEAD OR DIVORCED				
SIVES NOT LIVING IN FAMILY		ADDRESS	KINSHIP	TO NO.	REFERENCES	ADDRESS	DATE	IN NO.	
MARRIED CHILDREN FIRST									
EMPLOYERS									
ADDRESS		FROM	TO	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	FOREMAN	WEEKLY EARNINGS DATE AMT.		

Surname									
Date of Application									
Status of Citizenship (If Foreign Born)									
Interviewer									
Present Address		Date		Rent		Landlord			
Previous Addresses									
First Name	Age	Race	Occupation	Birthplace	Yrs. in U. S.	Service	Ins. Co. Lodge	Pd. Up Lapsed	
Man									
Woman									
Maiden Name									
Children									
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
Employers Last Emp. Listed First			Dates of Service	Department	Check No.	Foreman			
Employers of Others in Family									
Relatives in City		Kinship		Address		Assistance			
Church		Family Physician							
Dobts -- Debtor -- Amount									

OVER

APPENDIX B.

Comparative Analysis of Family Welfare and Relief
Cases of the Association for the Improvement
of the Poor.

Cases	Month of January			
	1931		1930	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
A. Carried over previous month	385	410	321	350
B. New Cases	37	28	56	57
C. Reopened cases-last closed prior to this fiscal year	18	8	-	-
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	60	44	39	37
E. Transferred from city	39	23	-	-
F. Total active cases	539	513		

Cases	Month of February			
	1931		1930	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
A. Carried over previous month	512	488	307	398
B. New Cases	43	51	33	52
C. Reopened cases-last closed prior to this fiscal year	12	1	-	-
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	26	20	20	29
E. Transferred from city	11	7	-	-
F. Total Active cases	585	498		

E 11

E 12

3013

50

Month of March

Cases	1931		1930	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
A. Carried over previous month	949	1488	377	415
B. New Cases	68	60	27	44
C. Reopened cases, last closed prior to this fiscal year	42	75	-	-
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	28	19	21	20
E. Total Active Cases	1082	1642	415	579

51

Month of April

Cases	1931		1930	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
A. Carried over previous month	651	870	356	451
B. New Cases	33	35	12	12
C. Reopened Cases-last closed prior to this fiscal year	27	24	10	26
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	5	4	1	-
E. Total Active Cases	716	933	378	489

50

Month of May

Cases	1931		1930	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
A. Carried over previous month	656	855	367	427
B. New Cases	23	18	13	11
C. Reopened Cases-last closed Prior to this fiscal year	14	16	13	8
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	3	20	1	-
E. Total Active cases	696	909	394	446

3014

51

Month of June

Cases	1931		1930	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
A. Carried over previous month	583	658	336	287
B. New Cases	22	12	8	15
C. Reopened cases-last closed prior to this fiscal year	16	6	15	12
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	4	66	-	-
E. Total Active cases	625	742	359	314

51

Month of July

Cases	1931		1930	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
A. Carried over previous month	572	632	320	287
B. New Cases	13	7	35	29
C. Reopened cases-last closed prior to this fiscal year	15	32	26	9
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	8	10	-	-
E. Total Active cases	608	681	381	325

51

Month of August

Cases	1931		1930	
	White	Negro	White	Negro
A. Carried over previous month	545	653	354	313
B. New Cases	7	2	32	18
C. Reopened cases-last closed prior to this fiscal year	6	3	28	14
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	15	78	-	-
E. Total Active cases	573	736	414	345

Month of September

52

Cases	1931		1930	
	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
A. Carried over previous month	422	504	350	295
B. New Cases	7	1	17	33
C. Reopened cases-last closed prior to this fiscal year	6	30	19	13
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	35	47	-	-
E. Total Active cases	570	642	386	341

Month of October

Cases	1931		1930	
	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
A. Carried over previous month	473	501	318	331
B. New Cases	11	1	54	103
C. Reopened cases-last closed prior to this fiscal year	6	8	43	60
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	36	29	-	-
E. Total Active cases	526	539	415	494

Month of November

Cases	1931		1930	
	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
A. Carried over previous month	485	454	365	475
B. New Cases	35	15	123	400
C. Reopened cases-last closed prior to this fiscal year	17	25	109	140
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	23	13	-	-
E. Total active cases	560	507	597	1015

Month of December

53

Cases	1931		1930	
	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>
A. Carried over previous month	510	482	321	1013
B. New Cases	29	14	133	255
C. Reopened cases-last closed prior to this fiscal year	23	26	48	82
D. Reopened cases-last closed within this fiscal year	16	15	46	21
E. Total Active cases	578	537	518	1371

ANALYSIS OF THE FAMILY WELFARE AND RELIEF CASES
OF THE FAMILY WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Total Cases under Care

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	4237	2283
February	4542	2523
March	4901	2787
April	5244	2833
May	5342	2763
June	5338	2817
July	5181	3004
August	5064	3025
September	5303	3190
October	10300	3137
November	13739	3203
December	18364	3763

THE FAMILY WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

RELIEF FOR 1930

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF RELIEF</u>
January	284	7696.04
February	332	9320.68
March	364	9970.62
April	428	10831.01
May	393	11085.48
June	383	11010.79
July	397	11359.58
August	424	12389.05
September	499	13858.88
October	523	14454.20
November	586	15217.30
December	707	16266.96

UNEMPLOYMENT CASES & AMOUNTS

150 families	\$ 1095.03
1034 families	21490 .82#
1721 families	35,204.16##
194 families	

#(Included 194 Family Welfare Association Cases).

##(Included 179 Family Welfare Association Cases-receiving \$5030.10).

THE FAMILY WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

RELIEF FOR 1931

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF RELIEF</u>
January	1012	\$18907.01
February	1361	23495.92
March	984	20990.77
April	1060	22702.69
May	1094	23211.37
June	1071	21450.22
July	2743	48767.92
August	1158	22752.56
September	1326	22291.99
October	4543	91947.06
November	5542	90100.22
December	7873	117204.64

F 5

APPENDIX C

The following pages consists of reasons for action taken by the Association for the Improvement of the Poor.

Insufficient Income

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	156	143
February	159	126
March	245	139
April	443	128
May	290	118
June	265	136
July	225	108
August	186	135
September	150	123
October	274	102
November	294	159
December	294	104

F 6

and free employment offices can do something. But it is in-
dustry--to the extent to which it fails to provide regular

58

Nonsupport

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	21	23
February	21	12
March	24	29
April	23	27
May	29	6
June	3	10
July	10	8
August	7	9
September	7	17
October	5	3
November	5	16
December	5	15

Widow

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	59	43
February	60	47
March	64	50
April	56	37
May	50	30
June	43	30
July	41	31
August	53	33
September	57	36
October	54	34
November	54	30
December	56	39

E 8

59

Intemperance

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	21	12
February	20	15
March	38	23
April	12	13
May	11	34
June	11	23
July	8	20
August	7	14
September	11	14
October	-	8
November	-	3
December	-	2

Sickness

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	116	120
February	147	125
March	145	114
April	149	103
May	125	95
June	110	96
July	109	102
August	112	93
September	71	97
October	62	47
November	55	104
December	47	123

Old Age

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	12	22
February	14	24
March	17	1
April	13	17
May	17	16
June	10	17
July	15	17
August	13	22
September	10	18
October	7	9
November	7	9
December	7	8

Dependent Children

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	9	3
February	11	3
March	11	-
April	15	2
May	13	-
June	6	8
July	7	11
August	6	8
September	4	8
October	-	10
November	1	10
December	-	10

F 9

Neglected Children

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	-	8
February	-	6
March	1	-
April	2	1
May	5	-
June	7	-
July	7	-
August	6	-
September	4	-
October	4	4
November	2	-
December	3	-

Desertion

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	51	83
February	54	84
March	53	75
April	56	55
May	56	30
June	55	45
July	53	42
August	49	37
September	21	49
October	31	39
November	33	42
December	28	40

F 10

Deserted Children

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	-	1
February	2	1
March	-	2
April	3	-
May	2	-
June	5	-
July	4	-
August	3	2
September	1	9
October	-	2
November	-	2
December	-	2

Evictions

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1930</u>
January	26	1
February	8	1
March	27	6
April	25	2
May	26	2
June	15	1
July	3	1
August	3	5
September	9	3
October	12	4
November	8	5
December	8	20

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Douglas, Paul H. and Director, Arron. The Problem of Unemployment Macmillan Company, 1931.
- Spero, Sterling Denhard, and Harris, Abram Lincoln. The Black Worker. Columbia University press. 1931.
- Johnson, Charles S., Negro in American Civilization. New York. H. Holt and Company. 1930.
- Wesley, Charles H., Negro Labor in United States (1850-1925). New York, Vanguard Press.
- Allen, Gerald B., The Negro Coal Miner in Pittsburgh District. M. A. Thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1927.
- Epstein, Abraham, The Negro Migrant in Pittsburgh, M. A. Thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1918.
- Hall, Wiley A., Negro Housing and Rents in the Hill District In Pittsburgh. M. A. Thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1929.
- Harris, Abram L. Jr., The New Negro Worker in Pittsburgh. M. A. Thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1924.
- Reid, Iva De, Conditions of the Negro in The Hill District of Pittsburgh, General Committee on Hill Survey, 1930.
- Washington, Forrester B., Negro Survey of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Department of Welfare. 1927.
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, How Many are Jobless in Pennsylvania. Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Statistics. 1931.
- Bureau of Business Research. "Two Groups of Unemployed in Allegheny County in Winter of 1930-1931." Pittsburgh Business Review
- Hallgren, Lauritz A. "Panic in the Steel Towns! March 30, 1931. "Negroes Out of Work!" The Nation 132:441-2 April 22, 1931.
- Thomas, J. C. and F. B. Washington. "Effects of Changing Economic Conditions among the Negroes" National Conference of Social Work 1928: 455-78
- "Unemployment among Negroes" World Tomorrow 14:135-6 May, 1931.
- New York Times, 1931. "Negro Unemployment" June 11, 20:3 ed. Je 12, 20:2
March 16, 1930. 28:7
March 31, 1930. 2:2
"The Wisconsin Unemployment Bill" February 15, 1932.

E 12

63

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- H. and Director, Arron. The Problem of Unemployment
an Company, 1931.
- ing Denhard, and Harris. Abram Lincoln. The black Worker.
a University press. 1931.
- cles S., Negro in American Civilization. New York.
and Company. 1930.
- les H., Negro Labor in United States (1850-1926).
K, Vanguard Press.
- d E., The Negro Coal Miner in Pittsburgh District.
thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1927.
- ahman, The Negro Migrant in Pittsburgh. B. A. Thesis,
ity of Pittsburgh, 1918.
- A., Negro Housing and Rents in the Hill District
sburgh. B. A. Thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1929.
- m I. Jr., The New Negro Worker in Pittsburgh.
thesis, University of Pittsburgh, 1924.
- s, Conditions of the Negro in The Hill District of
rgh, General Committee on Hill Survey, 1930.
- orrester B., Negro Survey of Pennsylvania.
sylvania Department of Welfare. 1927.
- a of Pennsylvania, How Many are Jobless in
sylvania. Department of Labor and Industry,
of Statistics. 1931.
- usiness Research. "Two Groups of Unemployed in
any County in Winter of 1930-1931." Pittsburgh
28 Review
- auritz A. "Fanic in the Steel Towns! March 30, 1932.
es Out of Work! The Nation 132:441-2 April 22, 1931.
- O. and P. S. Washington. "Effects of Changing Economic
ions among the Negroes" National Conference of
Mark 1928: 455-78
- nt among Negroes! World Tomorrow 14:135-6 May, 1931.
- es. 1931. "Negro Unemployment! June 11, 20:3 ed.
20:2
- 16, 1930. 28:7
- 31, 1920. 2:2
- Wisconsin Unemployment Bill! February 15, 1932.

E 13

64

- "Unemployment"
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. March 18, 1932. p.:1
- Industry Division, Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburgh.
Summary of Industrial Information. The Pittsburgh Plate 1930
- Unemployment Bulletin for Pennsylvania. Fifteenth Census of
United States. 1931.
- United States Census of Unemployment. 1930
- Population Bulletin of Pennsylvania. 1930.
- Andrews, John B., "The American Dole" American Association
For Labor Legislation. New York City.

INTERVIEWS

- Dr. A. E. Blank, Personnel Manager, Jones & Laughlin Company.
- Miss H. Condon, Case-work Supervisor of the Family Welfare
Association of Allegheny County.
- Miss A. D. Blower, Director of the Red Cross Association,
Pittsburgh.
- Mr. Kennedy, Allegheny Laundrymen's Exchange Retail Trades,
Employers Association of Pittsburgh.
- Mr. Harold A. Lett, Industrial Secretary of the Urban League of
Pittsburgh.
- Mr. James J. Matheson, Personnel Manager for the
Carnegie Steel Company, Pittsburgh.
- Mr. Shepherd, Director of the Association for the Improvement of
the Poor, Pittsburgh.
- Dr. Ralph J. Watkins, Director of the Pittsburgh Bureau of
Business Research.
- Mrs. A. Paciagga, Executive Secretary of the Soho Community
House, Pittsburgh.
- Interviewed thirteen professional social workers
participatin in family case work.