

A COMMUNITY REPORT

League of Women Voters
Champaign County

October 1946 - May 1948

etc

The National League of Women Voters in 1945 issued a pamphlet Government and Our Minorities. The introduction says:

"In order to survive the postwar period of major difficulties and adjustments and to strengthen our position in taking leadership toward the just treatment of minorities in other sections of the world we must at this time face the problem and determine the best course of action to remove the sore spots of discrimination from our national life. Our particular contribution to the solution of the problem must be that of finding answers to the question, 'How can government help to equalize opportunities for minority groups?'"

"It is racial discrimination which stands out today as one of the largest obstacles to the fulfillment of democracy, both in the United States and in the world. ... Government should be and is concerned with justice. A system of justice does not insist that citizens love one another. It does insist that all citizens have equal opportunities for the fulfillment of their capacities."

As an aid to local leagues in understanding the needs and problems of minority groups in their own communities, an outline was offered for a community survey. The survey made by the Social Welfare Committee of the League of Women Voters of Champaign County follows this outline. It is a study of one group, the Negro, since this is our largest minority groups, numbering an estimated 3,000 in a population of about 50,000, (exclusive of students at the University of Illinois). The survey considers six areas of community life: Education, Recreation, Health, Legal Status, Economic Opportunities, and Housing.

EDUCATION

Sources of information:

Superintendents of schools - Champaign and Urbana
 Principals or Vice-principals of Champaign Senior and Junior High Schools, Urbana High School and Thornburn Junior High.
 Principals of Marquette, Gregory, Hayes, Webber, Lawhead, and Willard elementary schools
 School social workers of Urbana and Champaign
 Secretary of the Board of Education of Champaign
 Numerous teachers in both towns
 Sponsor of the Champaign - Urbana Kindergarten Association
 Social workers
 Negro citizens

Before beginning this phase of the survey we interviewed the two superintendents of schools, who gave their permission for visits to class rooms and interviews with principals and teachers. Both expressed their interest and offered full cooperation in securing data.

In the two cities there are five elementary and four secondary schools attended by both Negro and white children. Two elementary

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schools in Champaign, Lawhead (first and second grades) and Willard (third through sixth grades), are all Negro. The 44 white children living in the attendance districts of these two schools attend Columbia, which has no Negro pupils.

[There is a wide spread rumor that Negro children are excluded from Columbia school because such a stipulation was made when the land on which the school was built was given to the city of Champaign.] Through the courtesy of the secretary to the Board of Education the will and deed to the property were examined, and no such stipulation was contained in them. There have also been rumors that Lawhead and Willard were made all-Negro by city ordinance. According to the Board of Education such an ordinance does not and could not exist as it would be contrary to state education laws prohibiting discrimination or segregation.]

Willard is overcrowded, particularly in comparison to neighboring mixed schools, as shown by the following table.

	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Willard	37	35	30	30
Marquette*	21	10	18	15
Gregory	14	20	27	--

Furthermore, since the enrollment in the two second grades at Lawhead school is 55, it is anticipated there will be about this number of pupils for the one third grade room at Willard next year, unless other arrangements could be made.

There are also rumors that white children are permitted to change to a school outside their attendance district to avoid attending a mixed school, but both school superintendents and the principals said that this is not the case.

There are no figures on the number of Negro children in the school systems as records do not indicate color. It is known, however, that they constitute a small percentage of the total enrollment except in two of the elementary schools where the attendance is about equally divided (Marquette and Hayes) and in the two totally Negro schools (Willard and Lawhead).

[In Champaign there are eight Negro teachers, all holding positions in Lawhead or Willard, two of them principals. Their qualifications, education, and experience are as high as those of the white teachers; in several instances they hold M. A. degrees. Their salary scale is the same as that of the white teachers. They are members of the teachers' professional groups - the Champaign Education Association.]

One white practice teacher from the University took part of her training at Lawhead, by agreement between the principal, the superintendent, and the teacher. Negro practice teachers have worked in a mixed elementary school in Urbana, in Champaign Senior High, and in University High. Urbana High had tried to secure a Negro practice teacher in music because of his outstanding qualifications, but was unable to because of schedule conflict.

[There are no Negro members on the school boards.]

*Grades four and six share one room.

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Nearly all the elementary school buildings in the two cities are old, not well adapted to modern school practice, and the mixed and all Negro schools share these failings. They are kept in a state of excellent repair and cleanliness just as are the other schools. They also have the same equipment and the same service of special teachers in art and music; psychologist, and school social worker. (One all Negro school, Willard, has, however, bad physical facilities. The class rooms are small, particularly for the large number of pupils, and have only north light. The halls, which are also small, serve as recreation space for the children on rainy days. There is no office for the principal and no rest room for the teachers. The basement, used for physical education classes, is so small that only part of a group can be accommodated at once so that the physical education period is cut to twenty minutes.)

(The playground space is very cramped, with the result that the children spill over into the street during recess periods. To reach the school many of the children (in third through sixth grade) must cross the railroad tracks at a point unguarded by gate or watchman. At Lawhead (first and second grades) the children must cross quite busy streets. Police protection was requested at the crossings but has not been supplied. It has also been refused at all-white schools where thoroughfare crossings were involved.) It is a particular problem at Lawhead, however, as the children are not old enough to serve as patrols.

(In the senior and junior high schools the Negro students are eligible for membership in all clubs (girls' and boys' athletic associations, language clubs, activity groups) and do join and attend. The elementary schools do not have such organizations. The Negro students participate in activities carried on at school at the noon hour. Also in the afternoon they participate in games, handicraft, dancing. They take part in stunt shows and in special assembly programs but not in dramatics. They go out for athletics, and there have been outstanding Negro athletes, who have won recognition both in school and in the community. They attend swimming classes and have the use of the pools at the same time the white students do.) (In the Urbana high schools they have held class office, the present president of the Freshman class at the Senior High School being a Negro.) (At Champaign Senior High they have held room offices.) (They have in the past and are at the present time serving on student advisory councils, elected by the pupils themselves.) (They have been elected to such positions as cheer leader in Urbana Senior High, where they have also been chosen by the student body to represent the school in national contests for honors and scholarships, such as the Pepsi-Cola contest.) They are members of choral groups and orchestras, and their contributions in both groups have received considerable recognition from the students.

(As indicated by these facts as well as by observation of teachers and principals, the relationships between the white and Negro students in most of the schools is good, a natural taking of each other for granted.) (In one junior high school, however, there has been serious tension between at least a portion of the two groups until the current year.) (It became necessary to call for police protection in the park

through which some of the students passed on their return home. According to the statement of the principal and of social workers, blame rested upon both groups, neither group being always the aggressor. Social workers in close touch with the situation believed that the Negro children felt insecure and unwanted. The tension seems greatly lessened this year. There has been only one incident in the school and only one in the park, each involving just two individuals. Social workers reported that this year there seems to be a greater acceptance of Negro students in the school as a whole. The groups remain essentially apart, however, with no real sharing of activities. No Negroes hold office here, and although they join clubs they remain apart in them and are not integrated with the group. The FHA group (of Home Economics students) is the one outstanding exception to this apartness.

Scholastically there have been some outstanding Negroes. Last year at Champaign Senior High School two out of six honor students with a 5. average were Negroes. Records in elementary schools show that in some groups that the Negro pupils did much better work than the white students. In other instances Negro pupils were found in the average or below average group. One high school principal said that, although his Negro students did not usually appear in the honor group, it was not due to lack of native ability, as shown by intelligence tests, but to overcrowded home conditions and other factors not conducive to study. There have also been outstanding Negro students in art and music.

Parental attitudes have been a factor in relations in the mixed schools. Superintendents and principals said they received many requests from white parents to transfer their children out of regular attendance districts to avoid attending a mixed school. One principal emphasized that the white children in question were getting along very well with the Negro children in the group. It was almost unanimously the opinion of the principals and teachers who were interviewed in the mixed elementary schools that the difficulty lay with the parents, that the children accepted each other with ease. Some Negroes felt that some Negro parents hampered the adjustment of their children in the secondary schools by fostering a chip-on-the-shoulder attitude.

In four of the secondary schools the principals or vice-principals reported that parental attitudes had not constituted a problem, and that in many instances there was fine cooperation on the part of the white parents in achieving real integration of the Negro students in school activities. There was only rarely an objection on the part of the white parents to the use of the pools in the two senior high schools by the Negroes. At the time the Champaign Junior High was built there was much protest on the part of some white parents to the admission of Negroes, the principal said. There was also an unsuccessful attempt to have separate lunch room and other facilities provided for the Negro pupils. There have been continued protests about the inclusion of the Negroes in the social life of this school, but these are lessening, according to the principal.

There is a combined PTA group for the Negro schools, which sends its representatives to the central PTA Council and the Council luncheons at the Urbana Lincoln. Negro parents join and attend PTA in the mixed schools and have been elected officers. One principal said very harmonious relations exist in her PTA, with suppers prepared by the whole group. Other schools reported that when Negro parents attended PTA meetings they were ignored by the white parents.

The three business colleges in the community, which are privately owned, do not accept Negroes.

The Champaign-Urbana Kindergarten Association operates at Douglas Center, a kindergarten for four and five year old children. It is attended by both Negro and white children. The present enrollment is 55. There are two trained teachers, both Negro, assisted by students from the University of Illinois. Douglas Center provides the room. The Kindergarten Association pays the Champaign Recreation Association (which operates Douglas Center) for the heat, and pays the janitor directly for his services. The Kindergarten Association received \$900.00 from the Community Chest in the year 1947-48. The parents pay a fee of \$3.00 a month per child, or \$2.00 a month per child if more than one child from a family attends.

RECREATION

Sources of information:

- Director of Champaign Recreation Association
- Director of McKinley YMCA
- Director of YWCA
- Regional field worker of Boy Scouts
- Assistant director of Girl Scouts
- Director of Home Bureau
- Director of Farm Bureau
- Director of FHA
- Director of Douglas Center
- Personnel in charge of Crystal Lake Pool
- Superintendent of Champaign School Board
- Librarians in Public libraries
- Social workers
- Negro citizens

Membership in local chapters of such national organizations as the Scouts, 4H, Future Home Makers of America, is open to all without respect to race, creed, or color, in accordance with both national policy and that of local leaders. There is an all-Negro cub-scout den and an all-Negro scout troop. Negro boys have been

invited to join the cub pack in the mixed Negro-white schools and have occasionally joined and been well received by the other boys. The Negro groups participate in all regional scout activities such as the scout circus, hobby show, pot-luck suppers (in which the parents also participate), and have won awards. For the last two years they have attended scout summer camp, together with white troops. According to the regional field director this new plan worked very successfully. There was no friction between the two groups, and soon it was no longer two groups but "a bunch of boys carrying on activities together." One of the Negro leaders also expressed satisfaction in the way the plan had worked out. He had the highest praise for the continued support given by the regional staff.

The Girl Scouts have mixed troops in all the elementary schools which are attended by both Negro and white children. Only in Champaign Junior High School is there a separate Negro troop. There is also an all-Negro scout and brownie troop at Willard, the all-Negro school. As with the Boy Scouts, all troops participate in regional activities including pot-luck suppers for the families. In the past the Negro girls have not been permitted to attend the summer camp by a decision of the Scout Board. Plans have been made, however, for them to attend with the white children during the coming summer. When mixed troops went to the roller skating rink, ordinarily closed to Negroes, leaders were able to secure permission from the management for the entire troop to attend. All scout leaders reported the mixed troop a success, stating that it functions harmoniously as a unit, not splitting into separate groups.

Negro girls are active in the Future Home Makers of America, a group which draws its membership from home economics classes in the secondary schools, and have been elected as officers. The sponsor of the FHA reported fine relationships within the groups in all the schools.

There are no Negro girls in 4H clubs at present though two years ago there was a Negro group which was outstanding in that it was the only local group in which all members completed their projects. There was last year one Negro member of the 4H group in Lincoln School, Champaign. She was the only member to complete her project. There are in the community no 4H clubs for boys.

The only YWCA in the community is the University one, which is set up primarily to meet the need of the University students. Negro students are welcomed and participate actively, serving in the cabinet. The YWCA sponsors girls' clubs in both elementary and secondary schools, University students acting as leaders. One of the most successful of these, in the opinion both of the school and of the YWCA director, was the group of the Champaign Senior High, which had both white and Negro members. By national policy the YWCA is open to all and has worked actively for the elimination of discrimination.

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The McKinley YMCA does not admit Negroes to membership, by policy of the local board. Negroes do come to the building when groups to which they belong meet there. They are not permitted to use the pool. Membership in the University YMCA is open to Negroes, who participate in programs and activities and serve in the cabinet.

The Urbana Youth Center is open to all. Participation of Negro young people was greater at first than it is at present. The Council running the Center was chosen from those who petitioned to be on it, but no Negro petitioned.

The advisory committee of the proposed Champaign Youth Center passed a resolution that it should be open to all young people. The gift of \$10,000 toward the Center contained the stipulation that no discrimination should be practiced. When the matter was voted upon at Champaign Senior High School and at University High School, the students voted that there should be no discrimination.

In 1946 the Douglas Community Center was built with funds donated by the Community Chest and by private subscription. It is in a predominately Negro section of Champaign and is attended mainly by Negroes. The title is held by the Champaign Civic Foundation, which leases it for \$1.00 a year to the Champaign Recreation Association, which operates it. The Association provides between \$5,000 and \$7,000 a year. Salaries of the staff total \$4,820 a year and maintenance costs take up much of the remainder of the budget, leaving very little for recreational equipment.

The staff consists of a full director and a full time assistant who also acts as secretary, and a custodian. These positions are held by Negroes. There is an average weekly attendance of 1,000 to 1,200 persons, two-thirds of whom are youths. The center offers supervised play for children from six to thirteen on five afternoons a week: basket ball, volley ball, and various clubs. In the evening the Center is open to adolescents for ball games, dances, choral and orchestra groups, and club meetings.

All general activities sponsored by the Champaign Recreational Association are open to Negroes, who also participate in athletic meets, etc. Their attendance at the summer programs in the parks is largely at Douglas Park, of which the director of the Center is the supervisor.

The facilities of both city libraries are available to Negroes. The children attend story hour and belong to summer reading clubs. That they do not come in greater numbers was attributed by both children's librarians to the distance of both libraries from their homes. Champaign Library has a branch at the Marquette School, which is used to a greater extent by Negroes.

The swimming pool at Crystal Lake Park was opened to Negroes in about the middle of the 1947 season, the first occasion when mixed swimming has taken place. The pool personnel reported that they received both complaints about the new policy and congratulations

upon it. There were no incidents. The Negroes kept by themselves; it was mainly boys who attended.

In the soft-ball contests for boys ten to twelve years old, sponsored by the Urbana Park Board in the summer of 1947, there was one Negro team. There was one Negro a regular member of the Lincoln School team, and Negro boys occasionally served on other teams if the regular members were not present. Only one Negro came to the Field Day at Carle Park. Negro children came occasionally to Crystal Lake Park, using the swings and other play equipment. The recreational director was able to draw only some of the younger children into the games and activities; the older ones could not be persuaded to join. The Negro children were accepted as a matter of course by the white children but some white parents complained of the presence of Negro children. The policemen on duty also complained of their presence, although they watched over them as carefully as they did over the white children and treated them kindly.

The bowling alleys and skating rink and many dance halls privately owned, are closed to Negroes. Until recently all movie theatres except the Co-ed required Negroes to sit in certain sections at the side or in the rear of the balcony, and there are still some attempts to carry out this practice.

Some of the Negro leaders feel that recreational opportunities are inadequate for young people in their late teens and early twenties.

HEALTH

Sources of information:

Superintendents of Burnham, Mercy, County, Outlook Hospitals
 Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department
 President of County Medical Society
 President of District Dental Society
 Public relations officer of Carle Clinic
 Business manager of Christie Clinic
 Social workers
 Negro citizens

Negroes are admitted to all hospitals and clinics in the community (Burnham, County, Mercy and Outlook Hospitals, Carle and Christie Clinics). Carle Clinic does not make a practice of accepting Negroes for maternity service although it has done so on one or two occasions. The restriction was made because of the attitude of white patients rather than as a matter of hospital policy. The prenatal clinic is open to Negroes. All other services at Carle Hospital and Clinic are open to Negroes on an equal basis, according to the official statements of policy and to the experience of Negroes in the community. Negro patients are also accepted from outside the community.

There is no segregation in the waiting rooms of hospitals or clinics. Private rooms are available to Negro patients. It was stated by Negro citizens that in the wards Negroes are usually grouped together.

A state statute, the Cities and Villages Act, stipulates in its hospital section (171) that all hospitals established under this act must provide accommodations for any sick or injured person in the city. This applies to Burnham Hospital. At the present time Burnham Hospital does not accept any patient, white or Negro, for whose care payment is made by the Illinois Public Aid Commission (aid to dependent children, the aged and the blind) on the grounds that the payment is inadequate.

Special clinics, such as the Planned Parenthood and Well Baby clinics, have proportionately large Negro attendance.

None of the hospitals in the community has interns, either white or Negro.

The only schools of nursing in the community are at Burnham and at Mercy Hospitals. Neither has any Negro girls. Burnham Hospital has stated officially that a qualified Negro applicant would be accepted. When a well-known and much-respected white social worker inquired about the admittance of a well-qualified Negro girl in whom she was interested, she was given the name of a nurses association to which the girl might write. Mercy Hospital stated that they too suggested out-of-town training schools to Negro applicants. There are known to be three Negro girls in the community at present who would like to enter nurses training.

There is no Negro physician in the community at present, although one Negro practiced here until his death a few years ago. He was permitted to attend his patients at Mercy and at Burnham Hospitals. The Cities and Villages Act, referred to above, provides that all Physicians recognized as legal practitioners by the State Board of Health shall have equal privileges in treating patients in any hospital established under the Act. This applies to Burnham. The staff at County Hospital is appointed by the County Medical Society. From a list of volunteers five physicians serve at one time, on a three months basis. The Negro physician never served on the staff at County Hospital. The Negro physician was a member of the County Medical Society, which has no color qualifications for membership.

The number of physicians who accept Negro patients has not been precisely determined, but many do so - some in office hours and some at special times. They also make home visits for Negro patients. Many Negroes expressed the opinion that they received excellent medical care in all hospitals and clinics, and from private physicians who accepted their cases.

(Dental care is a problem to the Negroes. There are no Negro dentists in the community at present although there have been in the past. As far as the committee could learn, only five dentists accept Negro patients and some of these only outside regular office hours.) The oral surgery department at Carle Clinic, the only dental service at the Clinic, is open to Negroes, and they do go there for care. The president of the District Dental Society said that the

society is concerned about the problem and has discussed it. He also stated that many of the dentists would accept Negro patients if white patients did not cancel their appointments when they found Negroes in the waiting room. Membership in the District Dental Society is open to Negroes; there are at present several Negro members from other communities.

The dental examinations of all children in the public schools, under the auspices of the Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department, were carried on at Lawhead and Willard, the two all-negro schools. The principals reported that follow-up care is being provided for the children whose families could not afford to pay for this.

The public health nurses carry on health education in Lawhead and Willard schools, as they do in the other public schools. They do much health education, particularly on the care and prevention of contagious and infectious diseases in connection with their visits in Negro homes.

A more definitive survey would be needed to give a complete picture of how adequately the health needs of the Negroes are met.

LEGAL STATUS

Sources of information:

State's Attorney - present and past
 Clerk of Circuit Court
 Lawyers and Judges
 Social Workers
 Negro members of the community

Illinois has had a strong Civil Rights law since 1885. Amendments have been passed from time to time for further implementation, the last in 1937. The law prohibits discrimination because of race or color in places of public accommodation and amusement, such as eating places, stores, theaters, skating rinks, rest rooms, and all public conveyances.

Offenders are subject to both civil and criminal action. A public officer or employee is subject to dismissal for violation of the law.

It also prohibits any public officer or employee of the State or of any county, municipality, Park District, or State University from denying to any person, on account of race, color or religion the full equal enjoyment of accommodations and facilities of his services or of any property under his care.

The penalty for violation of the law is a fine of \$25 - \$500, imprisonment of not more than one year, or both. (Paragraph 126)

The State's Attorney is responsible for the enforcement of the law and the prosecution of cases even when suit is not brought to him by individuals or groups. (Paragraph 128 e). It is the duty of the sheriff and of the police to investigate and secure evidence of any violation of the law, and to make complaint against the offender (Paragraph 128 d).

Community practice conforms with the law in public conveyances, stores, rest rooms. Until recently it has not conformed in eating places and in movies, where Negroes were required to sit in certain sections. Skating rinks and bowling alleys are closed to Negroes. No instances could be found, in the last 27 years, of the state's attorney or police taking the initiative in investigating violations of the law, indicating that such action is not expected of them by the community.

Since 1940 only three individuals have filed complaints under the law. One involving discrimination because of color in a movie theater was settled out of court. A criminal suit involving discrimination in an eating place was dropped because the witnesses refused to testify. In a civil suit involving discrimination in a restaurant, the jury found the defendant not guilty.

In the last two years the Student Community Interracial Committee has brought to the attention of the State's Attorney discrimination against Negroes in some restaurants and in movies. These violations were handled by the State's Attorney out of court. Discrimination is no longer practiced in these restaurants. This includes all the campus eating places and some down-town. Other down-town restaurants still refuse to serve Negroes or give them unequal service.

In the movie theaters Negroes are no longer required to sit in certain sections although attempts are sometimes made to effect such seating.

Both white and Negro citizens have said that police have searched the homes and persons of certain Negroes without search warrants. There also seems to be a custom of holding "suspicious" persons for the allowed three day health (venereal disease) examination, which in some instances constitutes a misapplication of law. However, "suspicious" white persons have also been searched without a warrant and held the three days. The practices do not seem to have been directed only toward Negroes.

There is one Negro member of the Champaign police force.

There are no Negro lawyers in the community at the present time although there have been in the past. White lawyers accept Negro cases and, in the opinion of Negroes who were interviewed, put forth their best efforts in the clients' behalf. Negroes may become members of the local bar association.

One highly reputable and responsible lawyer and some Negro citizens stated that juries seem sometimes to be influenced in decisions on the importance of civil or criminal damages when one or both parties is a Negro.

On the whole there has been no criticism of the judiciary, which is considered by both Negro and white citizens to be just and without prejudice.

In the period from 1940 through April of 1948, according to the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 46 Negroes have served on petit juries. The record of jurors who have served does not state race or color of a juror, hence these figures are based upon the recollection of the Clerk. According to the statement of the Clerk and of a former state's attorney, there have been six Negroes on grand juries since 1940. Statements of former state's attorneys indicated that in the period from 1920-1940 Negroes had served on petit juries from time to time, but infrequently upon grand juries. The Supreme Court and other appellate courts have reversed verdicts given by juries from which minority groups consistently had been excluded.

In this county, jury lists are made up by the county supervisors. For the grand jury panel they submit the complete list. There is no drawing by lot. For the petit jury each supervisor submits a large number of names, from which the jury panel is drawn by lot. The coroner selects the coroner's jury; Negroes do serve from time to time on this jury.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Sources of information:

- Local employment offices
- Union officials
- Postmaster, Champaign
- Postmaster, Urbana
- County Clerk
- Older Negroes long resident in the community
- Younger, skilled Negroes
- Negro Veterans
- Factory owners and personnel managers

In attempting to ascertain local employment opportunities for Negroes, we set up a sample list of 62 occupations requiring all varieties of skill and education. In checking this list we found variation between the pattern in the community and that at Chanute Field and at the University. Since the University employs over 6000 people locally, its policy will be reported separately. Chanute Field, which is also a large employer of local labor, will also be

considered separately.

The opportunities in the community fall roughly into four classifications when considered in relation to Negro participation.

1. Jobs in which no Negroes are employed at present ----- 36
That is: no Negro, no matter what his training or experience, will be hired locally as a bank clerk, a movie usher, a store clerk, etc.
2. Jobs open to Negroes in certain limited instances - 10
That is: one factory hires machine operators solely on a basis of skill; there is one Negro policeman, one mail carrier; one business firm employs one Negro clerical worker, etc. Two manufacturers hire Negroes, on an equal basis with whites, as drop forgers and machinists.
3. Jobs open for limited and/or segregated work -- 12
That is: employers look for Negroes for certain specific jobs which are carefully delimited from other jobs in the same establishment or are the only hired work done on the premises: dish-washing, cooking, steaming and pressing, maintenance work, etc.
4. Jobs open absolutely on a basis of skill --- 4
That is: a qualified Negro will be hired to work at the same jobs with whites in unskilled construction work, in street repair, on railroad maintenance work and in grain processing.

Another view of the situation is obtained from the policy in local unions. There are 35 A. F. of L. trades unions represented in Champaign-Urbana. None of these formally bans Negroes, but in actual practice only fourteen unions accept them. Each of these has some Negro members. They are: Bakery and Confectionary Workers, Blacksmiths and Drop Forgers, Building Service Employees, Electrical Workers, Grain Processors, Hod Carriers & Construction Workers, Machinists, Mail Carriers, Glove Workers, Municipal & County Employees, Truck Drivers, Hotel & Restaurant Employees, and two railroad unions - Maintenance of Way, and Firemen & Oilers. The one Negro policeman, in Champaign, is the only Negro working for the municipalities except in non-skilled work.

Certain changes occur. New opportunities open: the telephone company has two Negro switch board operators for the first time this year. However, there are fewer opportunities now than in the past for Negro waiters. The jobs considered in #2 (open to Negroes in limited instances) may be increased or decreased at any time because their number depends entirely on the individual employers.

A certain number of Negroes manage to support themselves by practising various skills and trades within the Negro community, dealing exclusively with Negroes. There are, for instance, Negro printers and carpenters and beauticians. This only indicates the variety of skills existing within the community; it does not mean that there is real freedom of opportunity in these occupations. There is a Negro plasterer who works for white builders, and there is a cleaning establishment owned and operated by a Negro, serving whites and Negroes.

In an effort to decide whether this strict limitation of employment opportunities reflects a lack of skill in local Negroes, we look to the University pattern. The nonacademic and student employment offices accept applications regardless of color although they note it. Then when any division of the University - office, bureau, etc. - needs a worker it applies to the employment office. The ultimate employer may reject applicants on the basis of color though the nonacademic office makes an effort to place as many Negroes as it can. There are Negroes working for the University as stenographers, clerks, assistants in the library and laboratories, mail carriers (4), food handlers, maids, leaf rakers, and maintenance men.

The University policy in hiring academic personnel is also officially non-discriminatory. There are, on the local campus, four Negro academic appointees, research assistants. The Negro housing problem limits the possibility of securing the services of Negroes or professional rank.

Chanute Field, during its peak expansion, hired many Negroes for skilled work, solely on the basis of skill. There were stenographers, clerks and technical instructors as well as kitchen help and maintenance men. There were promotions in this group.

That these two employers find local Negroes to perform skilled and semi-skilled work proves such workers are here.

Another source of information is the experience of local Negro veterans who received Federal support money because they were trained to perform work which they could not get because of their color. Thus a man trained as a carpenter received assistance for himself and children because union membership was barred to him and he had not the capital needed to set up for himself. An incomplete list of veterans in the community included men who were qualified as barbers, office workers, experts in aviation, diesel engines, electronics.

A fourth source of information on qualifications and training is a list of other local Negroes who have not been able to find work in keeping with their skills. This list, like the other, is not a thorough canvass of the community, but it includes persons from 18 to the middle forties, persons who range from high school graduates to M.A.'s. They have worked in the Army or prepared at school or University for skilled occupations which they cannot practice locally. Some are, as a result, doing nothing; some are washing

dishes; some are practising their skills in Washington, Chicago, Dayton.

It is sometimes asserted that Negroes and whites cannot be mixed, that they cannot work together in the same office or shop. The experiences at the University and at Chanute refute this; there Negroes have worked with whites efficiently and amicably. The places where certain community employers take Negroes on the basis of skill have had similar success. The personnel manager of a large local factory which for nine years has employed white and Negro operatives was interviewed. His comment was: "There isn't any problem in having the two races work together. If employers would only try it, they would find that their fears are groundless."

The president of the Central Trades Council, A. F. of L., declared that the Illinois Federation of Labor is in favor of the principle of non-discriminatory employment, that it would back fair employment legislation which would be equally applicable to management and labor.

conductors
 painters
 drivers
 men & oilers
 switch board operators

4. Open on equal basis 4

street laborers
 building laborers
 road maintenance laborers
 professors

Sample list of community job opportunities for Negroes -- Jan., 1948.

(partially rechecked -- May, 1948)

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| 1. No Negroes employed at present,
36 | 2. Occasionally open to
Negroes by certain
employers 10 |
| store clerks | garage mechanics |
| office workers | policement (one) |
| linesman | confectioners |
| mill workers | waiters |
| accountants | ice manufacturers |
| nurses | shoe repairs (one shop) |
| bank clerks | mail carriers (one) |
| pharmacists | machine operators |
| cold storage workers | blacksmith & forgers |
| engineers | factory electrical workers |
| conductors | |
| lock smiths | |
| fuel oil salesmen | 3. Open for limited and/or
segregated work 12 |
| theater ushers | barbers |
| theater cashiers | teachers |
| sign painters | steamers & pressers |
| upholsterers | boot blacks |
| tire repairers | cooks |
| telegraphers | dishwashers |
| sewer builders | porters & janitors |
| plastic workers | domestic helpers |
| dairy manufacturers | laundresses |
| milk drivers | truck drivers |
| bus drivers | firemen & oilers |
| grain dealers | switch board operators |
| fruit & veg. dealers | |
| exterminators | 4. Open on equal basis 4 |
| sanitary haulers | street laborers |
| butchers | building laborers |
| milk handlers | railroad maintenance laborers |
| librarians | grain processors |
| carpenters | |
| painters | |
| electricians | |
| welders | |
| printers | |

HOUSINGSources of information:

Survey made by Champaign County Housing Authority 1941
 Director of Champaign County Housing Authority
 Attorney for Champaign " " "
 Acting Director of the Champaign Urbana Public Health Dept.
 Substitute Actg. Dir. " " " " "
 Sanitary Engineer
 Fire Prevention Officer Champaign Fire Department
 Fire Chief Urbana " "
 Superintendent Building Construction Champaign
 Commissioner of Public Works Urbana
 Pamphlet I Substandard Housing of Champaign Urbana, Illinois.
 Prepared by the Regional Planning Commission of Champaign
 County for the use of the Citizens Housing Survey Committee
 Association of Commerce, Urbana
 Social Workers
 Negro citizens
 Direct observation of substandard housing and interviews with
 some of the tenants.

(Housing in the Negro community is a sorry picture. Many of the streets are not paved, becoming mud holes or dust bins with varying weather conditions. Some streets have no sidewalks.)

(Although there are many vacant lots there is great overcrowding within the homes. Social workers cited as examples: 21 people (17 children) occupying a six room house, and a family of 7 children and a mother occupying a dark attic room, which served as a thoroughfare for a family in an adjoining room, and which was over a rooming house for men where drunkenness and brawls were common. Even back in 1941, before the housing shortage had become severe in the community at large, the Champaign County Housing Authority's survey showed that 110 out of 587 Negro dwelling units were occupied by more than one family group or had lodgers, although 67% had only 1 or 2 bedrooms.)

(Now the shortage is so severe that sheds formerly used as coal bins or other storage places are now used as dwellings, and flimsy tar paper shacks have been built out of odds and ends.) From one to five of these makeshift dwellings can be found in the rear of one small lot. At a Beach St. address 18 individuals (12 of them children) occupied 4 shacks. On Beardsley St. 21 people occupied 5 shacks, served by one outside privy. The lot was so small that the shacks were almost touching. At a Dublin St. address 4 families (7 children) occupied the main house and shack in the rear, with one outdoor privy. There are blocks on Beach, Hill, and Oak Streets where clusters of shacks are found in the rear of every lot.

We talked with a mother living in one of the shacks. She, her husband, and 6 children occupied a 3 room shack, the rent of which

was \$17.50 a month. The rooms were so tiny that double beds nearly filled them, so low that the hat of a person 5'2" touched the ceiling. Where the stove pipe passed through the old splintery boards there was only a small circle of tin to serve as fire protection. There were no closets or cupboards. Water had to be carried from an adjoining house; there was no provision for disposal of waste water other than to dump it out of doors. In spite of these handicaps, the mother and two youngest children, the only ones at home, were shining clean as to clothes and person. The mother said her husband was making \$40.00 a week, so that they could afford a better place to live if one could only be found. Life was very difficult there; the children were restless and quarrelsome because they had no place to play and couldn't sleep at night with so many packed in one bed. The children stayed away from home as much as they could. Formerly they had had a house "with a real bath room" so they found it very hard to get used to living like this. It was almost impossible to keep the place free of vermin and rats, which gnawed their way through the boards of the shack. (Social workers, too, told of families where the babies had continual sores from being bitten by the rats at night.)

(Not only the shacks and sheds but many of the regular houses are in a condition hazardous to health and safety. The Housing Authority Survey of 1941, previously referred to, studied the 587 houses in the community occupied by Negroes. It listed 83 dwellings as unfit for habitation and 222 in need of major repairs. Taking the 1940 U S census figures for number of dwellings in the two cities occupied by white people, the survey figures show that 10% of all white dwellings was substandard, whereas 74% of the Negro housing was substandard. According to social workers and others familiar with the area, conditions are worse than in 1941; more people crowded into unfit dwellings, more condemned structures occupied. The average rent for these dwellings is \$25 - \$30 a month, the some run as high as \$50 a month.

Mention has been made of the outdoor privies in the shack colonies, but it is not here alone that they are found. In 1941 the Champaign County Housing Authority's survey showed 383 dwellings with outdoor privy and no bath. The Public Health Department estimates that this figure is now about 300, but the existing privies are used by a much larger number of individuals, due to overcrowding of homes and erection of shacks in the rear of homes. Many of these privies are but a few feet from dwellings. The Public Health Department receives "almost daily" complaints about the conditions of privies. According to sanitary codes enacted in Champaign in 1941, and in Urbana in 1945, every dwelling accessible to a sewer must have at least one toilet and sink. If no sewer is accessible and special conditions do not permit construction of a septic tank, a sanitary pit privy may be permitted on written consent of the health authority. It shall not be nearer than 50 feet to a dwelling, street, well, or cistern. There are further regulations about construction

and maintenance of sanitary conditions, but no requirement as to periodic inspection. The penalty for ordinance violation is a fine of \$25 - \$200, collectible by the Plumbing Inspector in Champaign or Commissioner of Public Works in Urbana. In the pamphlet Substandard Housing of Champaign-Urbana, prepared in 1938 by the Regional Planning Commission of Champaign County under the Chairmanship of Prof. Karl Lohmann, there is the following statement: "Out of 100 privies recently inspected by the Champaign Urbana Health District, at least 98% of them were found to be faulty in construction and maintenance."

The sanitary engineer of the Public Health Department said that now, as in 1938, very few of the existing privies conform to the code regulations on construction and maintenance. It is only recently that there has been conformance with the clause about securing written permission from the health authority for the construction of new privies.

Because of insufficient personnel to cover his many responsibilities, including regular restaurant inspection, it is not possible for the sanitary engineer to make periodic inspections of the outdoor privies, but he does investigate all complaints. He stated that until very recently one obstacle to enforcing the sanitary ordinances and replacing outdoor privies with flush toilets was the inadequate size of existing sewers, which resulted in the backing up of sewage into homes and streets after a heavy rainfall. The Sanitary District has just put in a new interceptor sewer, which, it is hoped, will remedy this condition. The question of where the responsibility for the sewage system lies, with the Sanitary District or the City, has not been settled.

The spot maps of the Public Health Department show the highest incidence of tuberculosis and other communicable diseases in the substandard and over-crowded areas, both Negro and white. The Department considers such areas health hazards both to the occupants and to the rest of the community. It has the authority to condemn dwellings, but considers it impossible to exercise this authority when there is no place for people to move.

As far as the committee could learn there are no city ordinances prohibiting the use for dwellings of such structures as the tar paper shacks and converted sheds. The pamphlet prepared by Prof. Lohmann's committee, to which reference has been made, states, "The obsolescence and dilapidation of hundreds of houses in these towns indicate that present regulation or the enforcement of them, or both, are at fault. Reconsideration of the building codes could be undertaken with advantage for local housing, keeping in mind possible incentive to repair maintenance and to demolition. Among other things, the code might include some statement of minimum standards of decency with respect to housing."

The fire departments have the authority to require that certain

conditions constituting fire hazards be remedied, such as inadequate protection around stove pipes or behind stoves. Investigations of substandard structures are made only when a complaint is received. The departments stated frankly that many hazardous conditions exist which are never brought to their attention. Although theoretically the fire chiefs have the authority to condemn and require vacancy of a structure, this authority is not exercised because it has been found that the courts do not sustain the decisions of the fire department.

The Superintendent of Building Construction, Champaign, and Commissioner of Public Works, Urbana, also said that many structures now occupied are not fit for human habitation. Apparently, however, the converted shacks and sheds do not fall within their province. The lack of sufficient standard housing was offered by all city officials interviewed as the chief reason why nothing could be done about the occupancy of unfit structures.

In a recent community wide city planning meeting the speaker emphasized the high cost to the entire community of substandard areas: high cost of fire and police protection, higher taxes for the rest of the community because the taxes here are low, high cost in illness because contagion is no respecter of boundary lines.

The question remains, "What is being done?" Practically no new dwellings are being built in the Negro community. It is almost impossible for a Negro to buy or rent outside a restricted area, partly because of the device of raising the rent or sale price to a Negro applicant. The committee learned of 7 subdivisions in the community which have restrictive covenants stating that the property cannot be sold or leased or "permitted to be occupied as owner or tenants by any person not of the Caucasian race." These, as verified at the office of the County Recorder of Deeds, are University Downs and Country Club Manor in Cunningham Township; Elmwood, Garden Park, Country Club Manor and Harvard Place in Champaign, and Greencroft just outside the city limits of Champaign.

Twenty of the 40 temporary houses erected by the Champaign County Housing Authority for veterans were allotted to Negroes because the greatest housing shortage was found among the Negroes. The Housing Authority holds title to a rather large tract of land north of Bradley Avenue from the Illinois Central Tracks to 6th St. It had hoped in 1941 to erect here, with federal aid, low cost housing for Negroes and whites, like the housing in the nearby cities of Danville and Decatur.

When we asked the Champaign Chamber of Commerce who in their organization was particularly interested in the slum clearance aspect of the city planning movement, we were told that no one was. In newspaper articles describing meetings and activities of the city planning group there has been no mention of plans to improve sub-

standard areas, except in one instance.

The local Community Development and Housing Council has engaged the Real Estate Research Corporation of Chicago to make a survey of the homes, market and labor supply here. The survey has not been completed, but in a preliminary statement, James Downs, Jr., President of the Corporation said, "Champaign-Urbana's housing problem looms as a major project for state or federal aid. It is too big for private capital to solve successfully... The Community needs to launch a full-scale housing program to handle a problem it thus far has only compromised with." (Champaign-Urbana Courier, April 18, 1948)

In talking with Negro citizens the committee learned that, of all subjects considered in the survey, the inability to secure a decent place to live was of greatest concern to the Negroes.

The committee recognizes that this is a preliminary survey, and that much more information is needed in each area. In accordance with the League policy it is a factual report and does not attempt to present attitudes. The committee hopes that the survey will serve as a basis for further study and for community consideration.

Social Welfare Committee

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STANDARD HOUSING IN NEGRO COMMUNITY

	Total surveyed	Sub-standard	Unit	Need for major repairs	No toilet No bath	Toilet No bath	Toilet Bath	Doubled up	With lodgers
Champaign	489	353	67	176	313	26	14	70	26
Urbana	98	81	16	46	70	9	2	7	7
Combined	587	434	83	222	383	35	16	77	33

Data taken from charts in the report of the Champaign County Housing Authority's Survey in 1941