

Illinois Champaign, Ill.

A Community Report – Twenty Years Later

*The Status of the Negro
in
Champaign County*

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Champaign County, Illinois

A COMMUNITY REPORT -- TWENTY YEARS LATER

In 1948 the League of Women Voters of Champaign County published "A Community Report," a survey of the position of the Negro minority in Champaign County. While this study acted as a basis for focusing aspects of League programs in succeeding years, it also served as a catalyst for many other community programs and endeavors to bring about equality of opportunity for Negro citizens.

Much as happened during the twenty years since that original survey. There has been tremendous growth in the community, both economically and socially. The Negro population has increased from about 3,000 to about 8,000 in Champaign and Urbana. According to most recent estimates, Negroes comprise about 10% of Champaign's population of 61,975 and about 6% of Urbana's population of 33,525. There has been expansion in every aspect of community life, including awareness of the problems of black people and committment to the elimination of inequality.

During the past year the League of Women Voters has conducted another survey, somewhat broader in scope than the original, in order to discover the progress which has been made as well as to determine those areas in which continued effort and energy are needed to insure equality of opportunity for all persons.

This new report draws no conclusions and makes no recommendations for action. It is intended simply to state the facts as they exist. It is our hope that the report will again serve not only as a guide for League program, but as a useful tool for the community as a whole.

October, 1968

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PUBLIC EDUCATION

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Champaign, Unit 4

While public concern for the Champaign schools is always high, it has been particularly acute in recent years. Several organized citizen's groups have been urging broad changes in the school system to provide equal educational opportunities for all children, while others have been primarily interested in the spiraling costs of educating nearly 13,000 children with the continuing need for more buildings and more money for staff.

The Board of Education and the administration and staff have attempted in various ways to meet the equal opportunities problem. The Teachers, through their Human Relations Committee and Committee to Study Integration, have addressed themselves to the problem of racial isolation. Various programs have been instituted at all levels to help alleviate the problems of disadvantaged children. In March, 1967, the Board of Education appointed an Equal Educational Opportunities Committee (EEOC), representative of various divergent points of view, to examine the Unit 4 educational programs. In June, 1967, following an interim report, the EEOC was charged with the responsibility of "making recommendations for reasonable actions to alleviate educational problems which arise from racial isolation in the Unit 4 schools." September, 1968 was set as the target date for the elimination of racial isolation in the elementary schools. The plan proposed by the EEOC in January, 1968 was adopted by the Board and is now in the process of implementation.

EEOC Plan

The EEOC plan provides for the racial and socio-economic balancing of the elementary schools by means of boundary changes and busing. Racial balance is defined basically as no less than 7% Negro and no more than 26% Negro, and the population of all schools has been adjusted according to this standard. Washington School, which previously had an enrollment of almost 100% black children, is being operated as a curriculum development center in conjunction with the University of Illinois. It is staffed with Unit 4 teachers and serves pupils from all areas of the Unit 4 District on a voluntary basis. At the start of school in September, 1968, only three schools failed to meet the ratio for complete racial balance. The percentage of black pupils ranged from 4.1% to 35.5% in the fifteen elementary schools involved in the busing program.

At the end of the first week of school, implementation of the plan was proceeding with only minor problems.

Throughout the 1967-68 school year, a series of in-service training seminars was held to acquaint teachers with new situations which might arise in the classrooms after schools were racially balanced. As part of the general plan, there will be a continuing effort to attract more black teachers. As of June, 1968, about 7% of the teaching staff was black for a student body which was 13% black. During the summer of 1968, the structure of the administrative staff was reorganized; in the course of this action the offices of Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Pupil Personnel Services, charged with the hiring of teachers, and Pupil Accounting and Attendance Officer, charged with providing liason between the Superintendent's Office and parents and students, were created. Both positions are currently held by Negroes. Remedial and supportive services are being distributed throughout the system to reach children in all schools. During the spring of 1968, children leaving neighborhood schools were given an opportunity to visit their new schools, and PTA's of receiving schools made special efforts to welcome parents of children to be bused into their area.

Elementary Schools

Prior to implementation of the EEOC Plan, the racial composition of the Champaign elementary schools ranged from majority-Negro (3) to majority-white (8), with three schools, Lincoln, Switzer and Columbia, nearly racially balanced according to EEOC standards. In addition to these fourteen schools within the city limits of Champaign, there are three rural schools, none of which had any Negro students. One of these, Bondville, is not included in the EEOC plan because of its distance which makes busing impractical. There were a small number of Negro children in each of the eight majority-white schools within the city before the implementation of the plan. These children, who came from middle-class homes in integrated neighborhoods, appears to their teachers to have few problems that were related to race.

There has been occasional evidence of racial tension at the elementary school level. Teachers feel that this is a result of attitudes at home and is not caused by situations at school. A number of teachers said that race and race relations were discussed in the classroom when they came up naturally. A few felt that discussion of race was unnecessary in the elementary schools.

In the three naturally integrated schools, black and white children worked and played well together in classroom activities, on the playground and in after-school activities. For the past four years, two of these schools, Switzer and Columbia, have been the receiving schools for Project Promise, a research program supported with State Special Education funds for children with above-average ability who come from the lowest socio-economic levels in the city. These children, one-half to two-thirds of whom were black and who were bused to school, were not well assimilated into the social activities of the school. They met in separate classes where they received special assistance and particular encouragement. At first there was definite hostility between the neighborhood children and the Project Promise children, but this lessened each year, as did telephoned complaints from upset parents. Even though Project Promise was generally regarded favorably by both parents and teachers working with the program, this project has been discontinued under the EEOC

plan, in the hope that these children will do as well in ordinary integrated classrooms.

The Negro History Unit prepared by the Unit 4 staff was used in all elementary classes in 1967-68. In most cases, the material was integrated into the regular class materials. In 1968-69, an integrated, multi-ethnic basic reading series will be introduced. When used, integrated materials have brought favorable reaction from teachers and from Negro students.

Secondary Schools

There are five secondary schools in Champaign: three junior high schools and two senior high schools. The two senior high schools and two of the junior high schools have always been integrated, geographically or, in the case of Centennial High, by busing. The percentage of black students in these four schools has ranged from 10% to 19%. The third junior high school, located in southwest Champaign, is now in the second step of a three-phase plan for busing Negro students from the northeast part of the city.

Approximately 70% of the black students in Champaign entering junior high have come from either an all-black or predominantly black elementary schools and thus have encountered a predominantly white school for the first time at the junior high level. Teachers generally agree that they are at an academic disadvantage when compared to white students. Black and white students tend to be kept separate by ability grouping through Project Creativity, which isolates the more gifted students for the major part of the course work, by the remedial classes in which more than half the students have been Negro, and by selection of curriculum, which is often different from college-bound white students and vo-tech oriented black students. Nearly 80% of the white students plan on post-high school training and almost two-thirds will enter college. Less than 50% of the Negro students plan on further education; for those who do, it is likely to be vocational rather than academic. The most integrated classroom environment seems to exist in art classes, because of their structure and prerequisites, and in social studies classes, because of the opportunity for class discussion.

The school system is taking several steps to improve the opportunities for Negro students. Under the EEOC plan, the scope of Project Creativity, the demonstration program which is part of the State Program for the Gifted, will be broadened to allow for more participants. The pre-vocational program at the junior high school level and the Occupational Explorations program at the senior high school level are designed to raise the aspirations of students who are not achieving adequately in the academic program and to provide counseling and training in practical work skills. Enrollment in these programs varies from 40% to 60% Negro.

Extra-curricula Activities

The informal structure of the secondary schools relating to matters not academic contributes further to the separation of the races and socio-economic groups. While all school activities, such as school newspaper, student government, dramatics and other interest clubs, are open to all, few black and lower class white students participate. Teachers report that Negro students are fearful of joining these activities and that white students do not make special efforts to make them feel welcome. Afro-American Clubs were formed

at both high schools in the spring of 1968 to deal with problems of special interest to black students. Participation was high. With the exception of the hobby and service clubs in the junior high schools, which meet during the regular class day, activities occur after school hours. Those students whose parents cannot provide transportation have no choice but to leave on the bus at the end of the school day. The problem of after-school transportation was mentioned by every principal, teacher and counselor interviewed for this study as the major obstacle to black and white students' getting to know each other through sharing common interests and activities.

In the last two years, there has been a noticeable increase in Negro participation in dramatics and talent shows because of special encouragement of teachers who, in some cases, arrange for after-school transportation in order to insure participation. In athletics, the only really integrated school activity, some coaches provide rides so that black athletes can attend practice sessions.

Student Leaders

Two to three percent of black students achieve academic honors as compared to 10% of the white students. Every school has outstanding Negro athletes, both boys and girls, and several have captained their teams. Some Negro students have had considerable success in music and dramatics. These leaders are acknowledged by both black and white students and are liked and respected by both groups. Negroes rarely move into white social circles. Hops, but not formal dances, are well attended by black students. There is a small amount of inter-racial dating, usually Negro boy and white girl. This often results in harassment of the couple.

The black leaders in school are most often students from middle-class families living in integrated neighborhoods. Students from the ghetto have little opportunity to be involved in the informal social structure of school life because of the transportation problem. Their social life is centered in the neighborhood groups and gangs.

Communication Between Students

The general feeling in all the schools was that there was a lack of communication between black and white students, as well as between black students and some white teachers. There has been no integration in the cafeterias and very little in the corridors. Most of the staff felt that both black and white students would like a better relationship and the teachers who encouraged discussion of race relations in their classes found that most students responded eagerly. The addition of the Negro history Unit to the curriculum has been well received, and efforts to improve it and integrate it into the regular curriculum are continuing. Good integrated texts are being sought for all subjects on all levels.

In all the schools it was felt that there had been an increase in racial tension during 1967-68. Except for isolated instances, tension was attributed more to the "feelings of the times" and reaction to national events rather than to specific grievances of students. When trouble did occur, only relatively small groups were involved. Teachers varied widely in their opinions on whether discipline problems had increased. In the classroom, discipline situations seem to be individual matters. There seemed little doubt that problems had

increased in corridors, rest rooms, assemblies and other general gathering places. The firmer and more well-defined discipline code which was established during the 1967-68 school year met with approval from most parents and most students. All teachers and staff members reported cooperation from Negro parents when problems arose in school. Many reported that they were effectively involving parents, black and white, more often than in the past through phone calls and notes, and that they plan to continue to do so.

Several attempts have been made to bring about better communications between Negro and white students and teachers. Efforts were made to assemble small groups of students to discuss differences, but few felt that this had been very effective. Franklin Junior High School had a plan in 1967-68 that seemed to foster communication throughout the student body. Rotating home room representatives attended a pupil forum and participated in what was described as a form of group counseling. Many staff members indicated that they were sensitive to the needs of the Negro students and were involved in efforts to make education more relevant to them. There were others, however, who were reluctant to mention race in school and felt that Negro problems were the result of home environment and that there was little the school could do.

While racial tension was felt to be increasing, there was also some feeling expressed that in certain respects black and white student relations have shown definite improvement, especially since the death of Dr. Martin Luther King. During the spring of 1968, a number of students, particularly white students, seemed to develop an awareness of the problems of race relations and began to work with school and civic groups to stimulate communication between the races. Discussions in classrooms have become freer, while attempts have been made to break the color barrier in the cafeterias. At the same time, however, black students seemed to be developing an increased sense of racial pride and, along with this, more aggressiveness. One principal described the situation as some Negro students "ignoring opportunities to integrate." There were also reports of harassment occurring within Negro groups as a reaction to those responding to the moves to integrate.

Urbana, Unit 116

Integration of Elementary Schools

The Urbana schools are in a state of transition. By decision of the Unit 116 School Board, the elementary schools were integrated in September, 1966, making Urbana the first school district in the state of Illinois to institute a desegregation program. Approximately 80% of the children from Hays School, previously 99% Negro, are bused into other elementary schools; all children from University-owned housing in the Orchard Downs area are bused to Hays School.

After two years, the positive effects of integration are becoming apparent in the elementary schools. Although it is still too early to see measurable gains, teachers and principals report improvement in achievement, increased pride and self-confidence, and a general lessening of difficulties for black children. In general, white children have accepted their new school mates and real friendships have developed between white and black children.

Paradoxically, the Junior and Senior High Schools, which have always been integrated, show none of the positive effects of integration. There has been, in fact, an increase in racial tension during the past two years, reflecting the increase in racial tension and black militancy felt throughout the country.

The problems reported are essentially the same at the Junior and Senior High Schools. Racial tension is high; great differences in academic preparedness exist; little social integration occurs; black students feel excluded from school activities and regard much of the curriculum as irrelevant.

Junior High School

The problems at the Junior High (where, in May, 1968, 12% of the 1,480 students were Negro) are the problems that existed before steps were taken to integrate the elementary schools. With the exception of the 1967-68 seventh grade class, the first contact most of the students have had with students of a different race and different socio-economic class has been in the seventh grade. It has been noted that this is possibly the most difficult age in terms of psychological development at which to bring together children from different backgrounds. The children are "cliquish," impressionable, and are going through emerging adolescence; attitudes learned at home are not easily dislodged.

Because most of the black students in the Junior High live in the northwest part of Urbana, they share few childhood experiences with white students and have little in common which would bring them together naturally. There is little socializing between white and black students and when social contacts do occur, they have tended recently to result in harassment by other students. Tables in the lunchrooms are never integrated. Negro students, most of whom arrive on the same bus, use the same door to enter school; this gave rise to the suspicion reported to be held by some black parents that there is a "For Negroes Only" door. Because of difficulties in the girls' washroom in 1967-68, the students developed an unwritten law that white and Negro girls use the washroom in shifts and a guard from each group was posted at the door to insure this separate use.

Teachers and counselors reported that black students feel unwelcome in school activities and therefore hesitate to participate. Participation in after-school activities is minimal. Transportation is a problem, and no late bus is provided. In addition, at a meeting to discuss Negro involvement in school activities in the fall of 1967, black students pointed out that the activities offered, such as foreign language clubs, drama club, newspaper and yearbook, are not appealing to them. Three or four out of 55 elected representatives to the student council are Negro.

"Ability grouping" for classes further emphasizes the separateness of the races. Because of the adverse effects of segregated school experience in elementary school, as well as a variety of other factors, black students enter Junior High below white students in achievement. There are seldom any Negro students in the accelerated classes and only a few in high-achieving classes; most are in slow-learner classes. In special education classes, there is a majority of Negro students.

Black students have reported at meetings and discussions of their problems that they feel teachers discriminate against them by not expecting as much from them as from white students and by not challenging them with realistic tasks. Students also suspect teachers misunderstand them and the difficulties which are caused by poverty.

Special Programs

It is generally agreed that in spite of some attempts to deal with the problems at the Junior High School not enough is being done. One helpful program started by the school system in the summer of 1967 was Project Upgrade in which children who were one or two years behind in grade level were moved into their chronological age grade after completing a summer of remedial work. Discipline problems decreased when larger and more mature children were placed with their own age group. Vocational education and work-study programs have also been proven valuable in making school relevant and meaningful. Staff members at the Junior High agree that more such programs are needed. Although some teachers choose to teach Negro history and literature, this is not a standard part of the curriculum. A Junior High Afro-American Club, fashioned after the one at the Senior High, was started in April, 1968. As at the Senior High, this club is on a voluntary basis, and teachers fear that it does not necessarily attract those, white and black, whose need for information and understanding is greatest. Use is made of the psychology and social work staff for counseling before trouble begins, but the greatest emphasis is still on traditional discipline after the fact.

In May, 1968, black parents formed a group called the Concerned Citizens Committee (CCC), and met with the school administration to present grievances about the severity of discipline, the number of black students suspended, and the lack of adequate communication with parents about those matters. The Concerned Citizens Committee subsequently presented a list of grievances to the School Board including these complaints and adding requests for increased recruitment and hiring of black teachers, use of integrated texts, use of school buildings for recreational purposes, and the establishment of a workshop for teachers of both Unit 4 and Unit 116 schools to discuss problems of students from disadvantaged homes.

Senior High School

These problems characterize the Senior High School as well as the Junior High School. In 1967-68, about 11% of the 1,374 Senior High students were black. Less than 1% of the students in non-athletic activities were black. In athletics, the percentage of Negro participation is much greater: about 20% in football and 70% in varsity basketball. Four out of five members of the first string basketball team in 1967-68 were black. There are, however, no black cheerleaders, no black team managers; a Negro basketball captain was chosen only after provision was made for a third captain.

While the drop-out rate for the school as a whole is 17% to 20%, for black students it is about 50%. This is a marked improvement since the early 1960's when the Negro drop-out rate was closer to 90%. Several factors have contributed to this increase in the number of Negroes who graduate. Most frequently mentioned are the development of special education and vocational education programs and increased motivation on the part of black students who

are beginning to feel that they can find jobs after graduation without discrimination on the part of the employers. The percentage of black students who graduate with honors is minimal. Ten to 15% of Negro students, as compared with 58% of whites, are college-bound.

The major difference between the Junior and Senior High Schools is the age and maturity of the students and their reactions to the conditions. Teachers and counselors point out that Senior High students are more aware of and more sensitive to the attitudes of teachers and other students. Students have complained to staff members about the failure of the administration to take positive steps to insure equal inclusion of and participation by black students in school activities. They have indicated concern with the failure of curriculum to suit their needs, with the exclusion of Negro culture from classroom materials, and have often referred to the absence of Negroes in administrative and teaching positions.

With positive guidance from several members of the teaching and counseling staff, students have been able to handle their grievances in a constructive manner. The students organized a Student Forum for the open expression of grievances and discussion of racial tension. Students organized an Afro-American Club which sponsored an inter-cultural dinner. In the spring, the students were given permission to have an assembly with skits depicting racial tensions and discriminations felt by black students. An issue of the school newspaper was published as a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King and contained, among other things, several outspoken pleas for positive action and racial understanding.

The attitude of the administration has been responsive. A late bus is provided for Student Forum meetings; permission and cooperation was given for the assembly; a cheerleader's clinic was started. It is felt, however, particularly by black parents, that more must be done. A recurrent problem during the spring of 1968 was harassment of Negro students by militant black and white students, many of whom had dropped out of school but who came back to the school, apparently for the purpose of disruption. At the beginning of the school year in September, 1968, a number of fights and other incidents prompted the declaration of a firm discipline policy by the administration at the high school.

Elementary Schools

At the elementary school level, the plan integrating the schools is generally considered to be working well. The number of black children assigned to each school from outside the neighborhood is determined by the total number of children in the school and the number of Negro children living in the neighborhood and attending the school. In 1967-68, the percentage of Negro children in the nine elementary schools ranged from 31% to 7%, with only three schools having more than 10%. When three special education classes are included in the Hays School (31%) figures, the actual percentage was 38%. Lincoln-Thornburn School serves an integrated neighborhood and receives no bused children. The attempt is made to assign children from the same family to the same school. Exception to this occurs occasionally when placement in a special education class is necessary. Racial balance in the classrooms is determined by School Board policy: when there are three classes in a grade level, at least two must be integrated; when there are only two classes, both

must be integrated. Racial balance within the classroom, when there is ability grouping, is determined by the teacher. Most teachers make a conscious effort to have integrated groups. Teachers report that they also make an effort to have integrated play groups during recess and that encouragement is rarely needed.

Bus transportation has caused some inconveniences and some problems. After-school activities, such as Boy and Girl Scouts, art and music classes, are difficult to arrange because of bus transportation. In many cases, neighborhood parents have provided transportation to insure participation by black children. Long waits for the bus in cold weather or missed buses have caused difficulty on occasion. There were some reports of discipline problems on buses. Complaints are usually received with good grace and attempts are made at solutions.

Curriculum

Difficulties caused by disparate levels of achievement and readiness have been minimized in the Urbana schools by the system of non-graded primary work. Groups of children in each classroom can work on several different grade levels and did so even before integration. In several schools a program called "Individually Prescribed Instruction" (IPI) has proved very useful. Mimeographed materials are provided for each child and assignments are determined by the needs of each child regardless of what other children in the class are doing. For children in need of extensive remedial work, ten disabilities teachers are employed with funds provided for by Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Students from the University of Illinois' Volunteer Illini Project also assist with remedial and enrichment work. School libraries have acquired many new books by and about Negroes, Negro history and culture. The Lisa Weichsel Memorial Collection is the most extensive library collection. It was established at Leal School and will be circulated to all schools.

Teaching Staff

In an attempt to help develop positive attitudes on the part of teachers and to help teachers to better understand the problems of disadvantaged children, the Urbana schools have had several general workshops on the problems of human and racial relations and during the winter of 1968 offered an eight-week credit seminar on the teaching of disadvantaged children. The administration recognizes the need for more black teachers and the stated policy of the School Board is to hire black teachers whenever possible. Eleven Negroes were employed in teaching and administrative positions as of May, 1968. This is about 3% of the academic staff. When questioned about this low percentage by the Concerned Citizens Committee, the School Board responded that few black teachers apply to the Urbana schools, possibly because of the low salary scale in the Urbana system. The CCC has requested more active recruitment of Negroes, including sending representatives to the schools to southern teachers colleges to attract applications. In May, 1968, a black teacher was appointed assistant principal at the Senior High School. In schools where there are black teachers, other teachers report that they have found their guidance helpful.

Generally, parents throughout the community are reacting favorably to integration of the elementary schools. The School Board elections of the past two years are often cited as evidence of this. In both cases, individuals

on record as favoring integration were elected. Complaints from parents are becoming fewer. Black children are being invited home for lunch, for after-school play and to birthday parties by their white classmates. Many PTA groups make special efforts to invite Negro parents to meetings and provide transportation for them. Black parents are interested in and concerned with their new schools, and many feel that their children are being given a greater opportunity for good education.

HOUSING

Sources of Information

- League of Women Voters Files on Housing and Urban Renewal
- U. S. Housing Census of 1960
- Director of Urban Renewal
- Relocation Officers
- University of Illinois
- Department of Public Aid
- Champaign County Housing Authority
- Champaign County Regional Planning Office
- Citizen's Advisory Committee on Urban Renewal
- Real Estate Brokers
- Officers of Lending Institutions
- Developers
- Fair Housing Board of Champaign
- Civil Rights Groups
- Negro citizens

History of Residential Segregation

With the advent of federally financed public housing in the late 1930's, residential segregation became accepted public policy throughout the United States. This led to the creation of all-Negro areas and a dual housing market in Champaign and Urbana. On the federal level, the Public Housing Authority sanctioned segregated projects in both the North and the South, and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) recommended the use of restrictive covenants to permit residential segregation. A model restrictive covenant was included in the FHA Underwriting Manual and was not changed until 1949, when the U. S. Supreme Court struck down such covenants as legally unenforceable.

Policies and practices of the homeowner, the real estate broker, the developer, and the lender in Champaign and Urbana were effective in maintaining racial separation. Restrictive covenants and "buy-back" clauses, which permitted the developer approval of a projected resale, were not uncommon in sales contracts. One local subdivider still uses contracts with a "buy-back" clause. Lending institutions did not make loans to Negroes for homes in white areas. In the 50's and early 60's, two all-Negro subdivisions, Carver Park in Champaign and Dr. Ellis in Urbana, were developed adjacent to the already segregated areas. Private real estate development may continue the expansion of these areas on a segregated basis in the future.

By the early 1960's, residential segregation came under attack as the civil rights movement grew and as evidence mounted that such a pattern was a serious disadvantage to Negroes and a threat to the survival of American cities. A change in federal policy was first expressed in President Kennedy's 1962 Executive Order banning discrimination in the sale or rental of federally-assisted facilities, including housing insured by FHA. The Housing and Home Finance Agency declared at that time that "the Executive Order established both the legal and moral foundation necessary for dispersion of minority-group population and ultimately to breaking up patterns of enforced segregation." Then in 1964, the Civil Rights Act extended the policy by outlawing discrimination in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Only a small proportion of the local housing supply was affected by these two mandates, and federal enforcement has been weak and ineffective. For example, the segregated pattern in the five public housing projects built by the Champaign County Housing Authority in the early 1950's was not altered as a result of the Civil Rights Act until 1966 when the Authority began assigning some black families into the white units as a result of continued pressures from civil rights groups and the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) for Urban Renewal. The CAC feared federal rejection of Champaign's urban renewal application because of lack of progress in desegregating public housing. In attempting to desegregate the white public housing units, it was found that some white families elected to move out as black families moved in. No progress has been made in desegregating the two all-Negro family projects, Burch Village in Champaign and Dunbar Court in Urbana.

The University of Illinois found itself in a difficult position in recruiting black faculty and staff because of the unavailability of housing outside of ghetto areas. The University was petitioned in the 50's and early 60's by civil rights groups to make public expression of opposition to discriminatory housing practices. By 1962, the University had established a policy of requiring owners or managers of rental property to sign a pledge that they would not discriminate in the selection of tenants before the University would list their properties in the Housing Office. Lists of properties covered by this pledge were made available to non-University families, although were not extensively used by them. A Housing Review Committee was established to hear complaints; its services are also available to non-University-affiliated persons. The University states that its policy is to encourage any steps which would lead to an open-occupancy situation in the community-at-large, not only for moral reasons, but also because of its practical interest in attracting faculty, staff, and students of minority groups. In 1967, Negroes in faculty and staff positions on the Urbana campus numbered 85. The number of black students on the Urbana campus in 1967-68 was 387.

Fair Housing Ordinances

In 1963, the Champaign County NAACP and the Champaign-Urbana Improvement Association held demonstrations against local discriminatory practices in housing and employment. It was in this year that, for the first time, three well-established and respected real estate firms each sold a home in an all-white area to a Negro family. In 1965, the Urban Renewal controversy in Champaign was at its height. Urban Renewal was opposed by most civil rights groups and many black citizens on the grounds that additional public housing

in the project area and the lack of an open occupancy ordinance would cause increased segregation. The Champaign City Council responded by passing a "Resolution in Regard to Housing" in May, 1965, declaring that a pattern of discrimination is detrimental to the aims of modern society and perpetuates and aggravates conditions causing blighted areas. The Resolution urged all citizens to assist in ending the pattern of segregated housing in the city. Two years later the Champaign City Council passed the Real Estate Licensing Ordinance which prohibited racial discrimination in the sale or rental of property handled by real estate brokers, except upon the request of the seller. This "owner-option" clause was strongly opposed by many groups on the grounds that it legalized discrimination. Broad community support for a strong fair housing ordinance in Champaign was expressed at a public hearing in April, 1968 and a short time later the Human Relations Commission (HRC) of Champaign submitted the draft of an open occupancy ordinance to the City Council. On April 30, 1968, the Champaign City Council, by a vote of 5 to 1, passed the ordinance proposed by the HRC, thereby giving Champaign the strongest municipal fair housing ordinance in the State. Coverage includes sale and rental of property, both through agents and by private owners; sale of vacant land, and the practices of lending institutions. The Urbana Real Estate Licensing Ordinance, which became effective in May, 1968, prohibits discrimination, without exemption, in the sale and rental of property handled by the real estate agent and also applies to the owner who advertises without the services of an agent. A Fair Housing Board has been established in each of the two cities to hear complaints.

These local ordinances became effective within a month after President Johnson, on April 11, 1968, signed into law a new Civil Rights Act. Title VIII of this Act seeks to provide fair housing throughout the United States. It establishes three stages of coverage, and will affect about 80% of the nation's dwellings by January 1, 1970. Discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin is prohibited, and is defined as: refusal to deal in sale or rental, discrimination in terms, discriminatory advertising, false representation that a dwelling is not available, blockbusting, discrimination by financial institutions, and discrimination in real estate services. Prohibitions do not apply to single family houses owned by a private individual where a broker is not used or where advertising is not used. Excluded also are rentals of rooms in owner-occupied dwellings of 2 to 4 families. Private individuals can seek enforcement by making a complaint to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or by civil action in court. In those cases where state or local law applies to the complaint and provides rights and remedies "substantially equivalent" to those under the Fair Housing Title, the complaint will be referred to a state or local agency. If the state or local agency does not commence proceedings within 30 days, the Secretary of HUD may require the case to be returned to him.

Additionally, the Supreme Court ruled in the case of Jones v. Mayer (June, 1968) that the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1866 provides that an individual may go to Federal Court to seek relief against racial discrimination which interferes with his right to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, or convey real or personal property. This right is available regardless of whether the housing in question is covered or exempt under Title VIII. (Jones v. Mayer was the first judicial interpretation of this law since it was enacted in 1866.)

Long before fair housing became a matter of legal concern, two local voluntary citizen's groups, the Council for Community Integration (CCI) and the Fair Housing Bureau, under the auspices of the Champaign Human Relations Commission, pioneered in peaceful progress towards integrated housing. They provided listings of rental and sales housing available without discrimination outside of Negro areas to black families. They had very little success, however, in helping large low-income families who needed low-cost housing. Although the majority of black families finding homes in white areas were newcomers to the community who had the psychological and financial resources to compete in the open market, their search for housing, in many cases, was not without obstacle. Sales were impeded by the purchase of a house by another party while negotiations were ostensibly in progress, by an increase in the price of the home, or by other tactics which, after a certain length of time, were tantamount to rejection. Local developers have not publicly affirmed an open-occupancy policy and until 1965 there were no sales of newly constructed homes to black people in the white subdivisions. Some developers, particularly in high-cost areas, will refuse the sale of a lot to a builder if the contract is with a Negro. A number of fast-developing areas in the Champaign-Urbana area have not been annexed to either city and are not, therefore, subject to the municipal fair housing laws. These areas are, however, covered under Title VIII of the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

The number of Negro families living outside the traditional black areas in 1968 is estimated to be well over 100; and there is said to be at least beginning integration in most neighborhoods of Champaign and, to a lesser extent, in Urbana. Neighborhood acceptance is hard to gauge, but there have been a few reported incidents of violence. Property values have not declined in well-maintained neighborhoods, and "panic-selling" has occurred in only a few instances, with no property devaluation reported by real estate brokers in such cases.

Financing

Although inflationary pressures on the housing market affect both the white and Negro buyer, the latter is more adversely affected because of continuing disparity in economic positions. Median white income in Champaign-Urbana is almost double that of the non-white; in 1966 an estimated 50% of black families earned under \$4,000. A small rise in interest rates for home loans automatically affects potential homeowners in this income range. Lending institutions are selective and tend to favor their own depositors or the very "low-risk" applicant. Many Negroes, including urban renewal displacees, have difficulty in getting home loans because of insufficient cash for down payment, irregular income, indebtedness, or an unfavorable record at the Credit Bureau. Late payments on installment debt or medical and dental bills are frequently referred to collection agencies; a collection record can prevent a family from getting a home loan for many years, even if income is adequate.

Housing Conditions

The housing gains made by some black families are largely illusory. The large majority are confined to housing which is old, overpriced, overcrowded, and often below minimal standards. The 1960 Housing Census reports that of the 1,921 houses occupied by Negroes in the Champaign-Urbana area, 700 were

reported as deteriorating or substandard, with 241 lacking some or all plumbing facilities. The General Neighborhood Renewal Plan (GNRP) Survey made in 1963 in connection with the urban renewal program indicated that 77% of the structures in the northeast neighborhoods of Champaign were substandard or required major repairs.

About 60% of black families are renters, but there is a critical lack of standard low-cost housing available to them. Between 1956 and 1965, the number of rental units charging \$80 per month or less decreased by over 1,500, because of elimination of units or increases in the rental structure. A captive rental market encourages the conversion of single-family residences, some of which have been moved into Negro areas and connected to existing houses, into two-, three-, and sometimes four-dwelling units. High rentals are charged and the owner realizes a total income far beyond the value otherwise obtainable. Serious overcrowding speeds up the process of deterioration in structures which are old to begin with, but is defended on the grounds that it maintains the supply of housing for Negroes.

In 1965, the League of Women Voters made a film of some dwellings occupied by black families in Northeast Champaign who were receiving public aid. The film showed in part:

-- A structure housing 3 families with one bath shared. The rooms were so small that when the photographer entered an apartment some of the family had to leave because there was not enough space for everyone to remain, even standing up. The Department of Public Aid calculated that each person had space equivalent to the size of a desk top. Roaches were a serious problem and the children suffered extensive bites.

-- A concrete block house which contained two families, a total of 15 people sharing one bathroom. No heat was supplied by the landlord. One family had its own coal stove; the other had no source of heat.

-- A basement apartment housing two families, with the kitchen stove as the only source of heat. The wiring was exposed and hot. There was no plumbing in the dwellings, and in order to reach the bathroom one had to go down a long, unlit corridor through the furnace room. Here, a leaking sink served as the kitchen and bathroom sink for both families.

-- A structure consisting of three connecting houses, with 37 people living in one unit. An upstairs 3-room apartment was occupied by a family with 10 children. Here, an old-age assistance recipient fell down broken stairs and was killed.

-- In a house tagged by the City Inspection Department as "unfit for human habitation," a family with 9 children lived in 4 rooms. A stove in the main room was the only source of heat, and plastic on the windows, rather than glass, kept out the weather. The 11 persons shared a double bed, a single bed, and a studio couch.

Although none of the dwellings visited had any closets, it was observed that valiant efforts had been made to keep the places neat and clean. Infestation by insects and vermin was a serious problem; the children were continually ill with respiratory ailments, and makeshift heating devices in winter often caused fires, or illness from smoke and fume inhalation.

The Department of Public Aid (DPA) says that since 1965 the situation has improved somewhat as permission has been granted by the State to pay rent in excess of the County maximum, which is \$75.00. Rents for some families are now approved up to \$90 and in some cases a little beyond that. Even so, housing at these rentals is usually substandard. The DPA estimates that at the present time 75% of their recipients live in housing with code violations, 25% of which are of a hazardous nature. Families do not file complaints with the Housing Inspector because they fear eviction and have no place to move. The DPA can withhold rent payments to offending landlords under a new State law, but they are reluctant to do so because of the lack of legal protection for the client.

Public Housing

Public housing for low-income families provided for in the Federal Housing Act of 1937, and the 221d3 program, which provides low interest mortgages for building moderate-income housing, are the two major federal programs to assist communities in meeting housing needs not provided by the private sector. The erection of public housing in Champaign County has been inadequate. In the early 1950's, a total of 96 units for Negro families and 169 for white families were built by the Champaign County House Authority. No additional family units were proposed until 1963, when urban renewal offered the City of Champaign the opportunity to gain non-cash credits towards their share of the urban renewal cost if public housing were constructed in the project area. Ninety units were requested by the City of Champaign to be used primarily for families displaced by urban renewal. Controversy over the placement of this additional public housing in a segregated area was finally resolved in the fall of 1966 by a compromise plan which will result in a total of 120 units, 60 in the southwest portion of Project One of the urban renewal area and 60 on North Harris Street, adjacent to the proposed Spalding Park. Construction probably will not begin until the spring of 1969 because of delays in acquiring properties on both sites.

In December, 1967, there were 316 families and 140 elderly persons, both black and white, on the waiting list for admission to public housing. Many of the families on this list have six or seven children, and need 4-bedroom units; such units are in short supply and are seldom vacant. Nine is the maximum number of persons in one family which can be accommodated in public housing. Many families are rejected for public housing because the Housing Authority regards them as undesirable tenants on grounds of moral or social conduct. Others do not apply because they cannot afford the rent which can be as high as \$110 a month for a 4-bedroom unit.

Because of delay in the construction of the 120 units (which were intended to be used for relocation housing), the Champaign City Council in December, 1967 directed the County Housing Authority to seek public housing accommodations by leasing private housing. This kind of "instant housing" is authorized by the Housing Act of 1965 and has been used in many cities. Under this program, the local Authority guarantees the rent for the term of the lease and provides ordinary maintenance and repair. The Housing Authority of Champaign County has not given this program publicity and has yet to lease any such housing. Recently, the Housing Authority of Champaign County declared a minimum of 25 units necessary to begin a leased-house program. For this reason and because of long-standing Negro dissatisfaction with the management

of public housing, civil rights groups have pressed the City Council to take over the operation of existing and future public housing projects in Champaign, as is allowed by State statute. The City Council has thus far been reluctant to do so.

The Interfaith Apartment Corporation, consisting of 11 participating local churches, was created in 1967 to build a 221d3 housing project for moderate-income families. After more than a year of searching for a desirable site outside of the urban renewal area which met FHA cost limitations, the Corporation now hopes to begin construction of 100 units in the spring of 1969. The Mt. Olive Baptist Church, with the assistance of Creative Builders, a local design and light construction firm, is also well along in its plans to construct a 72-unit 221d3 project in the urban renewal area. Here again, construction will probably not begin before the spring of 1969. In addition, a sponsor is now being sought by the Champaign Department of Urban Renewal to purchase the remaining land in the urban renewal area which is reserved for about 120 units of 221d3 housing.

Although the percentage of Negroes in the population of the two cities has not increased since 1960, the total number of Negroes is increasing. Black families are added at the rate of 50 to 70 per year, and the now acute housing situation can only worsen unless there is a substantial increase in the quality and supply of housing which Negroes can afford. In addition, more rigorous code enforcement is necessary in both cities, particularly in rental dwellings owned by investors in slum property; financing must become available for the purchase of homes by black families who cannot now qualify because of loan conditions; and the dual housing market must be eliminated by effective enforcement of Champaign and Urbana fair housing ordinances.

EMPLOYMENT

Sources of Information

Employers

- Illinois State Employment Service
- Illinois Department of Public Aid
- Officials concerned with employment at the University of Illinois
- Officials at Parkland College
- Director of Champaign County Urban League
- Members of Council on Community Integration
- Members of Citizens for Racial Justice
- Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, U. of I.
- Negro leaders and citizens

Local Employment Statistics

For a large number of Negroes in Champaign County, employment status is a matter of unemployment and under-employment. The over-all unemployment rate for Champaign-Urbana, in April 1968, was 2.6% according to the Illinois State Employment Service. However, the rate of unemployment for Negroes is usually quoted at between 12% and 20%, depending on the season and the results of the most recent survey. In May, 1968, Whitney M. Young, Jr., national Executive

Director of The Urban League, in a speech delivered in Champaign, estimated the black unemployment rate in Champaign-Urbana to be 17%.

According to a study made by Joel Beak for the University of Illinois Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations in 1965, one-quarter of the Negro population was prepared to fill occupations in the top five occupational categories as far as their educational background is concerned, but were in fact under-employed in jobs in the lower occupational categories. In addition, it was found in a survey conducted for the purposes of this report, that Negro employees are more likely to have more education and more prior experience than white employees in the same jobs. On the whole, occupational levels of black employees in Champaign County are lower than those of white employees. According to the 1960 census, 26.9% of non-whites were employed in white-collar jobs as compared with 56.8% of whites, while 73.1% of non-whites held blue-collar jobs as compared with 43% of whites.

The following table, (see next page) using data from the 1960 census for Champaign County, shows the percentage of the labor force, white and black, employed at the different occupational levels. In 1960, the labor force totaled 55,229; the white labor force was 51,908; the non-white labor force was 3,321. The following figures are percentages of these totals.

Occupation of the employed	% of Total	% of White	% of Non-white
<u>White-collar workers</u>	55.2	56.8	26.9
Professionals, technical (accountants, physicians, scientists, teachers, editors, draftsmen, engineers, etc.)	22.5	23.0	13.7
Managers, officials, proprietors (buyers, store managers, dept. heads, postmasters, self-employed, etc.)	7.7	8.1	2.5
Clerical (bank tellers, bookkeepers, mail carriers, receptionists, secretaries, etc.)	16.1	16.6	7.6
Sales (advertising agents, real estate brokers, auctioneers, insurance agents, sales workers, etc.)	6.7	7.0	1.0
<u>Blue-collar workers</u>	44.8	43.2	73.1
Crafts and foremen (bakers, blacksmiths, carpenters, decorators, electricians, machinists, mechanics, etc.)	9.8	10.1	3.8
Operatives (parking attendants, bus drivers, delivery men, assemblers, packers, etc.)	8.2	8.0	10.8
Service workers (policemen, firemen, barbers, cooks, janitors, porters, waiters, ushers, etc.)	12.3	11.3	29.5
Private household workers (housekeepers, babysitters)	2.0	1.5	10.8
Farmers and farm managers	5.5	5.8	0.0
Farm Laborers and foremen	1.9	2.0	0.3
Laborers, except farm and mine	3.3	2.8	12.2
Occupation non-reported	4.0	3.8	7.8
Unemployed	2.9	2.5	10.2

Recently published figures on employment at the University of Illinois, the largest single employer in Champaign-Urbana, further shows the pattern of low occupational level employment for Negroes.

Total University Employment - Urbana Campus
Figures as of March, 1968

Job Categories	Total All Employees	Total Male	Total Female	Negro	
				M	F
Officials and Mgrs.	502	439	63	6	9
Professionals	8,590	6,671	1,919	61	25
Technicians	445	308	137	8	5
Sales Workers	12	11	1	0	0
Office and Clerical	2,519	347	2,170	19	51
Craftsmen (skilled)	676	621	55	4	5
Operatives (semiskilled)	215	187	28	0	0
Laborers (unskilled)	529	313	216	21	105
Service Workers	986	681	305	88	43
	<u>14,472*</u>	<u>9,578</u>	<u>4,894</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>243</u>

* Including student and other part-time employees.

Non-Academic Employment - Figures as of March, 1968

Job Categories	All Employees	Negro Employees	% of the Negroes of the total
Officials and Mgrs.	84	3	3.5
Professional	366	7	1.9
Technicians	494	21	4.3
Sales Workers	11	--	0.0
Office and Clerical	2,391	63	2.6
Craftsmen	623	7	1.1
Operatives	224	1	4.4
Laborers	414	84	20.3
Service Workers	987	144	14.6
	<u>5,594</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>5.9</u>

The following chart lists the number of employees according to educational and experiential requirements of the jobs they held.

Non-Academic Employment - Figures as of March, 1968

<u>Categories</u>	<u>All Employees</u>	<u>Negro Employees</u>	<u>% of the Negroes of the total</u>
No education - no experience	1,146	212	19.0
No education - experience	661	8	1.2
High School - no experience	770	46	6.0
High School - experience	2,625	53	2.0
A.B. - no experience	86	3	3.5
A.B. - experience	215	3	1.4
M.A.	2	0	0.0
Special degree	89	5	5.6
	<hr/> 5,594	<hr/> 330	<hr/> 5.9

Legislation

The problem of Negro unemployment and under-employment has come to be recognized as two-faceted. Racial discrimination on the part of the employer limits opportunity for employment, and lack of preparedness on the part of the job seeker limits possibility for employment. Attempts to remedy this situation have resulted in legislation directed at both aspects: the prevention of discriminatory hiring practices and the development of productivity.

Of measures enacted to prevent discrimination, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is of primary importance because it prohibits discrimination by all employers of 25 persons or more and establishes the Federal Fair Employment Practices Commission to hear cases and make recommendations in cases of alleged discrimination. The enforcement of provisions regulating discriminatory employment practices, however, has been marked by cumbersome legal machinery, lengthy conciliatory procedures and reliance on voluntary compliance. Another measure, Executive Order 11246, provides for the cancellation of contracts when a firm having Federal contracts of \$10,000 or more engages in discriminatory hiring practices.

In a 1963 amendment to the Illinois Fair Employment Practices Act, which provides that discrimination in employment and apprenticeship opportunities shall be a state offense, the term "employee" was redefined to exclude public officials and their staffs, and the term "employer" was broadened to include state governments and their subdivisions. The University of Illinois is a subdivision of the State government. As of March, 1968, only 5.9% of the work force employed by the University at its Urbana Campus was Negro.

Because labor unions are engaged in the "production" and "sale" of skills, they are also employers in a sense. Since the issuance of the directive by the U. S. Secretary of Labor in 1963, "Non-discrimination in Apprenticeship and Training," no union apprentice-program has been de-certified for discrimination. However, candidates for local apprenticeship

training have been observed to constitute a nearly all-white majority.

In summary, enforcement of legislative and executive actions has been uniformly ineffectual. The effectiveness of this legislation on the local level has been minimal.

Programs Designed to Meet Problems of Unemployment

In the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 (MDTA), the distinction between education and training is made by use of the terms "institutional and on-the-job training." The Regional Office of the Illinois State Employment Service (ISES) in Champaign is responsible for the implementation of MDTA in Champaign, Douglas and Ford Counties. Implementation by this office has been limited in scope and in nature. Only one local program of class size (minimum class size is 20) has been initiated by ISES. It is the Licensed Practical Nurse Program. The lack of local implementation of MDTA Programs by ISES has been attributable in part to a highly centralized administrative procedure.

The tradition of services helpful primarily to employers has earned a negative reputation for ISES in parts of the black community. During the winter of 1967-68, however, in accord with Congressional recommendations, the ISES began a state-wide shift toward employee-centered services. Emphasis on the filling of job orders can be replaced by an emphasis on vocational counseling and job placement. Minority-group applicants, whose race can now be noted (as advised by the U. S. Department of Labor) will be sought out by a newly-hired black recruiter. There are indications of some administrative decentralization, and indications are that evaluation of ISES services will be based primarily on the quality, rather than the quantity of job placements.

Except for their own vocational education programs and the association with labor unions concerning the classroom aspects of apprenticeship and upgrading programs, the Champaign and Urbana schools have had little part in Manpower programs. The need for increased vocational education at the high school level has been recognized by the school systems. During the summer of 1968, there was some discussion by school personnel about the development of a vocational high school in the area.

Several manpower-type programs have been undertaken in the Champaign-Urbana area with varying degrees of success. One of the first was WEST, a Work-Experience and Skills Training program set up as a demonstration project by the Illinois State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. It was unusual for two reasons: academic college education was offered as well as traditional vocational education, and the term "handicap," an eligibility requirement for aid by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, was broadened to include socio-economic as well as physical and mental handicap. The screening process requires three months, and acquisitions of skills at a trade school can take from nine to fifteen months during which time the client is separated from his family. The Champaign County Department of Public Aid provides financial assistance for the family of a head-of-household enrollee while he is in training. Two-thirds of WEST's applicants are Negroes. In the first fourteen months of operation only one-third of the total number of applicants were found to be eligible, and only one client has completed training and returned to the community.

Work experience is a feature of another program, the Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC). Part-time employment with non-profit organizations at \$1.25 per hour for a maximum of 15 hours per week is available to that age group (from 16 to 21 years of age) considered to have the highest unemployment rate of any group in the nation. This program, authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act, is locally administered by the Urban League of Champaign County. Usually between 20 and 50 young people participate in the program each year. It is so popular in Champaign County that there are often twice as many applicants for participation as there are funds. In the opinion of many community leaders, this program has been of immense value as a means of supplementing the income of families whose younger members participate in the program.

There is hope that a Work Incentive Program (WIN) can be developed in Champaign County. This program, aimed at 16-to-21-year olds, has as its major feature the development of incentive rather than the acquisition of a specific, marketable skill. Young people can begin to earn money without fear of deductions from welfare checks paid to their families. It is this feature that is considered to be the key to WIN's success in urban centers where there has been a beginning break in the pattern of dependency noticeable among people who previously have been penalized for their attempts at financial self-reliance. In Champaign County, WIN could be administered by the Champaign County Office of Economic Opportunity, in collaboration with the regional ISES which would be responsible for organizing the program and providing day-care facilities for those in this group who have young children.

Most of the programs in Champaign County established in connection with "The War on Poverty" and the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 have not been manpower programs. Unlike the NYC and WIN, they have not focused on definable aspects of employability such as work experience and work incentives. Local programs have included Headstart, Neighborhood Centers and Project Enable.

University of Illinois

Under the aegis of the State Civil Service System, traditional kinds of job-training have been available to employees of the University of Illinois through both the Apprenticeship and Trainee programs for craft and non-craft jobs. These programs lead to jobs through regular Civil Service Examinations. The Trainee program has had limited Negro participation because it is available only to those persons who have passed the Civil Service Examination for the occupation for which they are to be trained. To increase Negro participation, a Learner Program was devised. It permits an indeterminate number of individual training programs for specific jobs, each program originated by a separate department of the University and approved by the Civil Service Office. It requires only on-the-job training by supervisory personnel. Certification of a Learner's ability to become a full-time employee in an entry occupation, the lowest rung on the occupational ladder, is made by departmental personnel rather than by Civil Service Examiners.

There are some questions raised about this program. While there is "instant" employment, there is also instant stratification; two parallel groups of employees, one group having attained full status by means of a "majority system" (the usual Civil Service route), the other group having attained something less than full-status by a "minority system," the Learner

Program. Reportedly, "majority" employees already hold "minority" employees in disdain, and there is some concern that intra-University hiring requests will entail a distinction between employees having the two types of training.

In April, 1968, the Urbana Campus instituted another program offering "instant" employment called the Clerk-Typist I Training Program. Unlike the Learner Program, it uses Civil Service Examinations as a screening-in device, and training is geared to the passing of the exam. In addition, this program embodies almost all of the concepts of employment-training proven most effective for both traditionally unemployed and the employer: 1) The job is a created position (a job that has been split off from a more complex task) which leads to a traditional occupation within the Civil Service System. 2) It offers immediate, meaningful work, as opposed to make-work. 3) Training involves classroom sessions as well as on-the-job training. The on-the-job training can occur in departments of the University having actual job openings, but the training process as a whole remains under centralized control. 4) The employee may take or re-take an appropriate Civil Service Examination for a traditional job at any time during the training period and the examination need not be at the entry level of a given occupation.

During the spring of 1968, the University of Illinois also began an organized effort to assist Negroes in applying for apprenticeship programs which are largely controlled by local trade unions. This effort is patterned after the Worker's Defense League, a loosely connected organization operating in a number of large urban centers. Each League usually consists of two or three individuals thoroughly acquainted with the subject of labor unions and dedicated to the proposition that the successful completion of apprenticeships by black people is in the best interest of the unions as well as the Negro community. The work of the League includes the preparation of candidates for examinations, interviews, and the obtaining of necessary documents. Underlying these activities are close relationships between black apprentices and League workers, who also supervise working conditions and orient apprentices to union traditions.

Labor Market

The employment problems of Negroes in Champaign-Urbana are aggravated by an economic problem common to the entire community: a narrow industrial base characterized by very little industry in relation to business. Except for the University of Illinois and Chanute Air Force Base, most employment opportunities are in marketing enterprises, and there is a lack of the lower middle level jobs ordinarily associated with heavy industry that could serve as respectable footholds on the ladder of economic success. The character of the labor market also presents problems to the community. Low income citizens prefer immediate, full employment coupled with preparation for advancement. Many local citizens in this group have migrated from rural areas and lack minimal levels of education and training necessary for immediate productivity in an urban setting.

Adult Education

State Senator Paul Simon, in speaking to the Illinois Adult Education Association, said recently, "if industries could count on good adult education programs in ... areas of under-employment, many would be eager to establish their new plants in these areas where large labor pools are presently

available, but filled with people who lack skills." In Champaign-Urbana, Negroes do constitute such a labor pool, largely lacking in skills. The prospects for good adult education have been vastly improved by the introduction of career programs at Parkland Junior College and the establishment of the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) in Champaign.

Career programs at Parkland are primarily designed to provide education in the current practices and skills used by business and industry. These programs have as objectives pre-employment instruction in the development of skills and technical knowledge, and continuing education for those persons in need of retraining necessary to meet the needs of the employment market, and provide related instruction which emphasizes occupational standards, ethics and human relations in business and industry.

Developed by leaders in the black community, OIC provides opportunity for Negro citizens to make use of their potential in a three-part program designed to enhance employability and increase employment: 1) pre-vocational training, leading to 2) specific skill training, followed by 3) job placement and follow-up. Specific skills training will be offered in a number of occupations for which there is a need in the community. Pre-vocational training consists of basic courses in communication and computational skills, as well as instruction in Negro history, personal enrichment, consumer education, male orientation and employee responsibility. Each trainee's program, including job-placement and follow-up, is characterized by highly individualized counseling.

Recruitment

Job placement is considered to be a significant aspect of the OIC program. In OIC projects in other parts of the country, enrollees have been found to be highly motivated by the promise of a job at the end of the training program. The need to take the job to the unemployed, instead of waiting for the unemployed to apply for the job, has been recognized as crucial to solving the problems of unemployment. Fear of being discriminated against is felt by many to inhibit job applications through regular channels. Both the University of Illinois and the Illinois Employment Service have hired black recruiters. During the summer of 1967, the Urban League assembled a group of local businessmen who agreed to hire a Negro job recruiter for several months to find black men to fill openings in their firms.

The Urban League has functioned as an employment service for Negro job seekers since its formation in the early 1960's. The paid staff not only actively recruits workers for existing job openings in the community, but also stimulates additional employment and upgrading of employment by firms reluctant to hire or promote black employees. In addition, the Urban League sponsors a youth program, including job fairs at which black youths have an opportunity to meet employers and to learn about opportunities and requirements for employment.

Day-Care Facilities

A problem directly related to unemployment, particularly of women, is the unavailability of low cost day-care in Champaign-Urbana. There are 12 licensed full-day day-care centers in Champaign County with a potential capacity for 263 children. Only one, serving 40 children, offers a sliding

tuition scale based on ability to pay; five charge a monthly tuition of between \$56 and \$60; six charge between \$70 and \$80. The least expensive form of day-care is provided in a licensed day-care home, in which a woman cares for up to four pre-school children in her own home. The average cost is between \$46 and \$60 per month. There are approximately 200 day-care homes servicing approximately 600 children in Champaign-Urbana. Only four or five are located in northeast Champaign and northwest Urbana, which is the area in which most black citizens live. There are 8 half-day nursery schools which serve about 500 children. Tuition ranges from \$17 to \$45 a month. One, which served 16 children on a sliding tuition basis, could not reopen in 1968 because of lack of funding.

At a public meeting in the spring of 1968, an individual from a large, local corporation stated that the two greatest difficulties faced by his firm in their effort to hire Negroes was transportation and day-care.

RECREATION

Sources of Information

- Directors, Recreation, Champaign and Urbana Park Districts
- Members of the Board, Champaign and Urbana Park Districts
- Director, McKinley YMCA
- Director and Staff member, Girl Scouts
- Executive Director, Boy Scouts
- Directors of three Community Centers, Champaign
- Chairman Adult Advisory Council to Douglass Center
- Director Tiger's Den
- Special Assistant to the Chancellor, University of Illinois
- Member of the Board, Boys Club of Champaign, Urbana
- President, Champaign County NAACP
- Staff member, Urban League
- School Administrators
- Social Workers
- Volunteer leaders, Pee Wee Football, Little League, C-U Youth Hockey Assoc.
- Negro citizens

There are several types of recreation available in the Champaign-Urbana area: school-based activities, Boy and Girl Scouts, Park District programs and facilities, University of Illinois facilities, YMCA, volunteer programs and library-based activities. All programs and facilities are offered on a non-discriminatory basis. Participation of Negroes varies widely, however, and is determined by a variety of factors.

School-based Activities

School-based activities such as 4-H, Future Teachers of America and academic clubs have minimal black participation. With the exception of groups which meet during school hours, transportation after school is a major problem. In addition, many black students report that they do not seek inclusion in

these groups because they feel unwelcome and because they feel that such clubs are structured according to white middle-class standards and traditions which are unfamiliar to them and irrelevant to their own experience. In addition, they report awareness of subtle forms of discrimination in such forms as inadequate notice of the time and place of meetings. It is also widely held that clubs court "acceptable Negroes" and discourage others in order to achieve token, but not genuine, integration. Several activities with long histories of exclusive attitudes are avoided by many black youths. It should be noted that whether or not the contentions of Negro youth are valid in fact, these feelings are widely held and do limit participation in activities.

Tiger's Den

The Tiger's Den is a social facility for all Urbana High School students which sponsors weekend dances on a year-around basis. Space is leased from the City of Urbana by an advisory council of adults, and an elected student council plans activities. Black participation is generally low.

Boy Scouts

Participation of Negro youngsters in the Scouting program is highly variable, depending on the sponsoring group and the availability of leadership. Boys are free to join any Troop of their choice, depending upon space. Ordinarily, schools, churches and civic groups sponsor Troops and provide the required leadership. A number of Negro boys presently are active throughout Champaign-Urbana. No records according to race are maintained, so no precise figure is available. There are approximately 15 to 20 black adult leaders presently involved in the Scouting Council. A Negro church is organizing a Troop under its sponsorship and intends also to initiate a Cub Pack in the near future. There are no all-black Troops or Cub Packs. Cubs are organized in Packs, usually sponsored by a school PTA group. Because Cubs meet at the homes of the Den Mothers, Dens tend to be neighborhood groupings. There is some degree of integration in the Packs which now exist.

Girl Scouts

In Champaign County, Girl Scout Troops are usually organized along school lines and meet at school after the regular day. Troops are, therefore, integrated to the degree that the school is integrated. There are some Negro members in the Troops at the Junior and Senior High Schools. Several schools have no Troops for either Scouts or Brownies. In northeast Champaign at Washington School, there have been both a Brownie Troop and a Junior Troop with a high degree of participation. Recruiting and keeping black leadership has been difficult.

Urbana has more highly integrated Troops because the schools have a high degree of integration. Champaign's rate of integration changed in the fall of 1968, when Troops were reorganized along with the redistricting of the Unit 4 schools.

Both the Girl Scouts' Day Camp and the established camp programs are integrated. Camperships are available for those in need of assistance. The National Council of the Girl Scouts seeks to bring Scouting to all girls and is sending representatives around the country in a concentrated effort to

recruit leaders and girls in the "hard to reach" areas. Staff members feel that the question of participation locally is more an economic problem than a racial problem.

Champaign Park District

The Champaign Park District owns and manages four community centers. One is in M. B. Skelton Place, Public Housing for the elderly. The Park District conducts recreation programs for residents of Skelton Place, both black and white. The activities are tailored to the needs of the elderly and include crafts, games and excursions on the Park District bus. "C" Center is located in a predominantly white neighborhood. Black participation in its programs is minimal, with only occasional Negro involvement. Beardsley Center is located in a transitional neighborhood and, therefore, draws more black participants than does "C" Center; however, the number is still low. Douglass Community Center is located in northeast Champaign and is used almost exclusively by Negroes. Douglass Center offers a wide-ranging program for all age groups, and use of the facility is extremely heavy.

Facility, staff and program at Douglass Center are inadequate to meet the needs of the neighborhood. In the fall of 1968 a steering committee was created to investigate the possibility of Federal financing of a new Center for northeast Champaign under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Facilities Program. This is a very long-range undertaking and only the first step has been taken. Douglass Center will be the only facility in northeast Champaign for many years to come.

Black citizens feel that the Park District Board should have moved long ago to solve the problems of Douglass Center, including that of inadequate facilities. They are highly critical of the Board. It must be said that recreation in Champaign came under the jurisdiction of the Park District only in the fall of 1966. Since that time, Douglass Center has received energetic support and many improvements to the Center have been forthcoming. Black citizens concerned about the inadequacies of Douglass Center formed the Adult Advisory Council in the fall of 1967. The Council has been very effective in alerting the Park Board to some of the Center's most pressing needs, and the Board has acted on its suggestions. Negroes still charge that the Board has had to be fought on each small item.

The Park District owns and manages three developed parks which can be classified as "major." These are Hessel, West Side and Centennial; the latter has Champaign's only public swimming pool. None is in northeast Champaign. Douglass Park, adjoining the Center, is scheduled for enlargement and development in the District's long-range plans as land in the Urban Renewal area earmarked for Park District purchase is made available. Completion of the Park is planned for the mid-1970's. A fifth major park, Spalding, is currently under development in a transitional area. It is the intent of the Park Board that Spalding will be naturally integrated because of its location. This park will have a public pool, which is scheduled for completion in August, 1969. Black citizens feel that Douglass Center and Park have suffered neglect as a result of the Board's preoccupation with the development of Spalding Park.

Black participation in general in the Park District's recreation programs and in casual use of the parks for play and picnics is low. The level of participation seems to be due to transportation problems, lack of information

about details of the programs, a pervasive feeling of unwelcome at those facilities located in predominantly white neighborhoods and resentment on the part of Negroes that they must leave their neighborhoods to make use of public facilities. Use of Douglass Center and Park indicates that convenient facilities will be heavily used, supported, and valued.

There is no Negro representation on the Champaign Park District Board.

Urbana Park District

The Urbana Park District operates no community centers, although there have been some informal talks on this matter. Between 25 and 40 black youth living in Urbana use Douglass Center daily. In recognition of this fact, the Urbana Park Board extended financial support to Douglass Center in 1967-68 for the first time, in the form of salaries for three instructors in the Douglass Center Music Program.

The Park District owns and operates three major parks: Carle, Blair, and Crystal Lake. Extensive summer programs are offered at these facilities. Two other major park sites have been purchased but have not yet been developed. Of these five major sites, only one directly serves northwest Urbana, the predominantly Negro area. This park, named for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will adjoin Hays School. A summer program was offered on this site in the summer of 1968, and actual development of the park was delayed so as not to interfere with the summer program.

Crystal Lake Park has Urbana's only public swimming pool. The pool has been a source of conflict. Negroes view it as a "white" facility. In addition, teenagers complain that they are sometimes asked to leave because they "look like" they are going to cause trouble.

As in Champaign, general use of the parks by black citizens is low. Location of parks is not convenient for them, and transportation is a problem. The Park District attempted to remedy this with bus service from northwest Urbana to Crystal Lake Park in the summer of 1967. This bus service was little used. A later survey revealed that practically none of the residents of northwest Urbana had adequate knowledge of the service or of the recreation program.

In March, 1968, the Park Board appointed its first Negro member to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of a white member who had indicated she was resigning to provide space for the appointment of a Negro.

The University of Illinois

The year 1967-68 saw the closing to the general public of certain University facilities which had traditionally been available to the public when not used for scheduled University activities. These included gymnasiums and swimming pools. Several incidents involving non-University individuals led to this action. Use of the facilities is now restricted to groups which obtain special permission. Local black youth charged that the closing was directed toward excluding them from University facilities.

Y.M.C.A.

McKinely Y.M.C.A. is located in Champaign but serves both Champaign and Urbana. For a decade it has had an open membership policy, and there are

presently several black adult members. Most of the Negro children who participate in Y.M.C.A. programs are sponsored by civic organizations.

The Gra-Y Program for elementary school-aged children is conducted at local schools. Included in the program are weekly meetings and a monthly "Fun Night" at the Y building. The fees for about 20% of the participating children are sponsored and a large number of these are Negro. The Y.M.C.A. Town Camp had 15 to 20 black children in the summer of 1967; most of them were sponsored. The Y Camp in Wisconsin has one or two sponsored black children from Champaign-Urbana each year. The Y.M.C.A. conducted a special camp for two weeks during the summer of 1967 for 50 underprivileged children, mostly Negro. This program was repeated during the summer of 1968.

There are black members on the Board of the Senior Hi-Y, and there is some black participation in general membership. The Y.M.C.A. makes an effort to make its program available to disadvantaged children, but is dependent on private donations to make this possible.

Volunteer Recreation Programs

The Champaign-Urbana Youth Hockey Association organizes teams of boys who play weekly at the University of Illinois Ice Rink. Information about the Association and its activities is distributed through the schools. Two Negro boys out of 90 members in all participated in the 1967-68 session. Expenses for rental of the rink and other needs are met by an \$18 fee per boy. Reduction of the fee is possible in case of need.

Little League Baseball is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and serves the entire community. Some 1,500 boys, ages 9-12, participate in the League's eleven District teams. Negro participation is good but not community-wide because the Districts are drawn on neighborhood lines, according to the availability of playing fields. The League based at Washington School playing fields in Champaign encompasses all of northeast Champaign and is predominantly black. This is also true in Urbana, where the League using the Crystal Lake playing fields serves all of north Urbana. While predominantly black, this Urbana League boundary extends to Nevada Street, so there is good white participation. Most leaders of the program in both cities are white. Interviews indicated keen interest in recruiting Negro adults for coaching and assistant coaching jobs. Each boy pays \$1.00 for insurance and provides a baseball glove. Both of these requirements can be waived in case of economic need. All other equipment is provided by the Kiwanis Club and the sponsors of the individual teams.

Pee Wee Football is financed through the sale of "booster tickets" and advertising in the game programs. Organized by a volunteer board, the program is independent of any other civic club. Some 175 boys participate in the six-week session. There are five area districts, each with a team of 30 players and 5 alternates. Boys aged 9-12 are eligible. Because districts are larger than those of Little League, the individual teams are more highly integrated. Volunteer leaders describe Negro participation as good, especially during the last two years. There is no fee, and all equipment is furnished to the boys except for tennis shoes. In case tennis shoes are not available to the boy, the Pee Wee Board will purchase them. Adult Negro participation is active; there have been black Board members for several years and several black coaches. It was reported that when the coach of a

predominantly white team is black, cooperation from both boys and parents is excellent.

Public Library Programs

The Urbana Public Library has no Bookmobile or branch facilities, use of the library by Negroes is light, although the Library welcomes black participation. Champaign Public Library has operated a Bookmobile for the last five years. It makes 16 weekly stops throughout Champaign, including a three-hour stop at Washington School and a stop at the OIC building. This program has good support by black citizens. Negro children attend the story hours conducted at both libraries.

Council for Recreation

The Champaign-Urbana University Council for Recreation was established during the winter of 1968 for the purpose of coordinating the development of facilities and programs offered by the three areas. Represented on the Council are individuals from the Park Boards, the School Districts, the University, and neighborhood leaders. There is black representation. To date, the Council has served primarily as an information forum.

Other Programs

Four new recreation services should also be mentioned. The Boy's Club of Champaign-Urbana, which opened in the fall of 1968 is emphatically non-discriminatory. There is a wide variety of facilities and programs offered under professional and volunteer leadership. The decision to organize this Club was reached after a survey conducted by the Steering Committee revealed that about 2,000 youths, mostly black, were not served by a youth organization. Participation by black youth is expected to be high, and efforts to encourage it are being made.

A Champaign Youth Center, The Open Arms Inn, under the sponsorship of the Champaign Park District, opened in the fall of 1968. A full program of instruction and activities is envisioned. The facility will be staffed by professionals and volunteers. The Steering Committee of teen-agers, which has worked for several years to establish this Center, has been bi-racial, and use of the Center is expected by both white and black teens.

An inter-faith, inter-racial coffee house for high school students, Black Coffee with Cream, has been organized by the Champaign-Urbana Committee on Religion and Race. An advisory committee of teens and adults worked to raise money and establish the coffee house in the fall of 1968.

A boxing club, which was organized in the later summer of 1968, meets in a Park District building in northeast Champaign. Financed in part with funds from the U. S. Labor Department, this club has as its goal not only recreation, but also encouragement to boys to return to school or enroll in a training program such as that offered by OIC.

HEALTH SERVICES

Sources of Information

Administrators of local hospitals
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
President of County Medical Society
President of District Dental Society
Doctors and Dentists
Social Workers
Negro citizens

Health Statistics

The infant mortality rate for Negroes in Champaign County is 1½ times that of whites. The number of still births per 1,000 live births is 35.1 for Negroes; this is four times higher than the rate for whites. Among black school children, respiratory illnesses are common. The first time many Negro women see an obstetrician during pregnancy is at the time of delivery. Most black infants do not receive the same kind of regular pediatric care that most white infants do.

Public Medical Services

Public medical facilities in Champaign County are very limited. The first public general medical clinic, The North End Health Center, was opened in June, 1968. It is sponsored by the Urban League, SOUL, and the Adler Zone Clinic, in conjunction with the Economic Opportunity Council of Champaign County. The health center is open two nights a week, serving indigent patients for a total of six hours a week. Approximately 150 patients were treated during its first two and a half months in operation. The health center relies heavily on contributions from the community and recently published a request for various types of equipment which will be needed as patient volume increases.

There is a Public Health Dental Clinic where only school-age children are treated. The Well-Baby Clinic gives immunization and provides check-ups for children through age 12, but does not treat sick children. Planned Parenthood operates a birth control clinic. There is no prenatal clinic service provided.

Medical Assistance

Most major medical services must be purchased, and for the estimated 50% of the Negro community whose family income is under \$4,000, financing of health care is a major problem. Public assistance funds are not easily available. Funds for medical assistance are given at the discretion of the Township Supervisor, subject to no specific standards. It is the experience of many black citizens, and of local social workers, that these public assistance funds are granted too sparingly and that the discretionary policy makes them unreliable. In addition, sharp interrogations by Supervisors inhibit applications for these funds.

Supervisors often refer persons seeking medical assistance to the Illinois Department of Public Aid which makes available more extensive assistance. Public Aid has specific eligibility requirements and a series of regulations and waivers which make this procedure difficult and often degrading for the person seeking help. The requirement that a family's income in excess of a specified amount must be turned in to Public Aid while the Department is paying extensive medical bills sets arbitrary income limits and can throw a family's financing into chaos.

Financial Problems

With limited public clinic services and few public funds, the sick person who is poor is left with only two choices. Either he seeks no medical care or he does not pay for what care he does receive. The high infant mortality rate, generally considered to be best indicator of general health level of a community, would lead one to conclude that medical care is not sought as often as is necessary. Experience of hospitals and doctors indicate that medical bills are often left unpaid.

Using hospital emergency services for treatment of illness is a common practice. With one exception, all hospitals receive and treat indigent patients through their emergency facilities and either make arrangements for payment through medical assistance funds or suffer a loss. One hospital requires guarantee of payment before giving treatment. Local doctors give a certain amount of service without charge, but they are limited in the amount of time they can give to charity cases and do charge indigent patients some of the time. Unpaid medical and dental bills are often handed to collection agencies, a procedure required if the doctor is to claim a loss for income tax purposes; they then become part of the patient's credit record. A local real estate salesman reports difficulty in arranging home financing for Urban Renewal displacees because of old, unpaid medical and dental bills which appear on their credit records.

Doctors and Dentists

Doctors in the community do not openly discriminate against black patients; waiting rooms and office hours are the same for both white and black. Some black citizens report instances of reluctant or discourteous treatment and report that requested examinations are sometimes not performed even when they show ability to pay. There are no Negro doctors in Champaign County and no Negroes serve on the County Medical Society. There are black nurses, both registered and practical.

There are several Negro dentists from other communities serving on the District Dental Society, but no black dentists practice in Champaign County. As with doctors, dentists do not expressly discriminate against Negroes, although prejudice has been felt by black patients. No free dental programs currently exist for adults. In 1969, a Dental Hygiene Clinic will be opened by Parkland Junior College in connection with a training program for dental hygienists. Examinations, cleaning and other hygiene services will be offered to adult Public Aid recipients and others in need of free care.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District

The Champaign-Urbana Public Health District provides a visiting nurse service. Public health nurses check medical forms in the schools and see to the fulfillment of requirements for immunizations and medical and dental check-ups. Public health nurses provide no actual treatment, but refer patients to available clinics and local doctors. They also give advice on prenatal care, infant care, nutrition and care of contagious and infectious diseases. Two Public Health Nurses provided by the Champaign County Health District service the rest of the County outside Champaign-Urbana.

LEGAL SERVICES

Sources of Information

- State's Attorney
- Assistant State's Attorney
- Public Defender
- Assistant Public Defender
- County Probation Office
- County Sheriff
- Champaign Chief of Police
- Urbana Public Safety Director
- Attorneys
- Social Workers
- Negro citizens

Legal Services Agency

The federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 established the funds and machinery for legal services to the poor. In Champaign County, the local Legal Services Agency was established in December, 1966. The office has one full-time and one part-time attorney, with assistance from law students at the University of Illinois. The attorneys, paid with federal funds, may represent qualified groups and individuals in all civil, juvenile and city ordinance matters. For an individual to qualify for this service, his annual income must not exceed limits between \$2,500 for a family of one and \$4,600 for a family of eight. Although a disproportionate number of Negroes in Champaign County are in the lower income bracket, Negro clients comprise no more than 22% of the Legal Services Agency caseload.

Public Defender

For the indigent person accused of a crime, and thus in need of legal representation for criminal matters, the services of the Public Defender are available. In this county he is appointed by the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court and serves on a part-time basis. Since the early 1960's, there has been an Assistant Public Defender who serves on a 30% time basis. Both attorneys are salaried by the County Board of Supervisors. The determination of eligibility for the services of the Public Defender is made by the local magistrates on an individual basis. There is no set or uniform standard of

eligibility. It has been roughly estimated that approximately 25% to 50% of those served by the Public Defender's Office are Negro.

In Champaign County, the Public Defender is never appointed in criminal cases which carry a penalty of fine only, and the Legal Services Agency may not represent clients on criminal charges. Thus, there is a considerable number of misdemeanor offenses for which free legal services are not available. For the persons so accused, and for all others not entitled to free legal services, legal representation can be obtained from local attorneys.

State's Attorney

The Office of the State's Attorney of Champaign County docketed between 13,000 and 17,000 cases per year. Approximately 11,000 of these are in the nature of traffic offenses. The remainder are criminal and quasi-criminal cases. There is a backlog of case disposition in the office which necessarily affects persons of all races.

Although accurate statistics are not available, it has been stated that approximately 60% of all juvenile cases and 90% of the criminal cases handled by the State's Attorney's Office involve Negroes. Another source, however, estimates that Negro violators appear in direct proportion to the population. The County Probation Office, which has more detailed statistics concerning cases now in its office, offers the following figures: of 374 child dependency and neglect cases, 305 involve whites and 69 concern black children; in special cases referred to the office, 180 deal with white individuals, 85 with black; in adult cases, 458 involve whites, 228 involve Negroes; in delinquency and juvenile cases, 209 are white and 101 are black.

Bail

Recent revisions in the Illinois Criminal Code have made the provisions concerning bail more liberal. An individual can now be released on his own recognizance or after having posted with the court ten percent, in cash, of the total bail sum. By statute, the minimum deposit must be \$25. These provisions benefit both white and black citizens in lower economic groups. Members of the black community feel, however, that use of release on recognizance is disproportionately withheld from Negroes. Frequently, it is difficult to raise \$25 to pose bail. Recently, one fourteen-year-old juvenile was held in jail for at least five days while his family attempted to raise money to pay his bail.

Charging and booking practices are the same for black and white citizens. The disposition of cases does not vary significantly between white and black defendants. Negro parolees and probationers are not subject to more careful scrutiny because of their race; however, several persons interviewed for this report pointed out that the home environment of many black parolees is conducive to parole and probation violation.

Juvenile Cases

Securing the optimal resolution of juvenile cases for Negro children is a definite problem. Often the most desirable solution is placement of the child in a good foster home while the youngster receives guidance and counseling, mental therapy, and the like. According to professionals, such homes are not available for black adolescents, especially girls, in Champaign County and,

therefore, it is often necessary to place the child in a corrective institution in order for him or her to receive the desired treatment. Such placements are not always the most satisfactory for the youngster, but are the best that can be provided in the local situation.

In an effort to lessen juvenile delinquency, the Urbana Police Department sponsors the Junior Police. The organization has 475 members; between 60% and 90% are black. The Department rents gyms, offers games, movies, consultations and a free baseball league to its members. The Champaign Police Department has no parallel organization.

Conservatorships

Conservatorships, in which an individual assumes responsibility for a patient released from a mental institution, represent another problem for the black community. There are many members of lower economic groups who have progressed sufficiently in treatment and therapy to be released from mental institutions, but their release is impossible by law because of the unavailability of conservators for them. The potential personal responsibility and economic liability for persons acting in such capacity dissuades many friends and relatives in a low income group from volunteering as conservators.

Police

There is often talk of police brutality directed against black citizens, but no charges of police brutality have been filed against the Champaign Police Department in eight years. Such charges have been filed against the Urbana Police Department, but the last time one was proven was eight years ago. Recently a charge of brutality was made against the Sheriff's Department. This charge was investigated by the Grand Jury and found groundless. Members of the police forces and the black community report a great deal of verbal abuse on both sides.

According to a survey conducted by a graduate student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois, members of the black community feel that they receive inadequate police protection in their area. There are several black policemen; three on the Champaign Police Force, one on the Urbana Force, and two in the Sheriff's Department. No members of either city's fire department is Negro. There is one black probation officer.

Credit and Financing

Credit swindles, schemes, and frauds have not been reported recently by members of the black community. As a whole, however, citizens in the Negro community deal more with finance and loan companies than they do with banks and savings and loan associations. As a result, they pay more in interest charges than they otherwise would. Home financing is difficult for a Negro to obtain, as is auto and life insurance.

Attitudes of Negro Citizens

Interviews conducted for this report reveal that there is a general distrust of the white community by many black individuals. This attitude is transferred to the police, courts, and attorneys, who are regarded as parts of the white "establishment." There is some feeling that courts and attorneys sometimes conspire to deprive black citizens of their property,

incarcerate them and generally use the law to the disadvantage of the black individual.

Attorneys

There is no practicing Negro attorney at this time, although one practiced in the community briefly about 15 or 18 years ago. A Negro attorney is presently a professor at the College of Law at the University of Illinois. The black community keenly feels this lack of Negro legal counsel and desires black lawyers and judges. Negroes serve on juries in the County.

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Sources of Information

Members of the Champaign Human Relations Commission
Negro citizens

Passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, with its prohibition of discrimination in places of public accommodation, seems to have eliminated overt acts of discrimination in places of public accommodations in Champaign-Urbana. Negro citizens report discourteous service, apparent over-charging, and other forms of covert discrimination in some places. These places are well known to the black community and are avoided.

PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

Sources of Information

Members, past and present, Champaign and Urbana City Councils
County Clerk
Members of Council for Community Integration
Former Chairman, Champaign Human Relations Commission
Negro citizens

Representation in Government

Membership in three governing bodies in the City of Champaign is by election. Of these, one, the Unit 4 School Board, has Negro representation. The City Council has had Negro representation in the past but does not now. The Park Board has no black members. Of sixteen appointed committees and commissions, five have black appointees. These are the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Urban Renewal, the Human Relations Commission, the Real Estate Brokers Licensing Board, the Zoning Commission, and the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners. The appointment of a Negro to the Police and Fire Board in July, 1968 was the first appointment of a Negro to that body, though such appointment had been requested by black citizens for some time.

In Urbana, all three elected governing bodies have black representation. Two Negroes represent the predominantly black 3rd ward on the City Council which has 14 aldermen. In 1968, a Negro was elected to the Unit 16 School Board for the first time and a Negro was appointed to the Urbana Park Board after a white member resigned for the stated purpose of creating a vacancy to be filled by a black appointee. Five of the twelve appointed committees have Negro representation. They are the Minimum Housing Board of Appeals, the Citizens' Advisory Council to the Urbana City Council, the Citizens' Advisory Committee to the Urbana School Board, the Real Estate Licensing Board, and the newly created Human Relations Commission.

There are no Negroes on the County Board of Supervisors nor on any committees of that Board.

Voting

Participation in government by black citizens through voting is difficult to assess since registration records and voting records do not indicate race. Political observers report that, on the whole, voting by black citizens has increased over the past twenty years. Most observers indicate that voting activity varies greatly according to the issues of any given election.

A significant factor in participation in government through voting is the percentage of Negroes in the community; this is about 10% in Champaign and about 6% in Urbana. With the exception of the Urbana City Council, all elected governmental bodies are chosen by city-wide, at-large elections, and Negro voters are outnumbered.

There has been much discussion recently about the inability of the black community to elect its own representative to the Champaign City Council because of the system of at-large elections by council members. In August, 1968, the Mayor of Champaign announced his intention to seek state legislation which would permit a city manager form of government combined with aldermen elected by ward. In Champaign, four councilmen could be elected by wards and three elected at-large. This would insure area representation responsive to the specific needs of each of the four wards and help to insure the black community a voice in city government.

The ward system of elections in Urbana is an example of aldermanic government which allows for Negro representation and participation. In 1965, the predominantly-black 3rd ward elected its first Negro alderman. In 1967, the 3rd ward elected two black aldermen. The four-year term of the aldermen elected in 1965 was interrupted after two years, necessitating election of two aldermen in 1967. The activities of these Negro aldermen in Urbana were instrumental in 1968 in the development of the Fair Housing Ordinance and in the formation of a Human Relations Commission, both issues of great importance to their black constituency.

A particular source of irritation for the black community which results from at-large elections is the entrance of a second Negro candidate into election situations in which the black community is unable to have the decisive vote. The charge is made that the "white-power structure" urges this second candidacy in order to confuse the white voters and split the already weak black vote. Many black citizens object to the fact that they must enlist the support of the white community to vote for their candidate and eventual representative, and that the success of their candidate rests with white voters.

Civil Rights Activities

Participation in government through means other than voting has increased markedly during the past few years. While civil rights organizations have existed in Champaign-Urbana and have worked for integration and equal opportunity since 1946, the major impetus in this direction came from the white community until the middle 1960's. At that time, negative reaction to Urban Renewal in Champaign and positive reaction to the promise of "maximum feasible participation of the poor" of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 gave impetus to the formation of action groups in the North End, a pre-dominantly black residential area. Since that time, a variety of groups have existed. Some, like the Coordinating Committee for Quality Education, which focused its attention on integration of the Unit 4 schools, are created in response to a particular issue or grievance and function only so long as the issue is still at hand. Others, like the NAACP, SOUL, and the Concerned Citizens Committee (CCC), have broader or longer-range goals and presumably will function for longer periods. The oldest bi-racial civil rights group, the Council for Community Integration (CCI), has had active participation from both the white and black community since the early 1950's.

Since the early 1960's, the Urban League of Champaign County, primarily through its Executive Director, has participated in community affairs on behalf of the Negroes of Champaign County. In recent years, the Urban League Director has, among other activities, served as a member of the Equal Education Opportunities Committee (charged with the development of a plan to integrate the Unit 4 schools), is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Economic Opportunity Council, and participated in the establishment of the Champaign-Urbana Boys Club and the North End Health Center. In 1968, the Urban League invited Whitney H. Young, Jr., the Executive Director of the national Urban League, to speak at its annual meeting in order to focus the attention of the entire population on the needs of the Negro community. During his speech, Mr. Young called upon Champaign-Urbana to become a "model community." In response to this appeal, the publisher of a local newspaper was instrumental in assembling the Model Community Coordinating Committee, a body dedicated to achieving this aim. It has identified as its first priority attention to race relations in Champaign-Urbana.

Representatives from these organizations, and other groups like them, appear regularly at City Council, School Board and Park Board meetings to focus attention on the concerns of the North End. A petition campaign to appoint a Negro to the Urbana Park Board was organized by a basically black group. Both successful Negro candidates in the 1968 Champaign and Urbana School Board Elections were selected by groups in the North End. The Concerned Citizens Committee presented a list of demands to both the Champaign and Urbana School Boards, which have received serious attention from the Boards. The objections of SOUL to the appointment of a Human Relations Director led to his resignation on the grounds that the black community was not consulted by the City Manager in Champaign prior to his appointment. This, in turn, led to conferences between the City Manager of Champaign and representatives of the black community, and led, as well, to a petition campaign on behalf of the original appointee by other Negro citizens.

It is difficult to estimate the percentage of the black community involved in these groups and activities. The increase in the number of groups during the past year, as well as the fact that there are a variety of age and interest groups represented in several different organizations, would seem to indicate an increase in the number of people involved in local affairs.

REFERENCE TABLE OF LEGISLATION

Federal Statutes

United States Housing Act of 1937, 42 United States Code, sections 1401-1436.

221(d)3 Housing, as contained in "Housing for moderate income and displaced families." 12 United States Code, section 1715 l, as amended.

Manpower Development and Training Act, 76 Stat. 23-33 (March, 1962), Public Law 87-415

Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 241 ff. (July, 1964) Public Law 88-352

- Title I Voting Rights
- Title II Injunctive Relief against Discrimination in Places of Public Accommodation
- Title III Desegregation of Public Facilities
- Title IV Desegregation of Public Education
- Title V Commission on Civil Rights
- Title VII Equal Employment Opportunity
- Title VIII Registration and Voting Statistics
- Title X Establishment of Community Relations Service

Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 508 ff. (August, 1964), Public Law 88-452

- Title I Youth Programs
 - Part A - Job Corps
 - Part B - Work Training Programs
- Title II Urban and Rural Community Action Programs
 - Part A - General Community Action Programs
 - Part B - Adult Basic Education Programs
 - Part C - Voluntary Assistance Programs for Needy Children
- Title IV Employment and Investment Incentives
- Title V Work Experience Programs

Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1967, 81 Stat. 672 (1967), Public Law 90-222.

Voting Rights Act of 1965, 79 Stat. 439 ff. (1965), Public Law 89-110.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 79 Stat. 27-58 (1965), Public Law 89-10.

Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments of 1966, 80 Stat. 1191-1222, Public Law 89-750.

Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments of 1967, 81 Stat. 783 ff. (1967), Public Law 90-247.

Civil Rights Act of 1968, 82 Stat. 73 (1968), Public Law 90-284
Title VIII Fair Housing (prohibits discrimination in rental and
sale of most housing - 80% in nation)

Jury Selection and Service Acts of 1968, 82 Stat. 53 (1968), Public
Law 90-274.

Executive Orders

Executive Order No. 11063, November 24, 1962, 3 Code of Federal Regulations
652 (1959-1963 comp.), 1962 United States Code Congressional and
Administrative News 4386.

Executive Order No. 11246, September 28, 1965, 3 Code of Federal Regulations
167 (1965 supp.), 1965 United States Code Congressional and
Administrative News 4416.

Illinois Legislation

State Housing Act of 1933, Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 67½, sections
151-196 (1967).

Housing Authorities Act of 1934, Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 67½,
sections 1-27e (1967).

Conservation of Urban Residential Areas Act of 1953, Illinois Revised
Statutes, Chapter 67½, sections 91.8-91.16 (1967).

Urban Renewal Consolidation Act of 1961, Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter
67½, sections 91.101-95 (1967).

Fair Employment Practices Act of 1961, as amended, Illinois Revised Statutes,
Chapter 48, sections 851-867 (1967).

Economic Opportunity Act of 1965, as amended, Illinois Revised Statutes,
Chapter 127, sections 381-390 (1967).

Educationally Disadvantaged Children Act of 1965, Illinois Revised
Statutes, Chapter 122, sections 14B-1 - 14B-8 (1967).

Higher Education Student Assistance Law of 1965, Illinois Revised Statutes,
Chapter 122, sections 30-15 - 30-15.3 (1967).

Violation of Civil Rights, as amended, Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 38,
sections 13-1 - 13-4 (1967).

Local Legislation

Champaign, Illinois City Code, Article VI - Rental Housing Standards

Champaign, Illinois, Open Housing Ordinance, April 30, 1968.

Urbana, Illinois City Code, Article II - Minimum Housing Standards for
Rental Premises (September 23, 1953).

Urbana, Illinois, Open Housing Ordinance, April, 1968.

A COMMUNITY REPORT - 1948

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 group, 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 school - 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 classrooms 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 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 widespread 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 the 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

*Grades four and six share one room.

had tried to secure a Negro practice teacher in music because of his outstanding qualifications, but were unable to because of schedule conflict.

There are no Negro members on the school boards.

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 classrooms 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 cheerleader 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 observations 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 lunchroom 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 Homemakers 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 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 harmonisouly as a unit, not splitting into separate groups.

Negro girls are active in the Future Homemakers 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.

The McKinley WMCA 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 predominantly 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: basketball, volleyball, 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 to 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 softball contents 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 have 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 may 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 definite 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
- Laywers 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 downtown. Other downtown 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 on 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 coronor selects the coronor'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 employes 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, steam 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 and Restaurant Employees, and two railroad unions -- Maintenance of Way, and Fireman & 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 switchboard 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 of 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 practicing 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.

Sample list of community job opportunities for Negroes -- Jan., 1947

(partially rechecked - May, 1948)

1. No Negroes employed at present	36	2. Occasionally open to Negroes by certain employers	10
store clerks		garage mechanics	
office workers		policemen (one)	
linesmen		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			
locksmiths		3. Open for limited and/or segregated work	12
fuel oil salesmen		barbers	
theater ushers		teachers	
theater cashiers		steamers & pressers	
sign painters		bootblacks	
upholsterers		cooks	
tire repairers		dishwashers	
telegraphers		porters & janitors	
sewer builders		domestic helpers	
plastic workers		laundresses	
dairy manufacturers		truckdrivers	
milk drivers		firemen & oilers	
bus drivers		switchboard operators	
grain dealers			
fruit & veg. dealers		4. Open on equal basis	4
exterminators		street laborers	
sanitary haulers		building laborers	
butchers		railroad maintenance laborers	
milk handlers		grain processors	
librarians			
carpenters			
painters			
electricians			
welders			
printers			

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 bathroom" 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, tho 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

HOUSING

Sources of information:

- Survey made by Champaign County Housing Authority 1941
- Director of Champaign County Housing Authority
- Attorney for Champaign County Housing Authority
- Acting Director of the Champaign Urbana Public Health Department
- Substitute Acting Director of the Champaign-Urbana Public Health Dept.
- Sanitary Engineer
- Fire Prevention Officer Champaign Fire Department
- Fire Chief Urbana Fire Department
- 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

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 overcrowded 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 tarpaper 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.

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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 for 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 tracts 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 substandard 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.

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