

State comment on the situations

Columbia, S. C.
April 17, 1937.

"The Supervisor of Beautification stated that some time ago the beautification workers were used in setting out small maples in the City of Union. However, at the time of the investigation all beautification workers in the City of Union were being used in the planting of flowers on the grounds of a library. Although both white and colored workers are employed on the same grounds, they are grouped separately according to race in order to prevent dissatisfaction on the part of the workers themselves or criticism on the part of their friends."

Columbia, S. C.
April 13, 1937.

"Investigation on the project itself revealed that there are twenty-four men assigned to this beautification project, and that the men perform all the arduous duties, such as the handling of tools and wheelbarrows."

One of the sources of the original complaint was the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Their comment on the State report is interesting:

New York City
April 23, 1937.

"You will note that as to the complaint from Camden, South Carolina, Mr. Pinckney does not say that there was no foundation, but that there was 'small foundation' and that he did find one woman chopping down a small scrub with an axe. When you realize that the state administrator is not anxious to confess discrimination and, further, when you realize the pressure under which Negro citizens live in such communities, I am sure you can appreciate the complaint was justified."