

9.
"To get down to round figures, the relief program has had on the various federal rolls 3,300,000 Negroes, and they have shared in a more or less degree in all of the benefits of direct relief; that is, cash, checks, federal orders, surplus commodities, clothing garden seed, household furnishings, free legal and medical aid, paid up rentals, rescue from eviction, and better housing at cheap rental.

"Coming directly to WPA, the records show that fully 900,000 Negroes have benefitted from this program alone. There have been many instances of discrimination in administration, but after all the proof of the pudding is in the eating. With all the discomfoting things each of us may point to in certain instances, the WPA has swallowed up so many Negroes in gainful endeavor that plantation owners, who pay starvation wages, rebel against this type of government relief.

"It is gratifying to know that the WPA officials around Memphis have decided that they will pay no attention to the puerile charges of the planters. Shortage of labor in many instances is due in the Arkansas and Mississippi river bottoms because of agitation by the newly organized Sharecroppers Union Higher wages and shorter hours are demanded, and justly so. If the WPA and the CCC projects of the government have been helpful in obtaining these ends, let us thank God for the New Deal."

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POLITICS

NEGRO VOTERS FAVOR ROOSEVELT, POLL SHOWS; MAY BE DECISIVE FACTOR IN SIX LARGE STATES

The Institute of Public Opinion's poll this week reveals that:

"The colored man's political sympathies--which have been the traditional property of the Republican Party ever since the Civil War--are aligned today with Franklin Roosevelt and the Democratic Party, in what may prove to be one of the most significant shifts in many, many elections."

"Out of every 100 Negroes who intend to vote next month, 69 plan to vote for Roosevelt, 31 for Gov. Landon, the poll showed.

"In at least six States, votes cast by Negroes may have a decisive effect upon the outcome. These are: New York, which now has 287,000 registered Negro voters; Pennsylvania, with 277,000 registered; Illinois, 218,000; Michigan, 134,000, and Indiana, 78,000.

"One reason for the Negro's new political allegiance is expressed in the comment of a colored WPA worker to an Institute canvasser in Baltimore, Maryland: