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Preface Summary

A work relief year, 1936 saw race relations in Federal unemployment relief shift from adjustment of myriad petty racial discriminations in administration, to consideration of basic factors underlying black and white labor relationships in our industrial socio-economics.

Startled unemployment officials have found that the return of some employment opportunities in private industry affects Negroes on work relief rolls not at all, - industry wants white men under forty. Seasonal employment of Negro farm laborers, and employment of Negro women domestics, represent about the only return of Negro workers to private industry. Related, is the interesting comparison of the relatively high subsistence Works Progress Administration wages with the starvation wages of the domestic and farm laborers. Related also, is the matter of the unbelievably large number of Negro women heads of families. (This goes on and on.)

Consideration of these new-old problems is too recent and hurried to have done else than point out need for long-term planning in unemployment relief and social security, and to reaffirm the fact that charges citing Negroes on relief as content to remain so, invariably emanate from localities overly supplied with cheap labor, microscopic wages, and unbearable working conditions.

The year saw more equity in the proportionate employment of Negroes on work projects. White collar workers, and to a lesser degree skilled