

CORSI SEES RELIEF IMPERILING NATION

**City Also Faces Bankruptcy if
Present Growth of Burden
Continues, He Says.**

URGES PERMANENT PLAN

**Would End Federal Control of
Local Aid and Administer
It by Civil Service.**

The program of work and home relief is now a permanent part of the nation's life and it will bankrupt the Federal and New York City administrations if it continues to expand at its present rate, Edward Corsi, Deputy Commissioner of Welfare, declared yesterday.

Work relief and the direct dole, which really means slow starvation, he said, are creating a "submerged class" of 20,000,000 persons without homogeneous ties with the rest of the population. He sketched the problem in gloomy aspect before the free-discussion class of the Anti-New Deal School for Political Science at the Women's National Republican Club.

From a national viewpoint he held the New Deal administration blameworthy for the increase in unemployment because it alternated a policy of hostility toward business with "breathing spells." Considering the city problem, with its implication of permanence, he urged simplification of the administrative function by taking it out of Federal control and placing it in a new civil service department as part of the city's administration.

Program Held Inadequate.

Asserting that the government's \$5,000,000,000 spending program had proved inadequate, Mr. Corsi predicted that within six months or a year the relief problem would become the most vital issue for the Presidential campaign.

Altogether, counting those registered in the ERB and the WPA, 348,000 families, or 1,566,000 individuals, are receiving a dole or work relief in New York City, Mr. Corsi said. Those aided by the Department of Welfare brought the number up to 2,000,000 persons, he pointed out.

To illustrate the growth of the relief problem, he cited figures for the week of Nov. 8. Compared with the corresponding period last year, the figures were almost double.

Applications for relief received were 9,566, of which 5,744 were accepted. In addition, 25,000 applications are awaiting investigation. In the corresponding week of 1934 there were 5,300 applications, 2,879 of which were accepted. Then there were only 14,000 applications pending.

"Personally I believe we will never be able to shake off relief in New York City or in any other city in the country," Mr. Corsi declared. "It is a problem that is permanent. The only question regarding public relief as we have known it in the past four years is what the size of it will be.

Sees "Slow Starvation."

"Relief itself is inadequate. Home relief is very inadequate. Families are asked to live on a subsistence dole which is so very small as to constitute slow starvation and a grave social danger.

"If we continue at this rate—if the relief picture keeps expanding as it is expanding at this moment—it will bankrupt our government. Of course, it places an enormous burden on those still working.

"Along with this pessimistic picture we are actually building up a society with one-fifth of the population as a submerged class, living more and more apart as though unrelated at all with the others."

The problem also was discussed by Miss Bianca Leale, a member who formerly was a Welfare Department investigator, and Miss Priscilla Godwin, also a member of the club.