

The Revolution of 1963---Part IV

Negro Continues To Seek Jobs on Lower Rung of Ladder

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Negro in America wants many things but his list is almost always dominated by the word jobs. The following dispatch, fourth of five, is an assessment of how far he has come, where he wants to go and what his problems are.

By AL KUETTNER United Press International The Negro's pocketbook was very close to his freedom cry of 1963.

His reasoning went like this: Give him a better job and he would get a better house, have a better car, be a better citizen. Without higher wages, the Negro said in thousands of voices across the land, he simply was being prepared to take a hamburger purse into a plank steak restaurant.

Despite the advances made by the American Negro in the past ten years, he still scrambles for jobs on the lower rung of the economic ladder. His pay is one-half that of white workers. He finds it difficult to advance, once he finds employment. And, once on the job, he is often aggressive and super-sensitive, according to his own people.

In street demonstrations, congressional lobbies and in the August "March on Washington," the Negro during 1963 demanded as never before that the barriers against job opportunities be removed.

Not Informed "The Negro is out of the mainstream of job gossip and this keeps him even from knowing about jobs the way white people do," says the National Urban League in Montana.

Mrs. Novella Boyd, a Negro in High Point, N.C., puts it another way: "I pay the same as you for groceries, but I don't make the same amount of money."

In a nationwide examination of the job situation, United Press International reporters in 50 states spent days interviewing Negroes, business and industry executives and government experts.

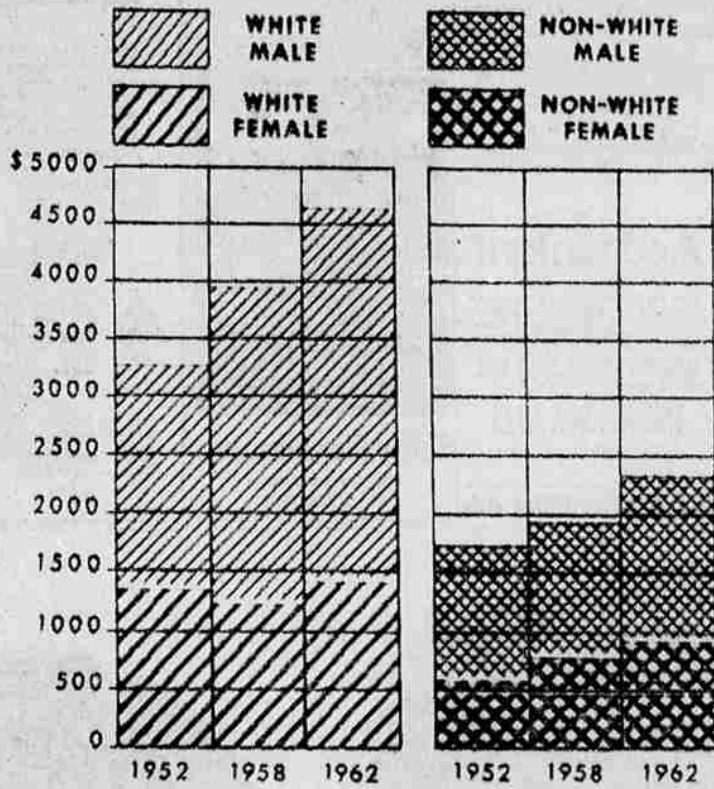
The consensus was overwhelming that: —Negroes, except for a slim minority, are not in position to compete for the bulk of the job openings today.

—Trade schools and union apprenticeship programs still are inadequate to provide training for Negroes who have the incentive to improve their chances.

—Most of the jobs held by Negroes are menial, lower class blue collar or in fields in which they serve the Negro populace.

THE NATION'S MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME BY SEX AND RACE

1952 · 1958 · 1962



SOURCE: U. S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE

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INCOMES COMPARED—This new chart from the Department of Commerce shows U.S. median annual income by race and sex for 1952, 1958 and 1962. In 1962, the figure for white males was \$4,660; for white females \$1,415; for Negro males \$2,291; and Negro females \$950. (UPI)

—The Negro has done best in federal government civil service jobs and in plants that hold federal contracts containing non-discriminatory hiring provisions.

National Problem —Job discrimination is more of a national problem than just about any phase of the racial conflict.

"I don't like the way people react in the South but it's not as different here as I thought it would be," said Prince Myles Jr., a Negro who migrated to Omaha, Neb., from Mississippi. "The jobs available to Negroes

are the jobs the whites wouldn't take."

Warren Cochrane, an Atlanta Negro who has worked on job placement for 30 years, speaks candidly of the problem:

"The Negro does not exist in this country as an industrial worker. Negroes cannot compete with white job applicants. We have said to employers, business must have people who produce. Negroes do produce but it takes time and effort to train them."

Negroes, representing 1 out of 10 of the 190 million inhabitants

of the United States, are far from battering down the barriers leading to good jobs. But progress is being made.

At the Willow Run plant of Ford Motor Company, a Negro holds a key job at the end of the assembly line, putting the engine on the chassis.

The chief U. S. marshal in chief in Cheyenne, Wyo., the attorney general of Massachusetts and a growing number of federal and state officials and elective officers are Negroes.

In the Deep South, Negroes

are appearing as clerks, checkers and office employees of department, grocery and other business firms. One of the most popular clerks in the Sears Roebuck toy department in Atlanta is a Negro.

In Delaware, the Dupont Company hires Negro girls for four hours a day, paying full salaries provided they attend secretarial school the other four hours. They get office jobs at the end of the course.

When Appalachian Power Company at Roanoke, Va., automated elevators, the Negro operators were given clerical jobs.

Passive interest in the Negro job problem turned into active work toward alleviating it in California where many employers now advertise for Negro workers. Two of the three San Francisco newspapers have Negro staff members. It is becoming a sort of status symbol to have Negroes in sight in jobs in California.

Breaking Into TV From Madison Avenue to Hollywood, Negroes are breaking into slick paper advertisements and high budget television.

Marion L. Sellers, a spokesman at Lockheed Aircraft Company in California, said "we would like to hire more Negroes but not enough who are qualified show up at the employment window. It's disappointing."

After demonstrations and negotiations, Cambridge, Md., agreed to hire a Negro in the state employment office; Jackson, Miss., added five Negroes to the police force; Greensboro, N.C., added a number of Negroes to downtown department stores; the largest department store in Dayton, Ohio, agreed

to hire Negroes for Christmas work and to offer some permanent employment, and in Philadelphia the city decided to let out no more municipal contracts wherein discrimination is practiced.

So-called "equal opportunity" firms report that more than 2,000 of the 31,000 job openings have gone to Negroes in recent months. But so far it's a drop in the bucket. For the nation, fewer than 5 out of every 100 persons in the non-white labor force have professional or technical jobs.

"Afraid To Be First" Some of the reasons why provide a look at the major problems for leaders who are attempting to get the Negro into the mainstream of American life.

Some firms are "afraid to be the first" to hire Negroes, says Floyd E. Lubert, personnel director of Western Electric at Kansas City, Mo., and a member of the Chamber of Commerce Equal Employment Committee.

His statement pointed up another big complaint by Negroes: That they are blocked out of union apprenticeship programs.

"You can get a PHD if you stay in school long enough but you need to get approval as an apprentice to be a plumber and we can't get that," Woods said.

Negroes Losing Out Some of the best job openings for Negroes are turning up in the South, but Negroes by the hundreds are losing out be-

cause of inability to pass intelligence and character tests. Employers report that many others, once hired, fail to stick at the job. One employer said several Negroes quit shortly after being hired, explaining they had merely been "testing" their chances to get into the firm.

To bridge the gap facing what an Illinois report terms "the most disadvantaged work-

ers" in America, a number of plans are in the works.

Whitney Young, president of the Urban League, wants a domestic "Marshall Plan" that would finance the training of large numbers of Negroes and compensate industry for in-job training during the time they are less than fully productive. The league also is opening clearing houses to find more jobs for Negroes.

Technical and trade schools are viewed as another major step. So are bi-racial committees, but they need to be status.

"Many communities have made them ineffectual by giving them no power and in some instances not even the power of suggestion," said a white advertising executive in Asheville, N.C.



MARIJUANA BURNED—Customs inspectors at the international border near San Diego, Calif. (UPI) are shown as they burned \$500,000 worth of marijuana seized during the past few months.

Migratory Fowl On Coast Flyway To Be Conserved

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House Interior Committee today approved legislation to help conserve migratory waterfowl using the Pacific Coast Flyway.

The committee cleared Senate-passed legislation to give conservation priority over agriculture in the Tulelake, Lower Klamath, Upper Klamath and Clear Lake national wildlife refuges in Oregon and California.

The measure, designed to end a long dispute between sportsmen and farmers, would protect existing agricultural use of land in the refuges but would bar its extension.

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The measure would dedicate some 133,000 acres of land in the area for the major purpose of waterfowl management. However, it would permit farming to continue so far as it does not hurt use of the land as a wild-fowl refuge.

The legislation would permit leasing of lands to private farmers who would be required to plant a large portion of the land in grants to help provide feed for migratory birds.

Under the legislation, revenue from leasing would be shared by the government and the local counties after deduction of payments due the Tulelake Irrigation District and the Klamath Drainage District for construction of irrigation facilities.

The Upper Klamath basin is a stopover area for more than 7 million ducks and geese in their annual migrations along the Pacific Flyway.

Fears have been expressed that if the refuges were not available to provide feed and rest for the birds they would not only decrease in numbers but destroy rice and other crops in the central valleys of California.

Amendments by the House committee included a provision for review by the California and Oregon State Legislatures. The legislation would be temporarily in effect for three years.

after which it would become final unless the states decided it did not provide for "best use of the land."

Bonneville To Let Construction Pacts

PORTLAND (UPI) — Bonneville Power Administration said today it would let construction contracts totaling \$5,744,000 in Oregon and Washington next year.

The construction contracts are part of an overall BPA 1964 construction budget of about \$30 million, administrator Charles Luce reported. The exact sum awaits final congressional determination.

Most of the money will go for purchases of heavy electrical equipment and materials.



BUTTERFLY PERCH—Glenn Vanderiaan, Kalamazoo, Mich., looks down his nose at a butterfly he captured when he spotted it flying along a city street. Western Michigan University biologists suggest it may have hatched from a cocoon and escaped from one of the laboratories, but noted the small-winged creature could not survive the cold weather unprotected. (UPI)



CHILD RECOVERING — Harold Adams, 8, of Madison, Ohio, is apparently recovering from a normally fatal wound — a rifle bullet through the heart. Authorities believe the boy may have been shot by a hunter near his home. Doctors said he was saved from certain death because of an unusually large pericardium, a sack-like tissue that encloses the heart. The bullet, shown by an arrow in the X-ray, pierced the pericardium, the right chamber of the heart, and went through the right lung, lodging in the spine. (UPI)

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