

migrants. Some idea of the extent of this problem is gained when we are told that in one State (California) during the four and a half year period from July 1, 1935 through 1939 more than 350,000 migrants in need of manual employment entered the State by automobiles at border checking stations. Obviously, a great many more actually entered the State by other modes of conveyance and were not checked by Department of Agriculture representatives. We of the Middle Atlantic Seaboard States had a somewhat similar problem although not to the same degree as California.

This migration of large groups brought with it increasingly difficult problems including housing, health, education and relief. The ingress of such a great number of persons into California presented a perplexing problem, particularly because the groups were accustomed to work in a non-mechanized and non-irrigated agriculture and could not satisfactorily be absorbed in communities where there already existed serious problems. It would seem to be unreasonable to penalize States such as California by allowing them to be saddled with the burdens of other states without any help from those states to care for needy persons who may have been born and lived all their lives in another section but migrate to California or elsewhere when they are in want.

It need hardly be mentioned that we must be concerned with the cost to the taxpayer of these extended services, and none of us is unmindful of that fact. However, we must recognize to the full that the future of our democracy depends in no small measure upon our ability to solve our social problems. We cannot long endure as a nation with hungry persons in our midst. Simply stated, our single, over-all objective is to stimulate private industry to provide work as rapidly as possible for all those able to work. Until that desirable goal is achieved, we must continue to carry on public work and to insure against unemployment. With that in mind, we cannot allow a decrease in the number of WPA jobs until the number of unemployed decreases proportionately. With full recognition of the existing differences in estimates of the number of unemployed, it is still true that only a portion of the unemployed are assigned to public work. If we go into a large defense program the unemployment situation may change completely, and when expenditures for employables decrease many inadequacies in the present program for the unemployables can be corrected.

Undoubtedly, more and more benefits can be realized if we develop our public employment services to the greatest possible extent. The periodic "cut-offs" from the rolls of WPA have also resulted in much detriment to social work administration. Unexpected lay-offs find the worker with very little, if any, savings and entail definite distress during the period of lay-off when experience has shown that additional need for medical care is apparent. Furthermore, this constant turnover has definite psychological disadvantages. It would seem to be a much-hoped-for day, when steady and evenly balanced work programs can be the expected thing, making for continuity of occupation with its encouragement to the individual and his family.

Moreover, we cannot lose sight of the fact that, even when industry operates to the fullest, we shall still have a continuing need for assistance. In the first place, the proportion of the aged in the population is constantly increasing. In America the proportion of older persons has increased markedly. Whereas in 1900 we had slightly over 3,000,000 persons over the age of 65, we now have 8,000,000, and authorities estimate that by 1980 one-seventh of our