Mississippi Doing Nothing To Assist Her Poor

WILLIAM K. HOOPER, 7, gazes in amazement as strangers from the North advance towards his home. (Photo by A. N. Said)

Hooper's family is true example

By A. N. SAID

AFRO Staff Correspondent

SHERARD, Miss. — William K. Hooper is seven-years-old. He doesn't attend school. He lives in an old dilapidated farm house.

The boy was washing by an empty oil drum and looked frightened as secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman and a host of other government officials and newsmen visited his home.

His father and mother were not home. He has eleven other brothers and sisters. An older sister, a brother and an infant were home with him at the time of the Secretary's visit.

His father, Pompei Hooper is 48-years-old. A school dropout, Mr. Hooper lives in poverty with his family.

In early days he did some farming and other odd jobs. He can not do that any longer.

Mr. Hooper is ill. He suffers from a bad case of tuberculosis. His illness dates back to 1954. That's when doctors discovered the T.B.

His wife is ill too. She is disabled. She can't hear and can hardly see. Most of her children are also ill.

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DOCTORS HAVEN'T been able to do much for Mr. Hooper. His condition is worsening day by day. At one time, close association with others was dangerous.

Mr. Hooper and his large family live in a four-room shabby frame house built on what once was a farm land.

The house has a kitchen, no bathroom or running water. There are beds in every room. All of the furniture is old.

In contrast to the old furniture, there is a large new freezer in one of the rooms. It was empty. The family can't afford to fill it up.

Mr. Hooper supports his family with $23 he receives from the Welfare Department and another $99 ADC (assistance to dependent children) contribution.

He can't find a job because he is ill. He can't get an FHA loan to build a better home for his family "because he has no regular income."

That is what Ted Carter told this reporter. Mr. Carter is an officer with STARR, an OEC financed project (Systematic Training and Rehabilitation, Inc.)

He has known the Hooper family for over a year now. He has tried to help them on several occasions.

Other church and civic groups help some times. "There hasn't been any improvement in the conditions of the Hooper family since I came to know them," Mr. Carter told this reporter.

He said the Hooper family is not the only one living in poverty in Mississippi. There are many others.

"There are other 24 poverty stricken families living in the immediate area," Mr. Carter said.

EXCEPT FOR the welfare payments, the food stamps and occasional aid from the community, these families see no hope for the future.

The government is not doing much for them. There has been no help of any kind for the children. Their story is heart-breaking and too depressing.

Although they don't stand in street corners and beg, poverty and hunger are with them.

That's why all of them say they want free food, free medicine, education for their children and jobs for the adults.

A federal bill (HR 57) is being written in Washington to help the poor in deep South. However, nothing definite is forthcoming.

Recently a group of doctors who made a study of poverty and disease in Mississippi and also in Alabama, reported of widespread cases of disease, poverty and hunger.

They described the areas they visited as a "vast prison" where poor black people have no one to turn to for help. The condition of the children there is "pitiful, alarming and devastating," the team of doctors reported. The doctors visited 600-700 families at random.

Congress is currently holding hearings in Washington. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman and OEO Director Sargent Shriver are among the many witnesses called to testify.

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TED CARTER'S STARR program is helping rehabilitate farmers displaced by modern machinery. There are also other training programs operated by the federal government.

STAR programs are financed with assistance from Office of Economic Opportunity. The program was started by the Catholic Church to teach basic subjects — reading, writing, etc.

Applications are accepted from any one in the area. Basic adult education classes run for seven months. All of the students are migrant laborers.

STARR and other similar federal training programs are doing a good job.

However, there is one big problem. That's — jobs for the trainees after graduation. Most of them find it hard to get jobs in their communities.

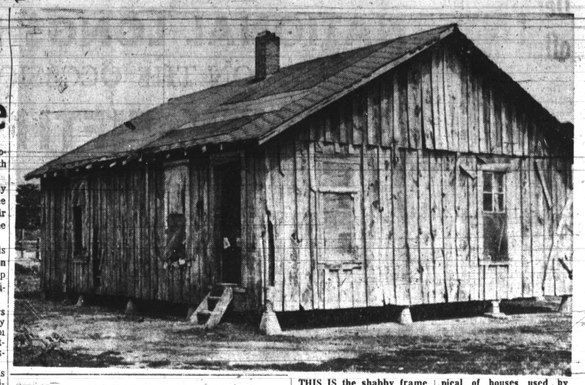
Those few who manage to find one are often paid barely enough to live on.

"Job discrimination still exists, but we are making some progress," Carter told this reporter.

Because of his bad health, Mr. Hooper is not eligible for training under any of the training programs.

Life in rural Mississippi hasn't been all rosy for Mr. Hooper. But, there still is hope and better chance for little William and his other brothers and sisters.

With the help of federal, state, churches and good people in the community, they may be able to get the food their body needs, the education they should have and a better home.



THIS IS the shabby frame house where Prompei Hooper lives with his wife and 12 of their children. It is typical of houses used by poor farm families of the Mississippi delta. (Photo by A.N. Said)

STARR's Ted Carter is shown here on the right. The other two gentlemen with him are William M. Seabron, assistant to the secretary of Agriculture, center, and Allue O. Gunter of the Economic Development Administration, U. S. Department of Commerce. (Photo by A.N. Said)

Lutheran Church speaks out loudly

NEW YORK (UPI) — The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod closed its 47th regular convention Friday by approving non-violent civil disobedience, condemning "selective" conscientious objection to specific wars and finding capital punishment compatible with scripture.

The delegates, meeting on the 450th anniversary of the reformation, voted on a number of "social action" resolutions, moving the traditionally conservative, three-million member church further into the arena of action than ever before.

ON CIVIL disobedience, the delegates voted to adopt a report of the Synod's Commission on Theology and Church relations which said that while "Christians should respect and obey civil authority," they also had "the right and duty to work for the repeal of unjust laws."

The report noted that "Christians are to obey God rather than man when a civil law conflicts with a clear percept of God, and while it stressed the importance of non-violent protest, it also stated that the defeat of a civil law "may be, and often is, at the same moment a victory" for the law of God.

The resolution adopted on conscientious objection and military obedience pointed to the difficulty in determining if a war is "sinful and immoral" in discouraging selective conscientious objection.

It did admit the possibility of "exceptional cases," and resolved to minister to and counsel with such persons.

THE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT resolution stated that capital punishment is in accord with the holy scriptures and the Lutheran confessions. It took no stand beyond that.

Among the approximately 250 resolutions passed during the week-long convention were those supporting open housing and establishing the basis for an education program to help eliminate housing bias, and another condemning prejudice. They also voted to pray for peace in Vietnam, and the Middle East without taking a stand on either crisis.

Gregory, Bond to address Atlanta Hiroshima rally

ATLANTA — Dick Geegory will be among nationally known entertainers and speakers to appear here Aug. 6, as part of a south-wide observance for peace.

Atlanta Rep. Julian Bond, another scheduled speaker, announced last week plans for the observance of the 22nd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Speaking for the Atlanta Alliance for Peace, a coalition of peace and civil rights groups, Bond said, "It is fitting that we meet on Hiroshima day...especially since each escalation in Vietnam brings us closer to a nuclear holocaust..."

The weekend observance will open with an art festival, sing-out and rally at Piedmont Park Saturday night Aug. 5. Later, an all night vigil will be led by the Rev. Malcolm Boyd, author of "Are Your Running With Me, Jesus?"

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SUNDAY A parade from Piedmont Park will end at Grant Park with a rally. Also speaking there will be the Rev. Ralph Abernathy and the Rev. James Bevel.

Other prominent speakers will be Father Philip Berrigan, author and pastor of a church in Baltimore; the Rev. Clarence Jordan of Koinonia Farm and Mrs. Amelia Boynton, national secretary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Delegations from Georgia, Florida, Alabama and other southern states will attend the rally, Bond said.

JUDGE IN DOCK — Solicitor General Thurgood Marshall, nominated to the Supreme Court, faced Senate Judiciary Committee examination, last week on his attitudes toward the court's increasingly liberal rulings on criminal justice and civil rights. Marshall is shown with his wife as he waits to take the witness stand. (UPI Telephoto)

Unemployment rate unchanged

WASHINGTON — The nonwhite unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in June, unchanged from May and June 1966, according to figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The national unemployment rate moved up to 4.0 percent in June, reaching that level for the first time since the closing months of 1965. A higher unemployment rate for adult women was an important factor in the June increase; however, the slow rise in jobless rates for adult men continued.

Employment increased more rapidly than is normal for June, but unemployment rose as the labor force expanded more than seasonally. Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 700,000 between May and June to 66.1 million.

The increase was 150,000 greater than seasonally expected. The bulk of the improvement was concentrated in government, but there were small gains in most industries.

The unemployment rate for 16-to-21-year old workers (15.2 percent) was slightly lower than the rates of June 1965 and 1966.

All of the slight improvements among the young workers occurred among white youth. The unemployment rate for non-white youth remained steady at about 23 percent.

There were 2.7 million more 16 to 21 year olds in the labor force this June than in May. An additional 600,000 young workers are likely to enter the labor force in July. More new jobs will be needed to absorb the July entrants and those unemployed in June.

Writer seeks $3¼ million from ex-FBI female sleuth

LOS ANGELES — Mrs. Julia Clarice Brown, ex-FBI anti-Communist agent, and five publishing company officials were sued for $3¼ million here recently.

Complainant in the suit is Carlton Young, a Hollywood writer and actor, who claims to have ghost written Mrs. Brown's paper-back book, "I Testify My Years as an FBI Undercover Agent".

The book was published by Western Islands Publishing Co. late in 1966, when 100,000 copies were printed. About 10,000 are reported to have been sold to date.

According to the allegations in the suit, Mrs. Brown approached Young in 1962 asking his help in writing the story of her undercover adventures.

He says he thereafter spent 12 months in research on the project, and in 1965 entered an oral agreement with Mrs. Brown in which it was stipulated that they would share equally in all revenues.

Further, their stipulation, says Young, provided that Mrs. Brown would have full authorship credit, and that there would be mutual agreement on when and to whom the final manuscript would be sold.

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MRS. BROWN broke this agreement, Young alleged, by prematurely submitting the manuscript to Western Island Publishers before it was ready for publication.

He further says that the five unnamed officials of the publishing firm then conspired with Mrs. Brown to deprive him of his share of the book's sales.

Young asks $500,00-punitive damages against Mrs. Brown, $750,000 actual damages against her, and $500,000 each from the five officials.

The defendants have not yet filed an answer to the claim. Mrs. Brown is collored; all other parties are white.

Ex-newsman appeals 4 yr. jail sentence

UNION, Mo., (NPI) — Eugene M. "Gene" Garner, former East St. Louis, Ill., newsman, was back in the state penintentiary after personally appealing his four-year prison sentence before Judge George P. Adams, who complained about Garner's conduct in court.

The judge, who said Garner would have been jailed for contempt of court had the former newsman been a lawyer, took the incarcerated man's case under advisement.

Garner was convicted in 1966 of issuing a bad check to the Missourian Publishing Company, Washington, Mo., for a printing bill. The firm printed a paper for Garner that was distributed in Memphis, Tenn., where Garner lived at the time of his imprisonment.

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GARNER REPORTEDLY was placed on probation and ordered to make the check good. When he didn't, the probation was revoked and he was given a four-year prison sentence.

The accused man got himself in more trouble when he pleaded his own case in circuit court. Judge Adams called Garner's conduct "quite disrespectful." Garner was said to have argued with the judge, the prosecuting attorney, witnesses, and even his own court-appointed attorney, whom he said he did not need.

Rights warning

MILWAUKEE — (NPI) — A warning that civil rights demonstrators would turn Milwaukee "upside down," unless the City Council passed an open housing ordinance was sounded by Fr. James E. Groppi, a white Roman Catholic priest-advisor to the local militant NAACP Youth Council.

His warning came after the council rejected — 17-1 for the fourth time in two years — an open occupancy proposal by Alderman Vel R. Phillips. Mrs. Phillips was the lone supporter of the proposal.

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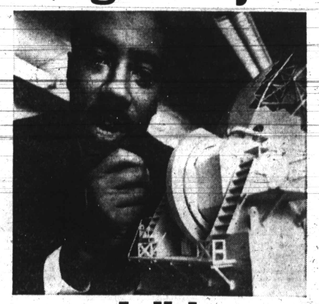

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U.S. State Department offers jobs

WASHINGTON

The U. S. Department of State is seeking personnel for work in Washington, D.C. and for diplomatic missions around the world. There is a particularly urgent need for experienced communications personnel and secretaries available for Foreign Service duty, and also for typists and secretaries to work in Washington.

"Many young people do not know about the unusual employment opportunities open to them with the State Department," a Department official said recently. "For this reason, we are asking newspapers throughout the United States to perform a public service by informing their readers of our personnel needs."

The Department's latest list of Foreign Service posts illustrates vividly the scope of its operations. The first post on the list is the American Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan; the last is our Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia. In between there are over 200 others, representing all areas of the world; and the list continues to grow each year as former colonies take their place among the independent nations.

Foreign Service communications clerk positions are open to high school graduates, at least 21, who have been American citizens for 10 years. Applicants must also be single, or if married, have no dependents other than a wife who is also an American citizen. They must have at least a year and a half of recent operational (non-supervisory) experience in teletype or cryptography. Beginning salary for communications clerks is $5,341 a year.

Foreign Service secretarial positions are available to high school graduates 21 or older who have been American citizens for at least five years. Applicants must also be single without dependents, and have a minimum of two years experience, one of which includes shorthand and typing. Beginning salary for Foreign Service secretaries ranges from $4,269 a year to $5 341 a year, depending on education and experience.

There are also positions in Washington for American citizens who are high school graduates and at least 18. Typists earn salaries from $3,975 a year to $4,969 a year; secretaries begin at $4,269 to $5,341 a year. Entrance salaries are based on education and experience.

Persons interested in Foreign Service, but who cannot immediately qualify because they are not yet 21 or lack necessary work experience, may work in Washington and apply for overseas assignment when they meet Foreign Service requirements.

All applicants must pass appropriate tests. More information may be obtained from the Employment Program Section EP, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

ARM Reimplanted — Four-year-old Michelle Hayes is comforted by nurse, Mrs. B. Tillis at East Orange, N.J., General Hospital after doctors "reimplanted" her arm on her shoulder. The arm was almost completely servered when an out-of-control car pinned her against a parking lot utility pole. Doctors say she will regain full use of her arm and hand.

PRESENTATION — Mrs. Elizabeth Koontz of Salisbury, N.C. received the key to the city from Mayor Paul Bernhardt last week upon her return to Salisbury from Minneapolis, where she was named president of the National Education Association.

Award cleric damages in bus beating

NEW ORLEANS — Damages have been ordered awarded to a minister beaten by a white man in 1961 for sitting in the front of bus.

The 5th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the bus driver for Tamiami Trail Tours, Inc., failed to provide adequate protection and care to the Rev. Negil L. McPherson.

The appeal was from a denial of motions for a directed verdict and judgement in the damage suit despite the jury verdict in the case.

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THE REV. Mr. McPherson, a citizen of Jamaica then living in Springfield, Ill., boarded the bus at the Trailways bus station in Atlanta. He was attacked by a white passenger as the bus was traveling along the highway toward Griffin.

The appeals court said the Georgia standard of care owed by a common carrier to its passenger is "as strict as any that can be imagined short of insuring the safety of the passenger."

Miss. fire hits liberal paper

LEXINGTON, Miss. (UPI) — An early morning fire Wednesday heavily damaged the weekly newspaper Lexington Advertiser, whose editor won a Pulitzer Prize for her strong stand against racial violence.

The editor, Mrs. Hazel Brannion Smith, said the fire "looks suspicious," but Fire Chief W. A. Rabnett said he had "no reason whatever in this world to believe it was arson."

The flames were discovered about 30 minutes after the office was locked at midnight. Mrs Smith said a floodlight in the back of the building had been knocked out and a press room window was open.

Mrs. Smith's other weekly paper, the Northside Reporter at Jackson, was bombed in 1964, four months after she received the Pulitzer Prize.

Ella Campbell gets new NUL position

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Appointment of Ella Campbell as acting associate director of Personnel Services for the National Urban League was announced this week by Whitney M. Young, Jr., national executive director. She was formerly assistant director of Personnel and Training.

For Miss Campbell, the appointment continues a career in personnel administration which began in England and Jamaica in the West Indies.

She holds a certificate of social study (equivalent to a masters degree), from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Kennedy Suggests Broad New Attack On Poverty

Lists jobs, cheap homes in proposal

By PATRICK J. SLOYAN

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-NY, proposed Thursday a government-industry partnership featuring tax breaks and low-interest loans to replace urban slums with $100 a-month homes.

It was the second part of his plan to encourage private enterprise to erase big-city ghettoes.

The first part, introduced in the Senate Wednesday, would give tax deductions to businessmen who create new jobs in slum areas.

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IN A Senate speech, Kennedy said his housing plan was "designed to encourage a partnership of private enterprise and government in the swift and efficient production of low-income housing."

He said it "establishes new mechanism for lowering the cost of housing while providing competition profits on capital through tax incentives." The plan, Kennedy added, is "capable of producing two and three-bedroom units that will rent for under $100 a month."

Existing federal aid for home-building, Kennedy said, had flourished mostly in the suburbs and benefited middle-income families. But in the city, he said, housing decay was outstripping construction.

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KENNEDY said his housing plan would work this way:

Federal and city governments would have to approve a builder and his plans. The investor would have to build or rehabilitate 100 housing units and agree to limit his return to 3 percent.

The builder could get a 50-year mortgage at 2 percent annual interest, with the federal government underwriting up to 80 percent of the loan. Kennedy said this would cost the government about $35 million a year.

Cities would have to drop their real estate taxes on the low-cost housing from the normal 25 percent per total rent to 5 percent. The local loss would be made up with direct federal payment on at least 50 percent of the lost revenue. The federal government would share the remaining loss with the state government.

The investor would also get, depending on actual investment, tax credits ranging as high as 22 percent, quick tax write-offs for depreciation and other breaks.

If profits from the projects are put into new programs, the builder would be spared the extra payment of capital gains on returns.

IN TRENTON, N.J., Stanley Van Ness, 32-year-old attorney, who was named counsel to Gov. Richard J. Hughes, last week. (UPI Telephoto)

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