

of a number of Grand Rapids organizations. Mr. Starr proposed that the National Conference of Social Work and the various state conferences constitute themselves agents for converting the findings of social work into social action. He would have the national body direct and supervise the state bodies which would represent and be supported by "all social agencies and branches of social work in their respective states in a social action program encompassing research, planning, interpretation, promotion, legislation, and administration."

The largest meeting of this section of the conference was the one addressed by Mary van Kleeck, whose power to draw and hold a conference crowd is traditional. Her subject this year, "The Social Consequences of Changing Production Methods," was treated with her usual authoritative command of material and her exceptional powers of presentation. Miss van Kleeck weighed the causes and results of rapid technological change and proposed as a corrective to the social consequences a program which would strengthen and improve wage and hour laws; would maintain unimpaired the rights of collective bargaining and of civil liberties for trade unions, social agencies, political parties, and "all teachers, writers, and lecturers"; would develop and establish as a permanent national policy a program for unemployed workers including extended social insurances, public works projects with facilities for training and retraining and full provision for unemployment assistance based upon need.

In full agreement with Miss van Kleeck's thesis was Ralph Hetzel, Jr., director of the unemployment division of the CIO, who asserted that organized labor is responsible for staving off the worst human effects of technological change which takes place without regard to human consequences. In most cases, he said, the new machines have not induced new employment to take up the originally displaced workers, and pointed to the relief rolls as the best proof of that fact. Stephen Du Brul, personnel manager of General Motors Corporation, Detroit, who was to have joined Mr. Hetzel in discussing Miss van Kleeck's paper was unable to get to Grand Rapids.

PERHAPS THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO REPORT the "practice of social action," engaged in in Grand Rapids by one of the conference's associate groups, the Joint Committee of Trade Unions in Social Work, which represents the State, County, and Municipal Workers of America and the Social Service Employees Union, both CIO affiliates. On the second day of the conference, an open letter was distributed from Reuben Peters, regional director of the United Automobile Workers, CIO. It was addressed "To Members of the National Conference of Social Work" and asked their "immediate attention" to a strike called the day before in the plant of the Grand Rapids Metalcraft Corporation, and to the methods of the Grand Rapids police. The letter appealed to the social workers to "help us prove that America holds precious its civil liberties," and suggested protests to the mayor in regard to "police brutality." A number of members of the social workers' unions responded to this appeal, visited the scene of the strike, and sent a small delegation to call on the mayor. After some delay he received the group and took it immediately into a meeting of the city council where some of its members participated, rather modestly it was said, in the discussion.

The Grand Rapids newspapers, which after all could

Max Lerner

IF recent history has any lessons to teach us, there are three that are outstanding. One is that unless an economic system can give effective security to the masses of people, they will become the stamping ground for political adventurers. The second is that we long have been blind to the irrational impulses in men, and to the way in which ideas can be used as weapons in stirring up those irrational impulses. The third is that in peace and war alike only the well-organized and well-administered society can possibly survive.



These are not pleasant morals to draw for any of us. The achieving of economic security involves a heroic effort of the collective will, and what will seem to many almost a revolution in the economic structure. The recognition of the irrational in men runs contrary to many of our deeply cherished illusions about human nature. The new imperative of a carefully planned organization of national resources, both in peace and in war, runs counter to the traditional belief in individualism. Nevertheless, whether these are pleasant ideas or not is irrelevant. It will not comfort us much to know, when we languish in concentration camps or die on the field of battle, that we have clung to our old traditions. . . .

scarcely be expected to understand the intricacies of conference organization, attributed this activity to the National Conference of Social Work and resented what they chose to call "meddling in matters of which it knew nothing." In spite of efforts by conference officers to clear up the matter of its responsibility, the misunderstanding persisted and local feeling grew heated. It is true that while the majority of conference delegates knew little of the matter and cared less, a considerable group felt that "something ought to be done" about a situation which, as they saw it, threatened to damage local social work relationships long after the conference had gone home.

Meantime the struck plant closed for the holiday weekend. In the conference, however, the matter would not down and presently the executive committee, after a special session, made public a statement designed to clarify the conference purpose, function, and responsibility, not only to the people of Grand Rapids but to individual members of the conference itself and to its associate groups. The statement in full follows:

Because of incidents which have occurred during the week that the National Conference of Social Work has been meeting in Grand Rapids, the executive committee of the conference wishes to make its position clear to the people of this city.

The conference is a forum for the discussion of all points of view on social welfare. It is not a delegate body for taking specific action. It is nonracial, nonsectarian and nonpolitical. It adopts no platforms and takes no official stand on local, state, national, or international affairs.

The conference program, in addition to its own sessions, includes the meetings of fifty-five national social welfare groups, such as the Salvation Army, the Child Welfare League of

America, the Church Conference of Social Work, and the American Red Cross.

These associate groups are independent bodies. Each is free to take any action, in line with its own purpose, that it sees fit but the actions of such groups, or of individuals attending the conference, do not in any way represent the opinion of the whole conference body.

No individual, associate group or agency can speak or act for the conference without authorization by the executive committee or majority vote of the membership. No such authority to represent the conference was requested or granted during or previous to the Grand Rapids meeting.

The executive committee regrets that any misunderstanding of the situation has arisen, especially in a city which has offered us such generous hospitality.

In a desire to prevent the recurrence of any such misunderstanding, the executive committee has voted to reconsider the relationships and responsibilities of associate groups to the conference as a whole.

In a later statement to the conference at its final session the president, Miss Coyle, pointed out that all associate groups apply for membership every year. Action on the applications will be taken in October under regular conference procedures. The executive committee's intention to reconsider the "relationships and responsibilities of the associate groups to the conference as a whole," implied she said, "no intention to exclude any group now included."

BACK NOW FROM THE SCENE OF SOCIAL ACTION TO THE conference itself, particularly to the public welfare administration section, chairman, Dr. Ellen C. Potter of Trenton, N. J. Here the spotlight of discussion turned on a wide range of current problems.

At a meeting early in the week Robert W. Kelso of the University of Michigan formulated "ten points of principle" which, he said, should govern sound public welfare administration:

Complete coverage of the problem; feasibility in practice; comprehensiveness in planning, with local understanding in practice; flexibility in the legal enabling acts, providing a reasonable degree of discretion in management; competence in the personnel, both in numbers and skills; logical coherence in the relationship of functions; sufficient unity and similarity in the program to attract skilled and reputable leadership; adequate compensation to insure skilled service; identification of responsibilities in the management of the unit; and constant, unbiased interpretation of program, policies and functioning.

At the same session Ruth Taylor of Westchester County,



Robinson Studios

Left to right: Harry Greenstein, Baltimore; Edith Abbott, Chicago; James Brunot and Donald S. Howard, New York

N. Y. discussed the problems of administration created by the assistance categories. Admitting that the categories have certain advantages, she held that they "have brought more governmental red tape into the relief situation," and have increased the cost of administration. Miss Taylor protested "the artificial barriers of eligibility requirements"; the absorption by the categories of funds needed in part by other programs; the "unfortunate tendency" to juggle cases from a non-reimbursable to a reimbursable form of relief; the "uneven treatment" of equally needy human beings.

Miss Taylor proposed various measures for resolving the problems raised by the categories: a general relief program to fill the gaps between classifications; equality of reimbursement from federal and state governments; equalization of requirements for eligibility; constant experimentation in how best to handle the various categories "with the least possible duplication and expense and the best possible, the simplest and the promptest service to the family."

The categories came in for another overhauling at a meeting where William J. Ellis of New Jersey warned of the hazards of "categorical rivalries." Mr. Ellis held that federal, state and local partnership is the only formula by which relief policies can be removed permanently from "the area of political expediency." He characterized as "nonsense" the contention of Corrington Gill of the WPA that "states cannot be trusted to operate a work relief program" [see "Local Work for Relief," by Corrington Gill, *Survey Midmonthly*, May 1940], and held that many difficulties would vanish if a twelfth title were added to the Social Security Act providing for federal partnership in a program of general assistance including both direct and work relief.

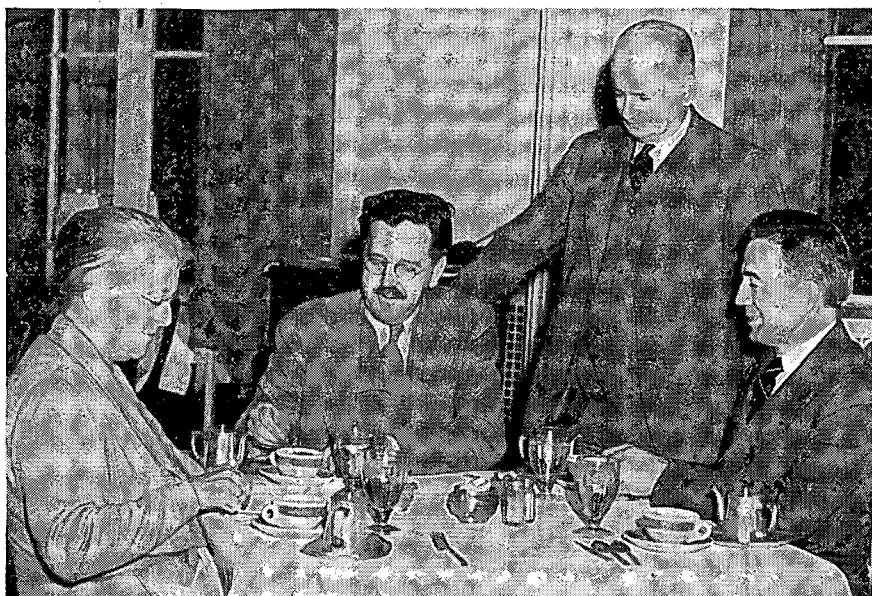
While other speakers called for federal partnership in relief, Edith Abbott of Chicago called for "the whole hog" of federal responsibility for what is loosely termed "unemployment relief." Before a large and attentive audience she put forward the plan she proposed last winter at the meeting of the American Public Welfare Association and at the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy. [See *Survey Midmonthly*, January 1940 page 4 and February 1940 page 41.] Miss Abbott advocates a federal program, federally administered and financed from top to bottom, which so far as possible would provide work for all persons able to work and cash relief for all for whom work could not be supplied:

No grants-in-aid for this group, no local work relief systems, no hanging on to general relief; what we need is a continuation of the federal work program with a new parallel federal program for unemployed who cannot be given work.

To a query from the floor, "Would this mean federal staff in every county?" Miss Abbott replied, "They're already there—WPA staff, FSA staff, plenty of them." To a comment on difficulties of administration she countered crisply, "I've never yet seen a new social program that was a bed of roses."

In one of the section's several group meetings, the always tender subject of administrative costs was raised. What should be included? How are values to be reckoned? In the discussion led by Donald S. Howard of New York, unmistakable evidence emerged of the need for breaking down or perhaps abandoning that indiscriminate term, administrative costs. Instead of lumping together all kinds of costs it was agreed that analyses of unit costs of

Large dinner and luncheon meetings are still features of the conference, though rather less favored this year than formerly. Apparently many delegates are turning from "mass meals" to the more intimate and personal exchange that is possible when three or four gather around a tea table. Here, left to right are Joanna C. Colcord of the Russell Sage Foundation, New York; Walter W. Whitson of the Family Service Bureau, Houston, Tex.; Judge Clark E. Higbee, chairman of the Grand Rapids committee of arrangements; Orville Robertson, of the Family Welfare Society, Seattle, Wash.



performing specified functions should be developed. For example, it should be possible to determine how much is spent in arriving at decisions on eligibility of applicants and the cost per applicant, also the cost, per review, of reviews and recertifications of eligibility. Similarly other service costs, such as the referral of clients to clinics, should be computed on the basis of the cost per referral. There were those present who feared that too much analysis of expenditures for administration or service might invite undue attention from unfriendly critics, but others deplored such cautiousness. If necessary improvements in social service are to be effected, they said, the matter of costs must be faced frankly. "Too long have agency representatives fought rearguard actions on this matter." They have tried to differentiate between costs of administration and costs of service; have pointed out that differences in agencies make cost comparisons valueless; have explained the inconsistency of measuring administrative costs in proportion to expenditures for relief. But now, the group agreed, the time has come for a more constructive and positive approach to the question. If efficiency of administration is to be improved, administrators must be able to appraise their policies and practices in terms of costs and results.

THE SECTION MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE DO NOT BY any means embrace the whole conference program. This year there were nine special committees set up by the conference to explore special subjects. The committee on interstate migrants, chairman, Philip Schafer, Washington, D. C., not only put on a distinguished program of its own but injected its subject matter into half a dozen other programs, largely through two able and popular speakers—Carey McWilliams, California State Commissioner of Immigration and Housing, and Helen Gahagan of the Citizen's Committee on the Agricultural Worker, Hollywood, Calif. Singly and together these two carried the story of the migrants and the scope and depth of the problem into the social action section, into the luncheon of the National Child Labor Committee, and the luncheon of the magazine *Social Work Today*, to mention only a few of the gatherings that welcomed their fund of information and the deep sincerity of their convictions.

At one of the meetings sponsored by the Committee on

Interstate Migrants, Thomas J. Woofter, Jr., expressed the conviction that the peak of "distress migration" has been reached, but not the peak of the problem. He held that the only alternative to relief for these dispossessed families is an extension of the farm security program and the direction of the work program toward "our great native resources of soil, forests, and water." Nels Anderson of the WPA agreed with Mr. Woofter that employment of itinerants on public works projects, even for part time, might be an effective stop-gap, but he had no permanent solution to offer. It is not a solution, he said, to try to persuade people to stay where they are or to set up border barriers. "Nor do we find an answer in public relief or in the various methods of manipulation found in the social workers' bag of tricks. What the migrants want is work."

THE COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, CHAIRMAN, EVELYN W. Hersey, New York, discussed migration of a different kind: what Ernest L. Swift of the American Red Cross called "the incredible exodus . . . the sorrowful lockstep of whole populations across international boundary lines." At one of the meetings John Rich of the Friends Service Committee, Cecilia Razovsky of the National Refugee Service, and George Warren of the International Migration Service tried to put together a picture of the world problem represented by refugees, a problem so stupendous and so rapidly changing that no relief efforts can keep pace.

At another meeting the committee turned to the "plight of refugees in a preoccupied world," specifically in this country. William Haber told of the resettlement efforts of the National Refugee Service of which he is the director, saying that some 300 families now are being settled every month. Many of the refugees are highly skilled and employers welcome them. Others present a serious problem in retraining.

At this same meeting Hertha Kraus, herself an exile from Germany in 1933, and now on the faculty of Bryn Mawr College spoke movingly of the bewilderment of the refugee in a new world where he finds that he "is not an exhausted human being who has barely made his escape from overwhelming terror, but just an immigrant, another alien."

HEALTH—CALL IT A TOPIC, A FIELD, OR WHAT YOU LIKE—always is in the forefront of conference concern. So it

was this year, with subject matter in several of the section programs and with a special committee, chairman, Helen Crosby of New York, focusing attention on the national health program.

In terms both of program and administration the subject was approached from national, state, and local levels. Senator James E. Murray of Montana, in a paper read by George St. J. Perrott, outlined pending federal legislation to extend health and medical care, but was not too optimistic about immediate action on anything but the bill appropriating funds for new local hospitals. Mr. Perrott himself told of the services now being rendered under existing federal programs. Particularly interesting was his description of group medical care units for farm families, initiated by the Farm Security Administration.

But any national program, said Michael M. Davis of New York, at a meeting in the social action section, must have state cooperation if it is to be effective. To that end Mr. Davis proposed study of "kinds of legislation" which would extend, coordinate and improve tax supported medical services to needy persons; authorize or facilitate the construction, enlargement, or improvement of needed hospital facilities; fortify and facilitate experimentation with voluntary health insurance; establish cash compensation for temporary disability due to sickness; establish or prepare the ground for compulsory health insurance.

The weakness of public medical care as it is operating at state and local levels is chiefly in its administration, said Dr. Gertrude Sturges of the American Public Welfare Association. The greatest needs are for coordination of services now administered by different public agencies; advice and cooperation from voluntary agencies and the medical profession; technical administration and supervision of medical programs.

How health programs can be developed without new federal legislation was discussed by Dr. Kingsley Roberts of the Bureau of Cooperative Medicine, New York. Dr. Roberts, very popular with his audience, advocated the use of existing hospitals as local health centers for the "distribution of modern low cost medical care," and detailed a system by which "existing equipment and personnel could be used to establish yardsticks for costs" to guide legislators in drafting new laws in relation to health service.

CHILDREN WERE, AS ALWAYS, A MAJOR CONCERN OF THE national conference, but except as "the whole child" was presented by Miss Lenroot in her general session review of the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy, the subject was pretty much divided into terms of social work specialization. Two special committees presented programs: one on delinquency, chairman, Elsa Castendyck of the U. S. Children's Bureau; the other on older children, chairman, Verna Smith of the Pittsburgh Federation of Social Agencies. A third special committee, chairman, Mary Brisley of the Church Mission of Help, was particularly engrossed with "the unmarried father."

Some of the most interesting discussions concerning children were in the programs of the associate groups. At a luncheon under the joint auspices of the Episcopal Social Work Conference and the Church Conference of Social Work, Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, pleaded for new response to "a set of old words—honor, duty, responsibility, courage, fortitude—heard now only in commencement orations." Urging that some form of religious education should be open to every child in America, she

proposed "a simple beginning" in the form of prayer in the public schools. "Congress opens with prayer; why shouldn't the schools?"

The meetings of the Child Welfare League of America were concerned with the league's future program under a reorganization plan presented by a committee, chairman, Alfred F. Whitman, Boston, which has been at work for a year. The program will be guided by the league's new president, Leonard W. Mayo of New York and its new executive director, Howard W. Hopkirk, recently superintendent of the Albany Home for Children but for eleven years associated with the late C. C. Carstens and the league.

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, RURAL SOCIAL WORKERS HAVE made the conference so "rural conscious" that this year they found their special concerns in all sorts of programs even in that of the Birth Control Federation of America. Despite its penetration of the conference, social work in rural communities had a special committee, chairman, Marian Lowe of the University of Kansas Hospitals, which explored the relation of the rural community to social work and the "what, where, and how" of rural resources. Able papers on these subjects were presented by Prof. Walter A. Terpenning of Albion College, Michigan, Raymond C. Smith of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Prof. Esther Twente of Kansas University.

The much discussed question of the rural worker herself was the subject of a lively meeting. Here Rethea Bond, county welfare director of Norman, Okla., told what the worker herself believes she needs to be. Rural workers are getting a little tired, she said, of being told that they must understand the mores and folkways of their communities. Naturally they understand them since they grew up by them. What rural workers are looking for now is practical help on the actual job.

What kind of worker the community wants was described in an engaging paper by Louis Towley of Minnesota, which *Survey Midmonthly* hopes to publish in an early issue. Mr. Towley described the rural social worker's present position as similar to that of "a Fuller brush man without his free sample," and added: "The rural community must be educated, persuaded, led to want a competent staff. Without local consent, no amount of merit plan, no personnel standards, no mandates, are worth a whistle in a rain barrel."

One of the liveliest meetings turning on rural work was in the program of the special committee on education for social work, chairman, Caroline Bedford, Jefferson City, Mo. Here, supervisors of rural districts in five states, described particular methods in the use of supervision as a means of development for untrained workers. (Parenthetically it might be observed that the term "in-service training" is definitely outmoded. "Staff development" is now correct usage.) This meeting, close to the grassroots, offered abundant illustration of the imaginative experimentation going on all over the country in efforts "to make social work work."

At one of the meetings of the committee on education for social work Marion Hathway, executive secretary of the American Association of Schools of Social Work, presented a report of the study made during the past year by the Association of Education for Public Social Work. Miss Hathway examined the matter from the point of view both of the schools and of the field with special reference to trends in both areas. Only the conclusion of

an able paper on a subject of great import to the whole of social work, can be quoted here:

The schools' place in training for public assistance is the preparation of professional personnel for the professional functions in public assistance including visitors, supervisors and administrators. To fulfill this task, however, four things are necessary: curriculum study and modification on the part of the schools which the study has indicated; the establishment of civil service systems on a basis to permit open competitive examinations for promotion; provisions for educational leave which will encourage further professional study as a basis for promotion; the extension of facilities by the schools to employed personnel on a basis which is sound.

Housing was another subject that filtered through the conference but headed up in a committee on social aspects of housing, chairman, Joseph P. Tufts of Pittsburgh. Here was spirited discussion of the stake of social workers in the housing program: Does housing management call for a case worker? What should social workers know about housing, and housing officials about social work? Here the difficult question of racial policy in public housing was analyzed by Robert Weaver of the U. S. Housing Authority, and the question of how a department of assistance can secure improved housing for client families, was discussed by Benjamin Glassberg of Milwaukee.

AT THIS POINT IN THEIR ATTEMPT AT AN OVER-ALL view of the Grand Rapids conference, these reporters admit to a sense of utter defeat. Overlong as this chronicle is, it has not even touched on a great variety of meetings which held some of the most interesting nuggets of the week. No mention has been made, for example, of the distinguished programs offered by the American Association of Psychiatric Social Workers and the American Association of Medical Social Workers, nor of the four-day conference of the National Probation Association.

On the rim of the conference proper was the Social

Work Publicity Council which gave publicity people a program and an exhibit in their own field, and gave the whole conference its laugh of the week in "The 1940 Follies," where, in song and skit, the social workers ruthlessly exposed their own peculiarities.

The "social action" of the Joint Committee of Trade Unions in Social Work had more attention from Grand Rapids than did its meetings, which however drew large and interested audiences of social workers, who heard, among others, Harry Lurie and Bertha C. Reynolds of New York, Ralph Hetzel, Jr., of the CIO, and Sidney Hollander of Baltimore.

Tucked away in the tumult of conference week were two brave meetings of the American Council on Community Self-Help Exchanges. At one of them a roll call brought out the record of progress in various parts of the country: in Idaho, where cooperative rural housing projects are going on; in California, where political differences are hampering the state's self-help program; and in Richmond, Va., and Washington, D. C., where progress and expansion into new lines were reported by both local exchanges. An interesting development reported was a "trading post" in a rural Ohio county sponsored and developed by the County Department of Public Welfare. At the second meeting the Nova Scotia cooperatives were described, as well as various credit unions and other cooperative ventures being carried on in the United States.

A report even as long as this one of the events of a week which included 400 meetings with more than 600 speakers does scant justice to a conference which, make no mistake about it, was from first to last one of the most vigorous and vital in the long and honorable history of organized social work. There was great diversity of opinion which, as Miss Coyle said, "tests our capacity for cooperation"; but there was also abundant evidence of mature thinking, and above all else there was courage.

ALL fears of overcrowding and discomfort at the conference were dispelled by the hospitality of the Grand Rapids citizens and the excellence of the arrangements of the local committee, its chairman, Judge Clark E. Higbee, and its indefatigable, twenty-four-hour-a-day secretary, C. C. Ridge, director of the Community Chest. Seldom has any conference in recent years been as all-around comfortable as this one; seldom has a conference left a city with as warm and sincere appreciation as this one felt for Grand Rapids. The hotels could not take all the people, but the late comers who overflowed into the charming homes opened to the delegates really were the lucky ones.

In its registration—4888—the conference did not meet the expectations of the prophets, but the official registration did not tell the whole story of the attendance. It is a curious fact that many people, some of them prominent in social work, who take full advantage of the facilities offered by the conference to further purposes of their own or of their organizations, do not do it

the courtesy of registering. Had all these people done so, the registration, said competent estimators, would have been not less than 6500.

The business session of the conference was short and uneventful. The treasurer's report showed a safe if not affluent financial condition. Atlantic City was chosen for the 1941 meeting with regrets expressed to Boston which had also extended an invitation. No invitations have been received for the 1942 meeting which, if the regional plan adopted a few years ago is adhered to, should go to some southern city. The conference staff was instructed to "explore possibilities." The proposal that the nominating committee, in the interest of democratic practice, henceforth present at least two candidates instead of one for each office, was voted down. Too many people, it seemed, remembered the old days when two candidates were presented, and did not want those days back again.

As its president for 1940-41, the conference announced the election of Jane

Hoey of the Social Security Board, Washington; vice presidents: Dr. Ellen C. Potter, Trenton, N. J., Fred K. Hoehler, Chicago, John T. Clark, St. Louis; members of the executive committee: Pierce Atwater and Charlotte Carr, Chicago; Ruth O. Blakeslee and Josephine Roche, Washington, D. C.; Margaret E. Rich, Pittsburgh; Joanna C. Colcord and Harry L. Lurie, New York. Section chairmen: Social Case Work, Leah Feder, St. Louis; Group Work, Helen Hall, New York; Community Organization, Robert P. Lane, New York; Social Action, Lea Taylor, Chicago; Public Welfare Administration, Robert T. Lansdale, New York.

Nominated for 1941-42, election to be conducted by mail, were: for president, Shelby M. Harrison, director of the Russell Sage Foundation, New York; vice presidents, Wilfred S. Reynolds, director Council of Social Agencies, Chicago; Michael M. Davis, chairman Committee on Research in Medical Economics, New York; Betsey Libbey, director Philadelphia Family Society.

Here in Washington . . . By Rilla Schroeder

THE DEFENSE ISSUE—Opposition to the WPA appropriation bill, carrying the President's spend-in-eight-months clause, crumbled before the shibboleth, national defense, and the measure went through the House, May 23, with few changes.

The Woodrumites introduced the question of national defense in an effort to pare the appropriation or at least strike out the eight months clause, but it proved a boomerang. Friends of the bill caught it up, and WPA as a national defense measure went triumphantly on to a 354-21 finish.

The La Follette Bill—The gambit, however, acts equally well in reverse. The afternoon it was being used in the House to defeat the attack on WPA, it was being similarly employed on the other side of the Capitol to stop or amend grotesquely the La Follette Oppressive Labor Practices bill. The measure was denounced by leaders of both parties as contrary to the defense interests of the country. After several days of wrangling it passed, but with amendments attached by Senator Reynolds which doom it as a labor bill. To be sure, its four fundamentals remain, but the Reynolds amendments would require employers operating in interstate commerce to limit aliens in their employ to one in ten and denies employment to communists and members of the German-American Bund.

Drive on Labor Laws—The defense issue promises to be the screen behind which the anti-labor drive in both House and Senate will be concealed, albeit somewhat clumsily. Already those members who actually read their mail are noting that old advisers, those who have been writing denouncing labor legislation for years, are now employing the argument that the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Walsh-Healey Act, and so forth, interfere with the efficiency of the defense program and must be eliminated or amended into futility. As we go to press, the Smith amendments to the NLRB, practically abandoned after the defeat of the proposed changes in the wage-hour measure, are about to be brought to the floor.

The Patriotic Motif—The old anti-alien, anti-foreign-philosophies campaign has taken on new life. The WPA bill carries an amendment banning communists and members of the Bund from employment and requiring those applying for WPA jobs to sign affidavits that they are neither. If not eliminated in the Senate, where the bill is scheduled for early action, this amendment promises a ticklish bit of clerical work for WPA administrators.

The announcement by Attorney General Robert H. Jackson, that the Department of Justice was planning the registration of the 3,500,000 aliens in this country, after the transfer to his department's jurisdiction of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, revived the Smith bill, passed by the House and long dormant in the Senate Judiciary



Washington Press-Photo Bureau
RILLA SCHROEDER

Committee. The bill has been redrafted and with a few changes will, undoubtedly, be passed by the Senate. The House has then only to concur in the changes. Mr. Dies of Texas, chairman of the Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities, has introduced a resolution calling for an additional appropriation "not to exceed \$100,000."

LITTLE HATCH BILL—This bill, placing the same limitations on the political activities of state employees paid from federal funds as the original bill does federal employees, has been ordered reported despite heroic efforts on the part of the House Judiciary Committee to keep it in their files. The committee has amended the bill in various particulars, but it remains to be seen whether the amendments will stick. They are still trying to explain the shenanigans whereby, with secret ballot and much hush-hush, the bill was earlier tabled. Chairman Sumners undertook the job of explaining on the floor, but left his hearers unconvinced. There are members of both House and Senate who sincerely object to the measure, but Mr. Sumners ignored the meat of their objections in his lengthy address to the House.

MIGRANT WORKERS—A special committee to investigate interstate migration has been appointed and has held one or two preliminary meetings. Members are John Tolan of California, chairman; Claude V. Parsons of Illinois; John J. Sparkman of Alabama; Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska, and Frank J. Osmers of New Jersey. The committee is anxious to emphasize the national scope of its investigation and the membership has been nicely selected with that idea in view.

Dr. Robert K. Lamb, an economist formerly on the Williams College faculty, then with the La Follette Committee, has been named chief investigator. His staff will be recruited slowly and will include experts loaned by the interested departments. Dr. Lamb is young, full of enthusiasm, and capable. Despite limited funds, only \$20,000 having been appropriated, the committee is ambitious. There will be four or five hearings held in different sections of the country, and a final hearing in Washington with promises of headlines and, it is hoped, an outline for the solution of the problem or at least for its intelligent treatment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—The Senate, having disposed of the La Follette bill and the new hospital program, had hoped to sit back and wait for the House to act. The sudden decision of administration leaders to bring up the tax question has changed their plans somewhat. The tax bill will go through but definitely not with the speed or unanimity of the defense measures. The special interests are already gathering to fight this or that proposal and they are not noted for their susceptibility to the patriotism plea. The tax business has decidedly prolonged the session. At this point it looks as though there might be a recess over the conventions and a special session early in the fall or late summer.

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce may bring out the hospital bill but it will be in its original form. Chances that the bill reported will be the amended Senate measure, passed by the Senate with only a few minor alterations, are slight. So far the committee has indicated no disposition to bring out either bill although the House measure was sponsored by the committee chairman, Clarence Lea of California. The Senate, however, is committed to the new program and in conference would stand firm. Perhaps the amendments could be made on the floor and, with the argument that good health is necessary to defense, could be passed without much argument.

The House has a lot of unfinished business on hand, but how much of it will be allowed to die in committee or on the calendar is a question. There are, however, a number of rules that must be considered. Probably most of the rest of it will be allowed to die. Friends of the housing bill, S.591, passed by the Senate, are making a last minute drive to secure favorable House action. They, too, are stressing the importance of housing as a background for a sound national defense program.