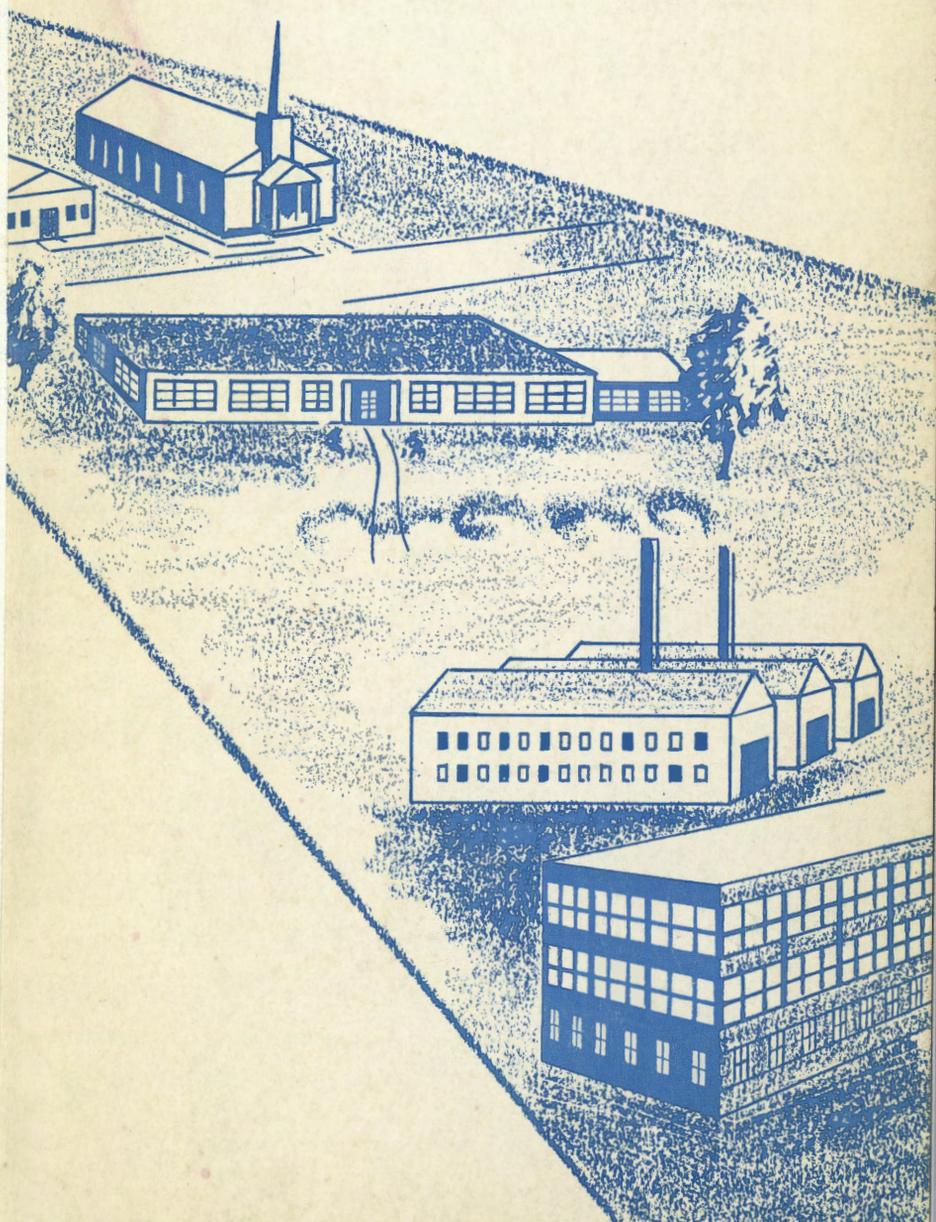


*This is
The Task*



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FINDINGS OF THE TRENTON, NEW JERSEY HUMAN RELATIONS SELF-SURVEY

*A reporter's view done by WILLIAM DWYER
of The Trenton Times, reprinted with the
generous cooperation of that newspaper.*

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Trenton Human Relations Self-Survey

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A WORD OF EXPLANATION

This is how a community looks to itself, as seen through the eyes of a newspaper reporter who sought to interpret for the people of the City of Trenton, New Jersey, the findings of a 116-page report documenting local racial practices. Mr. William Dwyer, writer for the *Trenton Times*, has given a sharp and perceptive story of these survey findings, and we are reprinting his accounts which appeared in the *Times* in their original journalistic flavor.

These are facts which the community leaders discovered for themselves through the medium of a COMMUNITY SELF-SURVEY OF HUMAN RELATIONS which covered the Negro family in Trenton, housing, employment, community services, public accommodations and the public schools. The project was initiated and given continued leadership by the TRENTON COUNCIL OF HUMAN RELATIONS, and it was sponsored by a wide representation of community organizations and volunteer workers. This survey is their production and accomplishment, rendered for the betterment of intergroup relations in their own city.

Technical direction of the survey and the preparation of findings were in the hands of the staff of the Race Relations Department of the American Missionary Association, an agency of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches. This is a service contributed to communities throughout the nation out of the deep religious conviction and commitment which has characterized the witness of the Congregational Churches in this demanding area of the common life. Mr. John Hope, II, served as consultant for the employment aspects of the survey, and, together, we wish to express wholehearted gratitude for the support, conviction and good will which the citizens of Trenton gave to this enterprise. The number of such persons is too large for special mention, but to all we acknowledge a happy indebtedness.

HERMAN H. LONG
*Director, Race Relations Department
and Director of the Trenton Human
Relations Self-Survey*

Trenton's Negro Community

55 Percent Increase In Population Over 10 Years Brings Citizen Survey

How great has the influx of Negroes here been in recent years?

Where do most of them come from?

These were two of the questions considered in a study whose findings were released this week. And here are the answers:

Between 1940 and 1950 the number of Negroes in Trenton swelled from 9,340 to 14,532—an increase of 55.6 per cent.

Two out of every three Negroes have migrated from the South, not in stages as was once the case, but direct to Trenton.

While the Negro population here went up by 5,000, the number of whites shrank by 1,880 between '40 and '50.

These shifts (which presumably have continued since 1950) represent big changes here, and they prompt the question: How is Trenton adjusting to these changes?

Questions of Adjustment

With the questions of adjustment in mind, a group of interested citizens set out to get the facts. Not only on population shifts but also on such questions as: What about juvenile delinquency here among Negroes? Do Negroes in Trenton have equal opportunity in employment? In housing? In community services?

The fact-finding group included about 250 volunteers. They came from varied occupations and from all parts of town. They represented contrasting viewpoints and backgrounds.

For a year, these citizens devoted spare time to their project, a self-survey of this community. They were not geared to fault-finding or to discovering what individuals or what particular agencies were guilty of what.

Rather, they were out to get the facts about the status and problems of the Negro in Trenton. For constructive future action, the facts were needed first.

Booklet Prepared

Some of the group's findings were released for publication this week. These are packed into a 21-page booklet titled "The Trenton Negro Family." Findings under four other general headings—employment, housing, public accommodations and community services—will be made public next month.

Between 1940 and 1950, this city's population crept forward by only 2.7 per cent—from 124,679 to 128,009. Without the non-white

growth, Trenton would have been one of the few cities in the nation to experience a population decline.

The addition of more than 5,000 non-whites to the city upped their proportion of the total population from 7.5 to 11.4 per cent. This can be considered almost exclusively Negro growth since all but 53 of the non-whites in the 1950 census were Negroes.

In their effort to get the facts about the Negro population, the volunteer researchers working on the self-survey covered 232 Trenton Negro families—1,160 persons in all. This sample amounts to eight per cent of the Negro population. It is "weighted" in that it represents different economic, social-class and population-density areas. Cautiously interpreted, it can be taken as a reasonable picture of the Negro's status and problems here.

Poll About Origin

Here is what this poll of the 232 family heads indicates about the origin of the Negro population of Trenton:

1. Only 28 per cent of the family heads lived previously in New Jersey or any part of the North.
2. The other 72 per cent came here from the South Atlantic of South Central states.

Place of birth showed a wider gap: 79 per cent were born in the South.

As the report puts it: "More than two out of every three family heads had not lived previously anywhere except in the South. Moreover, 8 out of every 10 had not lived any other place in New Jersey except Trenton . . . Thus, not only does the dominant background of the Negro group seem to be Southern; these data suggest that migration to Trenton generally has been direct.

"The difficulties of adjustment under these circumstances would be inclined toward the maximal."

Some of the "difficulties inclined toward the maximal" are treated in later sections of the "Negro Family" report.

Trenton's Negro Community

Survey Reveals Typical Family Status Far Less Favorable Than U. S. Average

The Negro family in Trenton is in a considerably poorer position, in its makeup, than the average family of the nation. However, its position here is about the same as that of the average Negro family across the nation.

Roughly the same thing goes for the Negro's educational and employment status here.

These things are indicated in a citizens group report based on interviews with 232 Negro family heads in Trenton.

The volunteer researchers found that 77 per cent of those interviewed were "simple, unbroken family types"—that is, husband and wife, with or without children.

"Broken" Families

Twenty-three per cent of the Negro family heads were found to be separated, widowed or divorced. Moreover, females headed 22 per cent of the families. Sixteen per cent of the Negro families were classified as "unbroken."

The proportion of "simple and regular family types"—three out of four Negro families here—is higher than that for non-whites in the country at large. It is, however, lower than the figure (in 1947) for the general U. S. population (86 per cent).

The presence of so many female family heads—22 per cent among Negro families here—is about the same as the national figure for non-whites. But it represents a figure less favorable than that of all households in the U. S. which in 1947 had only 15 per cent female family heads.

As for educational status, it's somewhat the same story.

A little more than half of the Negro family heads here had fewer than eight grades of schooling. The Negro's median achievement in 1950 was about 7 grades (6.9)—almost two grades below the median for the city at large, 8.8 grades.

National Figures

National figures show a similar disparity:

1. In 1947 more than half the nation's population 20 years or older had completed the first year of high school. About half of the Trenton Negro family heads had not gone beyond the seventh grade.

2. Ten per cent of the household heads in the nation had gone to college in 1940. Only four per cent of Trenton's Negro family heads had done so.

"There is strong evidence," the citizens group report says, "that Negro newcomers to Trenton since 1945 have contributed to lowering the average educational achievement of the non-white group."

The study reports that a check of the newcomers showed that about 54 per cent of them had not advanced beyond the fifth grade. None had got beyond the tenth grade.

"This suggests," the study says, "not only the Southern source of migrancy but also a level of educational attainment associated with the rural South."

Education Differentials

The facts about the Negro's employment status here reflect the educational differentials between the non-white and the general population.

Unemployment among Negroes, in Trenton, the report says, is greater than that for the general population—7 per cent compared to 3.5 per cent for non-whites in 1950. And a census sample of the 13 tracts most heavily settled by Negroes showed unemployment running as high as 10 per cent.

The somewhat shaky economic status of the Trenton Negro family is further underlined by the kind of jobs available.

The professions, for example. In the city as a whole 8.3 per cent of the employed are classed as professionals. For Negro family heads the figure is only 2 per cent.

In sharp contrast are the figures for the lowest job classifications—operatives, service and laborers: More than eight out of ten Negroes were in this grouping, as shown by these figures:

City as a whole: 49 per cent in lowest job classifications.

Negro family heads: 85 per cent in this category.

In the craftsman-foreman category, it is 3 to 1 in the other direction: City as a whole: 30 per cent. Negro family heads: 10 per cent.

One thing indicated by these figures is what the report calls underutilization of Negroes, one of the subjects treated in the next article of this series.

Trenton's Negro Community

There's Relative Prosperity, But Many Work At Jobs Below Their Top Skill

A conspicuous number of Negroes in Trenton are not working at jobs equal to their highest skills or to their previous levels of job performance.

This is one of the findings of the citizens group about the employment status of Negro family heads here.

In a sample of 232 Negro families, the volunteer researchers found 7 per cent of the family heads seeking work and unable to find it. This indicates among Negroes twice the amount of unemployment found in the general population.

The citizens group found a great number of Negroes working at unskilled jobs. More than eight out of ten in 1953 were in the lowest classifications—operatives, service and laborers. The figure for Negroes was 85.3 per cent, in contrast to 49 per cent for the city as a whole.

Under-Utilized?

This indicated possible restrictive use of Negroes, so the citizens group looked further. Were Negroes being under-utilized? That is, were they employed below the levels at which they had previously worked?

This was found to be so under almost every general job classification. The survey shows for example that in 1953:

1. Though only 10 per cent of Negro family heads were employed as craftsmen-foremen, 16 per cent of them had previously worked at this level.

2. Though only 18 per cent were working as operatives, 23 per cent had previously worked at this level.

3. Two per cent were working as professionals or semi-professionals though 5 per cent of the Negro family heads had formerly been in this category.

Says the citizens report: "Although these trends are indicative of a pattern of restrictive and discriminatory utilization, they should be contrasted against the findings of the employment and industry section of this study for more adequate evaluation."

(The employment and industry section of the study is to be made public in mid-February.)

Relative Prosperity

A checkup on wages indicates that the Trenton Negro family is enjoying relative prosperity. The median wages of family heads was

found to be \$61.00 a week. The median income of the average Negro family was found to be \$80.25.

"However," says the report, "more than one out of three family heads do not have more than five years tenure in their jobs." And a disproportionate number (80 per cent) work more than 40 hours a week. It was found, further, that 40 per cent of the families had sources of income other than wages.

The report adds: "In spite of the high rate of employment, the large proportion of family heads in manufacturing and the high level of wage income the Trenton Negro family still appears to be in a relatively unstable position economically. This is shown by the concentration of family heads in the lower occupational classifications and short tenure of their present job pursuits. There is, additionally, evidence highly suggestive of under-utilization of the work experience and skills of the Negro workers, particularly at the levels of operatives and craftsmen."

Most Families Have Kind Word For City; Housing, Educational Goals Discussed

An overwhelming majority of Negroes here think Trenton is a good place to live. One Negro in four, however, is clearly dissatisfied with his housing situation here.

These attitudes are reported in the citizens group study of the Negro's status and problems in Trenton.

A sampling of 232 Negro family heads showed 90 per cent of them to have a favorable attitude toward the city in general. Twenty-five per cent were dissatisfied with their housing, however, and 20 per cent had an unfavorable attitude toward their own neighborhood.

The study checked difficulties experienced in housing and other fields. It also dealt with the attitude of Negro parents toward the educational and vocational future of their children. Here are some of the findings:

1. More than half (57 per cent) of the family heads reported no difficulties at all, living in Trenton.
2. One family in six (16.8 per cent) reported experiencing difficulties in housing.
3. One family in eight (12.9 per cent) reported difficulties traceable to racial or religious discrimination.
4. One family in 13 (7.4 per cent) experienced difficulties in employment.
5. One family in 20 (4.9 per cent) reported difficulties in public services or accommodations.
6. Less than one per cent reported any educational problems.

The findings underline housing as the No. 1 problem of Negroes in Trenton.

As the citizens report says: "This suggests not only the existence of a difficult housing situation facing the Negro population—a fact that can be objectively documented—but, even more significantly, that it is a problem . . . about which strong feelings have developed."

Of some other responses, the report observes: "Although employment and difficulties involved in public services and accommodations occupy a minor place among these grievances, they are voluntarily mentioned with sufficient frequency to warrant some attention."

What objectives do Negro parents have for their children? This was another adjustment area investigated.

Results showed that both the educational and vocational objectives parents have for their children are "rather poorly defined." Almost one out of every three parents indicated they had no definite vocational

objectives for their children. About the same number (31.5 per cent) indicated the highest educational goal set for their children to be completion of high school.

The report cited as an encouraging sign the fact that four out of ten Negro parents set college as the goal for their children. However, more than half of the parents either had no definite vocational objective or left this decision up to the children.

"Thus," says the report, "it would seem that even though educational aspiration is somewhat high in the direction of college attainment, it is nevertheless a vague expectation, unsupported by realistic and concrete objectives."

The report sees a possible relation between this lack of vocational motivation and educational failure "and possible social delinquency."

These are some of the report's further observations:

1. Most Negro children (53 per cent) face a future "inadequately shaped by parental motivation for educational and career purposes."
2. Even in highly industrialized Trenton, only 2 per cent of Negro parents want their children to learn a trade or skill.
3. About 4 per cent of the parents want professional and graduate training for their children.
4. These findings are reflected to a large degree in the incidence of failure and drop-outs in school.
5. Moreover, the findings point to one of the large potential sources of disorganized social behavior and high rates of delinquency among juvenile and young Negro adults.
6. The responses of parents indicating a lack of expectation and motivations are part of a bigger picture.

The study adds: "These are the responses of parents who are in a considerable part recent migrants from the South, with limited formal education and engaged in work below the skilled level. They are the responses, too, of parents who still have twice the unemployment of the general population. At the same time a conspicuous number of them are not working in jobs commensurate with their highest skills and previous levels of job performance."

Survey Hasn't Produced All Answers, But Valuable Data Has Been Assembled

How do Negroes get along in the Trenton community? What problems, if any, do they encounter in using community services? How active are they in the city's organizational and civic life?

Volunteer researchers for this section of the "Negro Family Study" didn't come up with complete answers to these questions; no survey could. But they did find:

That nine out of 10 Negro families interviewed consider Trenton a good place to live.

That there is very limited participation of Negroes in organizations here, except in churches and labor unions.

That "on the whole, the health services of the city appear to be adequately used by Negro families."

That there is "continued existence of segregation practices" in local hospitals. On the constructive side, however, the report adds, most Negro families encounter no segregation in hospitals.

The study's summary of Negro family experiences with local health services showed:

That two hospitals, McKinley and Mercer, account for more than 70 per cent of hospital services reported by Negro families.

That 84.3 per cent use some type of health or hospital service.

That nine out of ten families have no difficulty in getting medical services.

That 52 per cent have both a "regular" doctor and dentist. (Twelve per cent have no regular physician; 42 per cent have no regular dentist. Most of the medical service, 59 per cent, is obtained from Negro physicians, but most of the dental service, 54 per cent, is received from white dentists.)

That only half of the Negro babies here are born in a hospital.

As for hospital accommodations, the survey reports: "The continued existence of segregation practices, as reported in the experience of about 17 per cent of the families who used either hospital ward areas or semi-private rooms on a segregated basis. On the constructive side, however, about 68 per cent had used ward and room facilities without being segregated."

(Further information about hospital practices will be found in the "community services" section of the self-survey to be made public later this month.)

Of the Negro's organizational membership here, the report says: "On the whole, it reflects a very limited entrance into groups outside

the Negro area and its social life." Although the inertia of past customs and habits may aid in explaining this condition, "the pattern of segregated residential living which characterizes the present housing situation is a considerable factor in the total equation."

The report shows 98 per cent of Negro families with church membership, and 54 per cent in unions. (Almost 70 per cent of the church membership is Baptist.)

Beyond this, however, organizational activity is extremely limited. One family in three has no other organizational activities at all. Only eight per cent belong to a PTA. About 14 per cent belong to Carver Center organizations and the same number are in the NAACP.

Summarized, the chief findings of the citizens group in the "Trenton Negro Family" study are:

1. To a large degree, the sharp rise in the Negro population of Trenton in recent years is the result of direct migration from the South. Between 1940 and 1950, the Negro population here rose from 9,340 to 14,532—an increase of 55.6 per cent. Most of the newcomers have come from the South, not in stages as was once true, but direct to this city.

2. The Negro family here, in makeup, is in a considerably poorer position than the nation's average family. Contributing factors: 22 per cent of families headed by females; 23 per cent of family heads separated, widowed or divorced; 16 per cent "broken" families.

3. The Negro's educational and employment situation here is considerably worse than that of the general population. There is about twice as much unemployment among Negroes here as among whites. There is evidence that many Negroes are not working at jobs commensurate with their highest skills. In educational attainment, Negroes here are about two grades behind the general population. The Southern source of the migrancy is underlined by both the educational and the employment situation of the Negro here.

4. Most Negroes here (90 per cent) think Trenton is a good place to live. One Negro in four, however, is dissatisfied with his housing.

5. The high percentage of "drop-outs" and failures among Negro school children is attributable in part to the kind of motivation parents give their children. Both the educational and vocational objectives Negro parents have for their children, in general, are "rather poorly defined." This, too, underlines the Southern source of Negro migration.

Human Relations Survey Report Urges Dropping Of Racial Factor In Financing

In Trenton, the Negro's most serious problem is housing.

This is clearly indicated by the findings of a citizens' group which spent a year gathering facts about the position and the problems of the Negro here.

As one result, the housing committee of the community self-survey has recommended: "That lending agencies and financial institutions be encouraged to eliminate race as a factor in granting mortgages and in other security transactions including real estate."

This recommendation stems from a check into practices in the real estate field. "Policies of selling, renting and financing housing for Negro clients tend to be restrictive," the report states, "in the sense of limiting transactions to some areas where Negroes are presently living."

Rental Market Restrictive

The rental market appears to be the most restrictive here, and is almost non-existent in terms of serving Negro clients, housing chairman William J. Waldron reported. The committee found some real estate firms, however, willing to deal with Negroes in cases where the Negro client is of the same social and economic background as other persons in the neighborhood.

Real estate firms frankly admitted difficulties in servicing the Negro market. These were the reasons given:

1. Inadequate financial background of the Negro client.
2. Segregation pressures and influences.
3. Attitudes of the white owner against Negro occupancy.

Still another factor in the segregation was cited. Half of the real estate firms indicated the existence of deeds with racial restrictions. And in the opinion of most firms, verbal agreements on racial restrictions are in operation here.

The local situation evokes such comments as: "Negroes simply can't buy homes in areas where mortgage money is available. There's plenty of mortgage money around but only for homes in certain areas and in good condition."

The seriousness of the situation is underlined by the small residential area open to the expanding Negro population. Conditions were not ideal even before the influx of 5,000-plus Negroes into Trenton in the past few years.

One result of the influx is that though Negroes account for 11.4 per cent of the population, they occupy only about 2,500 dwelling

units, or 7.7 per cent of the city's housing supply. This means heavy overcrowding of the small number of houses available. And the overcrowding is linked to delinquency and high disease rates.

The 3.7 difference in the percentage of Negroes in the population and the percentage of housing available to them is significant. In fact, it's more than three times the difference found, for example in Detroit in 1940.

The volunteer researchers further found:

1. That, except for public housing units, practically no new housing here has been available to Negroes in many years.

(In public housing, the status of Negroes has improved greatly. Officials were once reluctant to add Negro residents to public housing units. But now Negroes occupy 381 of the 1,175 public units available. The 381 units represent 1,727 Negro residents.)

2. That, in proportion to the population, the number of substandard housing units occupied by Negroes is four times greater than those occupied by whites.

3. That, proportionately, overcrowding among Negroes is almost three times that found among whites.

Sectional Occupancy

The housing committee found a further indication of segregation in the fact that about 80 per cent of the city's Negroes live in 25 per cent of Trenton's housing area. The pressures of segregation have resulted in something that normally would be a good sign—a high degree of home ownership.

(Half of the Negro dwelling units here are owner-occupied. This is far above the national average for home ownership.)

"But," says the report, "with demolition and enforced improvement of structures under the housing inspection program, the trend appears to be toward forcing Negro families into the buying market who are not financially able to carry regular obligations involved in ownership.

"Six out of every ten Negro families covered in the survey had bought their homes on the basis of the 'contract of sale' arrangement. They had, for the most part, bought poorer housing of low value and cost, as was shown in the fact that 65 per cent of the Negro families had paid less than \$4,000 for their property. This compares with 10.6 per cent of the owner occupied structures of the city which fell below that figure in value."

As a result, says the report, Negroes are led to the possession of older and poorer quality houses than those available to whites.

The self-survey housing committee made three recommendations in all. These are the other two:

"That the facts contained in the report be widely disseminated and that special effort be exerted to make them available to persons and organizations concerned and working in the field of housing.

"That persons active in presently successful neighborhood groups and civic associations be encouraged to take leadership in organizing new groups wherever there is a need or demand for improvement."

Number Of Negro Girl Delinquents Emphasized By Survey Revelations

The number of Negro girl delinquents here is perhaps the most shocking finding of the Trenton Human Relations Self-Survey.

For one thing, the survey reveals, delinquency rates are higher in Trenton than in New Jersey as a whole for both white and Negro children.

For another, there is a substantial difference here in the outcome of white and Negro cases. One of every five adjudicated Negro cases goes to a training school, while only one of every 18 white cases is so terminated. Thus, the rate is more than three times higher for Negroes than for others. How come?

The community services committee of the self-survey saw three possible factors:

1. Greater severity of the cause of arrest.
2. Prejudicial or some other systematic handling of the cases by the court.
3. Less favorable possibilities for adjustment in the home situation for Negro children, and therefore greater necessity for rehabilitation in a training institution.

(As for No. 3, one Negro leader said: "Many of the girls are far better off in an institution than at home.")

The survey report adds: "On the basis of evidence shown in the family study of the degree of Negro family disorganization, the third reason does seem to carry heavy weight. Whether it could, by itself, account for the difference is not certain.

It is among Negro girls that the survey has found "a trend of extremely serious significance."

"Here," says the report, "it is not a case as with the boys of there being a high proportionate number of non-whites. Numerically, there are actually more non-white girls than others (in institutions) and this applies for the state as well as for Trenton . . ."

"There are actually more Negro girls in the State Home than white, and this holds true for Mercer County as well as the state."

(A recent check showed that of the 200 girls at the State Home here, 120 of them—60 per cent—were Negroes.)

"We feel," the report says, "that this clearly points to inadequate facilities for the care and development of non-white girls—poor housing, too few group activities for girls, no private institutions for group living, and too little casework service available to Negro girls particularly."

Would Extend Study

The committee made this recommendation: "That some further study be made among the community services to determine whether

facilities may be extended or added which would help to lower the present high rate of delinquency among non-white girls."

The figures on juvenile delinquency are part of a community services report. This committee, headed by C. Lester Greer, also looked into the status and policies of health, welfare and recreation agencies of the city.

The survey covered 32 agencies and institutions including: 16 family and child welfare agencies, and 9 social welfare institutions.

The committee found:

1. That one third of these organizations do not serve any Negroes.
2. That well over one third have no Negro board members.
3. That more than half have no Negro personnel in any staff position.

Social welfare institutions appear to be the least integrated, the report says.

Although half of these claim their governing boards are "varied" or "mixed racially and religiously," 56 per cent have no Negroes on their professional staff.

Of the groundwork agencies, half have Negro board membership but more than half have Negroes in professional positions.

Of the family and child care agencies, 64 per cent have Negroes in board positions but 67 per cent have no Negro professional personnel.

The community services committee observes: "The report on family and child care agencies particularly indicates that few of them have Negro representation on their boards and professional staffs. Since most of them serve an integrated clientele, it is recommended that these agencies purposely select Negro representation on their boards and professional staffs."

The committee also checked six Trenton hospitals.

It was found that although hospital services appear to be non-discriminatory, 17 per cent of the Negro families interviewed claimed they had received some type of segregated or discriminatory treatment in obtaining hospital accommodations.

The report on hospitals indicates a wide open policy as to admission of Negroes to their medical, nursing and technical staffs. Yet very few Negroes serve in these capacities.

(There is only one Negro physician on the staff of any local hospital. Others have "visiting privileges" only. Several Negro doctors say they have applied for staff privileges and been turned down.)

The community services committee recommends:

That the hospitals take on more Negro doctors as active staff members.

That they encourage the applications of more Negro girls to nurses' training and as technicians.

(Negro girls from Trenton are going to Philadelphia, New York, and more distant places for nurses' training. As far as can be determined, only one is in training in Trenton.)

Trenton Survey Reveals Restaurant Resistance To Patronage By Negroes

A college professor is a guest at your home. You're going out for dinner with several others, and, naturally, you're going to take the professor along. Your visitor is a handsome man, well dressed and well educated. A Ph.D. in fact.

But—the pigmentation of his skin is different from yours. So, there you are.

To save any possible embarrassment, you call a restaurant and ask, "Do you accept Negro patronage?"

In Trenton the chances are fairly great that the response would be either evasive or a flat no. (There'd be no problem at all if your visitor happened to be, say, gangster Frank Costello. He's free, white and 21.)

How They Answered

As part of the Trenton Human Relations Self-Survey, volunteers telephoned a cross section of restaurants, taverns and hotels. "Do you accept Negroes as patrons?" the voice on the phone asked. And here are some of the answers:

"We don't throw 'em out. We have to serve Negroes."

"All our trade is white, but we couldn't refuse to serve Negroes."

"I'll serve Negroes because it's against the law not to."

"We must serve them if they come in, but we'd rather not encourage it."

On the other hand, there were some who answered, "Yes, we do" or "Sure, come on over."

The citizens group survey of public accommodations in Trenton covered 105 establishments. Of the 93 responding adequately, just about half of them, 46, said yes, they accept Negroes as patrons. There were "no" answers from 18 and evasive answers from 29.

In other words, roughly half of the establishments follow practices of acceptance while the other half are either actively or potentially discriminatory in regard to Negro patrons.

According to the public accommodations committee report, the taverns (with 59 per cent responding "no" or evasively) expressed the most conspicuous degree of hostility. They were joined by 43 per cent of restaurant owners, and "four of the ten hotels questioned could not be classed on the positive side."

Wesley R. Nevius, chairman of the committee, reported "some highly favorable sentiment on the positive end of the scale, with the

bulk of replies falling into the 'neutral' and 'avoiding' categories. Sentiment is clearly skewed in the negative direction."

The answers of proprietors reveal a variety of motivation and rationalization of policy.

"In 11 instances," says the report, "mention was made of 'customer opinion' as qualifying the extent to which services could be given to Negro patrons. Only four of these used it as a basis for a definite 'no' response.

"This is in itself significant, for it reflects the conflict of the establishment operator between the traditional rationalization of losing customers through non-discrimination and the existence of a state civil rights law requiring service to all."

Some of the "evasions" included such sentiments as: "It's hard for us to mix." "It might not be nice." "They might start a fight and then I would lose customers."

Some "evasive" proprietors suggested "other places where Negroes could go and receive service." Two said they would serve Negroes only on the basis of segregation—"if they sit at a table" or maybe in a back room.

Conclusions

On their findings, the volunteer researchers reached these conclusions:

"1. In only one out of four establishments can a Negro in Trenton realistically expect to be accepted and receive equal treatment. Even though 50 per cent maintain non-discriminatory policies, an equal proportion are to some degree discriminatory.

"2. The most conspicuous pattern is neutrality, accepting but not encouraging Negro patronage. There is an associated trend in the direction of negative and avoiding of Negro patronage.

"3. The state civil rights law appears to be making headway. There remains, however, a vast area of public accommodation services involving proprietors who remain evasive and/or refusing.

"4. Though taverns appear to be the most singularly recalcitrant and resistant group, many subtly discriminatory attitudes still exist in all types of establishments.

"5. The central-city area locations are more generally accepting of Negro patrons. This seems to be due to actual experience and the necessity for central area establishments to handle the patronage of minority groups. It indicates the opposite for those establishments located in outlying neighborhood areas."

These are the committee's recommendations:

"1. A strong positive program of education to teach the following groups their responsibilities to the public as a whole:

"Proprietors and employes of establishments as to their responsibilities.

"Police and trainees for the police department as to the law.

"Minority groups as to their rights and the means to implement these rights.

(The assumption is that the Trenton Council on Human Relations will be the leader in these programs with the utmost cooperation of interested and concerned organizations.)

"2. If the above methods do not show results in alleviating the situation, it is recommended that a study be made of the advisability of putting civil rights enforcement on the local level." (This is at present the province of the State Division Against Discrimination.)

"3. That the local Civil Rights Commission be activated." (The Commission, though formed months ago, has been inactive for a long time.)

Average Or Above Average

That's Appraisal Of Negro Employes Here; Greater Interest Urged In Learning Trade

Almost all firms employing Negroes here find them either average or above average for efficiency on the job.

Of 104 employers asked about it, 89 per cent rated Negroes average workers and 7 per cent classed them as above average.

This is one of the findings of the employment committee of the Trenton Human Relations Self-Survey.

It is of more than passing interest in light of another finding: that by and large, Negroes are in a "subordinate position in the mainstream of industrial activity" here.

The "Trenton Negro Family" study found among Negroes twice the rate of unemployment of the general population. It also indicated that a conspicuous number of Negroes here are working at jobs below their highest skills.

This is substantiated by the report of the self-survey's employment committee headed by Bruce Bedford, Jr.

This committee reported that neither Negro men nor women are represented proportionately with whites in the main industry groups of this area. The committee found "a disproportionately large concentration of Negroes in service industries, particularly women."

Subordinate Position

The Negro's "less than proportionate participation in manufacturing reflects his subordinate position in the mainstream of industrial activity of the area."

The committee found, proportionately, a great many more Negroes than whites in labor and service occupations requiring little or no formal training. About half of the Negro men and two-thirds of the Negro women here are in such jobs. In sharp contrast, the figure for the white population is 15 per cent.

This, says the report, cannot be entirely justified by difference in educational attainment. (Even with the heavy influx from the rural South, the difference in educational attainment between Negroes and whites here amounts to little more than one grade.)

Inadequate Goals

One factor in the wide racial gaps in employment and earnings is motivation, or rather, lack of motivation. The Negro family study here found that many parents set inadequate goals or no goal at all for their children.

Moreover, it was found that of more than 200 Negro family heads interviewed, only two per cent wanted their children to learn a trade or skill.

This finding, in highly industrialized Trenton, evoked the following comments from a retired Negro priest, the Rev. Charles Nelson, formerly of St. Monica's Episcopal Church here:

"The small number of Negro parents who want their children to learn a trade is a surprising thing. The trades and skills—that's where we get the kind of homes we live in, that's where we get the kind of food we eat.

"Parents must be oriented to the need for more training in the trades. It is a big job for the clergy, for teachers and for interested groups to build up interest in the trades. We must all work on the parents to change this condition. After all, we can't all go to college."

The clergyman said that in his work among jail inmates he had found high percentages of Negroes behind bars. The big reason most of them got into trouble, he said, was that they had no trade or skill.

Industrial Jobs Up

On the "plus" side, the employment committee noted a gradual rise of the Negro in industry. The proportion of firms employing Negroes has increased sharply in the past two decades.

The latest figure, for the Spring of 1953, showed 75 per cent of the reporting firms to be employing one or more Negroes. Before 1940 the figure was only 55 per cent. A peak of 81 per cent was reached just after World War II.

As for Negro-white relations on the job, the answers show a high level of inter-racial harmony.

"How do you evaluate your Negro-white relationships?" employers were asked.

Of 111 firms with bi-racial labor forces, only 2 per cent said Negro-white relationships were unsatisfactory. About 13 per cent said they were fairly satisfactory, the rest, almost 90 per cent, rated them satisfactory.

Though most employers rated Negro workers fairly high, the committee reports, "the proportion of employers judging them worse is worthy of note. Negroes were judged worse than others as to absenteeism by one third and as to labor turnover by one fourth of the firms reporting.

The current rise of the Negro in industry, the report concludes, is "part of a wave or pattern like many nationalities who have risen in this country, one by one and step by step during the last century . . .

"Due to the fact that other minority groups in the past have gradually succeeded in bettering themselves, the question becomes one of evolution rather than revolution, and will therefore take some time to extend the curve of past and present progress."

The employment committee made the following recommendations:

"1. That employer groups, unions, the government and schools intensify their efforts to attain full utilization of the potential manpower among the Negro population in the Trenton labor market. Also that they restudy their apprenticeship training programs and encourage the Negro to take part in those which may be available.

"2. That some integrated apprentice training program, wherein school, employer and union are linked, might be established—perhaps in the form of vocational training.

"3. That the Negro be encouraged by the Negro leadership to combat the (employment) problem, particularly since a large number of this force is composed of recent migrants from agricultural areas."

'Constructive Change' Reported Here In Survey Of Negro Education Area

Ten years ago, 84 per cent of the Negro teachers employed in Trenton were confined to the faculty of the Lincoln School, now known as Junior No. 5. There were only six other Negro teachers in city schools.

By 1953-'54 Negroes were teaching in 12 city schools, and the number at Junior No. 5 had been reduced to 40 per cent.

This is one of the "substantial gains" toward integration cited by the education committee of the Trenton Human Relations Self-Survey. It was headed by Mrs. William H. Fulper.

The committee found "a wholesome and democratic example of constructive change" here. It had high praise for the school superintendent, the board of education and the city's teachers for "a clearly indicated effort to make integration effective."

Forty per cent of the city's Negro teachers in one school—though this shows a substantial improvement, it reflects one problem of integration not yet completely solved.

The education committee cites three other problems only partially solved:

1. The relatively low number of Negro high school students taking part in some of the more favored extra-curricular activities.
2. The relatively low motivation of Negro students, as reported by a great number of teachers.
3. The fact that the number of Negro teachers during the period studied was maintained at about 36.

(Concerning No. 3, it should be added that during the past year, which was not covered by the survey, several additional Negro teachers have been employed.)

(Another note of interest: A reduction in secondary school enrollment brought about a decrease of 28 in the city's teaching force. The total loss of Negro teachers was two, of white teachers, 26.)

These are some of the instances of substantial gains reported by the education committee:

1. The belief expressed by nine out of ten Trenton teachers that there has been satisfactory adjustment of school personnel following integration.
2. The fact that pupil integration has taken place without generalized racial conflict.
3. The feeling expressed by 46 per cent of the responding teachers that integration has brought new and broader challenges to the teaching situation.

4. The addition of three Negroes to the Central High staff. (In 1945 there were none.)

5. Increased teacher insight with respect to the real significance of integration. This, says the report, "is expressed by the opinion of ninth-grade teachers and high school counsellors that they are guiding students in curriculum choices on the basis of ability and interest rather than on employment possibilities after graduation."

The education committee of the self-survey found some indication of a lack of persistence among Negro students in negotiating from lower to higher grades. However, the committee reported, additional study is needed to reach a valid conclusion in this area.

The committee recommended further study of three other things:

1. Classroom problems of Negro and white students.
2. The Negro student's participation in extra-curricular activities.
3. Curriculum choices of the Negro as compared to the white student.

The education committee's report concludes: "Although total integration has not been achieved, the overall picture of the survey shows substantial and commendable changes in the direction of integration."

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