



Beaumont, Tex. May 1943.

US OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

Workers leaving the Pennsylvania shipyards at the change of shift.

LC-USW 3-

Negative No. 31030-D

PHOTO BY John Vachon

LC-USW 3-31030-D



Beaumont, Tex. May 1943.

Negro labor at the Pennsylvania shipyards.

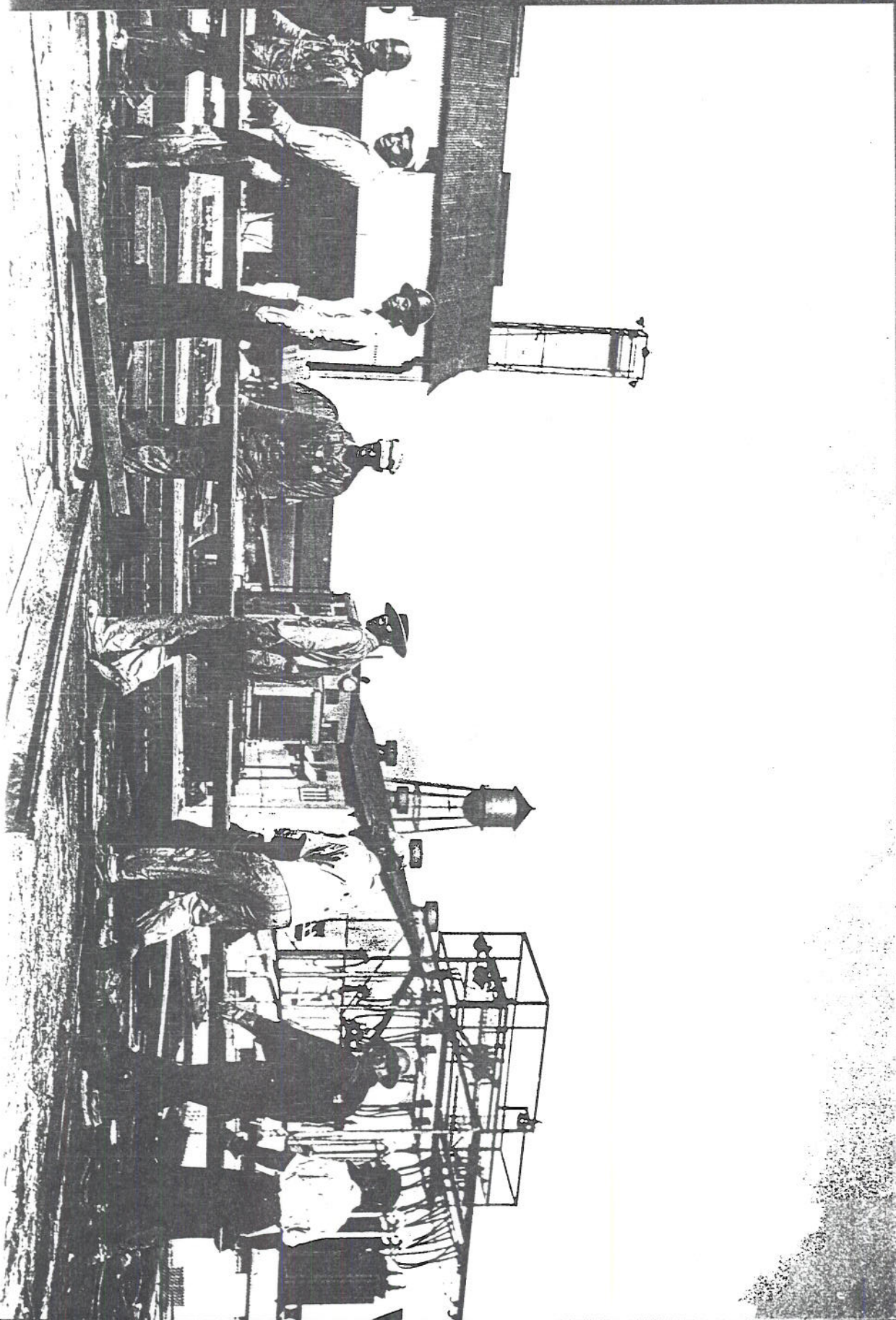
US OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

LC-USW 3-
Negative No.

30896-D

PHOTO BY John Vachon

Sandhurst 329157
(under trial
water here)



I. WAR PHOTOS -

what they are: Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Photos of defense worker communities and the defense workers on the job

1) **OBJECTIVE:** what can one learn about defense workers and the occupational segregation of workers from these photos?

2) QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- what is racial composition of work force?
- what is the gender of the workers?
- what is the general age (or ages) of the workers?
- what occupations appear to be divide by race?
- what are limitations of using photos to understand workers?

Conclusion: -

... can hardly
lose a pound a week.
figures prove you can.
count desserts at 350 cal.
bread at the usual 75 calories,
slice, and butter at the average 61
100 calories per pat, and then
leave out of your menus one des-
sert, two slices of bread, and half
the butter, you escape 650 calories
a day. Multiply that by seven and
you get a minus 4,550 calories for
the week, or slightly more than it
takes to lose a pound. There are
4,320 extra calories in a pound of
fat. But the principle works just
as well in reverse. That many
calories less than you need will
let you subtract a pound of fat.
Give the plan a try for a couple
of weeks, without cheating. Don't
weigh until next Thursday. You'll
lose by then.

... and
butter is
I have butter,
outter, one-half
counts 100 calories.
by the tablespoon the
unt is the same. So slice it half
as thick and take only one-fourth
pat with each meal and all you get
is a neat 50 calories. Since soft
butter spreads farther, slice it and
take it out of the refrigerator be-
fore meals.

You can have your bread when-
ever you like it, for breakfast,
lunch or dinner. You might like
two slices for breakfast and an-
other couple for a sandwich at
noon, and none for dinner. Then
you can have your regular dinner
—a generous serving of lean meat
(always trim off the fat part of

MY DAY: Awards For Two Leading Southerners

By Eleanor Roosevelt.

NEW YORK CITY, Tuesday.—I returned this morning from Nashville, Tenn., after waiting quite a time in the middle of the night for a delayed plane. This is the first trip I have taken where we have been made to draw our window curtains at each stop. Most of the time it seemed hardly worth while to open them in between, so the plane was like a darkened room.

One of the things I always enjoy most about flying is the feeling of being in the sky able to look at the clouds. But this enjoyment is evidently out for the duration of the war. Instead, we are just a group of people isolated in a machine which is flying through space. So far as we are concerned, we know nothing of the outer world or our direction. It is rather uncomfortable, perhaps too much like what is happening to most of us in the world today.

Last night I presented the Thomas Jefferson award at the Southern Conference on Human Welfare to two outstanding southerners. Dr. Frank Porter Graham received it, with a citation which noted his great service to education in the south and the country as a whole through his service on the War Labor Board. Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune received it because she fights constantly for freedom and has done such a great service in the educational field for her own people.

Paul Robeson's concert last night was a thrilling experience. He and the Fiske Choir sang "I Am An American," by Earl Robinson. It always stirs me as a ballad, but last night there was something peculiarly significant about it. It was very beautifully done.

I was particularly impressed by Mr. Andrew Jackson Higgins Sr., of New Orleans, La., and his statement that, as a southern industrialist, he was going to tap the great unused reservoir of Negro labor in the south. They will receive training, be employed on an equal basis with equal wages and will constitute 40 per cent of his new employes.



QUEEN OF THE DELTA
president of the Delta
annual Delta ball to pos
Delta queen.

Wife's First

Dear Dixie:

I am married to a boy I really love with all my heart. I have been married since my seventeenth birthday and am now 20. My baby is one year old. My husband and I have never lived in a house and for a while we lived with my parents. I have tried to get him to get us a home for ourselves but he will not. He is 20 years old and I should think this time he would really settle down and have a home of his own if he ever expects to.

My parents will not stay in their home because it is so high-tempered. The baby I stay with them and he stays with some friends. He will see us when he wants to.

II. ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS - the ideal of democracy and the reality of segregation

WHAT IT IS: -includes 2 documents

a) Eleanor Roosevelt's nationally syndicated "My Day" column from April 1942- acknowledges to plans of Andrew Jackson Higgins in regards to race and employment

b) War Manpower Commission - statistics on Higgins Industries employment - divided by race, gender and occupation - ca. 1944

1) **OBJECTIVE** - what can one learn about ideals of racial equality during the war and the reality of segregation in the workplace?

2) QUESTIONS TO ASK:

a) "MY DAY" column

-What is Higgins' ideal regarding employment of black workers?

-how might that ideal antagonize white southerners?

-how might Higgins' ideal inspire Af-Ams in the Louisiana?

b) Higgins Industries employment statistics

-how do statistics indicate the segregation of jobs at Higgins?

-what jobs do the majority of African-Americans hold?

-Are there any semi-skilled or skilled black workers?

-do white women get skilled jobs?

-why or why not?

CONCLUSION:

C O P Y

COCHRAN & FRANKLIN COMPANY
HOLLY RIDGE, LA.

June 28, 1944

Mr. Leonard R. Steidel, Chief
Fibre Drum & Cooperage Section
Barrel, Drum & Bag Branch
Containers Division
WPB Dept. 7630
Washington, D. C.

Dear Leonard:

In regard to your telephone call today in reference to our closing down Rayville Cooperage Company, Rayville, Louisiana, as the writer explained to you, it is due strictly to the loss of manpower. We are losing men everyday going to the Pacific Northwest to E. I. dePont de Nemours & Co., also, to the Kaiser Shipbuilding Company, Pacific Hard Rubber Company, Western Molded Products Company, Los Angeles, California; however, our greatest loss lately has been to duPont.

We have no way to give you the exact information as to where these men go, except the fact that these companies write back to us for qualifications and reference after they have kept the worker several months.

We are enclosing one of the advertisements cut out of our paper yesterday from duPont. The statement they make, "Workers now employed in essential industry or agriculture need not apply", doesn't mean a thing. They hire anyone who goes to them. We understand that these men who work for duPont go to the War Manpower Commission in the locality in which they are advertising in order to contact the applicants, but they will not hire the men in the presence of the War Manpower Commission. Nevertheless, they are making arrangements after they leave the War Manpower Commission to give the applicants transportation to leave. Out of the last two hundred men who have left us we have not given any a Statement of Availability.

We have lost twenty men in the past few days and all have gone to the State of Washington; we have reason to believe to the Kaiser Shipbuilding Company and to duPont. We are constantly in touch with Mr. A. H. Gibson, War Manpower Commission, United States Employment Service, Monroe, Louisiana, and we think he has been sincere and has done all he could to help us, but the negro is on the train and gone. His office is helpless as long as these companies hire these men without any statements of availability.

If we are an essential industry and the containers are needed and necessary, then the authorities in Washington will certainly have to give us some assistance in trying to keep our labor.

The writer has made an appointment for tomorrow with Mr. A. Langley Coffey, Senior Enforcement Officer, National War Labor Board, Dallas, Texas, in order to try to secure an approval on our application for higher wage scale for skilled and semi-skilled labor. We are now being accused of violations on some of our wages which are a few cents over fifty cents on semi-skilled

workers. It is impossible for us to continue unless we are able to pay our semi-skilled and skilled labor more than we do our common.

You remember when the writer was in Washington about six months ago, he took it up with the authorities at that time in reference to timber cutters. We have made all kinds of reports to government agencies but not yet have we secured an approval. We have talked to any number of the government agencies, also, in fact, all we know to talk to, and up to this time no results. We have applications for wage increases pending since early March and we haven't even had a reply. We feel that we must try to hold the men we now have, and for your information, we furnish them free housing, water, wood, garden space, and now pay them the ceiling wage allowed us under the Wage and Hour act.

There is no persuasion from our standpoint with this advertising going on over the radio, in the papers, and these companies from the West giving these negroes money or tickets to send back home for someone to come out there, too. They do not have to work with these concerns in Washington and California like they do there, that is, in making a day, and they pay them from sixty-five to ninety dollars a week, listing them as carpenters, drivers, or millrights, anything to give them the additional money to get the labor there. If something is not done quickly which will assist the War Manpower Commission's ruling to prohibit the transportation of this labor and hiring anyone regardless as to what industry might be hurt, we, all, in this section are going to be in a hell of a shape.

I am enclosing you copies of letters we have written dated May 30th, June 16th, and June 12th, to the War Manpower Commission and to the Pacific Hard Rubber Company, also, a letter which we have written to Mr. A. H. Gibson, War Manpower Commission, Monroe, Louisiana, in reference to some men who left here last week.

I am sending a copy of this letter to our Congressman, Honorable Charles E. McKenzie, who is home in Monroe now, and I am sure Mr. McKenzie will assist us in every way possible.

Sorry this letter is a little long, Leonard, but wanted to give you a picture of just what we are facing. We know you will do all you can for us.

Yours truly,

COCHRAN & FRANKLIN COMPANY

;s;

George B. Franklin, Partner

GBF:ahs

cc: Honorable Chas. E. McKenzie
Monroe, Louisiana

A. Langley Coffey
Senior Enforcement Officer
c/o George B. Franklin

III. GEORGE FRANKLIN LETTER

-**What it is:** letter from George Franklin, lumber mill operator in Holly Ridge, LA to War Production Board in Washington DC - to complain of labor shortage and "pirating of workers"

1) **OBJECTIVE:** to understand the goals and strategies of rural black workers by examining their actions

2) QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- workers actions - what do they reveal about
- their goals and priorities
- strategies for achieving their goals

CONCLUSION:

W. PRESCOT FOSTER

FRANKLIN, LA.

May 3, 1944

Mr. Martin Magruder
President Federal Intermediate Credit Bank
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

As stated to you when we were discussing our agricultural labor problems, certain companies in Texas are sending over here and persuading the farm labor to leave for higher wages. These companies do not get a release as required by law but put the men to work at once.

* I am enclosing a list of some of the men who have been taken in this way and I understand that the Southern Pacific Railroad at Beaumont is one of the greatest offenders.

Unless this is stopped, we will have no labor here for we will employ no one without a release.

If you can have this practice investigated through the proper channel it will help greatly.

I certainly enjoyed seeing you on your visit and hope you will come out again shortly.

Yours truly,

/s/ W. Prescott Foster

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION OF NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans, Louisiana

May 8, 1944

AIR MAIL

Mr. I. W. Duggan, Acting Governor
Farm Credit Administration
Kansas City - 8 Missouri

Dear Mr. Duggan:

Attached is a copy of a letter received by Mr. J. M. Magruder from Mr. W. Prescott Foster, which is self explanatory.

* | This matter was called to the attention of our Advisory Committee, and, in the discussion, it developed that a similar situation exists generally throughout the territory, particularly in the cane and rice areas of Louisiana and in the Mississippi Delta area.

Our committee felt that since the farm labor situation, especially with regard to skilled labor, is rather critical, we should render all possible assistance in having this condition corrected. If such a situation is allowed to continue, it will likely become more aggravated, in which case our farm program will be seriously affected, especially with respect to the operations of some of our processing facilities, and the farmers and facilities would not only suffer but the position of the Farm Credit Administration would also be jeopardized.

Our committee requested that you be immediately advised of this situation since it was felt that your office, rather than this district, should take the matter up with the Department of Labor.

* | We are bringing this matter to the attention of the Director of Extension in each state, who, we understand, is responsible for the Farm Labor Program in his state.

As previously stated, we feel that this may develop into a serious situation unless promptly corrected. If we can be of assistance in securing additional information on this matter, please call us.

/s/ Yours very truly,
W. K. McWilliams
W. K. McWilliams
Acting General Agent

att.

Region X
Dallas 1, Texas

June 20, 1944

TO: R. D. Reeves
State Director, Louisiana

SUBJECT: Complaint of W. Prescott Foster, Franklin, La.
Agricultural Workers

* We have been advised that Mr. W. Prescott Foster, Franklin, Louisiana, has complained that certain railroad companies, especially the Southern Pacific Railroad at Beaumont, Texas, has been recruiting agricultural workers in that area and are hiring workers without a statement of availability or referral from the USES.

The following workers were listed as being employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad:

Johnnie Fine	1224 - 2C		
Harrison Francis	1604 - 2C	454-05-0715	3-20-44
Wallace Procter	10109 - 2C	434-12-5073	4-11-44
Nolbert Robertson	3602 - 2C	438-01-7902	4-10-44
Melvin Young	2304 - 2C	437-07-4260	4-11-44
John Washington	3468 - 2C	435-28-7236	4-11-44
			3-20-44

* Apparently Mr. Foster is under the impression that agricultural workers can not be hired without a Statement of Availability or referral from the USES. It is suggested that you have a representative of the USES contact Mr. Foster and explain that agricultural workers may be hired for a period of six weeks without a referral from the USES or a Statement of Availability.

We have requested the Railroad Retirement Board to investigate the charges made by Mr. Foster in order that we may reply to the communication from the Headquarters office. Specific cases should be secured from Mr. Foster and investigated and handled by your office if possible. If any assistance is needed from this office please furnish detailed and complete information so that the investigation may be handled with dispatch.

WBMCF:msw

E. R. Speer
Chief of Placement

IV. W PRESCOTT FOSTER LETTER

-**What it is:** correspondence from W. Prescott Foster (sugar cane planter in Franklin, LA) to federal officials complaining of labor shortage and "pirating of workers"

1) **OBJECTIVE:** to understand the goals and strategies of rural black workers by examining their actions

2) QUESTIONS TO ASK

- workers actions - what do they reveal about
 - their goals and priorities
 - strategies for achieving their goals
- regarding Foster's complaint: what does it reveal about the means that rural employers used to immobilize workers?
 - why would he want to immobilize workers?

CONCLUSION:



WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION

STATE OFFICE

Montgomery, Alabama
October 28, 1944

FILED

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Manpower Director
Region VII.

FROM: Ernest L. Marbury
State Manpower Director

SUBJECT: Unauthorized Recruiting in New Iberia, Louisiana,
by Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company

This is in answer to your memorandum of October 18, wherein you quote excerpts from a memorandum received from the Regional Office from Region X regarding unauthorized recruiting efforts of the subject company in Louisiana. The matter was referred to the Mobile Area Director for appropriate investigation and report, and we quote hereunder excerpts from his memorandum in this connection.

The last paragraph of the quoted reply of the Mobile Area Director incorporates certain recommendations with which we concur:

"Some months ago Vocational Training schools in Louisiana, who were training negroes, found it difficult to obtain satisfactory placements for their finished trainees. The Alabama Dry Dock became aware of this fact and we endeavored to obtain clearance into Region X for the recruitment of these workers. That clearance was denied. The Training Department at Alabama was in contact with VE authorities in Louisiana and did sign a contract agreeing to pay for the last 48 hours of training of any men sent to Mobile on Statements of Availability from Louisiana. A representative of the Alabama, while in New Orleans, talked to Mr. Manning who operates the Xavier Training School in that city and did go with Mr. Manning to New Iberia and talked with Messrs. E. A. Lee of the Louisiana Department of Education, Lloyd Porter, the Parish Supervisor, and Earl Bolen of the U. S. Office of Education. It was agreed at that conference that the schools would inform any of their graduates that in the event they were unable to obtain employment at their skill in Louisiana they should request a Statement of Availability to Mobile. Three such Statements of Availability have been officially transmitted by the USES New Orleans to the USES

REGIONAL MANPOWER DIRECTOR
REGION VII

- 2 -

October 28, 1944

Office in Mobile. The three workers in question have been referred by USES Mobile to the Alabama Dry Dock. I do not know how we can prevent these schools informing their trainees as to where job opportunities exist, nor do I see any reason why we should not refer persons who come to Mobile with clear Statements of Availability from New Orleans. The Alabama Dry Dock has not sent recruiters to the schools to interview and solicit these persons.

"Information has come to this office that there is more to this complaint than appears on the surface. When the school was established at New Iberia local residents resented it bitterly and have sought to prevent its successful operation. Negroes who protested to the FEPC are reported to have been summarily ejected from the town. I understand that the FEPC investigation was hurried as a result of the local attitude. The school is apparently still operating under the supervision of Mr. Palmer. It would seem, however, that if all avenues of successful employment can be closed to its graduates the school would of necessity close, and there is certainly a strong suggestion that this factor is involved in the complaint.

"My reply to the complaint, therefore, is to request that these schools be allowed to direct their graduates to seek employment in Mobile in the event they are unsuccessful in obtaining satisfactory employment in Louisiana or that Region X formally recognize its inability to use these trained negroes and approve formal recruiting visits on the part of the Alabama Dry Dock."

V. NEW IBERIA RACIAL CRISIS

-what it is: War Manpower Commission correspondence regarding recruitment of black workers in New Iberia of shipyards

background: In New Iberia during 1943 a vocational training center was established to train local black workers in shipyard welding - this document addresses local white resistance to this training center

1) OBJECTIVE:

- to understand how war mobilization affected race relations in rural areas
- to understand the limits of black protest and economic opportunities in rural areas

2) QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- what were to goals and priorities of African-Americans in New Iberia?
- what were their strategies in achieving these goals?
- what are the limitations facing them in their goals?

CONCLUSION:

The Todd-Johnson Walkout

AN estimated 3,500 white workers last week walked out on the job, that of repairing badly damaged and recently needed Navy combat vessels because one Negro was hired in a semi-skilled capacity. If such a walkout had occurred in Hitler's now destroyed Germany the incident would be understandable. Since this is not Germany but the United States of America where the Constitution proclaims "that all men are created equal" . . . in the land where "justice, democracy and fair play" are the American way, the walkout was a direct slap at ALL Americans at home and abroad who are fighting and sacrificing to lick an enemy who also believes in racial superiority. It appears as Hitler's utter defeat in trying to conquer the world via "race supremacy" theories, oppression and brutality of minorities has not taught many here at home a direly needed lesson. Blindly, some Americans insist on acting like Hitler's Nazis in adhering to certain theories of racial supremacy which in the shipyard case seems to be "white supremacy." Surprisingly enough, the union involved was the CIO affiliate which on a national scale does not tolerate race discrimination and vigorously fights the same whenever it is found. The union officials of the union locally say the walkout was unauthorized and they begged the men to return to the jobs.

Contrast the 3,500 white workers' walkout with this: Suppose when in the height of battle against the Germans several months ago when Negro infantrymen platoons joined white infantrymen to fight side by side against a common foe the white infantrymen would have walked out of the battle. Whether such action would have been treasonable or not it would have meant the certain death of the white infantrymen as well as the Negro infantrymen. The walkout of 3,500 white workers because one Negro was hired in a semi-skilled capacity to repair badly needed Navy combat vessels is utterly ridiculous and treasonable. Perhaps those 3,500 white workers thought it more important to keep one Negro semi-skilled worker out of a job than to quickly and speedily repair the ship in the interest of ending the war faster. Probably they didn't care if American servicemen, black and white, are wounded, maimed and slain while they walked out to uphold a Hitler-like theory of "white supremacy." Maybe they never heard of Hitler and race supremacy theories and what eventually happened to him.

The Navy men needing and wanting these ships repaired are not concerned about the color of a man's skin determining what part he should have in repairing the vessel. They want the ships repaired as soon as possible so as to lick the enemy speedily and decisively.

The walkout which by now has been beamed throughout the world is another black mark against New Orleans and the United States. It does not make any easier the New Orleans job of convincing the South American countries with whom they hope to do a flourishing postwar business that it believes in justice and fair play. It handicaps the United States in its effort to convince the peoples of the world that the U. S. A. is the moral leader of the world in democracy, justice and fair play. It amuses more than confuses the average citizen of the world to witness some prejudicial white American attempting to prove that he is superior to Negroes merely because he (the white) is white and the Negro is black. They really expect the whites to practice the theories of democracy which they have so gallantly defended in the four corners of the world. And at no time do whites gain any popularity by preaching their superiority over that of Negroes. Besides most of the people of the world are sick of so much propaganda about the master race theories. They've seen their homes destroyed and witnessed atrocities galore due to similar poisonous venom from the mouths of color crazy persons.

Thus the workers' walkout proved costly in two places, the waterfront and the international scene. Is such prejudice worth that much?

editorial

July 28, 1945

VI. TODD-JOHNSON WALKOUT - July 1945

-what it is: editorial from *Louisiana Weekly* (local African American newspaper) July 28, 1945 regarding incident in July 1945 where white workers at Todd-Johnson shipyards in Algiers walked off the job to protest the employment of a black worker in a skilled position

1) OBJECTIVE: to understand

a) goals and priorities of white shipyard workers

b) strategies of urban black workers in achieving equality within defense industries

2) QUESTIONS TO ASK:

-what do the actions of the 3,500 white workers indicate about the goals and priorities of white workers?

-what does the editorial itself suggest about strategies of urban African-Americans in the struggle for fair employment practices??

CONCLUSION:

New Orleans, Louisiana
2125 Dryades Street
September 4, 1945

Mr. Malcolm Ross, Chairman
Fair Employment Practice Committee
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

We the undersigned represent more than fifty Negro certified welders who have been refused employment with the Todd Johnson Dry Docks Inc., located in Algiers Louisiana. We have in our possession evidence to show that the Negro Welders in question were refused employment on account of their racial identity. The men we represent are qualified welders with from two to four years experience in ship repair and ship building in some of the largest shipyards in the country.

We feel that as tax payers, American citizens and qualified workers we are entitled to employment in our craft where ever work is available, regardless of our racial identity.

Mr. Ross, as Chairman of the F.E.P.C. and agency of the Federal Government, we are calling your attention to this injustice in the hiring policy of Todd Johnson Dry Docks Inc., with the request that your office make an unbiased investigation of the matter and adjust same.

We remain,

Respectfully yours,

Howard Hutchins, Jr. Chr.
***Donald Gustier
Charles L. Martin

February 3, 1945

I, Arthur Colar, 1303 Brooklyn Avenue, Algiers, am employed by Todd Johnson and classified as a laborer. I was employed on June 20, 1940. I perform the following functions: rigger, ground man, spray painting, scaling, sandblasting, and occasionally handling a steam winch, and assisting the chief in the oil barge. I am paid 63¢ for all kinds of jobs except when operating a gun as a spray painter, I receive a 23¢ premium.

To my knowledge colored workers who apply for work with Todd Johnson and have asked for positions as welders, boilermakers, machinists, and other crafts in which they had previous experience. They were all told that Negroes could only be hired as laborers at Todd Johnson. I know personally of workers who have had no experience at any of the crafts and who had never been in a shipyard and were hired as helpers at 75¢ per hr.

Part of my duties are to rig and serve as ground man for the placing of plates in the ship. I have been told to get certain size plates, hook on, and gave the signal to the crane operator as to where they should be placed. When white workers perform the job they are paid 91¢ or more. I am paid 63¢. Recently I did all the hooking on and signaled for the transfer of the sand blasting machine from the ship to the wharf. These machines weigh approximately 600 lbs.

On January 25, 1945, I was called by the assistant ship steward to check in the use of colored laborers as rigger's helpers. I found that two colored laborers were being used as helpers using tools and equipment and appliances being paid only laborer's rates. They had worked the previous day and had been called back on Thursday to continue to work. I protested to the foreman regarding the failure to pay them the 75¢ scale to which they were entitled. The foreman removed them from the work even though they were needed. I took the grievance to the union and we were successful in getting helper's wages for the hours they had worked. No one claimed that they were not qualified for the work, but they removed them rather than pay them helper's wages.

Colored laborers are employed as tool room attendants in the labor department. They issue, receive, store, and repair the equipment used in the labor department. They include paint spray guns, brick hammers, boiler tube brush, vacuum pumps, trowels, wrenches. Workers classified as laborers also go to the main tool room as their work requires for scaling gun, cement buster, chipping gun, buffers, water exhaust pump (red devil). The colored tool room attendants in the labor department are paid 63¢ per hour. The main tool room attendants are paid 75, 86, and 97¢.

I have had colored employees newly hired by the company ask me how long I have been employed. They ask me if I was still a laborer. They then told me that they wanted to get out of the company if there was no chance of advancement. It is my opinion based on conversation with many workers in the labor department at Todd Johnson that the absenteeism and turn over among colored workers is principally due to the fact that they have no opportunity for upgrading, advancement, wages, according to the work they do. *

I believe that there is discrimination against me and other Negro workers because of our race, and ask that the FEP C investigate ~~and~~ the problem.

/s/ Arthur C. Colar

/s/ W. Don Ellinger

VII. AFRICAN American WORKERS AT TODD- JOHNSON - Sept. 1945

what it is: letter from black employees to Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) protesting discrimination at Todd- Johnson Shipyards in Algiers; Sept. 1945

1) OBJECTIVES:

- to understand the goals and priorities of black defense workers
- to understand the strategies of black defense workers

2) QUESTIONS TO ASK

- what are the goals of black workers at Todd-Johnson?
- are they seeking economic equality? and social equality?

CONCLUSION:

Louisiana Weekly

7
CENTS

BEST AND FOREMOST IN SOUTH LOUISIANA

And

Worth It!

THE ONLY NEW ORLEANS NEGRO NEWSPAPER SERVED BY THE ASSOCIATED
NEGRO PRESS AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS PHOTOS

Entered N. O. Post Office as Second-Class
Matter Under Act of March 3, 1879.

NEW ORLEANS 13, LA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1945

PRICE 7c

Inequalities At War Plant Hit By Hi School Pupil

Editor's Note: This communication was received from a student of McDonogh 35 who sought employment in one of our major war plants. It reflects very strongly the sentiment of youngsters who are thinking seriously of our so-called Democracy and its application as far as Negroes are concerned.

Impressed by the huge construction of the Consolidated Defense Plant as I passed time after time, gradually I became interested in seeking employment there.

I succeeded in getting the job. After getting in the plant I was still impressed by the grandeur, both inside and out, but mostly inside. As I passed through the plant I noticed the cafeteria. It was very large with neatly built chairs and tables. I also noticed the fine food they were preparing.

After seeing the rest of the plant I went to my assigned job. When the whistle blew for lunch I made it for that nice cafeteria I had seen, thinking I would sit there at the tables, but before I got inside the cafeteria I saw nothing but white employees standing in line. All the colored employees were going in another direction, so I followed them. After walking a distance out of the plant I saw a small building disconnected from the rest of the plant as if it was a quarantine hospital ward.

As I began eating, I noticed that I was sitting on a bench that was made onto the table. It was very uncomfortable because the table was higher than normal height. From this I noticed we were eating with paper spoons. I saw one

(Continued on Page 6)

Inequalities

(Continued from Page 1)

I fellow trying to eat his spaghetti with a paper spoon, I noticed from passing by the real cafeteria that the white employees had glasses instead of paper cups; they also had silver spoons instead of imaginary spoons.

I noticed too, that the white employees had hot rolls almost every day—of course we had sliced bread. The white employees had salads, we had none; they were sold soft drinks or ice tea—we were served orange or some other kind of ade.

The main cafeteria was conveniently located in the plant—the so-called colored cafeteria was disconnected from the rest of the plant. If it was raining you would stand a good chance of getting wet. The main cafeteria was conveniently cool—the colored cafeteria I need not mention.

Out of all this, however, what made me angry most was to see all the Negroes as happy as larks, never giving a thought that they, Negroes of great America, were eating with paper spoons and drinking out of paper cups, while at the same time the German prisoners of war camp, located

groups.

opposite the front entrance to the plant, were permitting the men to eat with real spoons, and drink out of real glasses.

I became so displeased about the conditions forced upon Negroes, I was forced to seek my termination papers. I could not stand the inferior feeling any longer. I felt like making a speech to all the Negroes, but under the above conditions it was impossible. Every day I felt more and more anxious to get the Negroes together and tell them we should demand the right to eat with real spoons and drink out of real glasses. We are not living in an imaginary world but a real world, America.

I sometimes think that too many Negroes are satisfied with too little. Many times we need a lot of things but the white man sees us satisfied with what we have and makes no effort to improve our lot. I often wonder how many Negro employees have observed the difference in the conditions of the colored cafeteria from that of the main one.

I am still wondering how the lad will eat his spaghetti with a paper spoon.

Signed: Doyle Lane

VIII. AFRICAN American WORKER at Consolidated Vultee (CVAC) airplane plant in N.O. - Aug 1945

what it is: letter from high school student working at airplane plant in N.O. protesting the inequality of the workplace; printed in *Louisiana Weekly* (local African American newspaper) Aug. 1945

1) OBJECTIVES:

- to understand the goals and priorities of black defense workers
- to understand the strategies of black defense workers

2) QUESTIONS TO ASK

- what specific complains does this worker have?
- what is the goal of the black worker at CVAC?
- is he seeking economic equality? and/or social equality?