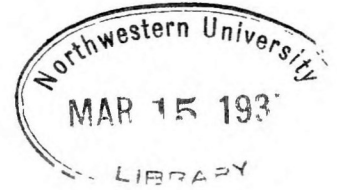


THE WORKS PROGRAM

-- Works Progress Administration --

For Release to Newspapers
Sunday, February 28, 1937

First Report on Technological Study Nears Completion.

The most comprehensive study undertaken in recent years of the effects of changing industrial technology on the volume of employment and unemployment is approaching completion, Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, announced today. The first report of the findings of this study is expected to be released within the next two months.

The study, a national WPA research project which has been in progress fourteen months, has surveyed 650 manufacturing plants embracing more than a dozen industries and touching nearly every State in the country, according to Corrington Gill, Assistant Administrator. It also includes surveys of agriculture, mining, construction and transportation. An unusual feature of the project is that its investigators actually went into many industrial centers and obtained first-hand case histories of more than 22,000 workers and former workers.

Mr. Hopkins' announcement was accompanied by a progress report summarizing the first year's work of the project, which is being directed by David Weintraub. It is entitled, "Reemployment Opportunities and Recent Changes in Industrial Techniques."

Because the study delves so comprehensively into the causes and effects of the mechanization of industry, its findings are expected to

become a focal point in discussions of what the Government's plans must be with relation to the unemployed.

"There is no question," Mr. Hopkins said, "that changing industrial methods have an important effect on both the volume of production and the volume of employment. This project is going into the question from dozens of angles. It is measuring the amount of work a man does under modern methods and comparing it with what he did in previous years. It is studying changes in kinds of machinery, raw materials, hours of work, occupations and ages of workers and the relation between actual output of plants and their full production capacity.

"This problem is infinitely complex. The project is attempting to present a tremendous fund of information which can be used as the basis for intelligent conclusions by Congress and by numerous Federal agencies which are attempting to solve various phases of this riddle.

"Here is an example of what I mean: A manufacturer tells us that nine mules and no men were displaced when he substituted electric trucks for mule teams for hauling materials around his plant. At that point we have only begun. We want to know whether this change in method gave him a particular advantage in his industry so that he could take business away from his competitors, and thereby cause unemployment in other plants. We also want to know what effect this change from animal to manufactured power had on employment in the agricultural and electrical industries. We need to know what happened to the former mule drivers, who in this case were given other jobs around the plant instead of being fired. We want to know whether they earn more or less money in their new jobs, and whether they were among the first to be laid off during a slack period.

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"Not only Congress but many Government agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior and Labor, the Social Security Board and ourselves have great need of such information.

"Here are only a few of the questions which need answering: At what age is a man useless to modern industry? What can be done about stranded populations in areas from which industry has moved away? In what degree can changes in occupation result in jobs for the jobless, where is this possible and to what extent?

"It is our hope that the findings of this project will be helpful not only to public agencies but to the managements of the industries surveyed and to students of the country's economic problems."