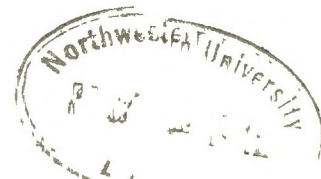


FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

Work Projects Administration


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WPA SURVEY SHOWS 13,000,000 PERSONS IN LABOR RESERVE

More than 13,000,000 persons not now considered part of the labor force are available for full or half-time employment in the United States, according to a special survey conducted in connection with the regular March report of unemployment of the Work Projects Administration, F. H. Dryden, Acting WPA Commissioner, announced today. These are in addition to the 3,600,000 unemployed job-seekers reported in March.

There were 7,600,000 housewives, students and other non-workers available for full-time employment, and 5,700,000 other non-workers who said they could not take full-time jobs but could work half-time, or at least 20 hours a week. This number equals almost one-fourth of the present active labor force.

Those who were counted in this labor reserve but not in the active labor market were persons who said they "could take a job if one were available within their community during the next 30 days." They were questioned also as to their work experience and their reasons for not being in the labor market. This survey provided the first detailed analysis of the potential labor supply to meet war needs.

Most important of the sources of potential workers is the "housewife" or "homemaker" group, the report shows. This provided 6,500,000 of the 7,600,000 available for full-time employment. There were 500,000 students counted in this labor reserve and the remaining 600,000 were persons who would not take full-time jobs under ordinary conditions because of age or physical handicaps.

"Factors limiting the hiring of this labor reserve," Mr. Dryden said, "are:

"1. Geographical distribution of jobs and available workers vary so widely that it is often difficult to bring the man or woman and the job together.

"2. Approximately two-thirds of the potential full-time workers have had no work experience outside their homes in the past five years and a large proportion of those with recent work experience have been engaged in clerical, sales, domestic and service occupations.

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