

Being as how A. E. Cahlan has again missed the air mail with his column, your Uncle Jonathon is again sitting in the big seat. And as most of the county is interested in the relief of the needy in the area, I am herewith appending a report made by the committee from the service clubs, which studied the situation. Here is the report:

2/16/33  
"The original and primary reason for the existence of this committee was an investigation of the sanitary conditions of Hoover City; but following the completion of this work the chairman of the Clark County Emergency Relief and Construction committee urged that this committee undertake a general survey of the whole problem of relief work in Clark county. This survey is only partially complete, but it is felt that a report should be given at this time. The committee is still available in case further assistance should be desired from it.

"There seems no doubt that a considerable part of the relief problem facing Clark county has been due to the activities attending the construction of the Boulder canyon project, aggravated, of course, by the general condition of unemployment over the country. Undoubtedly the mild climate and the ease with which the necessities of life have been procurable in Clark county have been factors tending to bring people here, and to cause them to remain even though no employment could be obtained. Many of these people have acquired a legal status in the state and county and can no longer be classed as transients. The passage of the three year indigent law by the state legislature may have some bearing upon the relief problem in this community and this matter should be investigated at once. The opportunity for steady employment of any kind for many of these people appears improbable for several years to come, and their presence here offers a serious problem, both to themselves and to this community. With the above items in mind, and considering further that the resources of this county, available for relief work, are in danger of being exhausted, it is the opinion of this committee that after a given date, to be selected by the Clark County Emergency Relief and Construction committee, relief should be extended only in cases of real emergency.

"It is the opinion of this committee, after a thorough personal investigation and after consulting with various parties whose work brings them into close contact with conditions in Hoover City, that this community does not present a serious health problem. The existence of Hoover City, and other similar places, is not to the advantage of Las Vegas, in that such places offer opportunities for "squatting" on the part of people who are not the most desirable class of residents; and who, if conditions were less favorable, might not extend a temporary stop into an indeterminate residence. The relief problem of this community has undoubtedly been increased by these conditions, but no feasible plan has been offered for the abolition of these camps.

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"After considerable inquiry the committee concluded that the benefits derived from the federal-state employment office out-weigh the disadvantages, and that this office should be retained. As indicated above the demands upon the city of Las Vegas appears to have been greatly, and perhaps unfairly, increased by the number of people who have come here with the expectation of finding work on the Boulder canyon project. As a fair measure of relief it would seem that the employment office and this city should cooperate to the fullest in attempting to place every qualified local laborer in a paying job, and in this manner lighten the burden now resting upon this community.

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"This committee is firmly convinced that the number of children in school in the Las Vegas school district is out of proportion to the taxable property and the number of taxpayers in the district, and that efforts to bring these factors into more equitable agreement should be made.

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"This committee believes that direct relief should be extended only when work relief cannot be utilized. The number of projects for which county or city funds can be expended in providing materials is limited by the amount of money available from these sources, and it is urged that the residents of districts where improvement projects are under consideration should work with the relief committee in providing funds for the purchase of materials for these projects.

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"Concerning the spending of public moneys for improvements in co-

operation with the relief committee it is strongly recommended that the taxpayers consider the possibility of the considerable savings in labor cost that may be made by carrying thru projects at the present time by utilizing Reconstruction Finance corporation funds; bearing in mind that much of the work is necessary and would have to be done within a comparatively short time, and further, that all of the workers employed on these projects if not so used must be cared for thru direct relief. Also under close supervision, the work relief plan offers an excellent opportunity for the elimination of many unworthy and undesirable members from the lists of those receiving assistance.

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“This committee has not thoroly investigated the proposal to bond the state to the extent of \$100,000 for money to be loaned the counties for the purchase of materials for use on projects under the R. F. C. funds. The obligations of the state are heavy and there should be a clear understanding of the needs and benefits that might be derived before any additional burden of debt is placed upon it. There seems to be a possibility that the state may be indebted to the federal government for some funds that have been advanced for various of the departments in the state that receive federal assistance and which funds are now held in several of the closed banks, and while the amount necessary to reimburse the federal treasury is probably not large it may require a bond issue. Bond issues on the state of Nevada may not be easy to float to advantage at this time, and it is the feeling of this committee that unless the need is great and the benefits can be shown to be very large indeed neither the county of Clark nor the state of Nevada should issue any bonds for the present.

"The methods employed in extending relief thru the Clark County Emergency Relief and Construction committee were examined rather closely, and considering the circumstances under which the relief work was started the committee believes the work has been carried on quite satisfactorily. However, there seems a possibility that the system of advancing groceries could be improved upon, and the committee urges that efforts should be directed toward this end. From the rather brief time given to its study the committee feels that a method of issuing groceries based upon that used by the county and city relief committee of Salt Lake City could be devised that would systematize the work of both the relief committee and the grocers, with the apparent possibility of some saving in money and a large saving in time of the relief workers. Also some objectionable practices under the present system might be stopped or greatly reduced.

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"For the Clark County Emergency Relief and Construction committee this committee has only three recommendations. For the city attention is called to the school situation and the employment office. It is urged that every effort be made to utilize the employment of competent local workmen to the fullest extent as one of the major relief measures. The other recommendations are as follows:

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1.—This committee believes that direct relief should be given only when work relief cannot be utilized, and so recommends.

2.—It is recommended that a dead-line, beyond which date general relief will not be extended, should be established at once by the Clark County Emergency Relief and Construction committee.

3.—It is specifically recommended that the issuing of groceries be systematized along the lines suggested in the body of the report."

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