

CHURCH PEOPLE ASKED TO GIVE FOOD AND JOBS

City-Wide Campaign to Relieve
Critical Condition Opens

Sun Sunday 1/17/36

Convinced that the situation confronting the indigent poor of Durham is a most serious and critical one, the preachers of the city today laid plans for lending a helping hand to the hard-pressed public welfare department officials in alleviating the hunger and suffering reported rampant here.

In a special meeting held today in the First Presbyterian church house, attended by a large number of the members, the Durham Ministerial association adopted resolutions calling upon the members of every church in the entire city to rally to the cry of the distressed and next Sunday was set as the time for launching a city-wide campaign among the churches for funds, and clothing and jobs with which to help remedy the bad situation.

The resolutions call for the raising of \$5,000 by the churches, white and colored, of Durham Sunday morning. City and county official boards are called upon to supplement the fund sufficiently to enable the welfare authorities to meet the situation arising from the impounding of food in the WPA quarters in the old postoffice building and from the large number of people affected by the shutting down of departments in local industrial plants.

In addition to raising the cash fund, which will be administered by the welfare department, the church people will be urged to supply clothing with which to meet this phase of the welfare program. The churches will be expected to remain open Sunday afternoon and the members will be urged in every pulpit to support the plan. The clothing thus secured will be collected by the welfare authorities and transported to a central place for distribution.

The schools of Durham are included in the plan adopted by the ministerial association. Throughout all of next week, ending with Friday, the children in the schools, as well as teachers, will be expected to carry clothing to the schools. This phase of the program was devised to reach the people who might not be contacted in the Sunday morning church services. Through this phase of the program, the ministers hope to add a considerable quantity of clothing to the store.

The fourth phase of the plan provides that each church of the city obligate itself to procure jobs for at least five persons. Through this plan the serious problem of unemployment will be at least partly solved, it was pointed out.

The meeting of the association was held upon special call of the president, Rev. H. B. Anderson, pastor of Grace Baptist church. The situation confronting the welfare agencies through the lack of employment and the need resulting from failure of the WPA to release its large supply of food was explained by a number of speakers, each of whom is directly connected with the local welfare and employment program. They included W. E. Stanley, superintendent of the Durham county welfare department; Mrs. Ethel Lipscomb, director of the local re-employment office; Mrs. W. N. Keener, executive secretary of the Durham Community Fund; and Walter B. Bass, judge of the county recorder's court.

The welfare department superintendent reported to the ministers that the situation is acute in Durham. He stated that there are around 700 families affected by the vast amount of unemployment here. Around 500 new families have been added to the 203 families previously reported through the curtailment of industrial activities.

Plans for the big city-wide effort were announced by Dr. David H. Scanlon, pastor of the First Presbyterian church and a member of a special committee named from the association to announce the arrangements. He stated that the Negro churches will be expected to join hands with the white churches in making the Sunday campaign for money and clothing successful. Some of the colored pastors were reported out of the city but efforts were to be made to personally contact every one in the group.

There are approximately 80 churches in Durham, it was pointed out. They have a membership of many thousands of people. Little difficulty is expected to be met in raising the \$5,000 fund and through it much of the suffering can be relieved, welfare officials informed the ministers. The appeal for clothing should, they feel, result in the contribution of many hundreds of dresses, suits of clothes and other clothing necessary in keeping the bodies of the unfortunate people covered and warm.

Should each church succeed in securing jobs for five unemployed persons fully 400 persons can be removed from the enforced idle class to the wage earning division. Through the money thus made the task imposed by the welfare department will be relieved, it was declared.

According to Dr. Scanlon, the money will be placed into the central fund and expended under the direction of Superintendent Stanley. No suggestion concerning the amount of money the city council and the board of county commissioners will be expected to contribute to the fund was made but the ministers made it clear that they felt the emergency was one that should bring liberal response from both governing boards.

In the expenditure of the fund and in the distribution of the clothing there shall be no discrimination, the ministers decreed. Regardless of color, race or creed the money will be spent impartially.

Ample time will be taken by all local preachers during the Sunday morning services of their churches for the best possible presentation of the appeal and in giving ample opportunity for expression of cooperation as shown in the contributions made by the members.