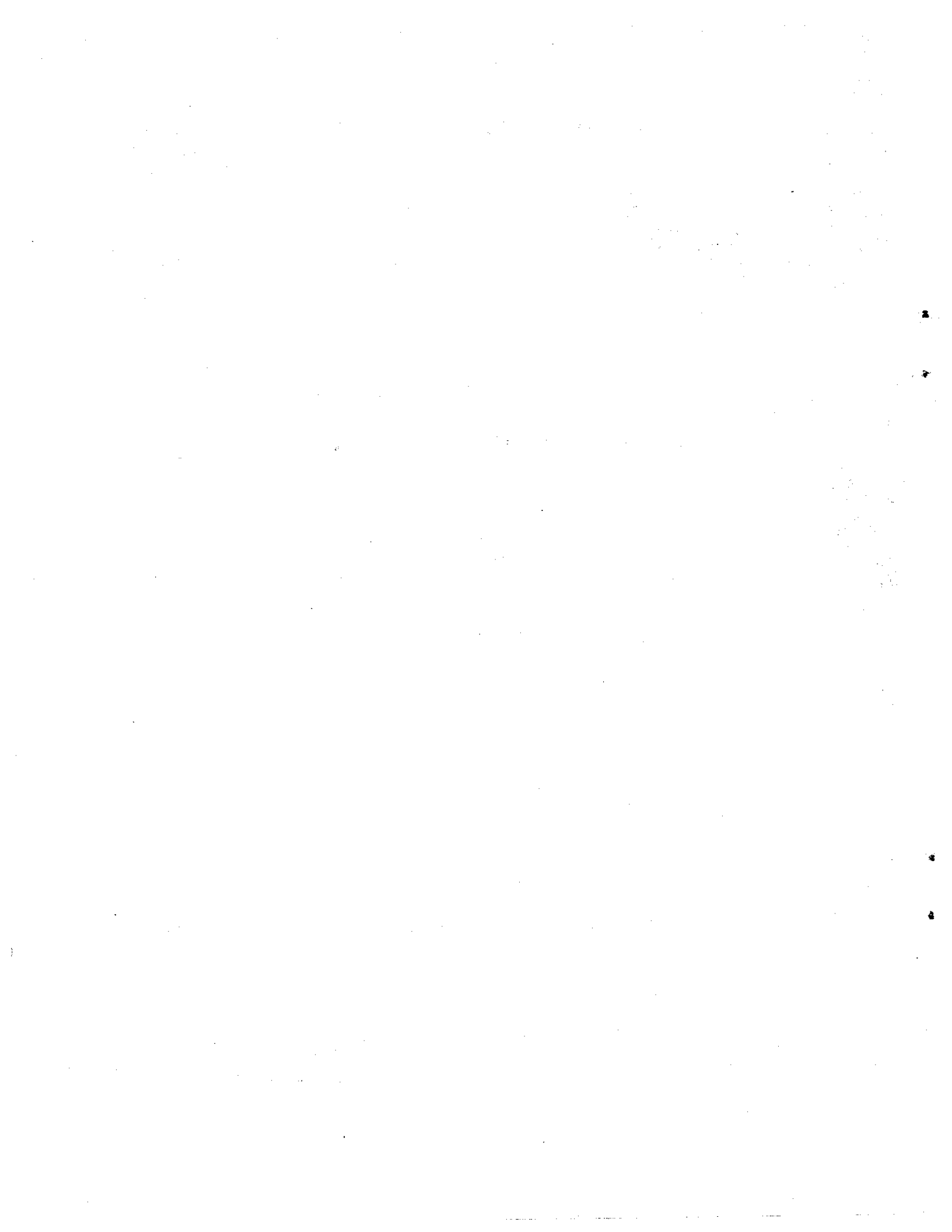


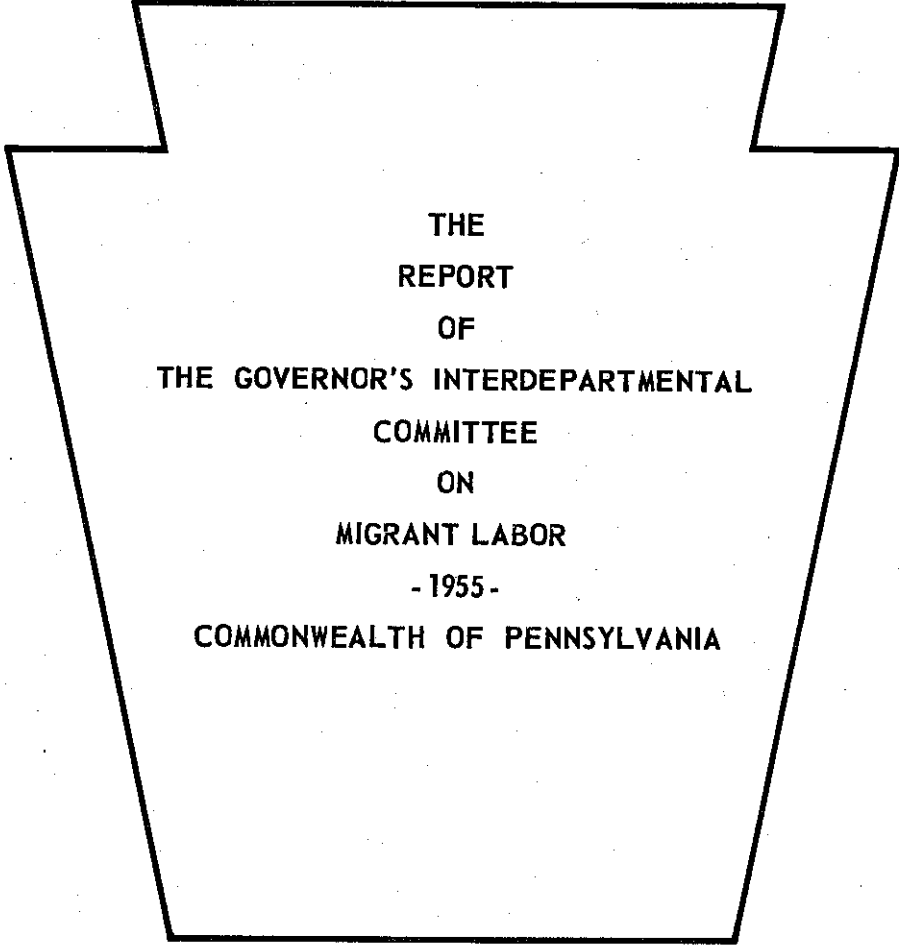
REPORT
of The
Governor's
Interdepartmental Committee
on
Migrant Labor

1955



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GEORGE M. LEADER, GOVERNOR





THE
REPORT
OF
THE GOVERNOR'S INTERDEPARTMENTAL
COMMITTEE
ON
MIGRANT LABOR
- 1955 -
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Report submitted by:
Reuben F. Kolb, Executive Secretary
Governor's Intepartmental Committee on Migrant Labor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

A



**GOVERNOR'S INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON
MIGRATORY LABOR
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**Hon. John R. Torquato, Chairman
Secretary of Labor and Industry**

**Hon. Genevieve Blatt
Secretary of Internal Affairs**

**Hon. Gerald A. Gleeson
Secretary of Revenue**

**Hon. Maurice K. Goddard
Secretary of Forests and Waters**

**Hon. William L. Henning
Secretary of Agriculture**

**Hon. Ruth Grigg Horting
Secretary of Public Assistance**

**Dr. Berwyn F. Mattison
Secretary of Health**

**Hon. Baker Royer
Chairman
Joint State Government Commission**

**Hon. Leon Schwartz
Chairman
Public Utility Commission**

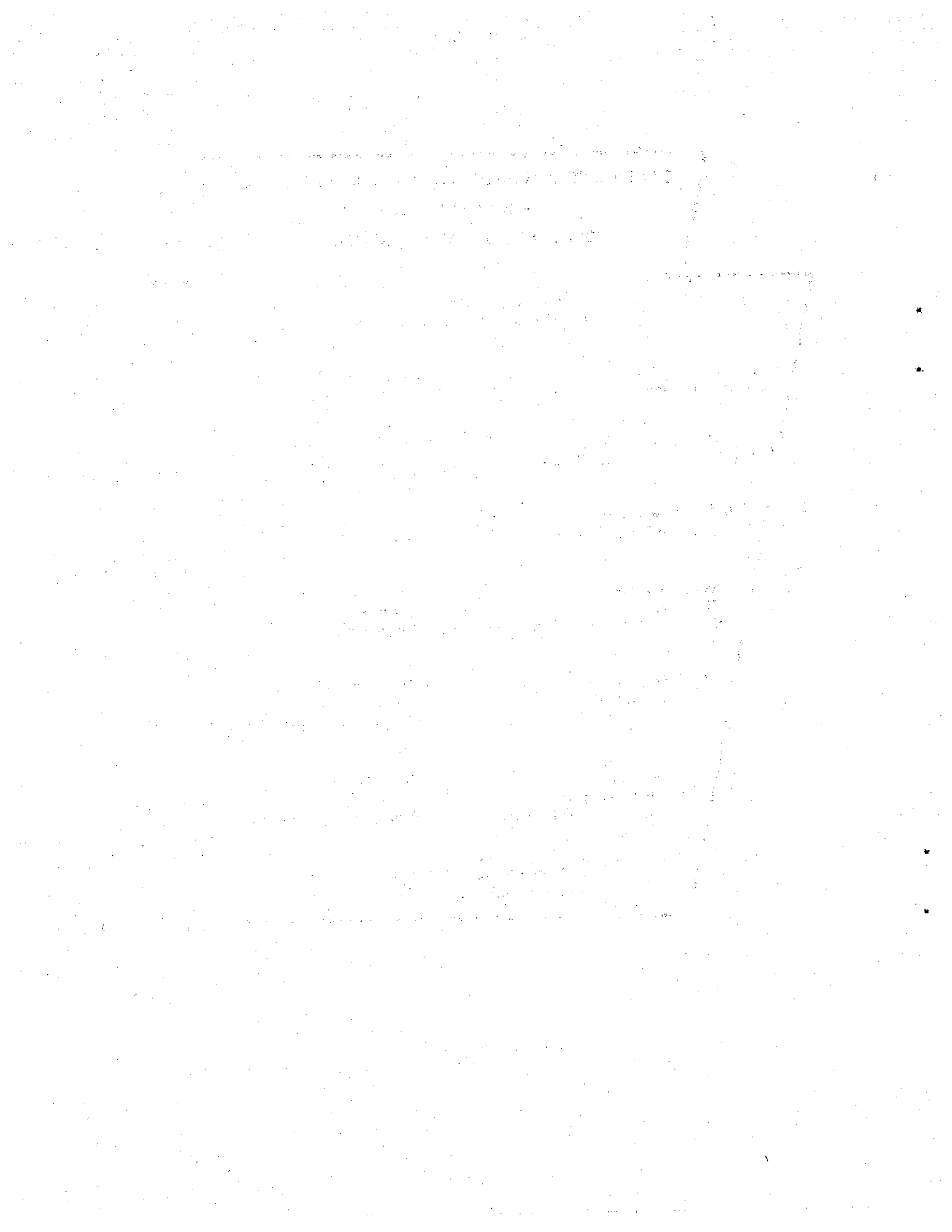
**Hon. Harry Shapiro
Secretary of Welfare**

**Hon. A. Allen Sulcove
Executive Director
Bureau of Employment Security**

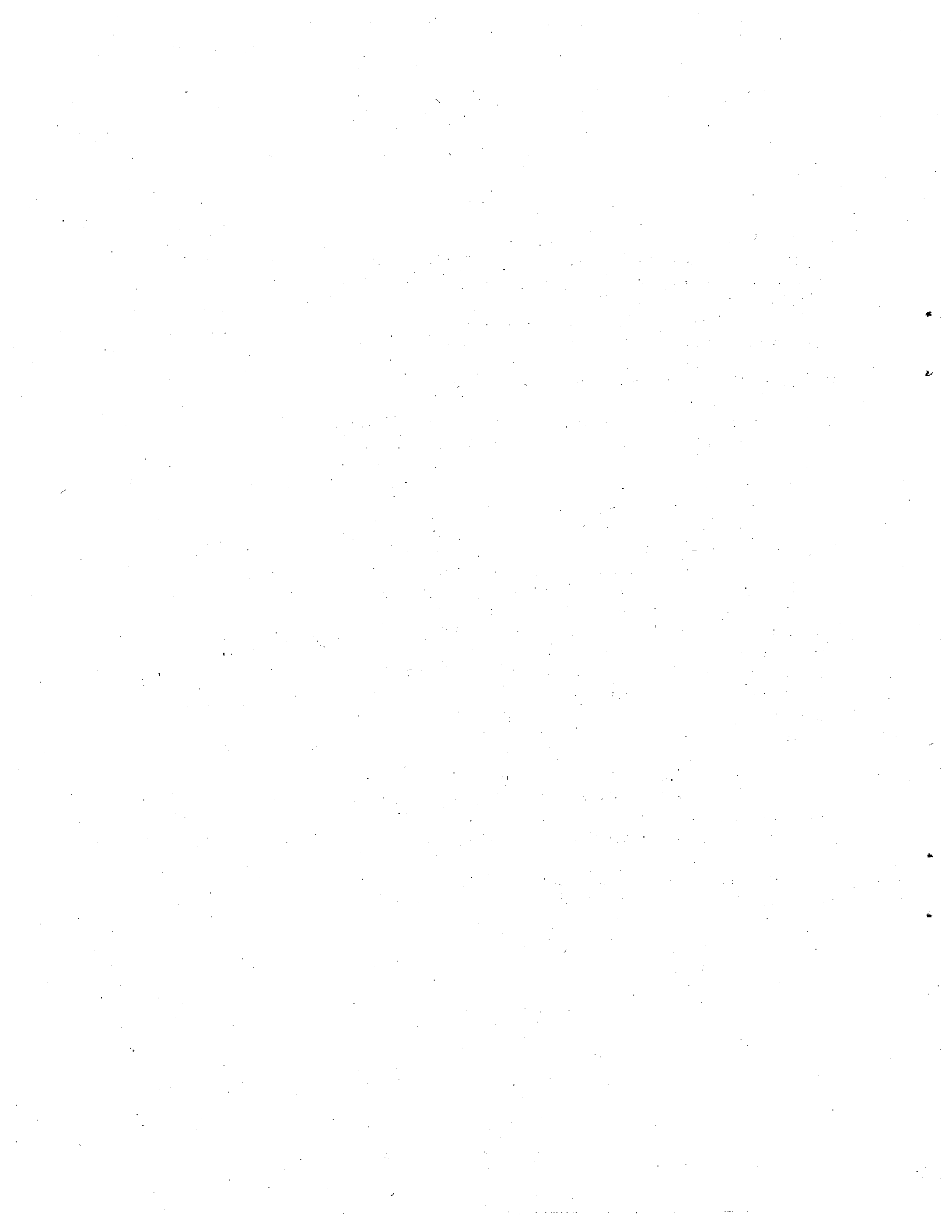
**Dr. Ralph C. Swan
Acting Superintendent
Department of Public Instruction**

**Col. E. J. Henry
Commissioner
Pennsylvania State Police**

**Reuben F. Kolb, Secretary
Bureau of Employment Security**



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The Inter-departmental Committee on Migratory Labor was appointed early in 1953 by the Governor.

The Committee was born of a need to help resolve a fast growing problem in certain agricultural areas of our Commonwealth.

The problem, a many faceted one, revolved around the large number of migrant workers, both southern Negro and Puerto Rican, who came into Pennsylvania each summer to help in the harvesting of the crops.

The flow of migrant workers into Pennsylvania, in large numbers, is relatively new. In recent years industry has called the youth of our farms into the higher compensating industrial areas, thus creating a dearth of farm labor. This dearth was aggravated by the fact that during the same period many acres of once dormant land had been put into cultivation. The need for harvesting workers in these areas suddenly expanded. The importation of seasonal migrant workers appears to have been the only available solution to the growers' problem.

They came, first as a tiny trickle, but before long certain rural areas were inundated by them. These rural communities were in no wise conditioned to receive nor to adequately house these workers.

Soon various departments of the State Government began receiving reports about the many problems that the migrants brought with them or that their coming created. Chief among these problems were the following: inadequate housing, overcrowding, insanitary conditions, neglected children, no recreational program, disease, wretched transportation facilities, and last but not least, great community resistance.

Many of the complaints came from reputable agencies and upon investigation were found to be justifiable. This does not infer that all camps for migrants were poor. Many were very good, and the majority of them met the minimal standards of our Labor Camp Code. The complaints were evoked by a considerable number of camps that were poor, very poor. They were like "festering sores," no credit to the growers and an indignity to the migrants expected to dwell in them.

Numbers of the growers, in certain of the recently developed farm areas, were new as entrepreneurs and went heavily into debt to secure their farms and equipment. As a consequence they had practically nothing with which to build adequate and sanitary camps; so they crowded their workers into old, dilapidated farm-houses, chicken-houses and barns or any other type of "shelter" that was available.

The migrants are an uprooted people without the restraining and beneficent influences of home and community. They reacted to overcrowding, insanitary conditions, inadequate housing and to overt community resistance. People under stress are seldom placid. Oftentimes, they became destructive, thus making bad conditions worse.

Many people are uneasy in the presence of strangers. This unease with regard to the migrant stranger is further aggravated when he comes with a whole set of strange and deeply rooted folkways, when there is a marked difference of color, race, speech and dress from those prevailing in the community.

When reports of the magnitude of the problem were brought to the attention of the Governor in 1950, he ordered a definitive survey to be made of the affected areas. Lafayette College was commissioned to conduct a survey. It was also suggested that study be made of the remedial measures taken in our sister states of New York and New Jersey where the stream of migrants was much greater in volume and where they had many more years of contact with them.

The appointment of the Governor's Inter-departmental Committee on Migratory Labor was the result of the survey and study. Exactly ten years before, such a committee had been appointed in New York State and had shown considerable capacity in coordinating and in improving the effectiveness of the various state agencies as they carried on their specific responsibilities.

Immediately after taking office last January, Governor Leader reconstituted the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migratory Labor naming the Honorable John R. Torquato, Secretary of Labor and Industry, as Chairman. The make-up of this Committee, which is comprised of cabinet members and heads of State Agencies is listed on Page III.

The following report is presented to give a resume of the progress made by the various State Agencies during the past year in the migrant field. As each agency played out its specific role under the aegis of the Governor's Committee they combined their forces:

To recruit necessary laborers.

To inspect and license migrant camps.

To integrate migrant children into the local schools.

To inspect migrant motor vehicles.

To supply adequate public health services and disease prevention methods (both for the protection of the community and the migrants).

To institute well baby clinics.

To establish child care centers.

To police migrant camps.

To improve community relations.

To ameliorate living conditions in general for a group so indispensable to our farm economy.

REPORT OF GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON MIGRATORY LABOR

The Department of Labor and Industry, through the facilities of the Bureau of Employment Security, has furnished the staff and office for the Governor's Inter-departmental Committee on Migratory Labor. The staff consists of the Executive Secretary and his assistants. Representatives of various State Agencies cooperated wholeheartedly in a coordinated endeavor to bring existing statutes to bear on the manifold problems presented in the migrant program.

The Executive Secretary attended meetings with representatives of East Coast States interested in the migrant program. Mutual problems were discussed and efforts were made to coordinate the laws and regulations affecting the transportation, health, welfare and housing of migrant workers.

Many meetings with Church and local civic groups concerning the welfare of the migrant community were attended by the Executive Secretary. Much improvement has been made in the acceptance and integration of the migrants by local communities.

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches placed chaplains in all sections where there are large concentrations of migrants for whom they conducted religious services and provided recreational and welfare programs.

The several dioceses of the Roman Catholic Church into which Puerto Ricans were imported also designated chaplains, usually Spanish speaking, to administer to their needs. They provided for the spiritual needs of the workers and furnished recreational and educational interests. On occasion, they acted as interpreters in an effort to overcome the language barrier and create a better understanding between employers and employes.

The Executive Secretary investigated complaints from many sources concerning migrants and, upon investigation, referred each individual case to the proper authorities for necessary and expeditious action.

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE REPORTS POINTS OF PROGRESS

1. Cooperative participation of affected State Agencies.
2. Coordinated action of sub-committees.
3. Evaluation of existing statutory regulations.
4. Notice to growers to improve housing and sanitation facilities.
5. Joint camp inspections by Labor and Industry and Health Departments.
6. Wider application of housing and sanitation laws.
7. Stricter enforcement of housing and sanitation conditions.
8. Refusal to accept job orders until camps are inspected and approved.
9. Pure water for drinking and bathing.
10. Adequate buildings.
11. Elimination of fire hazards.
12. Strict enforcement of the Motor Vehicle Code.
13. Intensified health programs, including TB and VD checks.
14. Surveillance of labor camps by State Police.
15. Child care and schooling for children.
16. Periodic sanitation inspections during camp occupancy.
17. Informational service for growers.
18. Educational services for migrants.
19. Recreational programs by civic and religious groups.
20. Extension of spiritual programs by church groups.

Chart # 2

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MIGRANTS NEEDED IN 1956 AS COMPARED WITH THOSE USED IN 1955

<u>COUNTIES</u>	<u>1955</u>		<u>ESTIMATE FOR 1956</u>	
	<u>SOUTHERN COLORED</u>	<u>PUERTO RICAN</u>	<u>SOUTHERN COLORED</u>	<u>PUERTO RICAN</u>
Berks Chester Lehigh Northampton	650	600	650	600
Adams Dauphin Fulton Lancaster Mifflin York	1000	1400	1000	1400
Columbia Northumberland Union	400	-	600	-
Potter	2300	-	2500	-
Crawford Erie Mercer	-	400	-	400
TOTALS:	4350	2400	4750	2400

PENNSYLVANIA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE REPORT ON MIGRANT PROGRAM

A severe drought which occurred in the early summer of 1955 damaged vegetable crops and reduced considerably the need for seasonal workers in all the major agricultural areas, except in the north central and north western sections of the Commonwealth. Peach, apple and potato yields were smaller than in 1954, while the cherry harvest was somewhat larger. Because of the late arrival of autumnal weather, apple and potato harvests ran later than normal.

As in previous years, local workers accounted for approximately 32,000 or 80% of the labor force used to harvest crops in the Commonwealth. Most of these workers were hauled daily to farms to pick cherries, beans, tomatoes, peaches, potatoes and other crops essential to the economy of the State. In many instances, the supply of local workers was supplemented by farm labor recruited from the Anthracite region, Philadelphia and other Pennsylvania surplus-labor areas. However, despite a full exploration and the extensive utilization of available local workers, it was necessary to employ about 8,000 out-of-State workers to assist local forces in the timely harvesting of crops during the 1955 season. This was approximately 1,000 out-of-State workers less than was employed in Pennsylvania during the 1954 season. It was estimated that about half of the Southern migrants coming into Pennsylvania in 1955 were employed in Potter County. The others, for the most part, worked in the central, south central and south eastern sections of the State. As in previous years, approximately all Puerto Ricans, with the exception of 400 employed in cherry picking in the Erie section, worked in the south central and south eastern areas.

THE APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF OUT-OF-STATE WORKERS IN PENNSYLVANIA IN 1955:

5,000 - Southern Colored workers
3,000 - Puerto Ricans
8,000 - Total Employed

THE MANNER IN WHICH THE OUT-OF-STATE WORKERS
WERE OBTAINED:

SOUTHERN COLORED:

- 4,000 - - - Scheduled by the Pennsylvania State Employment Service.
- 1,000 - - - Self-applicants, including crews the farmers had requested to return.

5,000 Total Southern Colored Employed.

PUERTO RICANS:

- 200 - - - Recruited from the Islands under contract, through Employment Service facilities.
- 1,800 - - - Recruited from the Islands under contract with Farm Service Association.
- 2,500 - - - Non-contract self-applicants, who were residing in Pennsylvania, or who came into the State voluntarily.

4,000 Total Puerto Ricans Employed.

THE ORIGIN OF OUT-OF-STATE WORKERS:

The Southern Colored out-of-State workers employed in our Commonwealth are a segment of the East Coast Migratory Stream, which works its way northward each year from Florida, through Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia and Maryland, picking and harvesting crops. However, in most instances, the majority of these workers who are employed in Pennsylvania, come here directly from Florida through arrangements made by the Pennsylvania State Employment Service early in the Spring. These workers usually accompanied by their families travel in crews under crew leaders.

Puerto Rican workers, usually male, who come from the Island, are transported by air. They are rarely accompanied by family groups. Estimates indicate that about 80% of the contract Puerto Rican workers employed in Pennsylvania during 1955 returned to the Islands at the close of the season.

**AGENCIES RECRUITING PUERTO RICANS FOR
PENNSYLVANIA FARMERS:**

A. PENNSYLVANIA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

1. All men selected are required to pass a rigorous health examination and must have certificates of good conduct from the police authorities in Puerto Rico as well as Social Security numbers.
2. Since Puerto Ricans will have a considerable distance to travel and will be working far from their homes and families, it has been established that they will come only under the conditions of a standard work agreement which sets forth certain minimum standards.
3. Farmers are required to pay in advance actual plane fare of each employe to be recruited (the farmer later deducts the amount of this advance from the wages earned by the workers.)
4. Unless the employer is an independent farmer, hiring 20 or fewer workers, he is required to post a performance bond or certified check with the Secretary of Labor of Puerto Rico, in accordance with the following table:

<u>Number of Workers</u>	<u>Bond</u>
1-20	\$100 per worker
21-300	\$3,000
301 up	\$3,000 plus \$5.00 for each worker above 300.

B. FARM SERVICE ASSOCIATION:

This is a private, non-profit cooperative association, formed for the purpose of obtaining Puerto Rican laborers for seasonal work on farms.

REQUIREMENTS (latest information on record):

1. \$15.00 membership fee must be paid by each farmer.
2. \$10.00 share of stock must be purchased by the farmer for each worker obtained.
3. \$20.00 deposit (returnable upon satisfactory termination of contract).
4. \$3.75 must be advanced by the farmer for each person recruited. This charge is to cover the cost of medical and dental work during the work period. The farmer may deduct it from subsequent wages earned by migrants.
5. Payment of a service fee must be made to the Association by the farmer. This service charge is an amount equal to 8% of wages earned by the migrant Puerto Ricans (not deductible from such wages.)

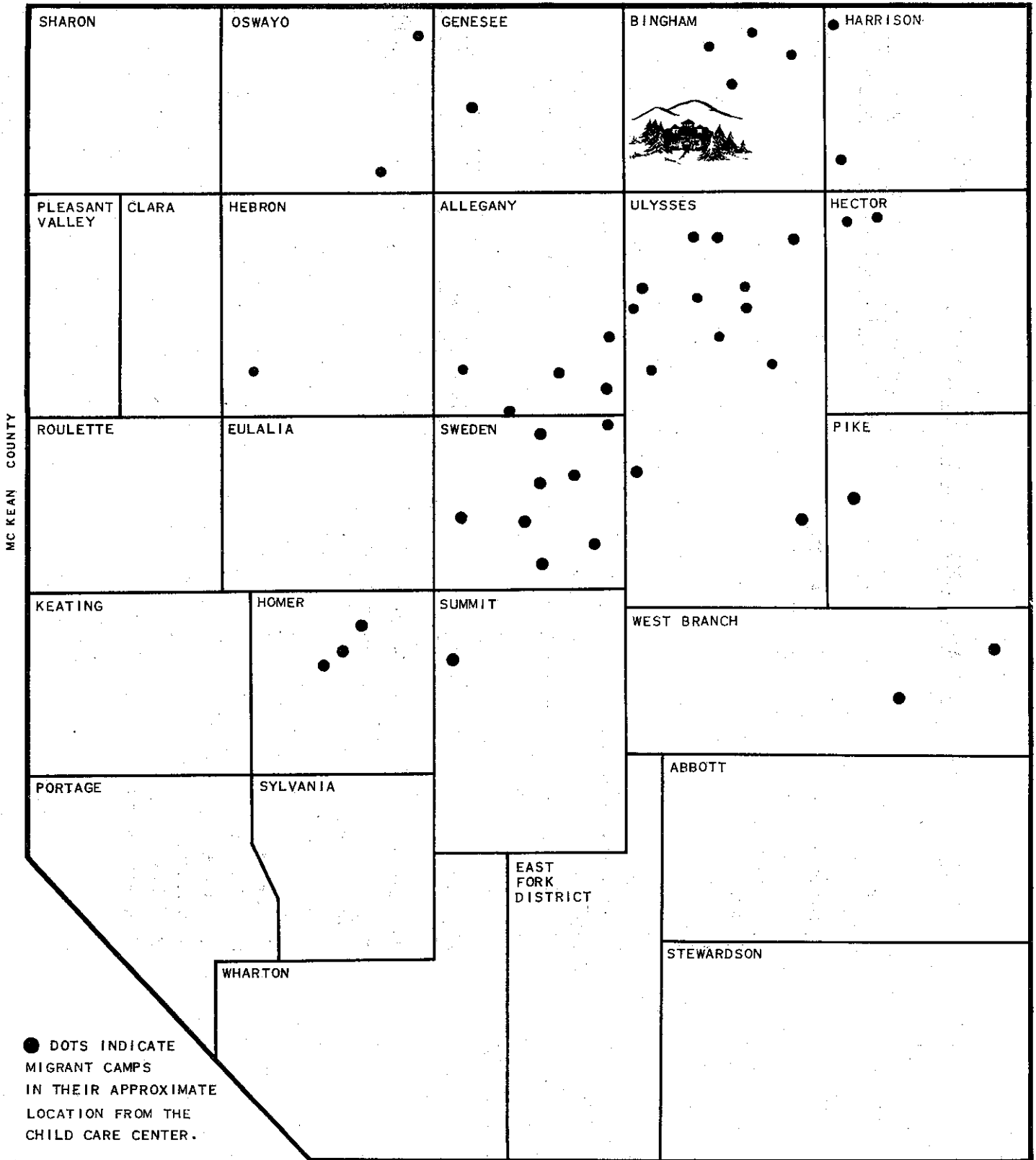
RECRUITMENT OF HARVEST LABOR:

The Pennsylvania State Employment Service, through its Farm Placement Service, recruited thousands of the workers -- both local and out-of-State -- needed to harvest the crops in our State. Newspaper, radio and television, and sound cars were used effectively by many local Employment Service offices to recruit on short notice large numbers of local workers. In addition, local Employment Office representatives visited scores of schools in both cities and rural areas to inform the students of nearby harvest-work opportunities.

That Employment Service efforts to recruit local workers were successful in many instances is indicated by the fact that approximately 14,000 local workers, including thousands of school youth, participated in day-haul programs operated in 105 towns and cities by 38 of its local Employment Offices.

Approximately 4,000 of the 5,000 Southern migrants employed during the season were arranged for by a representative of the Pennsylvania State Employment Service who, along with representatives from other East Coast States, visited 18 local Employment Offices in Florida during April for that purpose.

NEW YORK STATE



POTTER COUNTY CHART #3

Chart # 4

DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANT FARM WORKERS

SOUTHEASTERN AREA

NO. OF MIGRANTS USED 1955
SOUTHERN COLORED PUERTO RICAN

COUNTIES

SEASON

CROPS

Berks	April through	Tomatoes	650	600
Bucks	November	Potatoes		
Chester		Snap beans		
Delaware		Peas		
Lehigh		Apples		
Montgomery		Mushrooms		
Northampton		Sweet corn		
Philadelphia		Root crops		
		Greenhouse and nursery activity		

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA

NO. OF MIGRANTS USED 1955
SOUTHERN COLORED PUERTO RICAN

COUNTIES

SEASON

CROPS

Adams	May through	Tomatoes	1000	1400
Cumberland	November	Apples		
Dauphin		Snap beans		
Franklin		Peas		
Fulton		Peaches		
Juniata		Cherries		
Lancaster		Sweet corn		
Lebanon		Potatoes		
Mifflin		Tobacco		
Perry		Berries		
York		Cannery work		

CENTRAL AREA

NO. OF MIGRANTS USED 1955
SOUTHERN COLORED PUERTO RICAN

SEASON

CROPS

Columbia	Peas	June through	400
Montour	Snap beans	October	-
Northumberland	Tomatoes		
Snyder	Strawberries		
Union	Potatoes		
	Apples		
	Peaches		

NORTH CENTRAL AREA

NO. OF MIGRANTS USED 1955
SOUTHERN COLORED PUERTO RICAN

SEASON

CROPS

Potter	Peas	July through	2,300
	Snap beans	October	-
	Potatoes		

NORTHWESTERN AREA

NO. OF MIGRANTS USED 1955
SOUTHERN COLORED PUERTO RICAN

SEASON

CROPS

Crawford	Grapes	June into	-
Erie	Cherries	November	400
Mercer	Berries		
	Prunes		
	Cabbage		
	Peaches		
	Potatoes		
	Snap beans		
	Peas		
	Cucumbers		
	Sweet corn		

MIGRANT HOUSING

Migrant housing in Pennsylvania has ranged from very good to very bad. Considerable progress has been made of late, in that there has been a marked decrease in the amount of very bad housing; a large increase in housing graded from fair to good; and no little increase in the very good housing.

Many of our migrant camps fail to qualify as good or better because of the reluctance on the part of their busy owners to visit and inspect them. This, perhaps, is the greatest unsolved problem that the Governor's Inter-departmental Committee on Migratory Labor encounters, namely, how to impress on our growers the necessity of personal inspection of their camps. Many conscientious growers build good camps, camps that meet every provision of our housing code. The day before the arrival of the migrants the camp satisfies all requirements. The grower is now in his busiest season, harvest time. He turns the camp over to his crew leader and his crew. This is the last that the grower sees of the camp.

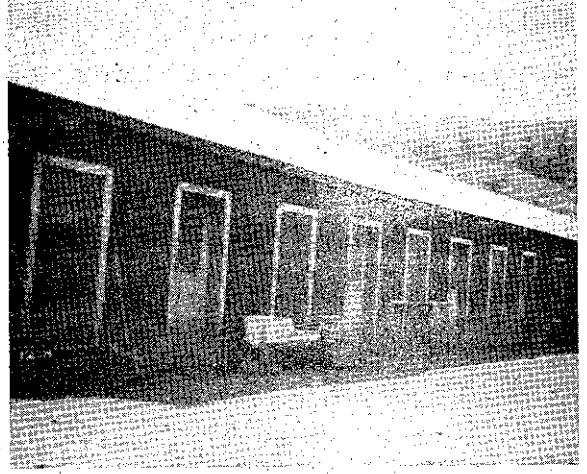
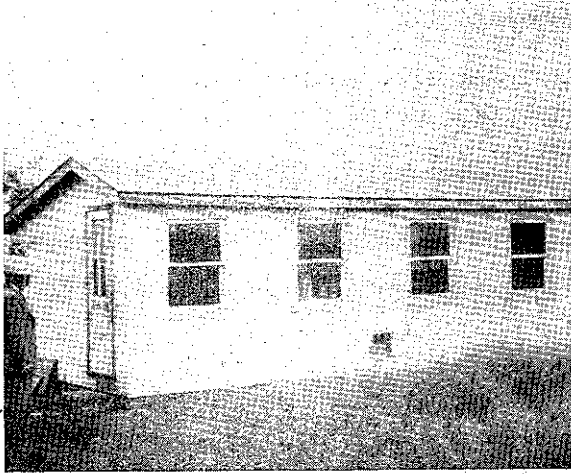
Before long, unsolicited workers, unbeknown to him attach themselves to his crew, thereby producing overcrowding. This, we find, is one of the basic causes of camp deterioration. Without the skipper's periodic inspection, even a war vessel, manned with a well-disciplined crew would soon begin to show signs of poor housekeeping. How much more necessary it is for the growers to make such inspections of his camp to keep it up to par. Practically all camps that are rated very good enjoy such inspections. The migrants know that the grower will be around and act accordingly. These grower inspections not only tend toward cleaner, better, more salubrious camps, but are a good discipline for the migrants and make for happier workers.

Far too many of our camps fall into the "One thing thou lacketh" category. Oftentimes a camp conforms to every criterion but one, it could be lack of screens or perhaps a faulty garbage disposal system or a water supply that does not meet the requirements of our Health Department. A little extra care and oftentimes only a small expenditure of money would take a camp out of the fair or poor category and place it with the good.

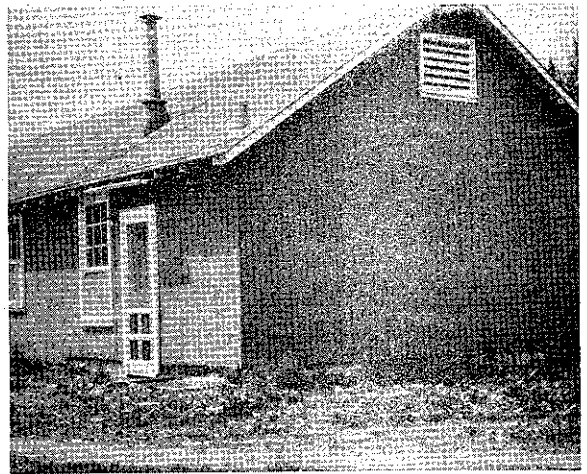
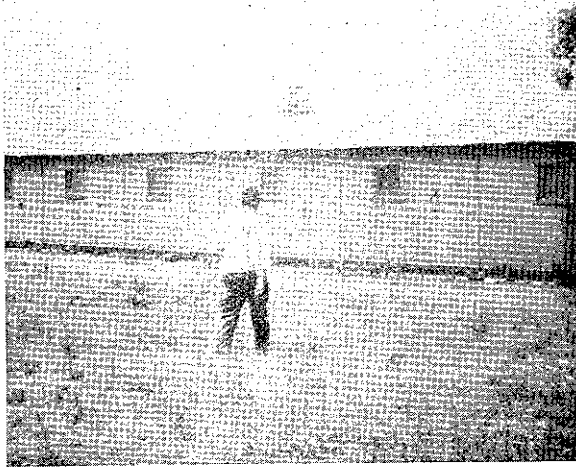
Many of our poorest camps are converted farm houses. It is distressing to see growers pour substantial sums of money into worn-out, dilapidated farm houses trying to bring them up to the standards called for in our Housing Code. It is not unlike putting a new patch on a worn-out garment. In the long view, such a procedure is the more costly. We are happy to report that during the last two years many such farm houses have been replaced by new housing units.

Most of the very poor camps are located in the remote areas of the Commonwealth. It is only by chance that we come upon many of them. In practically every instance, such camps do not use the facilities of the Pennsylvania State Employment Service to recruit their crews, nor do they apply to our Bureau of Inspection for a camp license. Our Bureau of Inspection has been most alert this last year having located and closed several such camps.

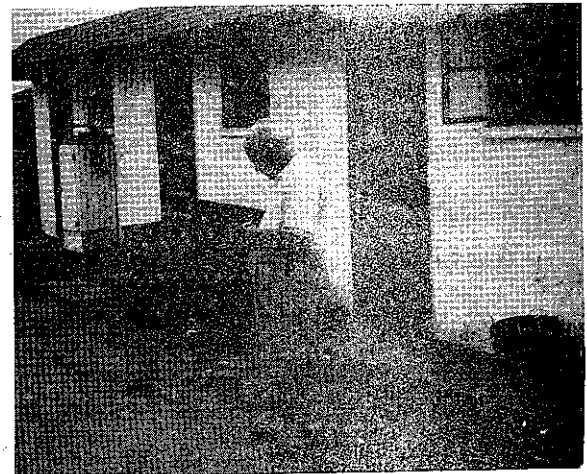
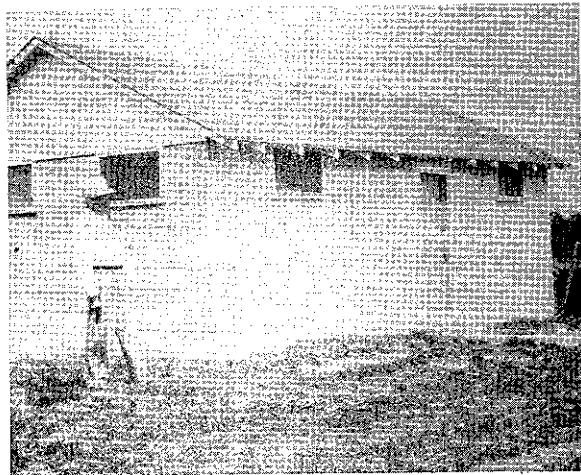
We still have a very long way to go before we reach our desideratum - decent, sanitary and adequate housing for all our migrant workers. Great progress can be reported for 1955 and 1956 should be even better.

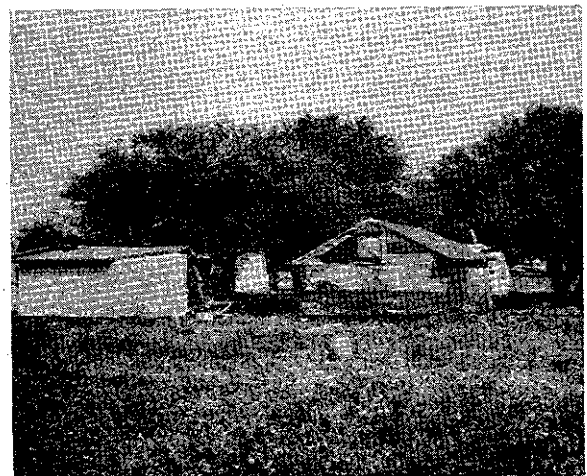
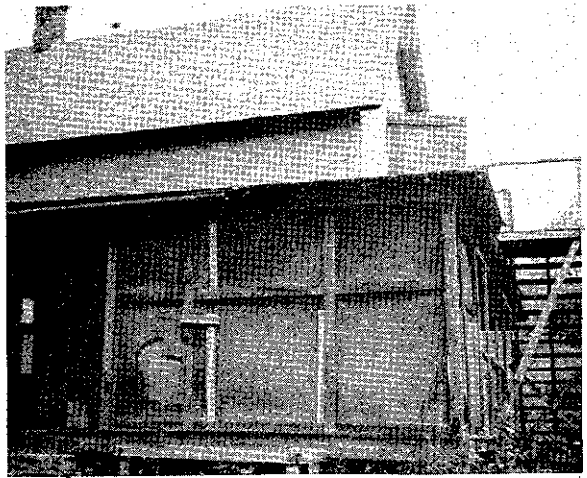
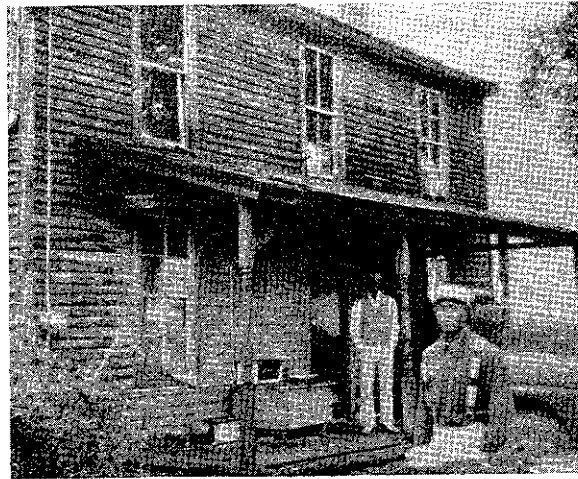


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HOUSING INSPECTION OF FARM LABOR CAMPS

An intensified housing inspection of all known migrant labor camps in Pennsylvania was conducted by the Bureau of Inspection of the Department of Labor and Industry during the year 1955.

There was a noticeable improvement in the housing facilities afforded to the migrant workers during the season. Certain previously labeled bad camps had been abandoned, housing facilities at other camp sites had been improved and renovated and many new camps had been constructed throughout the 28 counties in which seasonal workers were quartered.

The Bureau of Inspection reports that 362 inspections and re-inspections were completed during the year. Statistics show that Certificates of Approval were issued for the majority of camps inspected. However, there were many instances in which it was found necessary to withhold camp approval because owners had failed to meet minimal qualifications set forth in the Labor Camp Code and/or the Sanitation Code of the Department of Health. In cases where the camps did not meet minimal requirements as set forth in the Housing and Sanitation Codes, the Bureau of Inspection notified the camp owners as to the exact nature of camp improvements to be made and set time limits for compliance with the "Orders" given.

For the most part, growers immediately complied with the "Orders" of the Bureau of Inspection and subsequently received proper approval for their camps. However, it was found that some camp owners did not comply with the "Orders" of the Bureau of Inspection and it was necessary to order their camps to be closed. Prosecutions were brought against two operators who were found to have flagrantly violated the Labor Camp Code. Court decisions are still pending in regard to these cases.

In the current season, earlier and wider application of the State statutes concerning housing and sanitation codes is being made. All farmers and growers planning to operate labor camps in the Commonwealth during the current year are urged to make early application for Labor Camp Certificates.

By mutual arrangements, the Department of Labor and Industry and Health will register and code camps for location identification. The Pennsylvania State Employment Service will not refer migratory farm workers to farmers or growers who do not obtain Labor Camp Certificates. Such certificates will not be issued by the Department of Labor and Industry until all orders of housing inspectors and sanitarians are met. Joint, continuing inspections of camp facilities will be made by the inspectors and sanitarians throughout the period of camp occupancy.

An effort is being made to introduce an educational program to alert farmers and growers concerning the sociological and economic value of providing desirable housing and sanitation facilities for migrant workers.

APPLICATION FOR LABOR CAMP CERTIFICATE

Received from: Date:
Address:
Location of camp:
Sent for investigation to:
Date sent out:

**OFFICE RECORD
DO NOT DETACH**

Form L-126, 25c, 2-30.

APPLICATION FOR LABOR CAMP CERTIFICATE



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
HARRISBURG**

Date

To the Secretary of Labor and Industry,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The undersigned, having, to the best of his knowledge and belief, complied with the provisions of the Regulations governing the operation of labor camps in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, hereby applies for a certificate as provided in the Regulations for Labor Camps, and agrees thereafter to comply with the said Regulations.

Name:
Address:
Location of Camp:
County:

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF LABOR CAMP

Report No. Date:

I have inspected the premises of situate at
..... County of
used as a Labor Camp in connection with operations, and find the said
Camp to be in sanitary condition and complying with Regulations. I therefore recommend that a certificate
be issued for the said premises.

(Countersigned) (Signed)
Supervising Inspector. Inspector.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROGRAM FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

The activities of the Pennsylvania Department of Health in the cooperative program for seasonal out-of-state workers in Pennsylvania during 1955 are summarized under the units of the department supervising the various aspects of this public health program.

Bureau of Sanitation:

The following information has been obtained from the records in the Bureau of Sanitation, submitted by the regional offices having migrant camps under their jurisdiction:

Total number of migrant labor camps inspected (10 occupants or more)	213
Number of these camps having sanitation deficiencies which were reported to the Department of Labor and Industry with the request to withhold licenses pending correction	88
Number of camps at which deficiencies reported were corrected	27
Number of camps which failed to correct deficiencies before completion of the work program for which they were opened	61
Total number of inspections and reinspections made by department sanitarians	432

With the addition of specialized personnel to the Bureau staff, it is planned to develop a much stronger camp sanitation program which will include a more closely coordinated program with the Department of Labor and Industry in regard to migrant labor camps.

Bureau of Tuberculosis Control

The Director arranged a program for 1955 with the chest x-ray service given in conjunction with the venereal disease control program. The clinician of the Bureau's Coudersport Clinic cooperated by accepting all migratory laborers or their family members as eligible and clinic service was provided every other week. Furthermore, those found suffering from active tuberculosis and in need of sanatoria care were welcome at the Cresson Sanatorium. The clinician cooperated further by agreeing to be responsible for all follow-up work.

The special x-ray screening program for the agricultural migrant laborers and their families in Potter County began August 1, 1955. Actual count in the camps indicated that there were approximately 1500 migrants residing in the county at that time. Of this group, 964 received a chest x-ray examination. The residents of Potter County were also invited to participate.

This study revealed that of the 964 preliminary x-rays taken, ten suspected cases were found. Repeat x-rays on larger film boosted the total x-rays to 985. Three of the re-examined patients were actively infected and referred to the sanatorium for treatment.

All cooperating agencies were pleased with the program in Potter County.

In addition to the above, 25 migrant workers were x-rayed in Erie County, and 174 out of a total of 290 reported in Northumberland and Snyder Counties. One positive case and one suspicious case were discovered in the latter survey. The positive case was found to be a resident of Lackawanna County where he was referred for follow-up. The suspicious case was later diagnosed as Carcinoma. A total of six cases from Northumberland and Snyder Counties were rechecked by follow-up x-rays.

Division of Venereal Disease Control

The Division planned and conducted a special program for the Potter County migratory laborers and their families. As of August 1, 1955, free blood tests were offered to that group as well as to the permanent residents of the county. The schedule for the traveling unit was well publicized and details of operation well conducted. Arrangements for follow-up on all persons with reactive tests were made and venereal disease treatment clinic established. The treatment plans were worked out cooperatively with the Potter County Medical Society. Bicillin was furnished by the Department of Health for the treatments administered by members of the County Medical Society.

As of September 1, 1955, in the non-white group, 1205 blood tests were taken with 970 being negative and 235 being classified as reactive - a percentage of 19.5 reactive. In the four tests taken on white persons all four tests were negative. The reactive cases were referred to the venereal disease clinic established for the purpose in Coudersport.

Migrant serologic testing other than in Potter County

York County - 51 tested, 11 reactors

Treated Cases: 3 early latent

6 late latent

(2 moved out of
jurisdiction)

Erie County - 28 tested, 0 reactors (Puerto Ricans)

Bureau of Maternal and Child Health

The Director established four Child Health Service Centers for Potter County for 1955 in the same manner as provided throughout the Commonwealth. The migratory laborers and families were welcomed and encouraged to make use of these facilities. They were located at Shinglehouse, Galetton, Genesee, and Ulysses.

The Center located at Ulysses was the most used by the families of the migrants and over and above the usual attendance 79 new cases were examined. This included the usual immunization program designed to prevent diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus. Some applicants had had their previous inoculations listed on a card from their "home-base" so that it is planned to design a card that can be used at the "home-base" when the migrants return to their homes.

No summary of the cooperation and services offered the migrant families by the liaison between the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health will be attempted in this report. This would entail details involving the Bureau of Labor and Industry's day school near Ulysses (which was inspected and found to be excellent), the special school in Ulysses conducted by the Mennonites, and the School for Migrant Children conducted in Ulysses by the Pennsylvania State University group. It would also entail a long description of the fine services provided through the Nursing Bureau.

Bureau of Public Health Nursing

A considerable amount of the time of the staff and Supervising Public Health Nurses in Potter County, and to some degree in Adams and Northumberland Counties, was given over to aiding in the various public health preventive services concerned with migrant laborers and their families in these counties.

DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE SPONSORS PROGRAM

CARE CENTER FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN AT WEST BINGHAM:

A Day Care Center for the children of migratory workers was established at West Bingham Township, about two miles from Ulysses in Potter County, during the Summer of 1955. The Center was the joint venture of the Pennsylvania State Department of Welfare and the Governor's Inter-departmental Committee on Migratory Labor.

Located in a building formerly occupied as a school house, the Center was equipped to offer care for fifty children between the ages of two and eight.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE:

A Sub-Committee of the Governor's Committee, comprised of official representatives of the Departments of Welfare, Health, Public Instruction and Labor and Industry, was appointed to administer this project. This Sub-Committee was primarily responsible for the overall operation of the Center. Responsibility for the professional services of the Center itself was assigned to the Bureau of Children's Services of the Department of Welfare.

WELFARE DEPARTMENT DIRECTS PROGRAM:

The Center was operated by a paid staff of eight persons under the direct supervision of the Welfare Department. Staff members included a Director, who was appointed by the Bureau of Children's Services, and seven additional persons including a head teacher, five assistants, a dietitian who planned and cooked meals and a maintenance woman.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EXTENDS SERVICES:

The Department of Health cooperated with the program in providing physical examinations, immunizations and vaccinations for the children who were enrolled. Child Health Clinics were open on alternate Wednesdays at Ulysses and Genesee from three until five in the afternoon. The children from the Center were taken to these Clinics on alternate weeks. The services of a doctor and the Potter County Public Health nurse were available to the children. Whenever necessary, county medical doctors extended additional medical care to the children.

FEDERAL CHILD WELFARE SERVICE FUND USED:

In the absence of State money, approximately \$6,000.00 from Federal Child Welfare Service Funds was provided for the operation of the Center. The Sub-Committee acted as a holding company to receive these funds for semi-monthly payments of the per-diem per capita costs for the care of an estimated fifty children. The per capita method of payment was a requirement of the Federal Agency for the use of such funds. The Sub-Committee was responsible for the purchase of all food and equipment, for obtaining a staff (Director excepted) and for the incurring of all necessary expenses, including the rental of the Center and the providing of quarters for the staff.

PURPOSE OF THE CENTER:

The primary purpose of conducting a Child Care Center was to provide a healthy, safe, happy environment for the children of migratory workers who work and live in Potter County during the harvest season. Through its facilities, an endeavor was made to create in the children a sense of personal responsibility and to provide medical and welfare services to the children for their own benefit as well as that of the permanent residents of the area.

PERIOD OF OPERATION:

Weather conditions had made this an atypical year which resulted in the delayed arrival of groups from the South. Since the migrant workers did not arrive in Potter County until the last week in July, the Center was only in operation for five weeks, from August 1 to September 1, 1955. It was also noted that fewer children than were anticipated arrived in the area during the season and many of them returned with their families to the South before the potato crops were ready for harvesting.

CHILDREN ENROLLED AT THE CENTER:

The Center had a total enrollment of thirty-eight children who were brought to and from the Center each day by bus from eight camps in the environs. Twenty-six of these children remained at the Center for a month or more. Twelve of those originally came from two groups which moved on to New York State. Best available information indicates

"that out of the 286 children under 14 years of age who came to the Potter County area, only 109 were between the ages of 2 and 6." Many of these children participated in the programs provided by the Mennonites and the Penn State School. The work of these Centers is described elsewhere in this report.

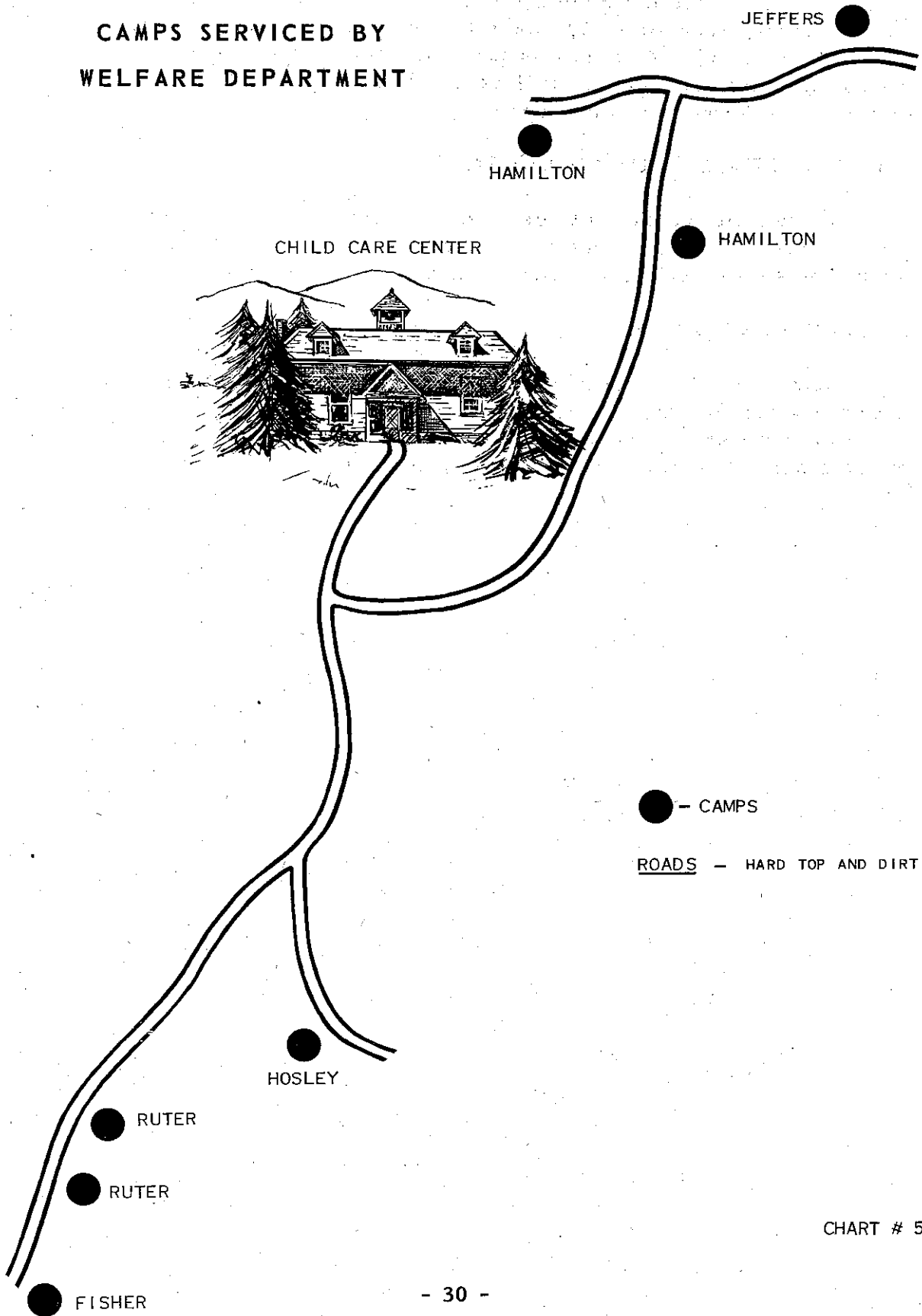
DAILY SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN:

A planned program of rest, activity and balanced meals in a healthy, happy environment was provided. In addition, physical ills which were detected were referred to a local doctor for treatment.

REGISTRATION FEES:

The first child from each family registered at the Center was charged a nominal fee of \$1.25. Additional children coming from the same family were charged \$1.00 a week. In almost every case, parents paid these fees willingly and promptly.

**CAMPS SERVICED BY
WELFARE DEPARTMENT**



● - CAMPS

ROADS - HARD TOP AND DIRT

CHART # 5

GOVERNOR'S INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE
ADMINISTERS CHILD CARE FOR MIGRANTS

- 1955 -



The Center
West Bingham Township, Potter County



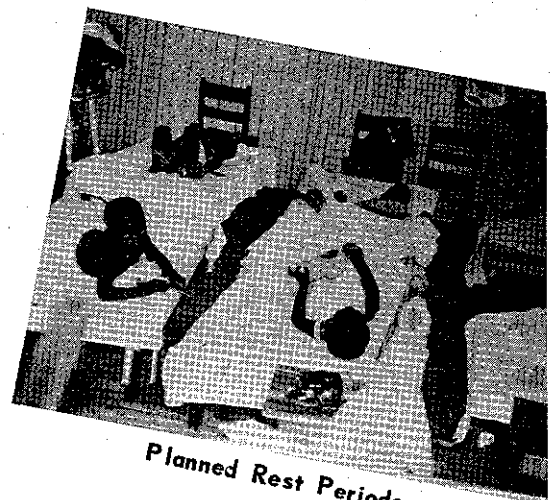
The Staff
(Under Supervision of the Welfare Department)



Ready for a Trip to the
Health Center



Balanced Meals



Planned Rest Periods

WELFARE DEPARTMENT
SUPERVISES PROGRAM



Supervised Play



Toddler Class Supervised by
Welfare Worker



Education Classes Adjourn for Day



New Horizons

THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OF MIGRANT FARM WORKERS

Pennsylvania had fewer children of migrant workers during 1955 than during the previous year. Even though progress has been made in getting a greater number of children of migrant workers into Pennsylvania's schools, fewer workers apparently brought their children with them during the past year. The same situation prevailed in New York and New Jersey.

In all, Pennsylvania enrolled 205 children of migrant workers in 10 different counties during the Fall of 1955. This was exclusive of those who attended the summer school conducted in Potter County by Pennsylvania State University.

As in previous years, the Department of Public Instruction alerted county superintendents of schools in the areas affected by seasonal farm workers relative to necessary preparation for the attendance of such pupils. The Department supplied copies of letters which county superintendents were encouraged to distribute to local school officials and teachers in areas having migrant workers with school children.

The efforts made for the improvement of school attendance of children of migrant farm workers who remain in the State during portions of the school term seem to bear more fruit each year. Pennsylvania has worked very closely with the United States Office of Education and other states involved in the East Coast Migrant Route for seasonal farm workers.

Special attention was directed to the concerted effort begun in past years to provide better school records. School Transfer Record Cards, which were prepared jointly by the Departments of Education in the states of the East Coast Migrant Route with the advice and assistance of the United States Office of Education were distributed for two consecutive years. These records attempt to supply what is regarded as the minimum amount of information which could be requested and still be adequate to maintain proper placement and adjustment of pupils in local school situations.

After a special study of the Transfer Records of migrant school children on the East Coast Migrant Route, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction finds that schools have done much to improve the situation for migrant children. These children have been welcomed into the schools and the parents of the children have been notified in advance concerning the schools and their offerings and the welcome mat has been out for migrant pupils.

The biggest obstacle which was recognized by the group studying the problem at an East Coast Migrant Conference was the transmitting of the Transfer Cards from one community to the other as the children traveled.

Inquiries during the Fall of 1955 indicated that approximately 1500 school Transfer Cards were issued in three counties of Florida. At least 50 were issued in North Carolina, 121 in Virginia, 314 in Maryland, 231 in Pennsylvania and 704 in New York. The report for the Pennsylvania areas indicates that of the 152 migrant school children in Pennsylvania for whom reports were received in Pennsylvania in 1955, 69 were issued School Transfer Cards for the first time. Another 69 had been in the area last year but did not return the School Transfer Card which was issued a year ago. Seven had been in the area last year and returned the Transfer Card. One other had been in some Pennsylvania area last year and had his Card available. Six others had a School Transfer Card with them which had been issued in some state other than Pennsylvania.

The "Record of Distribution and Use of School Transfer Records for Migrant Children, 1955-1956" is shown in this report. This not only indicates the number of pupils by areas but also it shows the success with which the transfer of records took place among schools in the various states and between the "home base" and the school where the child was temporarily attending.

SCHOOL RECORD

PRESENT ADDRESS OF PUPIL	NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH SCHOOL ATTENDED	DATE ENTERED	DAYS PRESENT	DAYS ABSENT	DATE LEFT	GRADE PLACEMENT	SIGNATURE OF TEACHER OR PRINCIPAL

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SEND FOR RECORDS TO LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED

HEALTH	DATE	DATE	INTERESTS OF PUPIL	REMARKS
SMALL POX VACCINATION				
DIPHTHERIA SHOTS				
OTHER IMMUN.				
TUBERCULIN TEST				
CHEST X-RAY				
VISION TESTS				
HEARING TESTS				
PHYSICAL HANDICAPS (INCLUDING POSITIVE FINDINGS ON ABOVE TESTS):				

SCHOOL TRANSFER RECORD (Carry This Record To Each School Attended)

NAME	(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
DATE OF BIRTH	(Year)	(Month)	(Day)
PROOF OF AGE	Name Source		
PLACE OF BIRTH			
FATHER'S NAME			
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME			
GUARDIAN'S NAME			

Chart #6

RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF SCHOOL TRANSFER RECORDS FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN, 1955-56

County and Name of School System in Which Enrolled	Total	Number Enrolled (1955-56) Who Presented Cards			Number Enrolled (1955-56) Without Cards	
		Issued by This School Last Year	Issued by Other Schools in Pennsylvania Last Year	Issued in Other States Last Year	Duplicate Cards Issued	Cards Issued for the First Time
TOTAL NUMBER ENROLLED	205	5	2	8	69	121
Adams						
Franklin Township	8	-	-	-	-	8
Chester						
Avon-Grove Area	3	-	-	-	-	3
Columbia						
Millville Area	11	3	-	2	6	-
Franklin						
Greene Township	1	-	-	-	-	1
Guilford Township	2	-	-	-	2	-
Lehigh						
East Penn Union	12	-	-	-	-	12
Northwestern Joint	7	2	-	3	-	2
Montour						
Danville Area Joint	5	-	1	-	2	2
Northumberland						
Mahanoy Joint	20	-	-	2	18	-
Milton Area	3	-	-	-	2	1
Sunbury Area	11	-	-	-	-	11
Potter						
Coudersport Joint	41	-	-	-	32	9
Galeton Joint	1	-	-	1	-	-
Northern Potter Joint	37	-	-	-	7	30
Oswayo Valley Joint	18	-	-	-	-	18
Snyder						
County Total	10	-	-	-	-	10
York						
County Total	15	-	1	-	-	14

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Department of Public Instruction
 Division of Child Accounting and Research
 Harrisburg - February 1, 1956
 Bureau of School Administration

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE REPORT

In cooperation with other State agencies, Federal agencies and municipal authorities, the Pennsylvania State Police carried forward all phases of police activity for the preservation of peace, welfare and safety of the Commonwealth's citizens and out-of-state visitors.

This department enforced all laws governing the use of rural highways. The Pennsylvania State Police also administered laws regulating the storage of inflammable liquids, the elimination of fire hazards, the administration of examinations given applicants for Pennsylvania operating licenses and various other functions safeguarding life and property.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REPORT

In cases of financial distress, the Department of Public Assistance made available to migratory workers sufficient temporary aid to enable them to return home or go to other places of employment. This aid was given through the County Boards of Assistance.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN

An experimental school for migrant children in the Potter County area was operated by the Department of Education of Pennsylvania State University, with the cooperation of the University's Christian Association. The school, the first of its kind in Pennsylvania, was financed with \$5,000.00 advanced by the National Child Labor Committee. \$2,500.00 of this fund had been contributed by the Phillip Murray Foundation. The purpose of the school was "to study the effect of migrant life on the school progress of migrant children, and to determine as far as possible the effect of supplementary educational experience, such as that provided by this experimental program, on the learning achievements of the children involved."

The school was staffed and equipped to accommodate fifty children between the ages of five and twelve. It was in operation for five days a week for a period of seven weeks. There was an average daily attendance of thirty-three.

Representatives from private and governmental agencies served as an Advisory Committee for this project. Agencies represented on the Advisory Committee included: The National Child Labor Committee, The Pennsylvania Citizens Committee. Representatives of the Pennsylvania Departments of Health, Labor and Industry, Public Instruction and Welfare, and the Governor's Inter-Departmental Committee on Migratory Labor also served on this Committee.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON MIGRATORY LABOR ESTABLISHED

On August 26, 1954 a President's Committee on Migratory Labor was created. The Honorable James P. Mitchell, Secretary of Labor, was appointed chairman of this Committee to assume leadership in improving the social and economic welfare of domestic migratory farm workers on a national level. This Committee is instructed to aid Federal Agencies in mobilizing and stimulating more effective services and programs for migratory farm workers. Through the constituent members of this Committee services are provided to state and local areas.

The Committee is comprised of the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Labor, Health, Education and Welfare, and the Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency. Mr. Henry K. Arneson, Executive Secretary is responsible for the coordination of the Committee's programs and activities.

Each agency represented on the Committee has assumed responsibility for promoting understanding and application of the Committee's activities and recommendations. Through cooperation with state and local communities these Agencies have contributed greatly to improving conditions for migratory workers.

Liaison has been established between Pennsylvania's Inter-departmental Committee on Migratory Labor and the President's Committee. Members of both of these groups have met with representatives of other states along the Eastern Seaboard to discuss unified standards of housing, transportation and community services for migratory workers. The continued cooperation of these groups for the betterment of conditions for migratory workers is anticipated for the coming season.

THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches carried forward an impressive program to provide for and improve the sociological, economic and moral welfare of the migratory farm workers who were employed in the Commonwealth last season.

Through its Ministry to Migrants, specially assigned chaplains worked directly with these temporary workers in most of the twenty-eight counties in which they were employed in Pennsylvania.

A review of the activities of the Council of Churches would be very extensive. It would include: the provision of religious services, Sunday Schools and Vacation Bible Schools; visiting the migrants in the labor camps; endeavoring to interpret the workers and their needs to the community in which they were temporarily living; urging the application of fair and humane principles to the economy in which the migrants were working and living; providing educational programs such as study classes, instructive movies, crafts including leather working, weaving and sewing groups; organizing recreational programs such as baseball and quoits; collecting and distributing blankets, toys and other needed equipment to the laborers; seeking to awaken the community to the opportunity and obligation of sharing with migrants from whose efforts so much of value is drawn the protective benefits of community life.

In a word, the program advanced by the Council of Churches embraced all that bespeaks a sincere, determined effort "to develop a sense of personal worth, belonging and responsibility in the men, women and children who followed the crops to Pennsylvania."

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Through its Apostolate to Migrant Workers, affected Dioceses of the Roman Catholic Church labored to assure a sound, healthful, moral atmosphere for Puerto Ricans working in the Commonwealth. Specially appointed Spanish-speaking priests and local pastors cooperated to develop and promote a program that would satisfy the needs of these workers who were largely concentrated in the Dioceses of Harrisburg and Erie and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The activities of the Apostolate included: providing religious services for the workers both at the camps and in the local churches; discourses and instructions given in Spanish; visiting the Puerto Ricans in the labor camps and assisting them with their personal problems and helping them to adjust themselves to mainland customs; conducting English-Spanish classes to help overcome language barriers; serving as interpreters to create better understanding between growers and workers and between workers and the community; stimulating community acceptance and integration of the workers; sponsoring educational and recreational programs wherever possible, particularly movies, discussions and camp visitations by community groups; making available to workers news from their homeland through the distribution of the New York Edition of Excelsior and various Spanish pamphlets and periodicals.

In short, the work of the Apostolate for Migrants may be summarized as a concentrated effort to promote the welfare and assure the dignity of fellow American citizens who contribute so fruitfully to the economic security of our Commonwealth.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

As an integral part of its United States program, the American Friends Service Committee conducted a work camp program for the migrant community in Potter County during the 1955 harvest season. The immediate purpose of activities of the group was to provide a recreational program that would relieve the drabness of life for the workers in migrant camps. The long range goal was to involve both the residents and the migrants in the continuation and furtherance of a program that would lead to improved community relations for all concerned.

The Work Camp personnel numbered thirteen volunteer workers, college students and teachers who came from eight states, including Alabama and Tennessee. This group also included a girl from Holland and a boy from Germany.

The early presence of the "work-campers" in the Potter County area found them actually cleaning the various camps so the migrants might enjoy better living conditions upon their arrival. They also assisted the Governor's Inter-departmental Committee on Migratory Labor to prepare the school house in West Bingham for a child care center. This latter effort included wiring the house, scrubbing the floors, as well as suggesting ideas for programs.

The work-campers presented a three-fold program which was enthusiastically received by the harvesters and encouraged by the people of the community. Activities included: (1) The operation of a recreational center at Gold, the heart of the labor camp area in Potter County, (2) A program of activity at the migrant camps which included baseball and softball little leagues, group singing, movies and assistance to the labor camp chaplains, (3) A Saturday morning playground program for the children at the recreation center in Gold.

THE MENNONITE CHILD CARE CENTER FOR MIGRATORY CHILDREN

A Mennonite Group from Lancaster operated a Child Care Center for the children of migrant workers at Ulysses in Potter County. Located at Grange Hall, the Center provided care for approximately twenty-eight children between the ages of sixteen months and five years. The school was financed and equipped through the generosity and efforts of the Mennonites.

By mutual arrangement with the staff of the Penn State Demonstration School, which was also located in Ulysses, transportation facilities were pooled for bringing the children to the Center. Wherever possible, interested groups cooperated with the Mennonites to serve the needs of the children under their care. A planned daily program of recreation and care was provided from sun-up to sun-down by the eight volunteers of the Mennonites who comprised the staff.

During the coming season, the Mennonites plan to extend their service program for children of migratory workers in Pennsylvania. Arrangements are presently under way for the establishment of two child care centers. It is anticipated that this group will be prepared to offer care to a considerable portion of the children who accompany their families to Potter County.

PENNSYLVANIA CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT LABOR

This group concerns itself with a study of the working and living conditions of migrants who come to the Commonwealth. It reports its findings to governmental authorities and to the general public. It sponsors and supports remedial programs and legislation, on both state and national levels, to abolish abuses and inequities associated with migrant labor.

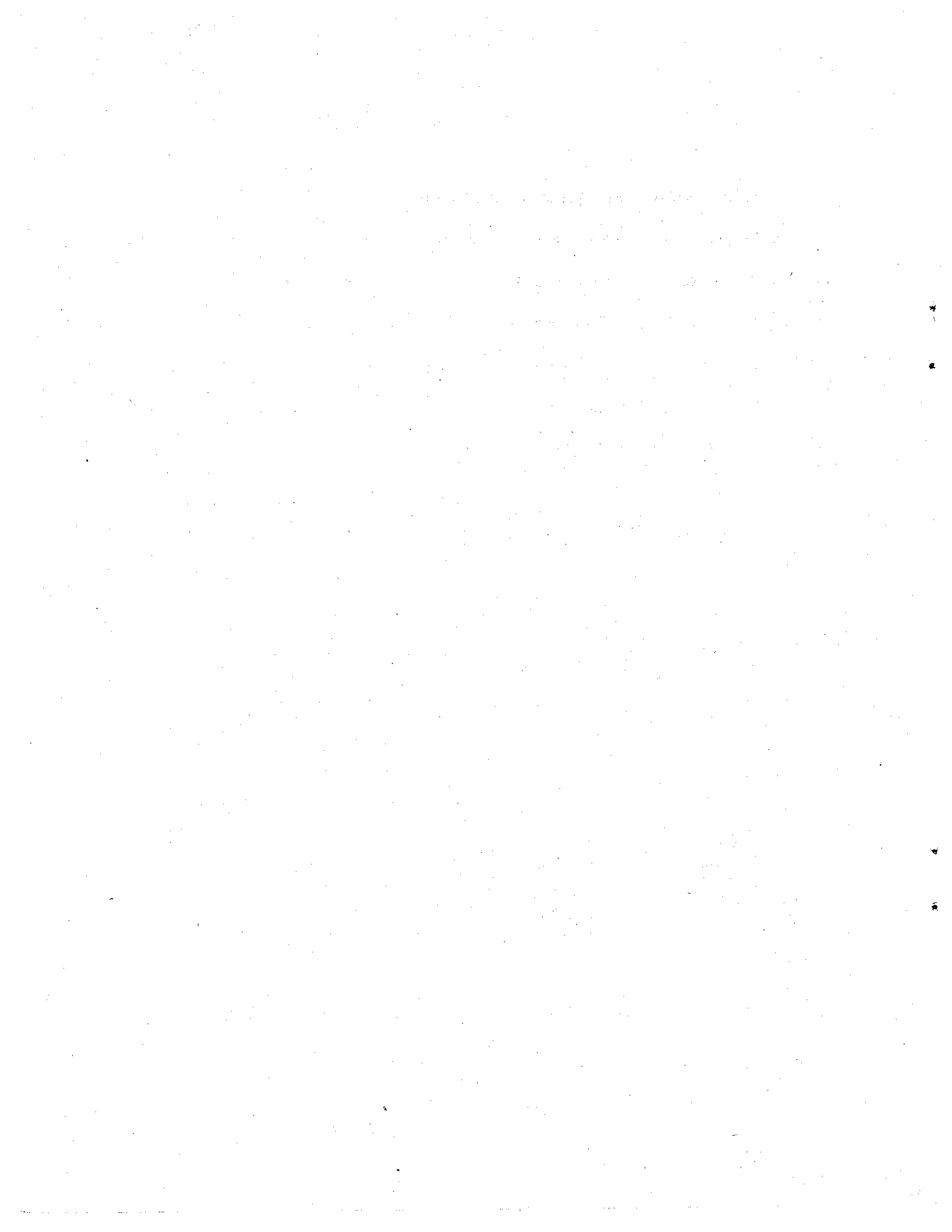
In 1955, the Pennsylvania Citizens Committee enlisted the support of The National Child Labor Committee in the promotion of the summer school for migrant children which was conducted by Pennsylvania State University. Its representatives served as members of the Advisory Council for this demonstration school. It supplied the American Friends Service Committee with toys and sports equipment for their recreational program for migrants and made voluntary contributions of toys to the State-supported Child Care Center at West Bingham. It supplied softball and little league equipment for migrant youth teams in labor camps. It also collected and distributed blankets, clothing and miscellaneous furniture and equipment to migrant workers in labor camps. It solicits private contributions for the furtherance of its programs.

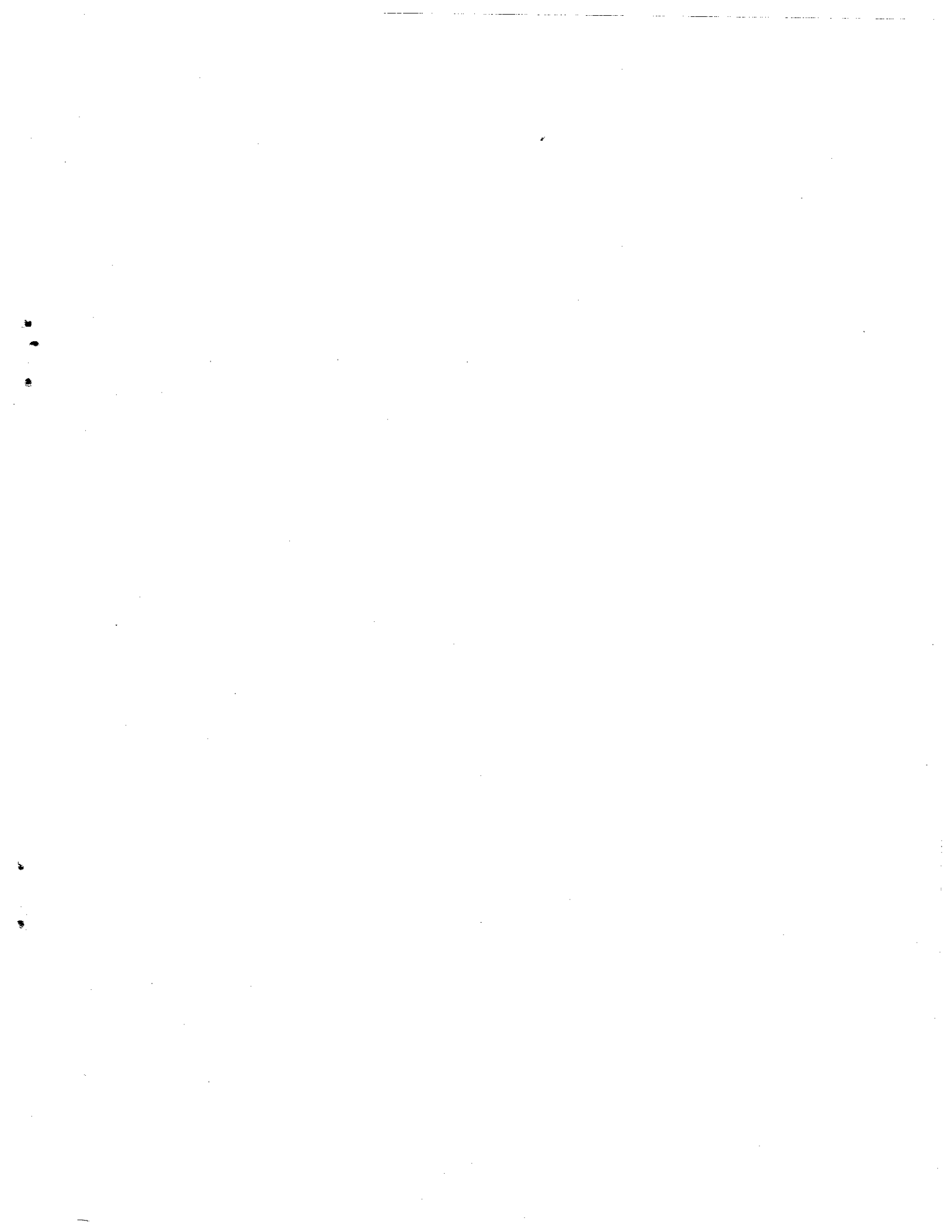
NATIONAL CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

This is a voluntary agency which functions nationally to "eliminate the harmful employment and promote educational opportunities for youth." It is especially interested in the children of migrant farm workers. Its representatives serve as consultants to the Pennsylvania Citizens Committee on Migrant Labor.

The National Child Labor Committee was primarily responsible for the establishment of the Ulysses Demonstration School for migrant children which was conducted by the Pennsylvania State University during the Summer of 1955. The school was financed by a \$2,500.00 donation made by the Committee and an additional \$2,500.00 grant obtained from the Phillip Murray Foundation through the efforts of the Committee. Representatives of this Committee served as members of the Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania State University in the operation of the school.

Acting at state and national levels, the Committee promotes and sponsors legislation prohibiting child labor. Working in cooperation with local groups, it seeks to improve the educational opportunities of children in most need of attention.





Resource ID# 7170

**Report Of The Governor's
Interdepartmental Committee On Migrant
Labor**