

## NEGROES HAVE RAISED OCCUPATIONAL LEVEL

OCCUPATIONAL GROUPING--Occupational differences between Negroes and whites are still large, but in the past 22 years, Negroes have raised their occupational level appreciably faster than have whites.

In 1962, more than a fourth of the white males working--but only 8 percent of the nonwhites--were in professional or managerial occupations outside of agriculture. Over half the nonwhite men were in nonfarm manual occupations, but only 9 percent were skilled craftsmen or foremen as compared with near 20 percent of the whites. More than 14 percent of the nonwhite men were in service occupations and almost as many were still doing farm work, compared with about 6 and 9 percent, respectively, for the whites. Many of those in agriculture, both white and nonwhite, were operating their own farms, but the percent of farm laborers was greater among nonwhites.

These percents represent a gain in occupational status for both white and nonwhite men, but particularly for the latter. No marked change has been noted in the skilled and semiskilled blue-collar occupations in the last few years, but Negroes have generally held the gains made during World War II, when many moved into the semiskilled factory operative and related occupations.

The percent of nonwhite men working as skilled craftsmen or foremen more than doubled between 1940 and 1962, as did the percent in professional and technical occupations and the percent of nonfarm managers, officials, etc. In each of these groups, nonwhites gained faster than whites. Probably some of the Negro men who left the farm became unskilled laborers in urban areas, but the rise in the percent at such work was small; the percent in service jobs was virtually unchanged.

These averages are reduced by the inclusion of many part-time or part-year workers. If figures are limited to those who worked a full year, nonwhites do relatively better than when part-time earnings are included. For full-year full-time work, nonwhite males in 1960 aver-



PRIZE WINNER--Lonnie Bolden, fifth grade pupil of Macil Cooper at Madison School, points to his poster that took first place in contest for Clark County 4th to 6th graders for National Children's Dental Health Week. Congratulations, Lonnie!

aged \$3,789, which was about 67 percent of the rate for white males.

When family rather than individual incomes are compared, the Negro-white difference is somewhat less, as a higher proportion of Negro family members are in the labor force.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT--The number of nonwhites working in Federal, State, and local government rose from 214,000 in 1940 to more than one million in 1962, a fivefold increase. The proportion of nonwhites to all government employees rose from 5.1 to 12.1 percent.

The 60-page booklet is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, at 40¢ a copy.

Unemployment rates vary with age in both white and Negro groups. In 1962, with

4.6 percent of all white males unemployed, unemployment at ages 14-17 and 18-19 was above 12 percent each. But more young nonwhites in these age groups, girls as well as boys, were unemployed.

The most common occupation of nonwhite women in 1962, as in 1940, was domestic service work. However, the number in such work fell from 58 to 37 percent of nonwhite women workers. The number of women in service work outside private households rose above 22 percent and the number of factory operatives to almost 15 percent--more than double in each case. Far more of the nonwhite women were clerical workers by 1962, though they still constituted only a fraction of the corresponding proportion of whites. A big drop occurred in the percent of nonwhite women doing farm work.

These shifts resulted, by April 1962, in giving nonwhite men many more of the semiskilled factory operative and clerical jobs and more of the professional and technical, managerial, crafts and foremen, and sales jobs. There were also relatively more nonwhite laborers and service workers in 1962 than in 1940. Nonwhites had left the farms, meanwhile, in relatively greater numbers than whites.

WAGE AND SALARY INCOME--Since earnings vary with occupation, the relative rise in Negroes' occupational levels as well as their continuing concentration in the less skilled jobs, is reflected in their earnings. Whites average higher earnings than Negroes, but the gap is somewhat less than in earlier years. In 1939, nonwhite male workers earned, on the average, about 41 percent as much as white; by 1960, nearly 60 percent. The corresponding percents for nonwhite female workers were about 36 and 50.

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