

She will have to take her chance when she returns.

The next witness is I. Amter, of New York, representing the National Unemployment Council.

(No response.)

The CHAIRMAN. The next witness is Norris Wood, Philadelphia, representing the Local Action Committee for Workers, American Federation of Labor.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Chairman, my name is O. J. Hall, Jr.

The CHAIRMAN. I called Mr. Wood.

Mr. HALL. I am the chairman of this committee that represents the local-action committee, of Philadelphia.

The CHAIRMAN. It seems that Mr. Wood asked to be heard.

Mr. HALL. He is to represent the group we are affiliated with. It is the same group, in other words.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you the only witness who is asking to represent this organization?

Mr. HALL. Yes; I am.

The CHAIRMAN. You are recognized for 5 minutes.

**STATEMENT OF O. J. HALL, JR., REPRESENTING THE LOCAL-ACTION COMMITTEE FOR WORKERS, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR, PHILADELPHIA, PA.**

Mr. HALL. I am one of a delegation of three representing the trade unions of the American Federation of Labor of the City of Philadelphia, comprising 64 locals of A. F. of L.

We are as locals affiliated with the local joint action committee comprising unemployment council, and interprofessionals, aggregating a total sum of approximately 250,000.

This power is invested in me by action of the rank and file and through them have created an action committee to carry out their wants on the question of unemployment, old age, and social insurance bill, and to enact the same into laws of our country.

With this thought in mind and referring to that section of the Wagner-Lewis social security bill, S. 1130, on unemployment insurance, I will point out its inadequacy in so far as the trade unions are concerned:

I. The marginal difference of a worker's earning and cost of living is so small that the benefits of the unemployment is inadequate because of the waiting period before payments start. This is also due to many workers working part time.

II. The Wagner-Lewis bill, S. 1130, acts as an indirect tax on the worker as he is the one who is the source of all created wealth, and who is now carrying the burden of the unemployed, and being above the 10,000,000 mark since the reemployment drive ending in September 1933.

III. The unemployment insurance excludes from benefits the mass who are now unemployed, since it affects those now employed if and when they are out of jobs.

We concur in the criticism of the Lewis-Wagner bill, S. 1130, with those of the social-insurance experts and actuaries on the committee on economic security.

IV. The approach must be made by a reconsideration of the whole role of the Federal Government which it is held should provide

financial support and legislative and administration leadership for the entire program rather than to pass the buck to the States.

II. That a sound plan for social security must necessarily involve some redistribution of income and wealth through added taxes on income and inheritance.

The bill that will accomplish the above, and which we, as a part of a mass movement that participated in the National Congress for Unemployment and Social Insurance demand that H. R. 2827, known as the "workers' unemployment, old-age, and social-insurance bill", be enacted into law, and which was the representative thought of 2,000,000 people by delegates at the Congress.

Summary: We are going, as a working group, to resist the passage of the administration bill (S. 1130) in every possible way, since the outstanding feature is its inadequacy for the needs of labor.

The CHAIRMAN. If there are no questions, we thank you for your appearance, Mr. Hall.

The next witness is Charles H. Houston, Washington, D. C., representing the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

**STATEMENT OF CHARLES H. HOUSTON, REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, WASHINGTON, D. C.**

Mr. HOUSTON. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, my name is Charles H. Houston, Washington, D. C., representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

May I say that Mr. Walter White, who is the next name on your calendar, will not be here. I understand that I am operating under the 5-minute rule, but if I should take 6 minutes, may I have 1 minute of Mr. White's time?

The CHAIRMAN. We may grant you that much of an extension.

Mr. HOUSTON. Mr. Chairman, I would like to address my attention first to the old-age assistance as contrasted with the old-age annuity. Our understanding is that the old-age assistance is a provision for supplementing income up to a reasonable, decent level.

On the other hand, old-age annuity is a substitute for income, because the bill provides that a person who is employed by another is ineligible for old-age annuity.

Mr. VINSON. Is ineligible for what?

Mr. HOUSTON. Old-age annuity. That is my understanding, and I call your attention to section 405 (a) (4).

No person shall receive such old-age annuity unless \* \* \*  
He is not employed by another in a gainful occupation.

The point that I am making is that in order to qualify for the old-age annuity there is a provision that taxes must be paid on behalf of this person prior to the day when he reaches 60 years.

Now, for the benefit of Negroes, I want to inquire who would be benefited or excluded by that provision?

First, and very serious, Negro share croppers and cash tenants would be excluded. I take it that I do not need to argue to this committee the fact that of the Negro population and of the population of the country generally, your Negro share cropper and your Negro cash farm tenant are just about at the bottom of the economic scale. He is not employed. There is no relation necessarily of master and