

Pamphlet: The Jobless Negro

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 09:03:07

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the following terms.

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of African American History and Culture as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of African American History and Culture website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of African American History and Culture or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of African American History and Culture. See this project and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

while, then cut him off and ordered him to the municipal lodging house.

And then at last something new happened! Norman Smith and his wife heard of the Unemployed Council! They went to the Council's headquarters and told them they were denied relief and had been evicted again. The Council got the whole neighborhood aroused about it. Negro workers, white workers, men and women, all together, they came out and moved the family into the apartment.

It was only a few days afterwards that Estelle Smith gave birth to another child.

The Unemployed Council sent a delegation to the Charity Organization office and forced them to give relief. The charity people had said before that they couldn't, but they did it now! They gave out \$5 at once for food—with a crowd of Negro worker and white workers standing in front of the office with determination all over their faces—and they got a letter to the Emergency Work Bureau that got them work for three days a week for the whole winter.

In April, 1932, they moved back to Harlem. A week later Smith was laid off his charity job. The Charity Society at Lenox Avenue refused any aid—until a new delegation arrived from the Unemployed Council.

By October Mrs. Smith was in the hospital with her fourth child, having eaten almost nothing but cabbage and beans during her pregnancy. She was treated miserably in the Harlem Hospital. On November 16 she died.

Six Negro and white workers stood about the coffin of Estelle Smith, only 27 years old, wife and mother of four

4

small children. They stood there with fists clenched, and the workers vowed to avenge her death.

Workers spoke—the local leaders of working-class organizations.

"The City of New York murdered Mrs. Estelle Smith," said the leader of the Unemployed Council. "They murdered her by starvation and poverty. At a time when she needed care, she got only hunger and trouble. She was a victim of the mass starvation policy of the city government and of the government of the United States. She was not only a worker, but a Negro worker, and therefore she suffered starvation earlier and more deeply than even the white workers.

STARVATION AND PLENTY

"While the warehouses were bursting with food, Mrs. Smith lived on cabbage and beans. While apartments and flats stood empty, she was thrown out on the street to freeze.

"This murder is only one of many. It will be repeated a thousand times

while, then cut him off and ordered him to the municipal

while, then cut has oft and ordered has no the manicipal ledging house.

And then at lest something new happened? Norman Senish and his wife haard of the Unemployed Council? They west so the Council's headquarters and sold them they were durined railer and had been evited again. The Council got the whole neighborhood arouned about it. Negro workers, white workers, rans and worses, all together, they came out and newed the family into the

It was only a few days afterwards that Estelle Smith

In was only a few days afterwards that Escelle Smith gave birth as enother child.

The Unemployed Council sent a delegation to the Chairty Organization often and forced them to gove roled. The chairty people had and before that they codefire, but they did it need. They gave out 50 at once for feed—with a crowd of Negro workers and white workers searching in freet of the office with determination all over their faces and they got a letter to the Emergency Work Bereau that got chem work for three days a week for the whole winner.

In April, 1932, they moved back to Harlem. A week later Senish was laid off his charity job. The Charity Society at Lenen Avenue refused any aid—until a new delegation arrived from the Uncephaged Council.

By October Mrs. Smith was in the hospital with her fourth child, howing eaten almost nothing but rabbags and beaus during her programs. She was rested mismibly in the Harlen Hospital. On Normher 16 she died. Six Negro and white workers aread about the eefen of Eitelle Serith, only 27 years old, wife and mother of four

small children. They stood there with fieta clenched, and

the workers speke—the local leaders of working-class

organization.

"The City of New York mandered Mes. Eartile Seatith,"
said the leader of the Unemployed Council, "They numbered here by statewishes and powerty. At a time when she needed care, the got erely hunger and motals. She was a victim of the mass stanution policy of the day government and of the government of the United States. She was not only a worker, but a Negre worker, and there was not only a worker, but a Negre worker, and there when the council or the state of the st fore she suffered starvation earlier and more deeply than even the white workers.

STANYATION AND PLENTY
"While the warshouses were bursting with feed, Mrs.
Smith lived on cabbage and beaus. While spartments and flats stood empty, she was thrown out on the street to

This marder is only one of many. It will be repened a thousand times unless we take measures to stop it We must force the city and national governments to grant

We must toste me cry and national governments to grant is ruled and unemployment tostaract."

A voice spoke from the crowd: "I nesse that we elect, here and now, at this fusiend, a delegate to the National Hunger March to Washington on December 5. I move that we send Norman Smith, the hashand of this mardered woman, to the National Capitol to demand immediate winter relief, unemployment insurance, and an end to the discrimination against the Negro jobless!"

Smithsonian Institution Transcription Center, National Museum of African American History and Culture

unless we take measures to stop it. We must organize ourselves, black and white together. We must force the city and national governments to grant us relief and unemployment insurance."

A voice spoke from the crowd: "I move that we elect, here and now, at this funeral, a delegate to the National Hunger March to Washington on December 5. I move that we send Norman Smith, the husband of this murdered woman, to the National Capitol to demand immediate winter relief, unemployment insurance, and an end to the discrimination against the Negro jobless!"

5

Pamphlet: The Jobless Negro Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers Extracted Apr-19-2024 09:03:07



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: https://transcription.si.edu
On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter

On Twitter: @TranscribeSI

Connect with the Smithsonian Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian

On Twitter: @smithsonian