

(The material referred to follows:)

INDIANA'S LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

WHERE ARE THE POOR IN INDIANA?

President Johnson has set \$3,000 annual income as the measure of poverty. In 1960, there were 214,792 families in Indiana who had incomes of less than \$3,000 during the previous year. This release tells where the low-income families are concentrated and summarizes information about these concentrations.

Statewide, 18 out of every 100 families in Indiana had incomes below \$3,000. In several counties more than one out of every three families had an annual income of less than \$3,000. In other counties the rate was as low as one out of eight. In Marion County, 13 out of every 100 families had annual incomes of less than \$3,000.

Counties with the highest rates of low-income families are predominantly rural and are concentrated in the southern part of the State and along the western border. Thirteen out of the fifteen counties with more than 30 percent of their families in the low-income bracket are south of Star Route 40.

The counties with the greatest numbers of low-income families are urban centers. Marion County had 22,850 low-income families, Lake County 13,939, and Vanderburgh County 8,898. Thirty percent of the low-income families are located in six metropolitan counties.

Poverty has become a prominent topic lately as a result of recent proposals to alleviate this condition. Estimates of the extent of poverty in the Nation have included from one-tenth to one-third of the population. The estimates differ because of the definitions and criteria which are used. For example, use of a criterion such as family income of \$2,000 results in a lower estimate than one where a criterion of \$3,000 family income is used. In either case, some families who might be living adequately at that income level would be included, while some impoverished families would be omitted.

For national estimates, the President's Council of Economic Advisers have used criteria of \$3,000 income for families and \$1,500 income for unrelated individuals. The same criteria have been used for the 1960 census data presented here for Indiana. The data probably overstate the number who might be considered very poor because it includes farm families whose home grown food may be an important contribution, the value of which is not reflected in the reported income. On the other hand, large families with income just over \$3,000 are omitted even though they might be regarded as very poor. Poverty among unrelated individuals is probably also overstated because those living in group quarters are included.

In 1960, there were 214,792 families in Indiana who had incomes of less than \$3,000 during the previous year. This was 17.9 percent of all the families in the State. About 50 percent of the low-income families lived in urban areas while the other half were in rural areas. Ninety-two percent of the low-income families were white and 8 percent were nonwhite. Practically all of the 17,770 nonwhite, low-income families lived in urban areas.

About one-third of all rural farm families had low income while one-seventh of the urban and one-fifth of the rural nonfarm families had low incomes. About 17 percent of white families and 30 percent of nonwhite families had low incomes.

The maps show the number and percentage of families in each county who had incomes under \$3,000 in 1959. Those counties which have a large percentage of low-income families are mostly rural. The counties with the largest number of low-income families are mostly urban.

More than one-half of the heads of low-income families were in the experienced labor force. By occupation, the largest number of low-income families were headed by farmers, operatives, craftsmen, laborers, and service workers, while other occupations were represented with smaller numbers. The industries in which the largest number of heads worked were agriculture, manufacturing, retail trade, and construction. Forty-four percent of the heads of low-income families were not in the experienced labor force.

Of the nearly 300,000 unrelated individuals in the State in 1960, 52 percent had incomes of less than \$1,500 during the previous year. About 70 percent lived in urban areas. Ninety-three percent of these individuals were white. The 7 percent who were nonwhite were located mostly in urban areas. About 49 percent of the urban and about 62 percent of the rural unrelated individuals had low incomes.