

Supplementary material-- Section C

IV. (c). Manner in which the war effort is or may be impeded by lack of sufficient service.

People living in congested areas and under conditions made abnormal by war industries and troop concentrations suffer both physically and mentally if deprived of adequate facilities for leisure-time activities. The statement applies not only to the personnel employed in the war industries and to the men in uniform; it is equally applicable to the civilian population which, handicapped by increased social and financial responsibilities, and by radically changed habits of living, serves the needs of those special groups.

The list of available commercial and non-commercial facilities for recreation in Lawrence discloses the fact that all must have maximum use if social controls are to operate. Maximum use can be achieved only by careful planning and ample leadership, by judicious spending for equipment and its repair and care, and by making certain activities self-supporting on a fee basis when funds are not obtainable otherwise. A recreation program, however, which is wholly self-supporting is seldom successful and never a very gracious one. Local schools, churches, and civic groups are making every effort to help meet the emergency, and the university officials are more than willing to cooperate in every way possible. But, in the final analysis, the major responsibility rests upon the city government. The morale of the service men, the ordnance workers, and civilians will depend in no small measure on the degree to which all can be enabled to live as effective citizens of the community, whether their residence is temporary or permanent in character.

Supplementary material-- Section D.

IV. (e) Recreation facilities for negroes:

With the withdrawal of WPA on January 25, 1943, the city will be forced to close the two colored centers now maintained unless funds for their continuance can be secured. One center is held in Lincoln school, the only separate elementary school for colored children in the city. A second center, near the center of the city, has been housed in part of a building rented by the county commissioners. 60 clock hours of leadership each week have been given these centers by WPA employees.

Since the last census showed that the colored people constitute 10.2% of the population of Lawrence, it is imperative to provide facilities for their use and assign adequate leadership. If responsible leadership can be provided, the school center can be continued; it would help materially even if a second center is not possible. There is a large gym, kitchen facilities, and ample play space surrounds the building. Space for a second center or for special festivities will have to be rented or otherwise provided, since the county commissioners are not renewing their lease which expires January 1, 1943.