

The Community Service League was responsible for twenty-six of these Saturday night parties for service men, and the participation indicated the men's appreciation. The discontinuance of the parties at the end of January, with the withdrawal of all WPA assistance, was a tragedy for Lawrence, but there was no choice. The major part of the game equipment had been loaned by WPA, and extra janitor service had been provided for the building; these relatively small items when added to the services of the director and the nearly 300 hours of weekly leadership, however, left the League with no funds other than the sponsors' contributions.

Realizing that both the city government and the school officials-- the two agencies which could be counted upon for public support of a recreation program-- were taxing their legal limit and hard pressed for funds, the mayor's committee felt it justifiable to ask for federal aid for the duration . Such action seemed particularly fitting since the major share of the recreation participation was either from the service men in training here or from the influx of population due to the powder plant, both federal rather than local in character. The city council, asked to outline the projects which they felt most urgent, refused to consider the application for any sum or to make constructive suggestions as to possible alternative procedure. Part of the council's opposition may have been due to purely political aversion to the WPA and a reluctance to accept the generosity of the administration, but there was evident also the erroneous idea that the entire recreation program might be carried on a purely volunteer basis. Confronted by no funds and little or no cooperation, the committee resigned.