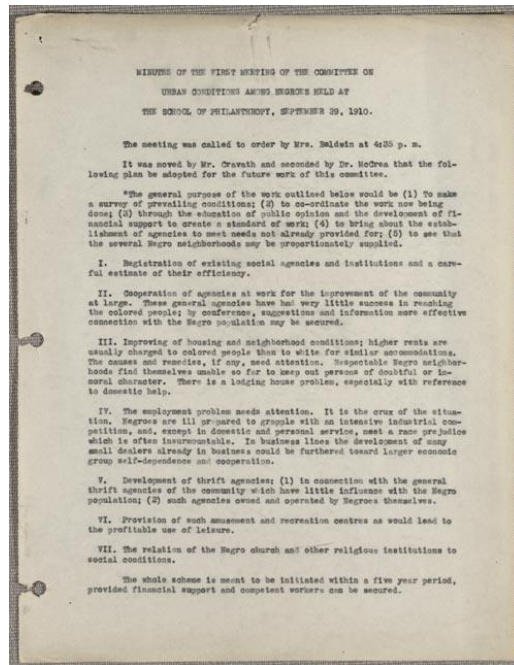


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Resource Sheet #9



<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohhtml/exhibit/aopart6b.html>

Source I

Minutes from the Committee on Urban Conditions First Meeting

After the turn of the century the distribution of the African American population shifted dramatically, as thousands migrated from the rural South to the urban North in search of better economic, social, and political opportunities. The Committee on Urban Conditions among Negroes was founded in 1910 by a coalition of progressive black and white professionals. The following year the Committee merged with two other interracial social welfare agencies in New York to form the National League on Urban Conditions among the Negroes, later known as the National Urban League. The League's principal goal was to promote the improvement of "industrial, economic, social, and spiritual conditions among Negroes" in the cities. The League helped migrants and other urban blacks to find jobs and housing and sponsored training and other programs.

Relevant portions are excerpted below...

“III. Improving of housing and neighborhood conditions; higher rents are usually charged to colored people than to white for similar accommodations. The causes and remedies, if any need attention. Respectable negro neighborhoods find themselves unable so far to keep out persons of doubtful or immoral character. There is a lodging house problem, especially with reference to domestic help.

IV. The employment problem needs attention. It is the crux of the situation. Negroes are ill prepared to grapple with intensive industrial competition, and except in domestic and personal service meet a race prejudice which is almost insurmountable...”