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A STUDY OF EMPLOYED CHILDREN
IN FAMILIES RECEIVING AID
TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN

by

Millicent Smith

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the School of Social Work of
Loyola University in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Social Work

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1954

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Purpose:

The purpose of this study has been to determine the reasons why employed children in families receiving Aid to Dependent Children leave home. Only those cases where there were children between the ages of sixteen and eighteen who were employed full time, have been studied. For purposes of comparison, those Aid to Dependent Children Assistance cases where the employed child remained at home, have also been studied.

Scope:

This study has been confined to those Aid to Dependent Children Assistance cases active with the Cook County Department of Welfare during the months of October, 1953, through February, 1954. During these months there were 12,613 cases active with the Cook County Department of Welfare; however, only two hundred of these cases were applicable to this study. These two hundred cases were divided equally, and at random, between the five study group members. Each member is reporting independently on the findings in twenty cases where the employed child has left home, and in twenty cases where the employed child has remained at home. This study

has been further limited to include only those cases where children between the ages of sixteen and eighteen were employed full time.

Source:

The information for this study has been obtained from the Aid to Dependent Children Assistance records active with the Cook County Department of Welfare during the months of October, 1953 through February, 1954. These records are found in six district offices located throughout Chicago.

Information regarding the ADC program as administered in Cook County has been obtained from the Public Assistance Code of Illinois, and the Public Assistance Manual of Policy and Procedure.

Method:

The material for this study has been gathered by five students enrolled in the Graduate School of Social Work at Loyola University.

Early in October, 1953, the group met and drafted a schedule to be used in collecting the necessary information. This schedule was tried out on a few cases shortly thereafter. Following this preliminary testing of the original schedule, the group again met, at which time several revisions in this schedule were made.

The final schedule was drawn up late in October, 1953 and was used throughout the study for recording all pertinent data.

Initially, the group had decided to visit as many of the district offices of the Cook County Department of Welfare as was possible within a specified period of time. The study was begun at the Northern District office where the group went through all of the active ADC cases (450), serviced by this district.

The first visit to this office was for the purpose of sorting out those cases which appeared eligible for this study from those which were obviously not eligible. This was done by scrutinizing the face sheet of the case record for children whose birthdates were prior to, or during 1937. Of the four hundred and fifty cases reviewed, only two hundred and twenty appeared eligible for this study. Of this number, actually only twenty-seven proved eligible for the study.

Prior to visiting the Lower North office, the second office visited, the thesis advisor of the group met with the District Office Supervisor. A new method for compiling the records to be studied was suggested by this supervisor. A memorandum giving the details regarding the kind of cases the group was interested in, was sent to each supervising caseworker. A copy of this memorandum is found in the appendix of this thesis.

With this new plan the group no longer had to review each ADC case serviced by a particular district office as had been done at the Northern Office. Those cases which appeared applicable to the study were identified for the group by the casework staff of the Cook County Department of Welfare.

This new plan was carried out at each of the offices and facilitated the study of the cases to the extent that the group was able to visit all six of the county offices, although they had initially felt that this would not be possible.

Reason for Study:

The Public Assistance Manual of Policy and Procedure states:

Older children who are still a part of the ADC family unit, that is those who have not established an independent existence away from home, are expected to contribute toward meeting the family needs. All their needs, therefore, are included in the family plan, and their total net income budgeted against the total needs of the family.¹

Many people, particularly social workers, have felt that children in families receiving Aid to Dependent Children were in one sense being forced from the home because of this policy, which requires that their total net income be budgeted against the needs of the entire family.

These children are permitted a working allowance in excess of the allowances for their basic needs. This allowance is included in the computation of the family budget.

It has been conjectured that this allowance is inadequate in the sense that neither the child nor his family experience any marked change in their standard of living. Many of these children

¹ Public Assistance Manual of Policy and Procedure, Cook County Department of Welfare.

abandoned school in order to avail themselves of full time employment with the ultimate aim of raising their standard of living.

It has been said that these children become so discouraged with having to conform to this policy regarding relative's contributions, that they leave home. It is thought that these children feel that this is the only way they may be permitted the higher standard of living they seek.

The Public Assistance Code of Illinois states, "The maintenance of the family unit shall be a principal consideration in the administration of this Code, and all public assistance policies shall be formulated and administered with the purpose of strengthening the family unit."²

It must be immediately apparent that the mere enactment of a law does not guarantee the achievement of the objective which was in the minds of the legislators when the law was enacted. Has this law regarding relative's contributions in some way weakened the family unit?

Prior to this study, the conviction that the relative's contribution plan was, in a large measure, responsible for children leaving home, had not been based upon factual information. This study has attempted to learn from the case records the actual

² Illinois Public Aid Commission, The Public Assistance Code of Illinois and Related Laws Affecting Public Aid, 1949-51, Article 1, Sec. 436-1, Paragraph 2.

reasons why these children left home. By analyzing the religious, social, economic, and educational backgrounds of these families, along with verbatim statements from the case records as to why the child left home, the study hopes to identify those factors which seem to bear upon the premature departure of youths from ADC homes.

On January 29, 1954, the Illinois Public Aid Commission issued an official bulletin which stated that the Commission had met on January 8, 1954, and approved a revised policy for budgeting the earnings of ineligible children in Aid to Dependent Children families. One of the reasons given by the Commission for passing on the liberalization of policy regarding the budgeting of earnings of ineligible children was, "... help to prevent their premature departure from the family home ..."³

With this new policy the working child's entire income is no longer budgeted. The first twenty five dollars of the employed child's take home pay and twenty per cent of the remainder of that pay is exempt from consideration in determining the family need for public assistance and the amount of the Aid to Dependent Children grant. Out of this total exemption, the employed child is expected to meet the cost of his transportation, lunches, and the additional cost of clothing and personal incidentals occasioned by

³ Illinois Public Aid Commission, Official Bulletin No. 54.8, January 29, 1954

his employment.

Under this new policy the employed child will have "spending money", the amount of which will increase as his earnings increase. The employed child generally will begin to contribute to the needs of other family members when his "take home pay" is about eighty dollars per month.

Plan of Presentation:

This study is being presented in five chapters.

Chapter two, entitled The Home, analyzes some of the factors within the home which may have influenced the child's decision to leave home, or conversely, may have influenced his decision to remain at home.

Chapter three is devoted to a discussion of some of the factors which may have been important in influencing the working child's decision to remain in his own home. A comparison of these factors has been made between the two groups of children studied.

In Chapter four, which is entitled Working Child Departed From Home, an attempt has been made to analyze some of the verbalized reasons for the child's premature departure from the family group. Some consideration is given to the ADC contribution plan and its significance as regards the child's decision to leave home.

Chapter five entitled Conclusions, attempts to sum up the reasons why the working child left home. Some suggestions for curtailing the departure of these children from their own homes

have been made along with a discussion of whether or not the findings of this study substantiate the conviction that the ADC contribution plan has been of primary importance in influencing the child's decision to leave home.

Throughout this report the children who departed from the family may be referred to as Group A, and the children who remained in the family may be referred to as Group B.

CHAPTER II

THE HOME

In the attempt to arrive at the reasons why employed children in Aid to Dependent Children assistance families leave home, it was considered expedient to analyze some of the factors within the home which may have influenced the child's decision to leave home, or conversely, may have influenced his decision to remain in his own home.

The following factors were studied:

- 1) Number of persons per room
- 2) Number of natural and half siblings of employed child
- 3) Number of years family has received public assistance
- 4) Reason for grant
- 5) Relationship of grantee to employed child
- 6) Race and Religion
- 7) Number of children employed full time remaining at home
- 8) Number of children employed full time departed from home

Each of these points will be discussed in the following paragraphs.

There are 208 persons in the families of the children in group A and they occupy sixty-seven rooms. There are sixty persons in the families of the children in group B and they occupy thirty rooms.

Of the twenty cases studied where the child left home, the average number of persons per room was 3.1, whereas, in the cases of the children who remained at home, the average number of persons per room was 2.0. These figures have particular significance when it is noted that six of the children who departed from home gave as their reason for leaving the inadequacy of their housing.

The schedule used for collecting the material for this study has no provision for determining the extent to which these children maintained contact with their families after leaving home. However, the researcher, in going through the case records for pertinent data, made an observation which appears significant enough to bear mentioning.

Despite the fact that a number of these children sought more adequate housing as soon as they began working, it is interesting to note that reasonably strong family ties were still maintained. In two of the cases studied where the child had departed from the home, due to the inadequacy of the housing, he later secured living quarters sufficient to house his entire family.

These findings tend to indicate that the children who

lacked comfort, privacy, and freedom from overcrowdedness within the home, were in one sense, forced to depart from the family unit by virtue of this deprivation. Those children whose homes were relatively adequate, remained home longest.

Number of Natural and Half
Siblings of Employed Child:

The following table illustrates the number of natural and half siblings of the employed child.

TABLE II

NATURAL AND HALF SIBLINGS OF EMPLOYED CHILD

Siblings	Group A	Group B
<u>Natural Siblings</u>		
0	4	4
1	2	2
2	4	8
3	4	3
4	3	
5	3	1
6		
7		1
8		
9		
10		
Total	49	49
<u>Half Siblings</u>		
0	13	16
1	4	1
2		
3	1	1
4		2
5		
6	2	
Total	19	12

As has been shown in the preceding table, the number of natural siblings of the employed child is the same for both of the groups studied. Because the figures are the same, they seem not to be significant as regards the purpose of this study.

The children who departed from home had one-third more half siblings than did the children who remained in the home. Although our schedule did not provide for the collecting of information regarding the effects of half siblings in the homes of the employed children, it is quite possible that the employed child had some resentment about having his money budgeted against the needs of these half brothers and sisters. This may have influenced his decision to leave home in a few cases.

The half siblings of the employed children who remained home were in each case not more than three years younger than their employed half siblings. This might mean that they had grown up together, and that there were strong affectional ties between them, the same kind of ties that normally exist between natural siblings. The half siblings of the children who departed from the family home were found to be much younger than they. Perhaps these children had not developed strong affectional ties with their half siblings and instead had some resentment toward them. If this is true it may be a factor in the child's decision to withdraw from the family unit.

Number of Years Family Has Received Assistance

The following table illustrates the number of years each one of the families studied has received public assistance.

TABLE III

NUMBER OF YEARS FAMILY HAS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

Number of Years	Group A	Group B
1		1
2	1	2
3		
4		14
5		
6		2
7		
8		
9		1
10		
11	4	
12	10	
13		
14	3	
15	2	
Total	20	20

In the twenty cases where the child left home, the average number of years the family had been in receipt of Public Assistance was twelve. In the cases where the child had remained in the home the average number of years the family had received Public Assistance was four. This eight year difference appears significant. Perhaps, coupled with various other verbalized reasons for leaving home, these children wanted to get away from a

mere subsistence standard of living.

Reason for Grant:

The various reasons for granting Public Assistance to the forty families concerned in this report are illustrated in the following table.

TABLE IV
REASON FOR GRANT

Reason for Grant	Group A	Group B
Father Deceased	6	5
Mother Deceased		
Both Parents Deceased		2
Father Deserted	12	8
Father Incapacitated		3
Parents Separated	1	1
Parents Divorced		1
Mother Unmarried	1	
Total	20	20

The foregoing table has illustrated the various reasons for granting assistance to the forty families concerned in this study. These reasons, by themselves, do not appear significant in

terms of the purpose of this study as there is little variation in these reasons between the two groups studied. However, when the reasons for the grant are related to the relationship of the grantee to the working child, an interesting factor is uncovered.

Relationship of Grantee to Child:

In three cases where the working child remained in the home, the relationship of the grantee to the working child was that of father. As has been shown in Table IX, these families were granted assistance on the basis of the physical incapacity of the father. In two cases where the working child remained home, both parents were deceased, and the relationship of the working child to the grantee was that of grandchild.

In no case was the family of a departed working child receiving assistance on the basis of the physical incapacity of the father or the death of both parents.

The schedule used for compiling the data for this study did not provide for collecting data regarding the effects, if any, of the presence or absence of the father or father person in the home. However, in collecting data specifically outlined in the schedule, it was necessary to go through a myriad of information with which the researchers were not directly concerned. The frequency with which the same factors occurred in different families of a single group, along with the absence of these factors in the families of those children who had departed from the home, caused this writer to feel that they were significant enough to record

apart from the schedule.

It has already been stated in the interpretation of the table which related to the reasons for the grant, that there were three fathers in the homes of the children who remained with the family. There were also father persons, in the form of grandfather, in the homes of the children in this group. In going through the case records it was noted that four of the children who remained in the home had an uncle who visited in the home frequently, and whom they respected in a manner similar to the kind of respect a child might have for his father. In another case where the parents were separated, the father maintained a good relationship with the children, a cordial relationship with the mother, and contributed to the support of the family on a regular basis.

The presence of the father or father person in the home of the children who remained with the family served to emphasize the absence of a father or father person in the homes of the children who departed from the family. These findings suggest that the fathers' presence in the home was a stabilizing influence and may very well have been a factor partially responsible for keeping the child in his own home.

Race and Religion:

Thirty-nine of the forty children are Negroes and are of Protestant faith. The remaining child is white and of Catholic faith. Due to the preponderance of one race and one religion, it

was not feasible to attempt an analysis of the reasons why some of the working children left home in terms of racial and religious differences.

Sex of Children:

Nine of the children in group A were male and eleven children in this same group are female. Thirteen of the children in group B are male and seven of the children in this same group are female. These findings suggest that more female working children leave home than do male working children. Because this is a small study and because the number of girls who departed from home does not greatly exceed the number of boys who departed from home, it is the opinion of the writer that these findings do not necessarily present a valid picture of the actual situation.

Fully Employed Siblings:

The following table illustrates the number of children in each of the families studied who were employed full time, and either departed from the family or remained with the family.

The total number of employed siblings of the children in group A who remained at home is one. The total number of employed siblings of the children in group B, who remained home, is twenty-nine. Twenty-three siblings of the children in group A departed from home and twelve of the siblings of the children in group B departed from home.

The number of siblings who departed from home exceeds the number of siblings who remained with the family unit by one-

seventh. It is interesting to note that in the families of the children in group B, just slightly less than half as many children departed from the family as remained with the family.

TABLE V
FULLY EMPLOYED SIBLINGS

Siblings Remaining Home	Group A	Group B
0	19	
1	1	14
2		3
3		3
Total	20	20
Siblings Departed from Home		
0		13
1	17	2
2	3	5
3		
Total	20	20

Summary:

The findings of this small study seem to suggest that the factors within the home which may have helped to strengthen the family unit and prevent the working child's premature departure from the family are, 1) freedom from overcrowdedness, 2) fewer half siblings, 3) shorter relief receiving period, and 4) the presence of a father or father person in the home.

Where the working child lacked comfort, privacy, and freedom from overcrowdedness within the home, he departed pre-

maturely from the family group. When the child's home was relatively adequate from the standpoint of comfort, privacy, etc., it appears that he tended to remain with the family unit.

The children in group A, those who departed from home had one-third more half siblings than did the children in group B, those who remained home. It is quite possible that the child in group A had some resentment about having his money budgeted against the needs of these half siblings. This may have influenced his decision to leave home in a few cases.

The families of the children in group A had been in receipt of public assistance for an average of twelve years, or three times the length of time the families of the children in group B had received assistance. It does not seem unreasonable to conjecture that coupled with various verbalized reasons for leaving home, the children in group A wanted to get away from the mere subsistence standard of living they had known for so long.

The presence of the father or father person in the homes of the children in group B served to emphasize the absence of a father or father person in the homes of the children in group A. These findings suggest that the fathers' presence in the home was a stabilizing influence, and may have been a factor partially responsible for keeping the child in his own home.

CHAPTER III

WORKING CHILD AT HOME COMPARED WITH DEPARTED WORKING CHILD

Although the primary focus in this study has been on the children who departed from home, some very interesting and significant factors have been uncovered in the study of the control group, those children who remained home.

Average Age of Mother:

A comparison of the ages of the mothers of both groups appears especially significant. The following table presents this comparison.

TABLE VI
AVERAGE AGE OF MOTHER

Age of Mother	Group A	Group B
30-35	13	1
36-40	5	4
41-45	2	2
46-50		5
51-55		6
55+		2
Total	20	20

In the twenty cases where the child remained in the home the average age of mother or grantee was forty-seven. Significantly, this was not true of the mothers of the children who departed from home. Their average age was thirty-four, twelve years younger than the average age of the mothers of children who remained at home.

These findings suggest that the older mother may have been more mature. It does not seem unreasonable to assume that she was also more mature emotionally. An emotionally mature mother is likely to have satisfying relationships with her children. It is felt that this maturity in the mother gives her the capacity to form more satisfying relationships with her children and, that this has been conducive to the child's remaining at home.

Present Age of Employed Child:

The following table illustrates the present ages of the children in groups A and B.

TABLE VII
PRESENT AGE OF EMPLOYED CHILD

Present Age of Child	Group A	Group B
16-18	6	14
19-21	7	5
22-24	3	1
25-27	3	
27-29	1	
Total	20	20

The present average age of the child in group A is 20.8. The present average age of the child in group B is 17. The child in group A departed from home during the time he was between the ages of sixteen and eighteen or between three and five years ago. This may be significant when it is remembered that five years ago job opportunities were better and salaries were probably higher than they are today. The child in group B is just seventeen years old and in all probability has not been employed much longer than one year. Because the child in group A became employed during an era when employers were offering larger salaries than they are today, this may have been a factor in the child's decision to leave home. With a larger salary he was better able to support himself away from home.

School Grade Completed:

The following table illustrates the number of school grades completed by the children concerned in this study.

TABLE VIII
SCHOOL GRADES COMPLETED

School Grade	Group A	Group B
Sixth		1
Seventh	3	
Eighth	2	2
Ninth	5	8
Tenth	4	2
Eleventh	2	3
Twelfth	4	4
Total	20	20

There is only a slight degree of variance in the number of school grades completed by the children in group A, those who departed from home, and the children in group B, those who remained in the home. The averages reveal that the children in group B completed 9.8 grades. The children in group A completed 9.6 grades.

In going through the case records of the families concerned in this study, the writer made notations from the records of facts which appeared significant but which were not asked for on the schedule.

Of the twenty cases of the children in group B, eleven were currently enrolled in evening schools of one type or another. Each of these children indicated a desire to complete their education in order that they might qualify for better paying positions. With the additional income they could hope to raise their standard of living. This study did not establish that any of the children in group A were enrolled in similar schools.

Average Number of Months Child Employed:

The following table illustrates the average number of months the child in group B has been employed. The schedule did not provide for collecting information on the number of months the child in group A had been employed, hence no comparisons have been made between the two groups. This child has been employed for an average of 8.9 months.

TABLE IX

AVERAGE NUMBER OF MONTHS CHILD EMPLOYED

<u>Number of Months Child Employed</u>	<u>Number of Children</u>
Six.....	2
Seven.....	3
Eight.....	7
Nine.....	8
Total	20

Average Income:

The average income of the working child who remained in the home amounted to \$123.60 per month. The average income of the working child who departed from home amounted to \$183.25 per month. This is illustrated in the following table.

TABLE X

AVERAGE INCOME

Income	Group A	Group B
0-101	1	4
101-125	1	2
126-150	3	3
151-175	4	6
176-200	3	3
201-260	8	2
Total	20	20

The findings of this small study reveal that the employed child in group A earns close to sixty dollars more per month than does the employed child in group B. This higher income may have been an inducement for the employed child in group A to leave home in that he was better able to support himself away from home than was the child in group B.

Amount of Income Contributed:

It was difficult to ascertain the exact amount of money each child contributed toward the family budget because this information was often not in the case record. At the time this study was begun, the total income of the employed child was being budgeted by the County Department of Welfare. These earnings were budgeted against the basic needs of the entire family. This family plan type budget considered the additional needs of the child, created by his employment.

As far as could be ascertained, the children who remained in the home were generally not opposed to having their earnings budgeted in the manner stipulated by the County Department of Welfare. However, three mothers indicated that the children contributed what they considered a fair amount for room and board. These mothers stated that they would be content with this amount despite the fact that it meant a deficit in the family budget. One child had been a patient in a mental institution. He remained in the home but refused to make any contribution. The family feared his reaction should he become antagonized, and hence, did

not pressure him to contribute.

Summary:

In comparing the children in group B with the children in group A, several interesting factors were uncovered which may have influenced the decision of the employed child in group A to leave home.

1. In comparing the average age of the mother of the child in group B with the average age of the mother of the child in group A, the study revealed that the mother of the child in group B is twelve years older than the mother of the child in group A. It was conjectured that along with being more mature chronologically, this mother may also have been more mature emotionally than the mother of the child in group A. Because emotional maturity gives the mother the capacity to form more satisfying relationships with her children, it was felt that this may have been a factor in the decision of the children in group B to remain in their own homes.

2. The present average age of the employed child in group A is 20.8, while the present average age of the employed child in group B is just seventeen. The child in group A became employed between three and five years ago while the child in group B has been employed for approximately one year. Recognizing that job opportunities were better five years ago than they are today or were last year, it was assumed that five years ago the average worker had also the opportunity of securing a better pay-

ing position than he might be able to secure today. This may have been a factor in the child's decision to leave home as he was able to earn an adequate salary and thus better able to maintain himself away from home.

3. Although the average number of school grades completed by the children in both group A and group B were compared, there was only a slight degree of variance in this number and hence this factor did not appear significant as regards the purpose of this study.

4. This study has revealed that the child in group A earns approximately sixty dollars more per month than does the child in group B. It was felt that this higher income may have been an inducement to the child in group A to leave home as he was financially able to support himself away from home.

CHAPTER IV

WORKING CHILD DEPARTED FROM HOME

In the preceding chapters about the home and the working child who remained in the home, it has been stated that the absence or degree of variance of certain positive factors within the home, tend to render the home less stable than these homes where these influences have great prominence.

The absence of these factors has suggested that they are totally, or in part, responsible for the child's premature departure from the family.

Contribution Plan:

For a long time, many people, particularly those engaged in Public Assistance work, have felt that the Aid to Dependent Children contribution plan was so restrictive that it, in a sense, forced children to withdraw from the home prematurely. Apparently, the Illinois Public Aid Commission felt that some consideration should be given to this theory. On January 8, 1954, the Commission met and revised the Aid to Dependent Children policy regarding the budgeting of income of employed children. One of the reasons given for this revision was, "...help to prevent

their premature departure from the home...."⁴

An analysis of the reasons given by these children for leaving home tends, within reasonable limits, to indicate that the child's primary reason for leaving home has not been due to an objection to the contribution plan. Moreover, such things as parental conflict, inadequacy of housing, poor emotional atmosphere within the family unit, along with natural reasons for leaving, such as marriage and military service, are seen as being primary factors in influencing the child's decision to leave home.

The following table illustrates the verbalized reasons given by the child in Group A for leaving home.

TABLE XI

REASONS FOR LEAVING HOME

<u>Reason for Leaving</u>	<u>Departed Child</u>
Marriage.....	3
Military Service.....	2
Objection to Contribution Plan.....	4
Inadequate Housing.....	4
Parental Conflict.....	6
Incarceration.....	1
Total	20

4 Ibid

Reasons for Objection to
Contribution Plan:

The four children who objected to the contribution plan gave reasons for their desire to budget their own money in the way they deemed best. These reasons were, "I want to save money to buy a car...", "I want to use my money to buy some nice clothes...", "I don't want anyone telling me how to spend my money...", and, "I need my money to take my girl out. We are going to get married"

Other Reasons For Leaving Home:

In the remaining sixteen cases, three children departed from the home when they were married. Two children left to answer a call to military service. The following quotes from the case records, substantiate that four of the children concerned in this study who departed from the home, did so because of the inadequacy of their housing.

"She planned to get married and our house was so crowded she couldn't entertain her friend here. She decided to move to a place where she could entertain."

"She wanted to go to school at night and the house was so crowded she had no place to study, so she moved."

"He said he didn't have any privacy. He got mad because he had to get dressed in the same room with his sisters, so he said he was going someplace where he could have a room to himself."

"She wanted a place to entertain her friends. She said our house was too small, so she moved."

Six children departed from the home because of parental conflict, as is evidenced by the following quotes from the case records.

"She got mad when I reprimanded her for staying out late and going out with undesirable people, so she moved. I told her that she could not do those things in my house."

"He started running with a bunch who drink, stay up late and go to wild parties. I told him he could not bring that bunch to my house, so he left."

"After he started working he didn't want to help at all around the house. I told him if he couldn't help with the work here at home, he could just move. He got mad at me for this and left."

"After he started working he wanted to bring girls to the house at all hours of the night. I told him I had a good Christian home and if this was the kind of life he wanted to live, he had best live it somewhere else, so he moved."

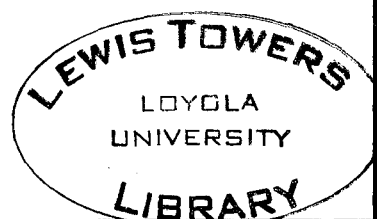
"She got mad because I questioned her about staying out late at night. She said she was not going to let anybody boss her as long as she was making her own money, so she left."

"She said she did not want to be confined to this house. She wants to keep late hours and do what she wants to do, so she left."

The remaining child was forced from the home by virtue of his incarceration.

Summary:

An analysis of the reasons given by the children in Group A for leaving home, tends within reasonable limits, to indicate that the child's primary reason for leaving home has not been due to an objection to the contribution plan. Less than one-fourth of these children objected to the contribution plan. In the remaining sixteen cases three children departed from home when they were married, two left to answer a call to military service, four departed due to the inadequacy of their housing, one child was incarcerated, and six children left because of parental conflict.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study has been to determine the reasons why employed children in families receiving Aid to Dependent Children leave home. The findings of the study can be summarized as follows:

1. Five of the children in Group A left home for quite natural reasons, marriage and military service.
2. Actual quotes from the case records, appearing in the preceding chapter establish that four of the children concerned in this study departed from the home because of overcrowded living conditions. Two of these children had been living in two rooms along with thirteen other people. Obviously this was neither adequate nor comfortable.
3. Six of the children in Group A departed from the family home because of parental conflict. The child in Group A has a much younger mother than does the child in Group B. The average age of the departed working child's mother is thirty-four. This means that she was somewhere between the ages of sixteen and eighteen at the time the child was born. It is thought that this young

mother may not have been sufficiently mature to give of herself to her child. This may have caused some resentment on the child's part which led to parental conflict in adolescence.

4. Less than one-fourth of the children in Group A, those children who departed from home, gave as their reason for leaving their objection to the contribution plan.

The verbalized reasons given for leaving home, by those children who departed from the family unit, have been marriage, military service, overcrowdedness of the home, and parental conflict. Along with these verbalized reasons, other factors have been seen as being conducive to the child's premature departure from the family unit.

5. This study has shown that not one of the children in Group A has a father or father person in the home. This is in direct contrast to the employed children in Group B. There were seven fathers in the homes of the children who remained with the family. This finding tends to suggest that the presence of these fathers in the home lent a stabilizing influence to the home which resulted in the child remaining with the family.

6. This study suggests that the departed working child earns an average of \$59.65 per month more than does the working child who remained home. This may be seen as being conducive to his leaving home in that he was much better able to support himself than was the working child who remained in the home.

The information in this report is based on the findings of a very small sample; however, from this study it appears that the majority of employed children in Aid to Dependent Children assistance families, do not leave home because they object to having their incomes budgeted in the manner prescribed by the Cook County Department of Welfare.

The findings of this small study tend to establish that poor familial relationships and inadequate housing are primarily responsible for the child's premature departure from the family unit. It would not seem, therefore, that a change in the contribution plan would decrease the number of children who leave home. Some manipulation of the environment, along with help to the family in the way of strengthening familial relationships might well serve to help to prevent the child's premature departure from the family unit.

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Illinois Public Aid Commission, Official Bulletin, Chicago, Illinois, 1954.

APPENDIX I

MEMORANDUM TO SUPERVISING CASEWORKERS AT THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF WELFARE REGARDING THE NEW METHOD FOR COMPILING CASE RECORDS TO
BE USED IN THIS STUDY:

To: Supervising Caseworkers
Re: Study by Loyola University
School of Social Work

The attached forms are to be completed by workers in your unit.
These forms are being made as part of a study which Loyola University
School of Social Work is making.

The need for such a study came about because of the concern over
statements which have been made to the effect that working children
in ADC families were leaving the home as a result of agency policy
relating to allowances for working children.

The study is interested in those cases in which there is a child
16 years of age or over, employed full-time who,

- 1) Either resides in the home;
- 2) Or, who departed from home for any reason, at any period
during the time the family was in receipt of ADC.

Some workers will immediately know if they have such cases in their
caseload.

If the worker does not know immediately, the following method is
recommended:

- a.) Consult the Statistical Cards. Pick out those in
which the ADC grantee is 30 years of age or over.
(Grantee is born prior to January 1, 1923)
- b.) The worker may know whether some of these cases have
such children as described above.
- c.) Consult the case record for the remainder.

In case of any doubt-e.g. whether the child is fully employed,

whether he falls within the scope of this study--list the name and the case number in column three.

If any cases listed on the form are on the desk of the worker, they should be sent to the Supervising Caseworker, with the form, in order that they may be available for reading by Loyola University students.

**** Supervisor

I

16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER,
FULLY EMPLOYED AND RESIDING
AT HOME

II

16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER,
FULLY EMPLOYED, WHO DEPARTED
FROM HOME FOR ANY REASON, AT
ANY TIME WHILE FAMILY WAS IN
RECEIPT OF ADC

III

DOUBTFUL CASES

APPENDIX II

SCHEDULE

I. CASE INFORMATION

- A. Researcher: _____
B. District Office _____
 1. Lower North 4. South Central
 2. Midwest 5. Southern
 3. Northern 6. Western
C. Case Number: _____
D. Number of schedules: _____

II. THE HOME

- E. Birthdate of grantee: _____
F. Relationship of employed child to homemaker:
 1. Son 5. Grandson
 2. Daughter 6. Granddaughter
 3. Nephew 7. Other
 4. Niece
G. Race: 1. White 2. Negro 3. Other 4. Not recorded _____
H. Religion: 1. Catholic 2. Protestant 3. Jewish 4. Other _____
I. Reason for grant:
 1. Father deceased 6. Mother incapacitated
 2. Mother deceased 7. Parents separated
 3. Father deserted 8. Parents divorced
 4. Mother deserted 9. Mother unmarried
 5. Father incapacitated 10. Other
J. Number of natural siblings (under 18, not fully employed) of employed child: _____
K. Number of half siblings (under 18, not fully employed) of employed child: _____
L. Number of children employed full time:
 1. Remaining home
 2. Departed from home
M. Current total ADC grant: _____
N. How long receiving ADC (in years) _____
O. Number of people in home: _____ No. of rooms _____

P. Type of home:

1. Single unit _____ 2. 2-4-unit _____ 3. Apt. House (5 or more) _____
4. Public housing project _____ 5. Other _____

III. WORKING CHILD IN HOME

Q. Age _____

R. Number of school grades completed _____

S. Length of full time employment (in months) _____

T. Earnings per month _____

U. Amount of earnings contributed to family _____ Not recorded _____

IV. DEPARTED WORKING CHILD

V. Age _____

W. Age at time of departure _____

X. Number of school grades completed _____

Y. How long did he contribute to family prior to departure _____

Z. Earnings at time of departure _____

AA. Amount of earnings contributed to family at time of departure _____

BB. Is he contributing now as a legally responsible relative _____

CC. Reason stated in case record for departure from family:

1. Not recorded
2. Marriage
3. Moved in with relatives
4. Objected to contribution plan
5. Military service
6. Deserted
7. Other

DD. Reason for objection to contribution plan (quote from records) _____

EE. Was contribution plan discussed with child? Yes _____ No _____

FF. By whom: 1. homemaker _____ 2. Caseworker _____ 3. Both _____