

most obvious objections to the policy followed by the agency is that it tends to discourage local efforts toward recovery. In some sections, notably the South, the prevalence of Federal relief funds keeps men and women away from jobs they might otherwise fill. Low wages are scorned for the ease of life on the dole.

Not only does FERA compete with agriculture and industry for labor, but far too often the Federal doles are independent of any definite employment machinery, which must be a primary part of all efficient relief systems. This is coupled with the present lack of organization whereby, in the long route from Washington to the community, some of the money intended for the unemployment falls, through the influence of politicians and downright graft, to reach its objective.

While the President is keenly aware of the need for relief of the unemployed, he is not oblivious to chiselers. He would not toss the entire burden of relief back in the laps of the municipalities whence the Federal Government so chivalrously borrowed it. But he shows a realistic understanding of the eagerness of local communities to let Washington do more than its share. It is encouraging to have the Chief Executive emphasize the responsibility of cities and States, especially as it may signify the beginning of a more efficient, as well as a more economical, relief system.

Better Late Than Never.

"The primary responsibility for community needs rests upon the community itself."

These words were the gist of President Roosevelt's brief address yesterday to leaders in the Community Chest movement gathered at the White House. They are significant because they emphasize a fundamental if neglected aspect of the distressing problem of relief.

As the President outlined the problem, it begins first in the smaller community. When these initial resources are no longer sufficient to take care of the needy it becomes a duty of the State to supplement community expenditures. And when the State no longer can cope with the situation, Federal aid must be given. It is only then that "the Federal Government has any duty to add its resources to the common cause."

Officials of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration should be the first to give heed to the President's address. One of the