

better playground facilities and succeeded in getting the boys into the work, with the result, according to police records, of an 85% drop in delinquency cases.

When project workers opened their campaign in Miles Park, a municipal recreation center of Huntington Park, in July, 1933, the average daily attendance was around 35 small children. By the first week of September of the same year their activities resulted in an increased daily attendance averaging 600 boys and girls of all ages, not to mention the fact that approximately 250 men were cavorting daily in baseball, horse-shoes, chess and other activities.

Aside from this statistical array, there is a higher and a more tangible record of accomplishment. It concerns itself with the raising of community and family morale, a strengthening of family ties through mutual interests and activities, and a brighter and more hopeful outlook upon life. All of these problems related definitely to an emergency of near crisis proportions. So well was the work done that the real crisis was swiftly passed. Then followed the phase of reconstruction requiring a continuing though diminishing service. To continue the program, essentially an emergency one, beyond this phase as a function and responsibility of Federal government, even as an unemployment relief expedient, has raised the question in many places as to the proper time for returning the responsibility to the local governmental agencies and political subdivisions where it normally rests. Beyond its fulfilling the purpose for which it was created, it has been pointed out that the undue prolongation as a Federal administration responsibility of even so splendid a service as this has proven to be, will lead to failure on the part of local government to conduct one of its most important and valuable functions - one of which it should be particularly jealous - organized recreation.