

Remedies for the Unemployment Problem.

The wide ramifications of the unemployment problem have now been indicated; but whatever the causes, the problem at any moment manifests itself as the unemployment existing in particular communities. And given that problem, the immediate questions are: what are the steps which, in the light of this analysis, can be adequate to deal with problems of unemployment? What guidance does this offer for approving or discriminating the remedies that have been and are being suggested? What measures should we endeavor to fashion and operate? ^PIt is possible to offer both a few general and a few specific considerations. At the risk of being misunderstood, I would say that there is likely to be too much attention ~~given~~ to the problem of unemployment which is directly influenced by the present abnormal depression; I mean that, all-important as is the alleviation of the present distress, it is possible that it may detract from the considerations of longer-sighted policies.

There is a three-fold distinction which, even if it is difficult to maintain in practice, should at least be always kept in mind. That is the distinction between: (1) palliative or emergency measures, usually involving the distribution of relief and emergency employment provision; (2) remedial or constructive measures, usually requiring a permanent basis, which have among their aims assurance against complete cessation of income and the social disasters this entails, the preservation of the industrial ability of the worker, and organized assistance in securing reabsorption into industry; (3) preventive measures designed to remove the cause of unemployment by removing fluctuations, or stabilizing employment in particular industries, or in industry as a whole.