



◀⑤ his job application to the National Labor Relations Board was being considered—and from then on, we existed, in penury but with hope, that an appointment would soon come through.

By then it was obvious that my office job wasn't earning us enough to cover our expenses. Finding that war work paid higher wages, I took a job at Carnegie Illinois Steel in South Chicago. Despite the asphyxiation-level of hydrogen sulphide (the "rotten-eggs" odor) that inundated the steel mills, the pay was generous. At first I was assigned a job in a labor crew, shoveling sand out of box cars (at 63 cents an hour), one of a contingent of women being hired at the mill. (In World War I, black men finally broke the job barrier in the steel industry; in World War II, the same thing happened for females, white or black.) I was the only Anglo among a crew of 15 Hispanic women sand-shovelers but eventually, possibly because of my conspicuous presence, someone decided that I might be better used elsewhere. I was promoted to work in the chemistry lab and paid \$1.03/hr.

Concord House in 1944 came under heavy community censure because of our nondiscriminatory admission policy. The local Chamber of Commerce was unremitting in castigating us for lowering property values by admitting nonCaucasian to live there.

We also were seen as a subversive element because of the large number of Japanese-Americans who lived in the House. Many apparently had heard about Concord House while still in internment camps and, after they were released, came to live with us for a while before making more permanent plans elsewhere.

In late summer of that year, Julius was notified that he was accepted as an entry-level professional field examiner for the NLRB (at the munificent salary of \$2,000 per annum) and we left the campus in August, 1944, for his government assignment in Minneapolis, Minnesota. **HP**

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