



100 years of serving our nation's children and families

The Story of the Children's Bureau, The Early Years: 1912-1937

Centennial Historical Webinar Series

April 11, 2012

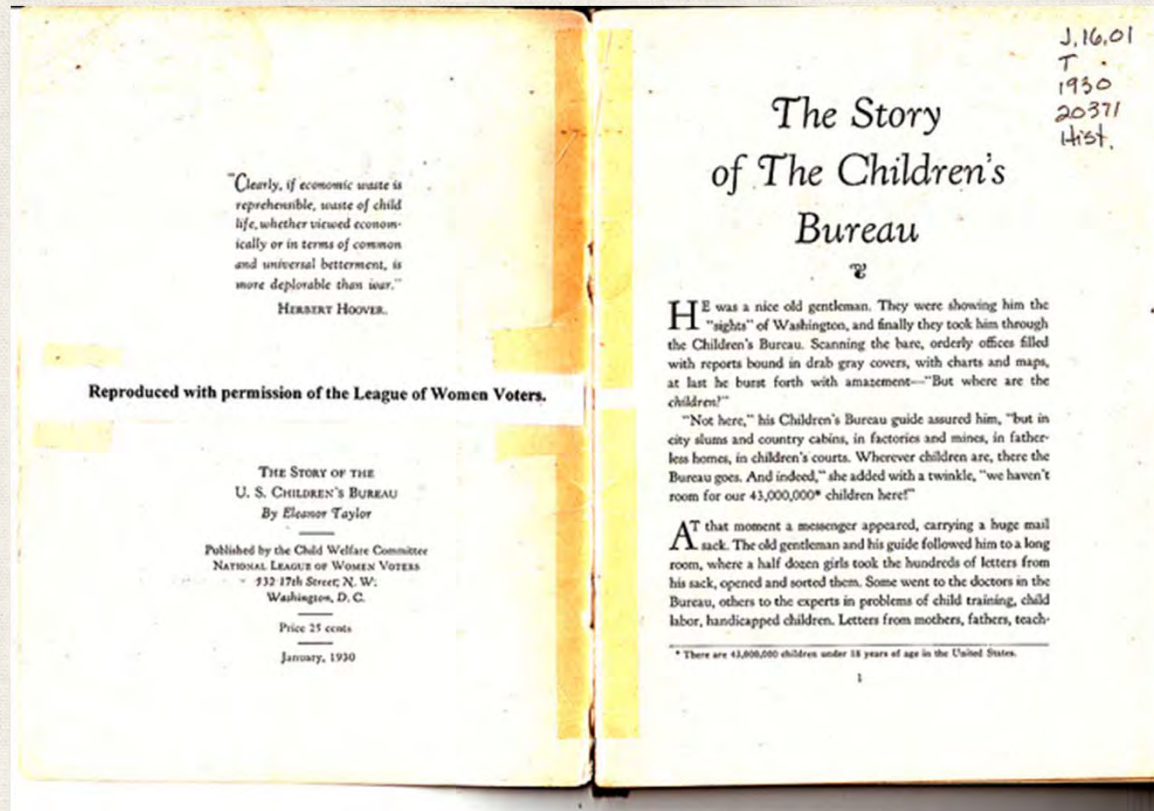
For audio, please dial 877-917-4913, access code 2593811
All lines will be muted until the end of the presentation.



Agenda

- America's Conscience: The Progressive Era
- Birth of the Children's Bureau
- Saving Babies and Restoring Childhood
- Mother's Pensions, Delinquency & Dependency
- The Great Depression & Social Security
- Discussion & Conclusion





The Story of the Children's Bureau, The Early Years: 1912-1937



Three generations of an affluent family, ca. 1880

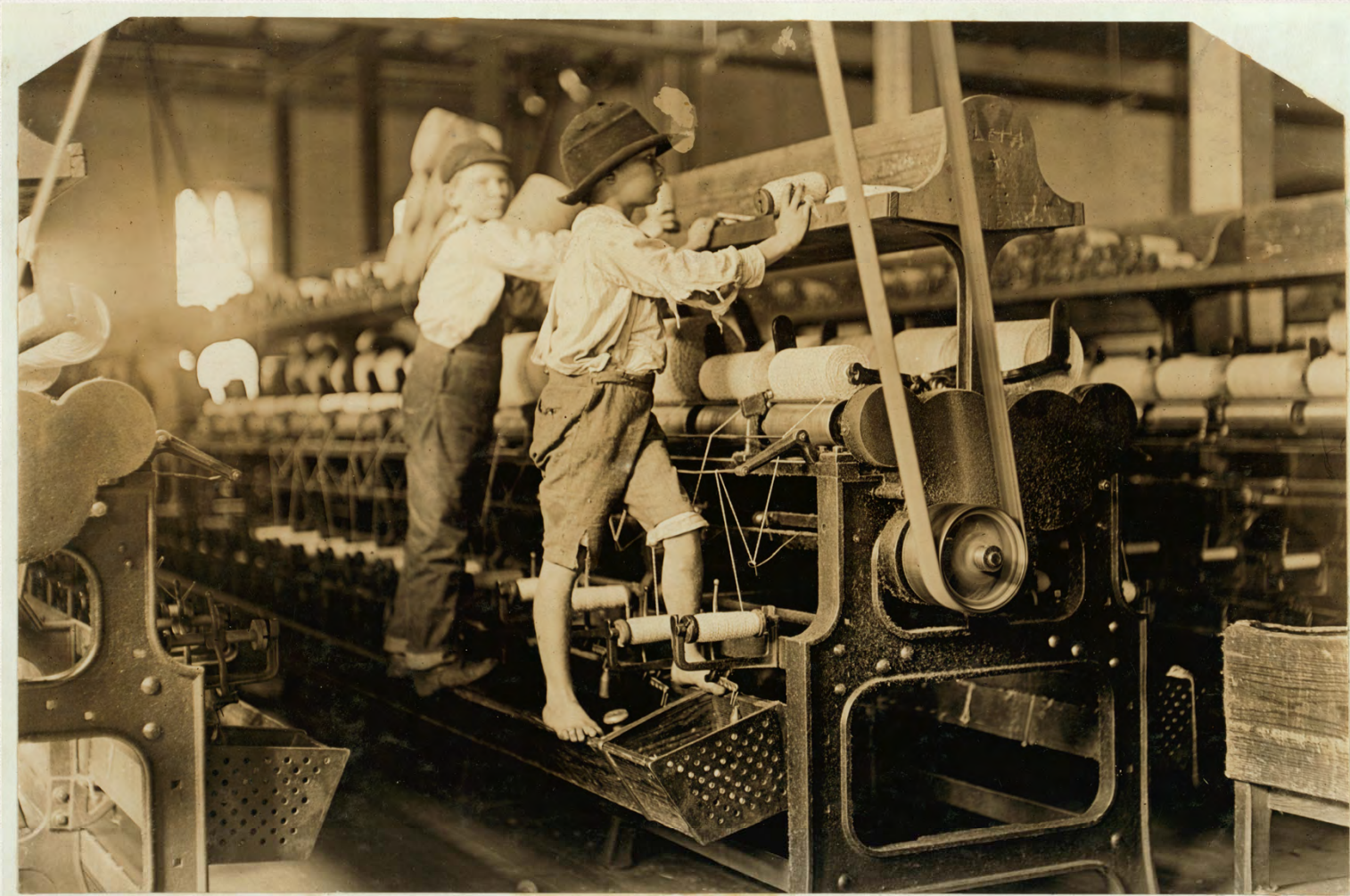
THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



Mother and children making flowers to sell, ca. 1911



Working class family, ca. 1911



Boys working in a textile mill, ca. 1909



Immigrant children play on a school roof deck, ca. 1909



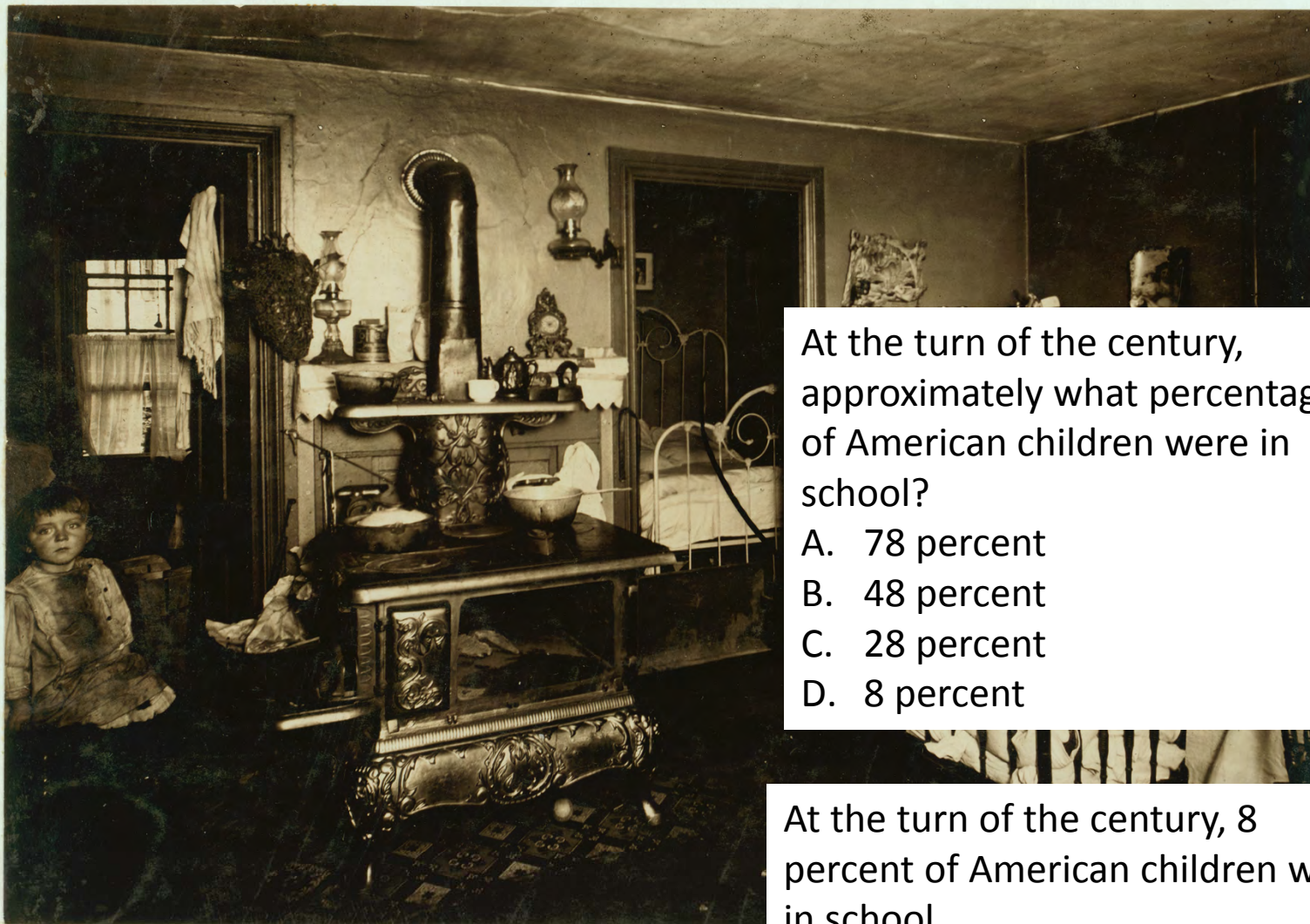
16-year old messenger and newsboy, ca. 1913



Tobacco pickers, ca. 1917



Stringers and leaf girls for the American Sumatra Tobacco Company, ca. 1917



At the turn of the century, approximately what percentage of American children were in school?

- A. 78 percent
- B. 48 percent
- C. 28 percent
- D. 8 percent

At the turn of the century, 8 percent of American children were in school.

Eight cotton mill workers share three small rooms, ca. 1912



Family tenement, ca. 1912



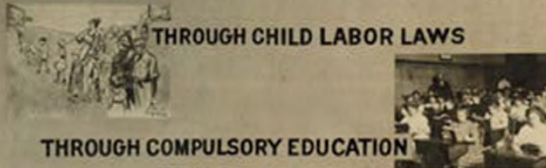
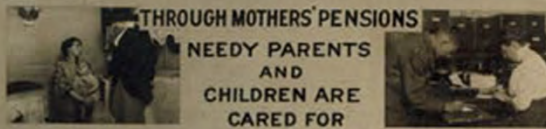
Boys picking over garbage at the city dump, ca. 1909



Children going west in search of new families, ca. 1910



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT TRY TO PROTECT CHILDHOOD



THROUGH COMPULSORY EDUCATION

THROUGH BETTER

HOMES

HEALTH

PLAY



THROUGH WORK PERMITS

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

AND



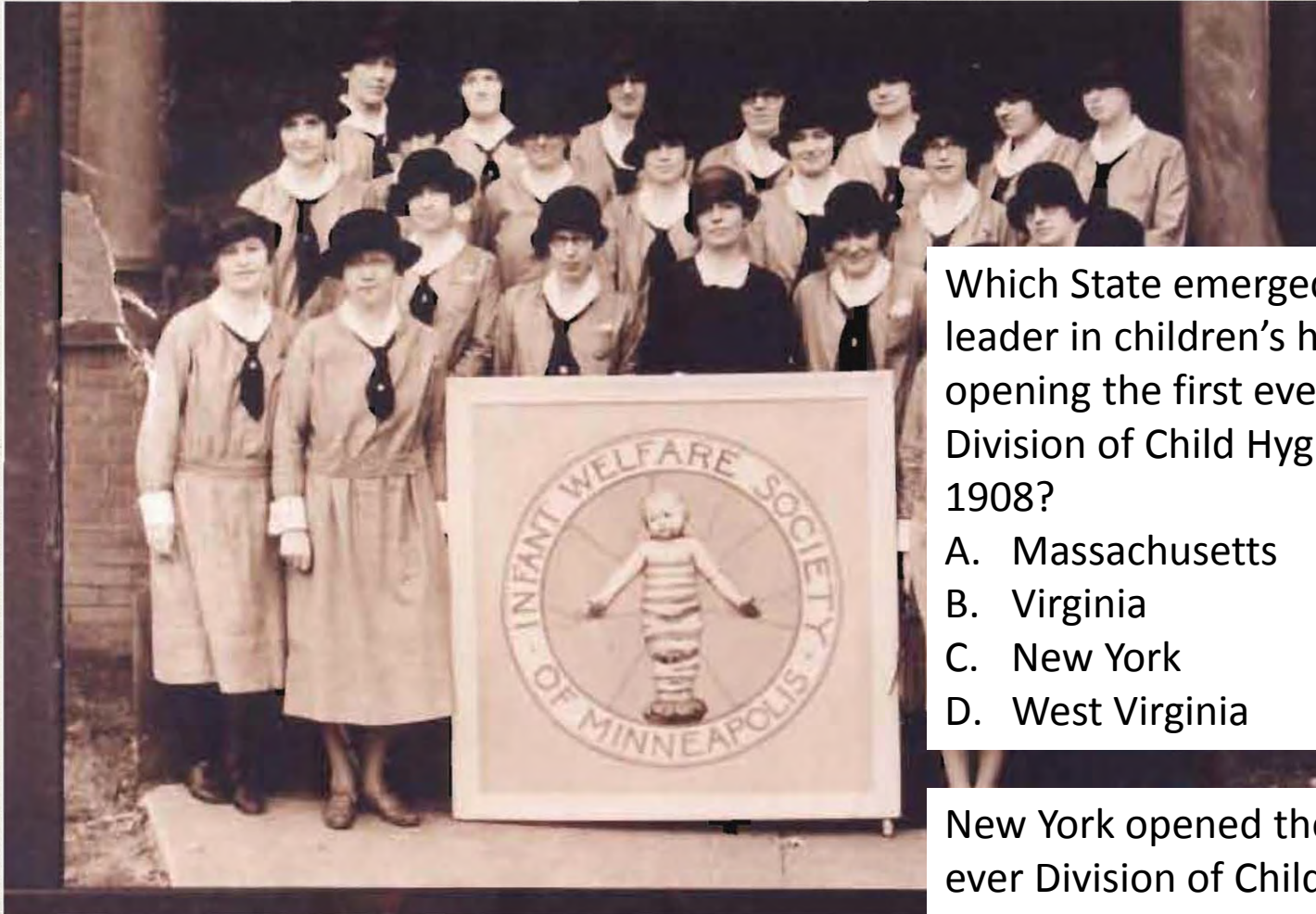
THROUGH
INSPECTION

AND



CONTINUATION SCHOOLS

The Industrial Revolution



Which State emerged as a leader in children's health, opening the first ever Division of Child Hygiene in 1908?

- A. Massachusetts
- B. Virginia
- C. New York
- D. West Virginia

New York opened the first ever Division of Child Hygiene in 1908.

Infant Welfare Society of Minneapolis, ca. 1925

*The Bulletin
of the University of
Minnesota*

*Social and Civic Work
Announcement of Training Course for
1917-1918*



Jane Addams
ca. 1913





Hull House ca. 1900

Julia Lathrop, Grace
Abbott and Mary
McDowell – all former
Hull House residents
ca. 1913





Florence Kelley



Lillian Wald



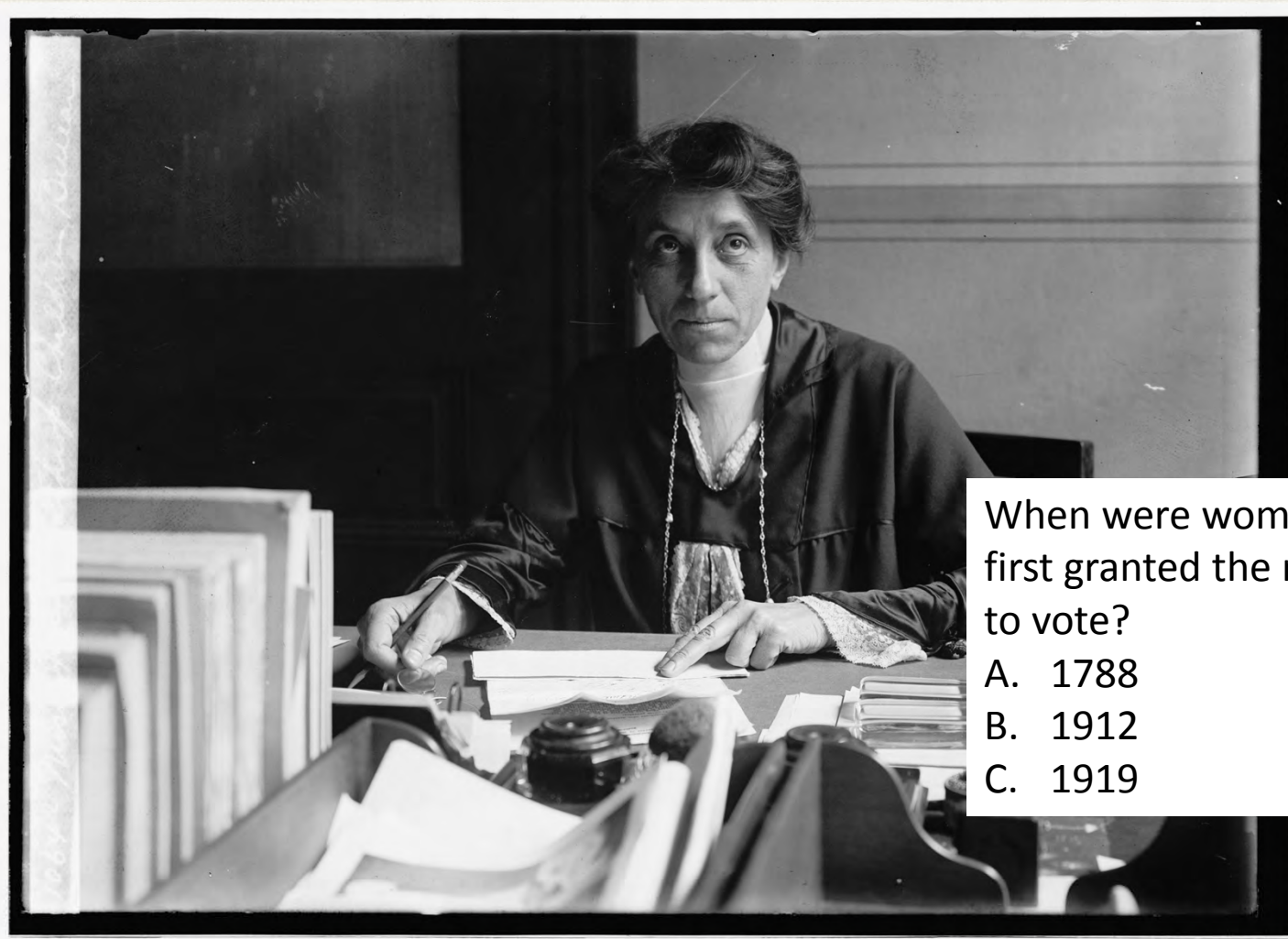
Knitting class at the Henry Street Settlement ca. 1910



President Theodore Roosevelt ca. 1901



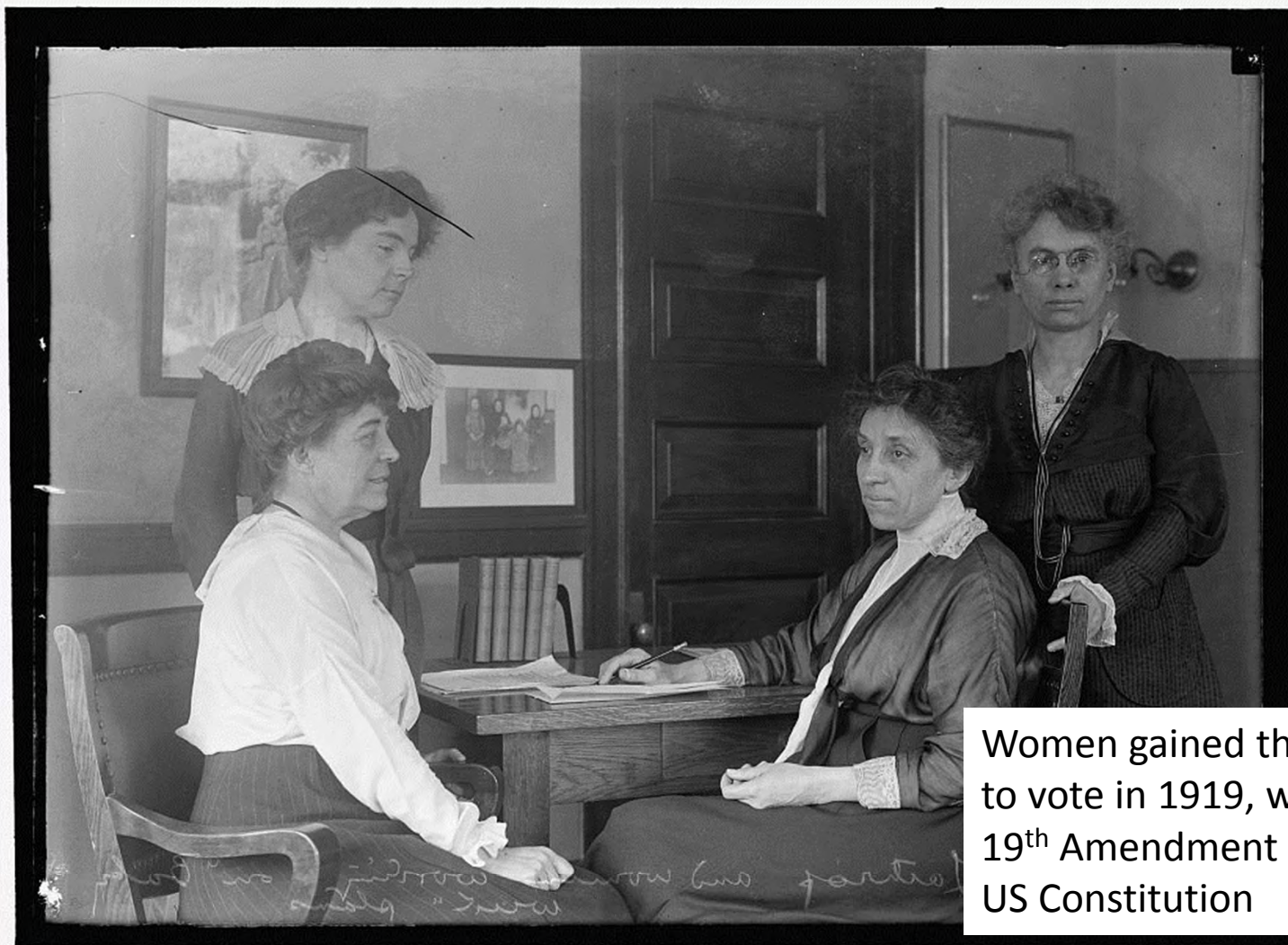
Newsboys around the U.S. Capitol



When were women first granted the right to vote?

- A. 1788
- B. 1912
- C. 1919

Julia Lathrop, first Chief of the Children's Bureau



Women gained the right to vote in 1919, with the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution

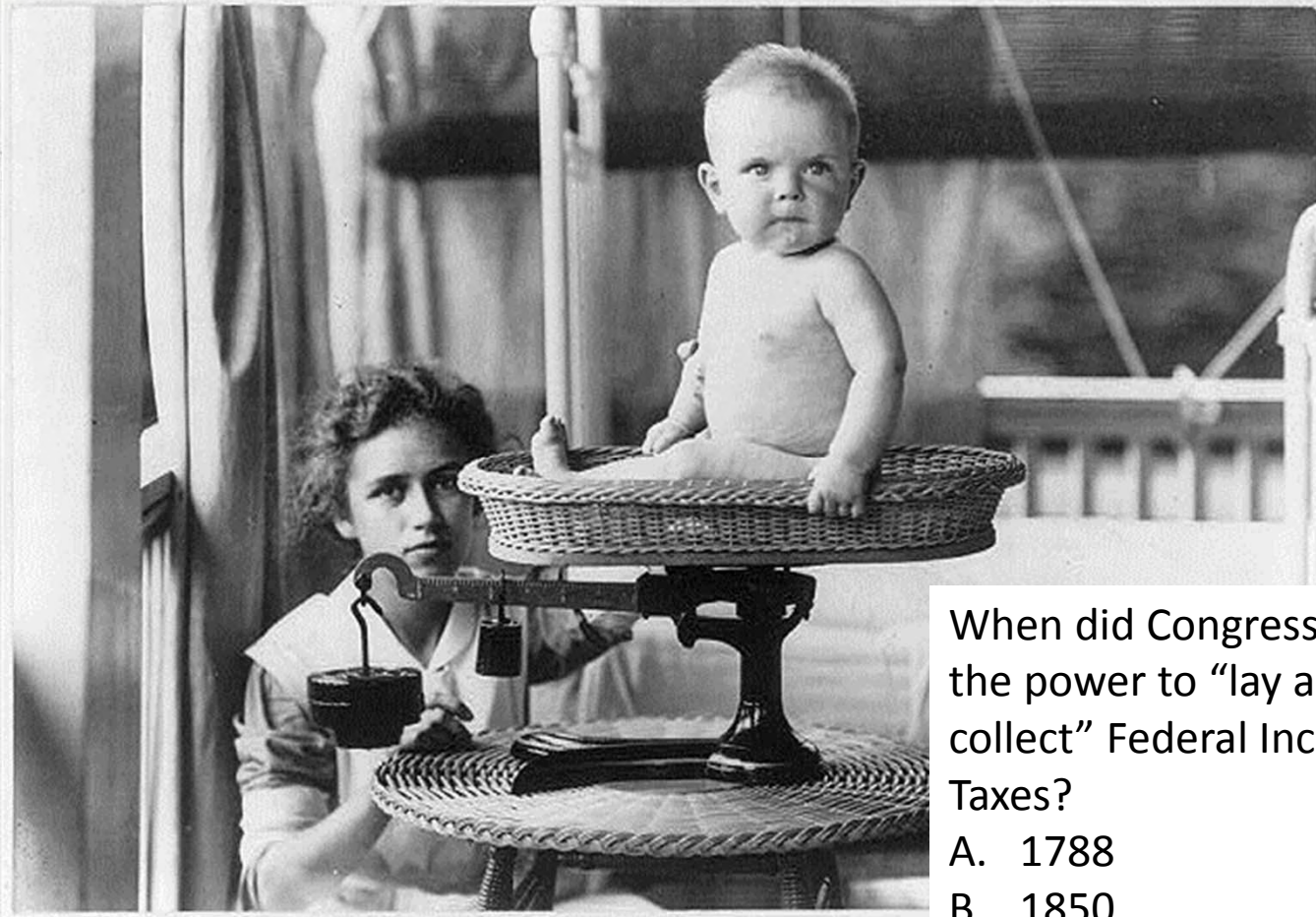
Chief Lathrop meets with staff to plan Baby Week ca. 1919

The Children's Bureau is Established

Mission: To investigate and report...upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of children and child life among all classes of our people.

[It] shall especially investigate the questions of infant mortality, the birth rate, orphanage, juvenile courts, desertion, dangerous occupations, accidents and diseases of children, employment, legislation affecting children in the several States and Territories.





Nurse weighing a baby ca. 1912

When did Congress gain the power to “lay and collect” Federal Income Taxes?

- A. 1788
- B. 1850
- C. 1913

SAVING BABIES AND RESTORING CHILDHOOD (1912-1929)

Why Register?

BIRTHS

There is hardly a relation of life, social, legal or economic, in which the evidence furnished by an accurate registration of births may not prove to be of the greatest value, not only for the individual, but also to the public at large. It is not only an act of civilization to register Birth Certificates, but good business, for they are frequently used in many practical ways:

1. As evidence to prove the age and legitimacy of heirs;
2. As proof of age to determine the validity of a contract entered into by an alleged minor.
3. As evidence to establish age and proof of citizenship and descent in order to vote;
4. As evidence to establish the right of admission to the professions and to many public offices;
5. As evidence of legal age to marry;
6. As evidence to prove the claims of widows and orphans under the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Law;
7. As evidence to determine the liability of parents for the debts of a minor;
8. As evidence in the administration of estates, the settlement of insurance and pensions;
9. As evidence to prove the irresponsibility of children under years of age for crime and misdemeanor, and various other matters in the criminal code;
10. As evidence in the enforcement of laws relating to education and to child labor;
11. As evidence to determine the relations of guardians and wards;
12. As proof of citizenship in order to obtain a passport;
13. As evidence in the claim for exemption from or the right to jury and militia service.

DEATHS

Human life is sacred. When a human being passes out from our life it is important that an immediate record be made of all the essential details of the event—an immediate record, because it is well established by years of experience that an accurate record in all cases cannot or will not be made unless the law requires it to be made at once. Such a record should include the facts relating to the exact time and place of death, the full name, age, sex, color, civil condition, occupation, place of birth, and other details relating to the individual, and also a very important requirement, a statement by the attending physician, or by the health officer or coroner, the cause of death. These facts may be of the greatest legal and social importance.

1. Certificates of Death, or certified copies, are constantly required in court and elsewhere to establish necessary facts;
2. Pensions or life insurance may depend on proper evidence of the fact and of cause of death;
3. Titles and rights to inheritance may be jeopardized by the failure of records;
4. Deaths should be registered that public health agencies—National, State and Municipal—may know the causes of death and act promptly to prevent epidemics;
5. Deaths should be registered so that all measures attentively determined.
6. Deaths should be registered so that they may learn their own health conditions of other course of public health.
7. Deaths should be registered so that they may be guided in the service.

THE STATE REGISTRAR DOES NOT DESIRE TO HOLD BEFORE THE PEOPLE THE PENALTIES FOR NOT REGISTERING BIRTHS AND DEATHS, BUT WOULD LIKE TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE RECORDS, BOTH TO THE INDIVIDUAL AND TO THE STATE. THE REGISTRAR DESIRES TO OBTAIN THE HEARTY CO-OPERATION OF EVERY PERSON IN THE STATE IN CARRYING OUT THESE DUTIES.

The Local Registrar of this District is _____

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution gave the US Government the right to "lay and collect" Federal income taxes

Birth Registration poster

What Do Growing Children Need?

Child-welfare experts consider the following necessary for the child's best growth and development.

SHELTER.

- Decent, clean, well-kept house.
- Plenty of fresh air in the house, winter and summer.
- Warm rooms in cold weather.
- Separate bed, with sufficient bedclothes to keep warm.
- Sanitary indoor water-closet or outdoor privy.
- Pure, abundant water supply.
- A comfortable place to welcome friends.

Has Your Child These?

FOOD.

- Clean, simple, appetizing, well-cooked food.
- The daily diet should include:
 - Milk, at least 1 pint a day.
 - Butter or some other form of fat.
 - Cereal and bread.
 - Green vegetables, especially leafy vegetables.
 - Fruit.
 - Egg, meat, or fish. If no one of these three is used, an additional pint of milk should be given.
- Three square meals a day.
- Meals at regular hours and sufficient time for them.
- Dinner at noon for children under 7 years of age.

Has Your Child These?

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO BE WELL BORN, WELL NOURISHED, AND WELL CARED FOR.

CLOTHING.

- Clean, whole garments.
- Different clothing for day and night, suited to the climate.
- Change of underclothes and nightgown at least weekly.
- A change of stockings at least twice a week.
- Warm underclothing and stockings in cold climates.
- Heavy coat, cap, and mittens for cold weather.
- Shoes, free from holes, and long and wide enough.
- Foot protection against rain or snow.

Has Your Child These?

HEALTH AND PERSONAL HABITS.

- Bath every day, or at least once a week.
- Hands and face washed before meals and at bedtime.
- Natural bowel movement every day.
- Hands washed immediately after going to the toilet.
- Teeth brushed at least twice a day (morning and night).
- Regular bed hour.
- Ten hours of sleep at night, with open windows.
- Correct weight for height.

Has Your Child These?

PLAY AND COMPANIONSHIP.

- A safe, clean, roomy place for outdoor and indoor play.
- At least two hours outdoor play every day.
- Constructive and suitable playthings and tools.
- Some one with sympathetic oversight to direct the play.
- The right sort of playmates.

Has Your Child These?

WISE PARENTS ARE A CHILD'S BEST ASSET.

Children's Bureau Publication, *What Do Growing Children Need?*



CB staff member Anna Grosser reports on infant mortality rates.

THE CARE OF THE MOTHER

THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD IS WRAPPED UP IN THAT OF THE MOTHER

The life, health, and normal development of the child depend largely on the health and protection of the mother.

The chances of an infant's living depend on:

1. Sufficient income for family needs.
2. Health and right living of parents.
3. Protection of the expectant mother from overwork, underfeeding, and worry.
4. Skilled supervision of pregnancy and confinement.
5. Rest and adequate care during the lying-in period.
6. Maintenance of breast feeding.
7. Intelligent mother care in the home.

** A mother can injure the child she carries just as much during the nine months before birth, as during the nine months after birth.*

INFANT MORTALITY

More than half of the babies who die during the first year of life die from causes related to the condition of the mother. In 1916, in the returns from 70 per cent of the population of the United States there were over 75,000 deaths of children under 1 month of age (45.9 per cent of total infant deaths). Most of these are the babies who are born too weak, too injured, or too diseased to live. Some of these little ones died because their mothers did not know how to safeguard their breast milk or appreciate the importance of breast feeding.

These babies were an unnecessary sacrifice to ignorance and bad living conditions.

The protection of maternity can no longer be evaded. This wastage of life at birth must stop, for not only is every infant a

potential citizen, but the same conditions which account for half our infant deaths are *impairing the health and vitality of those babies who survive*. It is not those who die *but those who live* that should now be considered.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Few of us realize that child-bearing is at present a most dangerous occupation so far as life is concerned. In 1916, we lost in the United States at least 16,000 women from all causes connected with child-bearing, and practically all these deaths were preventable. Child-bed fever is the most frequent cause of death among child-bearing women, and is a form of wound infection, largely due to the introducing of infection on the hands of the attendant at the time of childbirth.

One mother dies in every 150 cases of childbirth; one child in every 20 liveborn does not live six weeks. The death rate in the trenches is about one in 50 of the men actively engaged.

Why waste life needlessly?













BEFORE THE BABY COMES

See that the mother has:

1. Early consultation with a well-trained physician, complete physical examination, including pelvic measurements, and frequent examination of the urine.
2. Nourishing diet, with plenty of milk.
3. Regulation of excessive gain in weight by frequent weighing and by curtailing starch and sugar in the diet.
4. Abundance of liquids, especially water.
5. Regulation of constipation, by food if possible.
6. Daily bath to increase elimination by the skin.
7. Attention to teeth and necessary dentistry.
8. Sufficient rest and sleep.

CB's first publication, *Prenatal Care*, published in 1913

THE COST OF FEEDING


BOTTLE FED BABY	BREAST FED BABY
 Milk  Nipples  Ice  Graduate  Brush  Funnel  Malt Sugar  Bottles  Spoon  Medicine  Boiled Water <p style="text-align: center;">THE DOCTOR</p>	 Mother and Child <h1 style="font-size: 4em; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">N O T H I N G</h1>

10 Bottle Fed Babies Die to 1 that is Fed at the Breast

ISSUED BY
THE DIVISION OF CHILD HYGIENE
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
TOPEKA, KANSAS

BABY

Will be Well and Happy IF HE



Has the Right Food
 Has a Bath Every Day
 And is Kept Dry and Clean
 His Meals are Served on Time
 Sleeps Alone in a Quiet, Cool Place
 Breathes Fresh Air Day and Night
 Is Given Pure, Cool Water to Drink
 Is Dressed According to the Weather
 Is Protected from Flies and Mosquitoes
 Is Kept Away from Sick Folks and Crowds
 Does Not Have to be Shown Off for Visitors

Nobody Kisses Him on the Mouth
 Not Even His Mother

ISSUED BY
THE DIVISION OF CHILD HYGIENE
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
TOPEKA, KANSAS

Infant care posters distributed by the Kansas Division of Child Hygiene



Mrs. O.G.
California
December 19, 1923

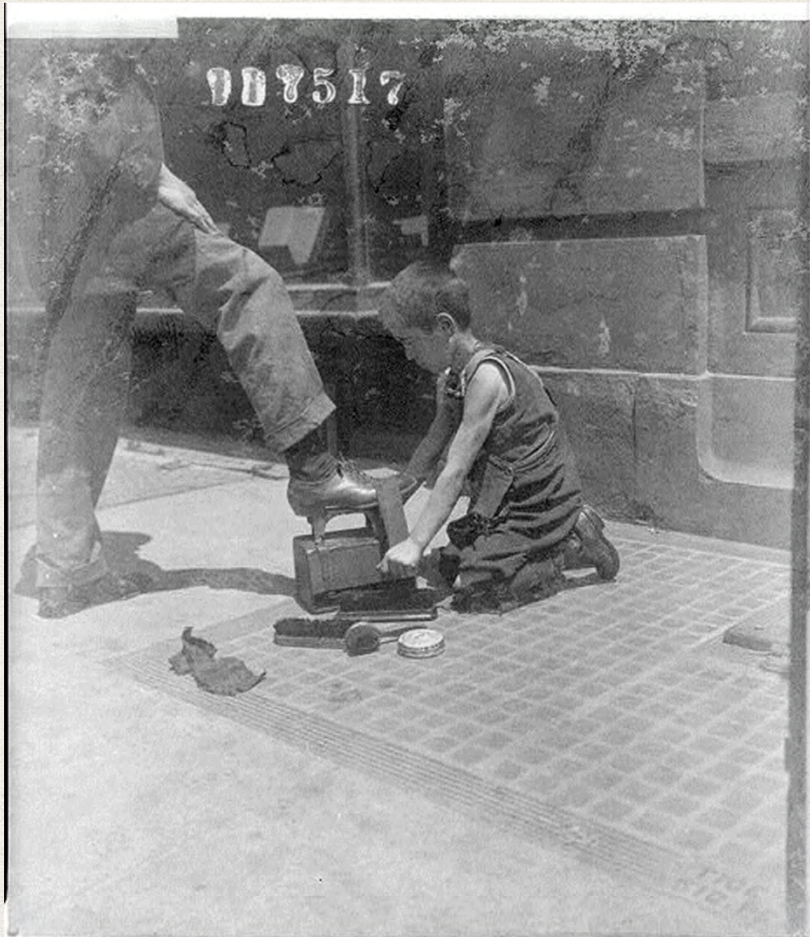
Letter sent originally to
the Bureau of Home
Economics in the
Department of
Agriculture and then
forwarded to the
Children's Bureau.

... can you tell me of someone who can tell me of what to fix up to amuse the child between two and three?... It is a fact that I have not had a minute's peace since he was born.



A four year-old and her mother shuck oysters, ca. 1911

The Children's Bureau and Child Labor



New York City shoe shine boy ca. 1909



Six year-old paperboy ca. 1910



A mother hulls berries while nursing her infant.

Grace Abbott, Director,
Child Labor Division

*"I had the same feeling of
unreality as I read the
official reports... as I had
about the cruelties with
which the fairy tales of my
childhood were filled."*





Attendees at the 1918 White House Conference on Children

MOTHERS' PENSIONS, DELINQUENCY & DEPENDENCY



Mrs. G.A., Pennsylvania, April 13, 1927

"...I am in bad means with these Children, as I have been trying to keep them together and hate so much to part them..."



Family earns a living picking cotton, ca. 1916



Family has lived in eight different mill towns, ca. 1911



Family in Scaly Gap, North Carolina, ca. 1909



10 year-old works to help support his family, ca. 1908



Cleveland Boy Gang, ca. 1911



A young boy is habitually truant, ca. 1910



Shooting dice on a school day, ca. 1910



Massachusetts street gang, ca. 1916



People's Free Dispensary, ca. 1920

Visiting nurse examines
a baby,
ca. 1922





Farming family listens to the radio, ca. 1928

THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

“President Hoover’s White House Conference on Child Health and Protection recognizing the rights of the child as the first rights of citizenship pledges itself to these aims for the children of America. “

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1931.

Children are our most precious possession. The Children's Charter was written by 3,500 experienced men and women, after many months of study. It condenses into few words the fullest knowledge and the best plans for making every child healthier, safer, wiser, better and happier. These plans must be constantly translated into action. Fathers and mothers, doctors and teachers, the churches and the lay organizations, the officers of government in the states and counties and towns, all have one common obligation - to advance these plans of better life for the children. I urge upon you an even larger interest in it.

Herbert Hoover



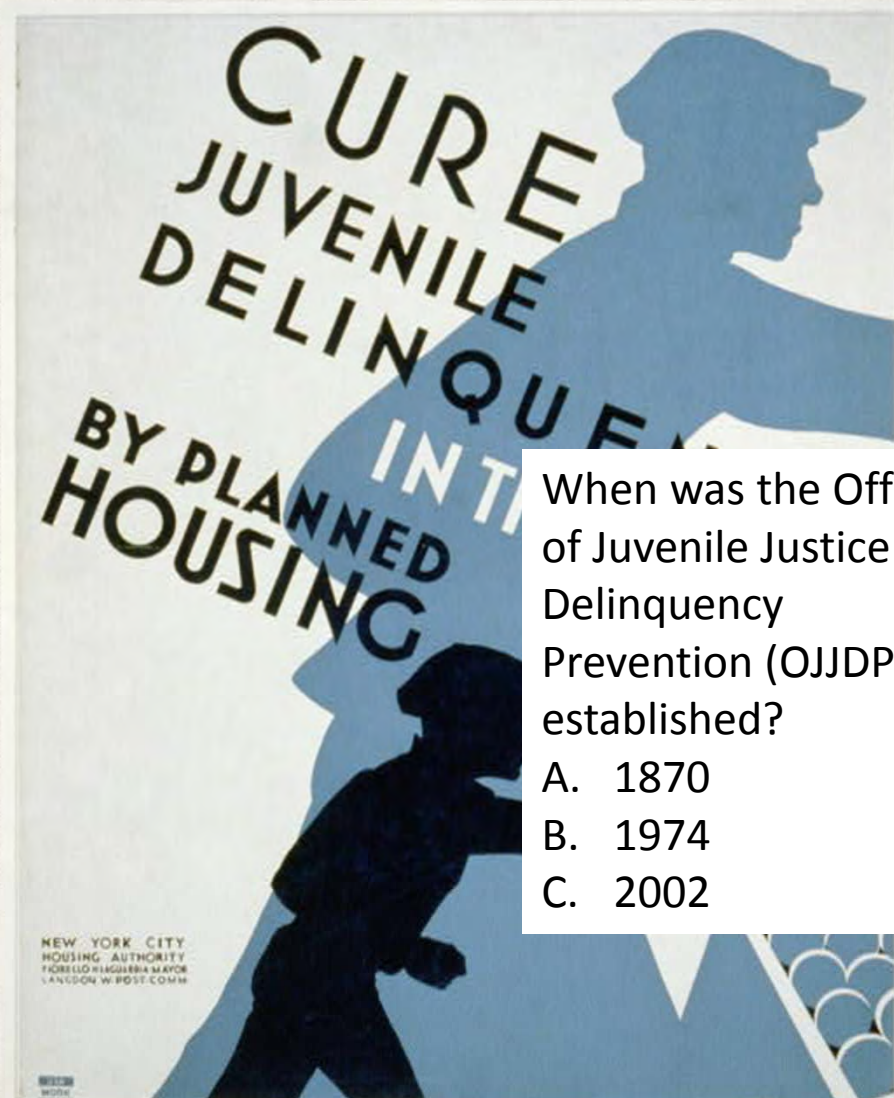
Mother nursing her infant, ca. 1936



Coal miner and his family, on relief, ca. 1938

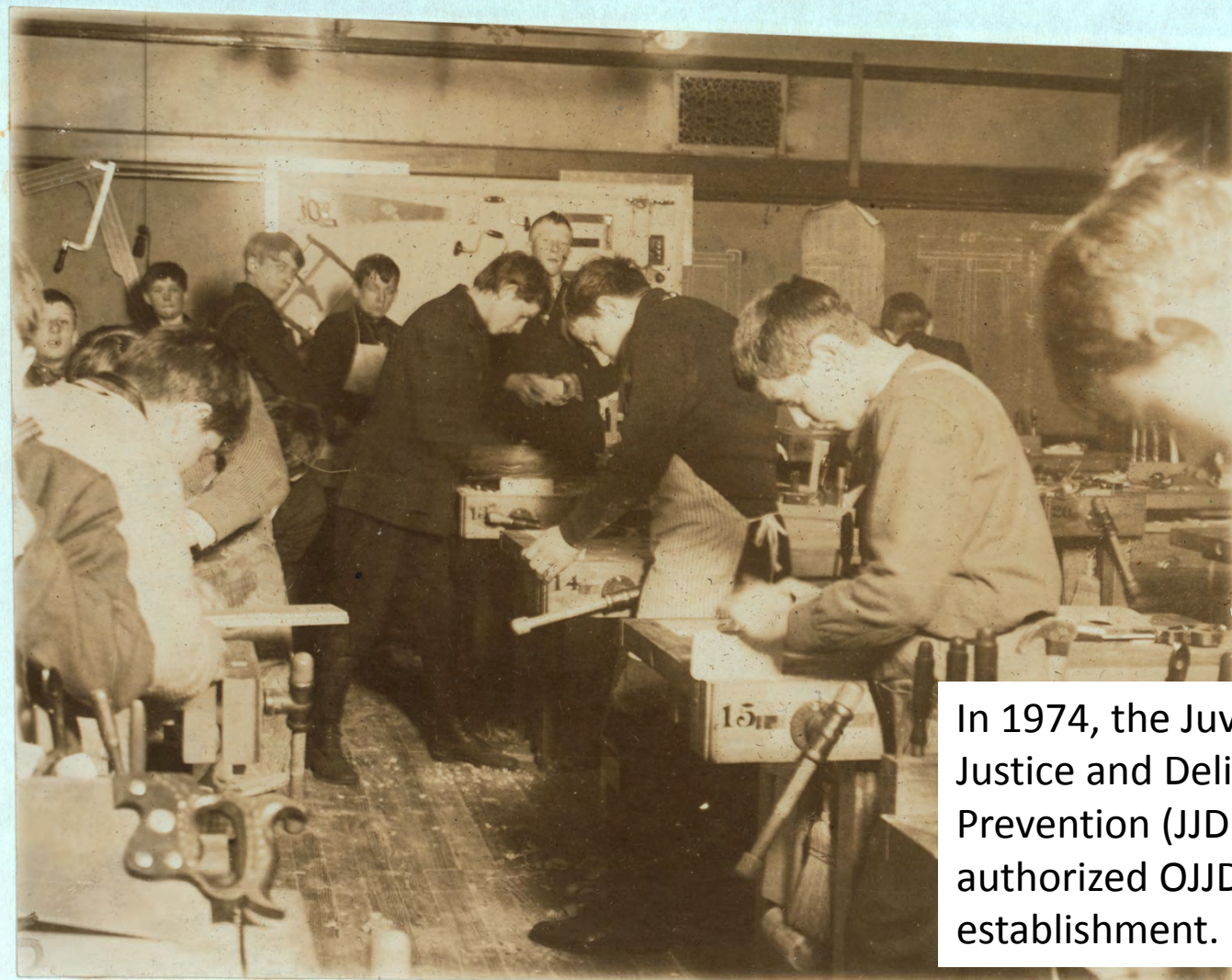
“The present day treatment of juvenile delinquency represents great progress over the past, but it is still far from adequate, even with the availability of all the knowledge acquired by modern scientific research. “

- Facts About Juvenile Delinquency, Its Prevention and Treatment, 1932.



When was the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) established?

- A. 1870
- B. 1974
- C. 2002



In 1974, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) authorized OJJDP's establishment.

Students at the Seneca Street Vocational School



Frances Perkins, ca. 1933



Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
ca. 1932



Martha Eliot, Senator James Murray, and Katharine Lenroot testify before Congress , 1939



Katharine Lenroot on her 25th anniversary with the Department of Labor



Roosevelt signs the Social Security bill.



Nurse examines baby in a mobile clinic, ca. 1940



Child with malnutrition and rickets,
ca. 1935



Student nurse teaches a boy to walk
with crutches,
ca. 1942



Visiting nurse, mother and baby, ca. 1939

The Children's Bureau:

1912	1937
\$24,640 total budget	\$7.8 million
Primary purpose – to investigate and report	Primary purpose – to administer three grant programs
Staff: 15	Staff 230



Washington orphanage, ca. 1925

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Photographs courtesy of:

**Francis Perkins Center
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library
Maternal and Child Health Library
National Library of Medicine
United States Library of Congress
University of Minnesota**



For a recording of today's presentation and other information about the Children's Bureau's Centennial Webinars, visit <http://cb100.acf.hhs.gov/webinars>

