SECTION SIX

Small Families

4. The rapid expansion of pension systems, including social security, now make available to the worker definite monthly cash payments upon retirement.

5. The trend toward smaller families in which the children are born while the parents are relatively young means that parents are less likely to be tied down and immobilized by parental responsibilities in the early years of their retirement.

6. Finally, the growing fluidity of our labor force in response to shifting opportunities and assignments results in ever increasing numbers of workers reaching retirement without having developed deep roots and firm attachments for a single locality.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Sept. 6

Old folks no longer live out their days in the locales of their youth. In the past 10 years, 296,000 have migrated to the South, Southwest and West, with about 10,000 coming to Louisiana to make their new homes.

Dr. Homer Hitt, head of the Louisiana State university department of sociology, described the redistribution of older persons at the meeting of the American Sociological Society in Atlantic City, N. J.

He went to Atlantic City from Pennsylvania State college, where he served as chairman of the population section at the Rural Sociological Society meeting. Also taking part in the rural meeting was Dr. Alvin L. Bertrand of the sociology faculty.

Urban Swing

Dr. Hitt said that although migration is largely a phenomenon of youth, it is becoming a more important force in redistributing our elderly citizens.

His reasons were:

1. The continuing rapid transition from a rural society to an urban one with the accompanying loss by the aged of the control and ownership of property and of a definite place in the social structure tends to free oldsters from locality moorings.

2. The increasing mobility of our population and the perfection of mass communication media are bringing to the attention of people generally the advantages and disadvantages of various sections of the country.

3. Changes in employment patterns, including the decrease of those who are self-employed and own the tools and equipment with which they gain their livelihood and the increase of workers who are automatically retired upon the attainment of a specified age, make for a potentially more mobile aged population.

4. The rapid expansion of pension systems, including social security, now make available to the worker definite monthly cash payments upon retirement.

5. The trend toward smaller families in which the children are born while the parents are relatively young means that parents are less likely to be tied down and immobilized by parental responsibilities in the early years of their retirement.

6. Finally, the growing fluidity of our labor force in response to shifting opportunities and assignments results in ever increasing numbers of workers reaching retirement without having developed deep roots and firm attachments for a single locality.

"The migration of old people was greater in the 1940-50 decade than for the preceding one, although the movement assumed significant proportions during the 1930's," Dr. Hitt declared.

California and Florida received the largest numbers of aged persons, followed by Louisiana and Washington. States sustaining the greatest losses were Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York and Massachusetts.