

Typical California Relief Family Literally Lives Hand to Mouth

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14. (AP) The state relief administration today presented "the typical family on SRA relief," a composite of 30,000 persons, representing about 10 per cent of the state's relief load.

Material for the summary was prepared for presentation to the present special session of the legislature.

"The typical family on relief in California is white and born in the United States," the SRA summary said. "The family is composed of four persons—the mother, father and two children.

"The father is almost 42 years old and the last time he was employed was as a semi-skilled or unskilled worker who had been engaged in agriculture or

possibly in a manufacturing industry. He has not worked, however, at all since 1937 or before.

"If he should find a job it would most likely be in agriculture, during the summer and fall, when crops are being harvested, and his earnings would not be sufficient to enable him to stay off relief when his period of employment ended. The two children are young, most likely in their early 'teens.

"The family receives \$43.95 every month from SRA, although \$2.70 is generally deducted for private earnings. The family spends \$29.75 a month for food, less than \$1 per day for the four of them.

"During a year in which the family might be on and off re-

lief several times they would receive about \$14 worth of surplus food to supplement their food allowance.

"Theoretically, according to their budget, they spend \$11.70 for rent. Actually, however, they find it impossible to locate a house for this little and so must pay more rent than is allowed them.

"This extra expense must be taken out of the inadequate food allowance or must come from somewhere else."

In addition, the summary said, the typical relief family is allowed \$2.50 a month for utilities, gas and electricity. No provision is made for clothing, household appliances, medical and dental care. Their home consists of three rooms or less.

"Almost every member of the family has something wrong with him which could have been prevented or cured by proper medical attention," it added. "Two members of the family are suffering from impaired vision and at least one is in need of attention for diseases of the nose and throat.

"Usually more than one member of the family has a disease of the nervous system, a logical result of the impact of poverty and insecurity. Almost every member of the family is in need of dental work, and at least one member has poor nutritional status, a polite name for malnutrition.

"Finally, at least one member of the family is in need of some sort of appliance, such as a brace or a pair of glasses."