

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

(ILLINOIS)

THE MERCHANDISE MART
222 WEST NORTH BANK DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
PHONE: DELAWARE 1060

CHARLES E. MINER
ADMINISTRATOR

December 30, 1938

Marriner S. Eccles, Chairman
Federal Reserve Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Eccles:

My attention was called this morning to the content of your public letter to Senator Harry F. Byrd, as contained in the write-up in the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR of Wednesday, December 28. I write to congratulate you upon the incisive and far-seeing defense of the government work program policy.

Since 1930, when I developed a work program for The Governor's Commission on Unemployment and Relief in Chicago, I have been a firm believer in the work program, and have taken every possible chance to interpret it and to defend it and to commend others who I find think along these same lines; hence my letter to you.

I enclose a copy of an article that appeared in the ROCKFORD (Illinois) REGISTER-REPUBLIC on August 1, 1935, developed by the reporter and editor from an address that I made in the opening of the WPA program in Illinois.

I am also enclosing a briefer statement made approximately one year later, showing how I felt the work program in Illinois had actually succeeded in conserving our human resources. My thought in sending this to you is that it ties in closely with your expressed idea of the "unused productivity of our human resources," but approaches the matter from the standpoint of the conservation of our human resources, which you have so stoutly outlined in your discussion of the "right to work and the right to live", etc.

With every good wish to you and your services to the nation in the New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Martin Hayes Bickham
Martin Hayes Bickham
State Consultant for Planning

BY: DR. M. H. BICKHAM

Chicago, Aug. 8, - A little over one year has passed since I made the address outlined so well by the Rockford Register-Republic in the story of that meeting at Rockford.

Recent field studies in many sections of the State, from the Wisconsin line to Cairo, have convinced me the WPA is achieving this conservation of human values in a remarkable way.

It is helping scores of thousands of workers and their families. It is aiding thousands of farmers by giving them readier access to markets. It is releasing millions of dollars in wages and so bringing business to the small merchants and storekeeper in every community in the State. It is building up children and youth with a far-flung recreation program.

As I look back over these activities of WPA during the last year, I am ready to say I honestly believe WPA has more than realized the task of human conservation suggested for it in the address at Rockford, August 1, 1935.

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Received in
Chairman's Office
JAN 3 - 1936
Board of Governors
of the
Federal Reserve System

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The citation for the original is:

Rockford Register-Republic (IL), "Hails WPA as Human Conservation," August 1, 1935.

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THE MERCHANDISE MART
222 WEST NORTH BANK DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
PHONE: DELAWARE 1000

CHARLES E. MINER
ADMINISTRATOR

December 30, 1938

January 5, 1939.

Mr. Martin Hayes Bickham,
State Consultant for Planning,
Works Progress Administration,
222 West North Bank Drive,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Bickham:

This is to thank you for your letter
of December 30th with reference to my recent
reply to Senator Byrd of Virginia.

I was interested in seeing the copy
of the article that appeared in the Rockford,
Illinois, newspaper and also the briefer state-
ment of a year later.

I wanted to thank you for your
courtesy in writing and to reciprocate your
kind wishes of the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

M. S. Eccles,
Chairman.

ET:b

Received in
Chairman's Office

JAN 3 - 1939

Board of Governors
of the
Federal Reserve System

Martin Hayes Bickham
State Consultant for Planning