Radio address of Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, reviewed the functions of the Works Progress Administration in a radio address over combined hook-ups of the National Broadcasting Company, the Columbia Broadcasting System, and Mutual Broadcasting Company at 7:30 P.M., Thursday, May 15. The full text follows:

The President, in his recent radio address on work relief, definitely declared that the primary objective of the new Work Relief Act is to put to work three and a half million people now on relief rolls throughout the country, on the basis of a National, useful, work program.

The activities of the Works Progress Administration, one of the agencies established by the President, are completely directed toward the accomplishment of such primary objective. "The Works Progress Administration has been specifically designated by the President to be responsible to him for the "honest, efficient, speedy, and coordinated execution of the Work Relief Program as a whole, and for the execution of that program, in such manner as to move from the relief rolls, to work on such projects, or in providing employment, the maximum number of persons in the shortest time possible."

To accomplish this end, the Works Progress Administration has been given various powers and duties. Essentially, they may be divided into:

(a) the carrying on of useful projects throughout the country, designed to assure a maximum of employment in all localities, and (b) the coordination of the various activities to be conducted by the other agencies operating under the Work Relief Act, to assure the accomplishment of the end desired.

The machinery of the Works Progress Administration is now in the process of being established. It will be simple and yet based on the notion that the success of the Work Relief Program depends upon speed and efficiency. To accomplish this end, there will be a decentralization of activity and responsibility, with, however, a constant supervision and check from Washington.

State Works Progress Administrators will have the authority to set up such branch offices in the localities as are necessary and desirable. General instructions and advice as to major policies, with respect to the conduct of the activities of the State and local units, will issue currently from the Works Progress Administrator in Washington.
The State Works Progress Administrators and their local units will be primarily responsible for the initiation and carrying through, in their locality, of the small and useful work relief projects which are designed to insure a maximum of continuous employment in all localities. All applications for such projects should be filed with the local representative of the Works Progress Administration. This type of work relief projects includes projects to be carried on as Federal projects, and also projects of States, municipalities, agencies thereof, or other public bodies, for which only a grant of Federal funds is to be made.

These administrators will be available in the immediate future to plan with local public officials and citizens projects which will give useful work to the needy unemployed.

Applications for such projects, when filed with the local representative, will be forwarded to Washington, through the appropriate State Works Progress Administrator. The applications will be made on appropriate forms which will be available at the local offices.

Allotment of funds will be made by the President for the Work Program to be conducted by the Works Progress Administration. Each State Works Progress Administrator will be advised, from time to time, as to the specific work projects which have been thus approved, and for which allotments of funds have been made.

The Works Progress Administration, in connection with its functions, will have the task of prescribing the necessary rules:

(a) To assure that as many of the persons employed on all work projects as is feasible shall be persons receiving relief;

(b) To govern the selection of such persons for employment on work projects; and

(c) To assure a coordinated work relief program which will actually employ the three and a half million employable persons now on relief.

The eligibility of works projects, whether under the supervision of the Works Progress Administration or of any other agency, will be determined by the criteria established in such rules.

The responsibility for coordinating the activities of the various agencies will make it necessary for the Works Progress Administration, through its State and local representatives, to check each proposed project, to ascertain the relationship between the cost involved, the number of persons to be employed on the project, and the number of such workers on
relief rolls available in the areas where such project will be undertaken. Such
initial check will not be all, because even after a project is approved, it will be the function of the Works Progress Administration, again through its State and local representatives, to furnish the necessary number of persons from the relief rolls required on the project, and also to constantly check as to whether this number is being maintained in employment on such project.

Coordinating the activities of the various agencies involves several other tasks. For instance, the Works Progress Administration will require uniform, periodical reports of progress on all work projects. Where delay appears, the Works Progress Administration may recommend to the President appropriate measures for eliminating such delay, and also possibly recommend the termination of projects where it develops that they are not affording the amount of employment warranting their continuance. Further, because of the utmost importance that the Work Relief Programs be carried through without any tinge of dishonesty or fraud, the Works Progress Administration has been directed to establish and operate a division of progress investigation, and to coordinate the pertinent work of existing investigative agencies of the Government.

The Works Progress Administration has also been designated as an agency to provide for the coordination of such data-compiling projects as form a part of the Work Relief Program, and of such portion of other research activities as may be necessary or useful in carrying out such program.

Under the Work Relief Act, the President is authorized to prescribe the working conditions and the rates of pay to be paid to workers employed on the work projects. The Works Progress Administration has been directed by the President to investigate cases and working conditions in order to submit to the President such findings as will aid the President in fulfilling such function.

At the risk of repetition, it should be finally stated that all of the activities of the Works Progress Administration and of every other agency operating under the Work Relief Act will definitely be directed towards carrying out the primary objective of the President to give employment on a National Work Program to three and a half million persons now on relief rolls who are anxious and desirous and capable of performing useful work.

This program represents a great nation's obligation to the unemployed. Its operations will be extended to every city and town in America.

The work will be done promptly, efficiently. It will be carried out, not only in the best interests of the unemployed, but as a great national endeavor, the results of which will be of benefit to the Nation and all of its citizens.