Praising the cooperation of State and local planning bodies, Perry A. Fellows, Assistant Chief Engineer of the Works Progress Administration, today declared that their aid has been in large part responsible for the "ability of WPA projects to stand the rigid tests of careful inspection".

He spoke before the Southeastern Planning Conference in Hotel De Soto, Savannah, Georgia.

Mr. Fellows invited public inspection of all WPA projects as the "best answer to critics who question their utility and value to the country".

"One of the major questions with regard to the WPA program is whether the projects are good", Mr. Fellows said. "A good project is one that will stand scrutiny, not only by technical people, but by the general public."

"The WPA invites the public to take a good look at the projects which make up this program to provide employment for the workers who have been broke and on relief. Inspection by the public constitutes the best answer to critics who question their utility and value to the country."

"In this program, we have drawn on the experience of CWA and the work-relief program under FERA. There has always been the invaluable aid of State and local
planning bodies. It has been the cooperation of these planning units in developing the WPA program that has been in large part responsible for the ability of WPA projects to stand the rigid tests of careful inspection.

"The comparatively rapid organization of State and local planning bodies in recent years should be one of the most heartening events to those who are interested in the development of America."

"It is through the assistance and cooperation of these bodies in many places that the WPA has received such solid proposals for fine projects.

"Since the WPA program consists only of projects that State and local officials have asked to have done, the State and local planning bodies deserve much of the credit for their usefulness.

"The relationship between the planning bodies is cooperation in a very real sense, indeed, for FERA has provided and WPA is providing technical and clerical personnel for the planning offices. It is genuinely a working relationship.

"It is interesting to note that little of the adverse criticism of certain projects is made by people close at hand who are informed of the facts. Most of it comes from the self-appointed long-range advisors whom I hope will, in the future, accept WPA's invitation to make a careful inspection of the projects and talk afterward on the basis of facts.

"If critics would take facts into as careful consideration as the cooperating planning bodies have, the whole country would be benefited."