

T H E W O R K S P R O G R A M

-- Works Progress Administration --

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WPA Workers To Be Ready For Flood Emergencies.

WPA workers will be ready for action wherever flood dangers may arise in various sections of the country, Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, said today.

Every WPA administration, with the exception of Maine, West Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Florida, and New York City, has requested emergency flood work projects. These communities have not asked for such projects, because the danger from flood in those areas is not imminent.

Anticipating flood conditions because of an expected early thaw following a severe winter, the WPA took precautionary action on February 16, by wiring state administrators to submit emergency flood work projects wherever there was overflow danger. The projects were submitted to Washington in answer to that wire by forty-three states and the District of Columbia.

The purpose of these projects, according to Mr. Hopkins, is "to provide for necessary emergency work when danger to life or grave risk to property is engendered by flood or thaw conditions." This is flexible enough, he pointed out, to allow local WPA directors to use as many men as may be really needed in each area to meet any flood emergency, without disrupting the regular WPA program.

In regard to direction of the emergency work, Mr. Hopkins said:

"In those states where work will be carried on if it becomes necessary, the work of the WPA will be generally supervised and coordinated by district engineers of the Engineering Corps of the Army."

Apart from this nationwide precautionary step taken to meet the emergency anticipated, the WPA has for months been engaged on flood control work in many states as part of its regular program, it was pointed out. In scores of localities streams have been straightened, levees threatened, dikes built, as preventive measures to lessen or eliminate flood damage.