Hopkins Announces $2,500,000 Fund for Storm Stricken States.

Allocations of $1,000,000 each to Georgia and Mississippi and lesser amounts to four other Southern states visited by Monday's tornado, were announced today by Works Progress Administrator Harry L. Hopkins out of the $2,500,000 blanket storm relief allotment authorized late yesterday by the President.

The cablegram received by Mr. Hopkins from the President read as follows:

"APPROVE ALL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN ALLOCATION LETTER NUMBER FIFTEEN AGGREGATING TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION."

(signed) ROOSEVELT.

Works Progress Administrators in the stricken states have already been notified of the sums placed at their disposal and are proceeding without delay to render every assistance possible in clearing away wreckage and debris, cleaning and testing water supplies, and ministering to the wounded and homeless.

More than 1,200 WPA workers -- men and women -- were on the scene at Tupelo, Mississippi, this morning. Five hundred more were rushing emergency work at Gainesville, Georgia. Elsewhere throughout the devastated area, crews of workmen, under the supervision of WPA and local engineers, were helping the survivors to clear away the wreckage left in the wake of the worst storm to visit this part of the country in a decade.
One gang of workmen at Tupelo have begun repairs to the main tank of the city's water supply system, damage to which threatens the health of the community. This work was authorized out of WPA funds by Deputy Administrator Aubrey Williams in a telephone conversation with officials in the stricken city.

In addition to storm relief allocations for Mississippi and Georgia of $1,000,000 each, $200,000 was authorized for South Carolina and $100,000 each for Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Reports from works officials in each of these states received up to noon today indicated that work was being rushed as rapidly as possible and that the combined forces of the WPA, the American Red Cross, and local relief organizations was being brought to bear on the emergency.

Large quantities of food and medical supplies have been sent to Gainesville by the Georgia State Works Progress Administration. Three carloads of food-stuffs were dispatched yesterday and other supplies are being moved in today. An additional force of fifty nurses engaged on Works Progress Administration health projects throughout the State are being held in readiness should their services be needed to supplement the work of those sent to Gainesville yesterday. A Works Progress Administration warehouse in that city has been thrown open to the American Red Cross and local relief officials, and a quantity of clothing and other sewing room products stored there have been distributed.

Rising waters of the Savannah River are threatening certain sections of Augusta, the Georgia report stated, and a force of Works Progress Administration workmen, working in shifts throughout the day and night, have been strengthening and building levees along the river front. Although the water is many feet above the flood stage, the levee, according to latest report, was still holding and was believed adequate to the anticipated maximum rise of the river.
The director of women's projects in Mississippi reported today that every sewing room in and near Tupelo was staffed to capacity with women making bandages and hospital garments for the injured. The work is being done in cooperation with the local chapter of the Red Cross and the State Board of Health. Seventy women engaged on Works Progress Administration health projects have joined with the State health forces in administering more than 1,200 tetanus immunization treatments. Nine trained nurses, five dietitians, and a number of maids and orderlies have been sent from Works Progress Administration projects in Meridian to help staff an emergency hospital in Tupelo which is caring for a part of the reported 1,200 wounded in that city.

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