For immediate release
April 14, 1936

Hopkins Confers with Governor Curley of Massachusetts Regarding Flood Relief Program.

Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, today stated:

"I have been in conference with Governor Curley most of the day relative to our joint program of flood relief in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I am not concerned with the statement which I have seen in the press from certain individuals relative to what this department proposes doing or has proposed doing; I am solely concerned in providing relief and seeing that the proper projects are carried through promptly and efficiently."

Hopkins further stated:

"The Governor of Massachusetts by his insistence that the State promptly and vigorously prosecute certain projects with State funds, acted most meritoriously, and instead of in any way penalizing the State in regard to a Federal appropriation for flood work, would on the contrary meet with the fullest possible cooperation on the part of the Federal government."

In answer to the question as to whether or not other States were contributing from their own funds for flood damage, Hopkins stated:

"While Massachusetts was the first State to make an appropriation available, and its pending legislation provides for substantial additional funds, all states in the flood area had made some funds available."
Hopkins stated that the Works Progress Administration had already approved $3,300,000 for projects in Massachusetts. Up to the present time these grants have been made exclusively for the benefit of cities and towns in Massachusetts and not for State projects.

Hopkins and the Governor went into some length regarding the possible Federal grants for state aid highways about which there had been some misunderstanding. Hopkins and the Governor came to a complete meeting of minds regarding this and the Governor plans to submit at once certain projects to the WPA upon which Hopkins promises immediate action.

A similar course will be adopted in reference to bridges. Small bridges will be repaired and rebuilt by funds which have been made available by the State and the WPA. The Federal government is prepared to finance 50 per cent of bridges on Federal Aid Highways through the Bureau of Public Roads.

"The important thing is that this job be done promptly and efficiently, and I intend that the WPA do its full part in cooperating with the State," Hopkins said. "His Excellency, the Governor, has given the assurance of the fullest co-operation by the Commonwealth."