For Immediate Release
May 13, 1936

Hopkins issues Works Progress Administration regulations on Relations With Workers

Stressing the importance of "fair and friendly relations with the workers," Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, issued instructions today to all State Works Progress Administrators warning that they are not to employ armed guards or investigators and must not discriminate against individual workers or groups because of "their beliefs, organizational activities or affiliations."

"The responsibility of administering the work program without discrimination is shared by all Works Progress Administration officials in state and district offices," Administrator Hopkins said. "In the interest of good labor relations" he issued the following regulations:

"1. The maintenance of order is the function of the local and state governments, and if protection is necessary in connection with WPA activities it should be secured from the regular police force of the locality. WPA funds shall not be used for the employment of armed guards.

"2. Where investigations are required, such matters will be handled by the Division of Investigation of the Federal Works Progress Administration. This investigation service will not be used to spy upon workers nor concern itself with legitimate organizational activities of WPA workers. No investigation will be made or investigators employed directly by state or district offices of the Works Progress Administration.

"3. The use of the "blacklist" or any other lists that may serve to discriminate against individual workers or groups is prohibited. This administration will not permit any discriminatory practices that may operate to work hardship on unemployed persons because of their beliefs, organizational activities, or affiliations."