For immediate release
June 19, 1936

Hopkins Announces the Resignation of Colonel Lawrence Westbrook.

Resignation of Colonel Lawrence Westbrook as Assistant Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, effective July 1, was announced today by Administrator Harry L. Hopkins.

In announcing his acceptance of Colonel Westbrook's resignation, Mr. Hopkins said:

"His resignation as Assistant Administrator does not at all mean the severance of his association with the Works Progress Administration. I am appointing him chairman of the WPA Advisory Board and I expect to make full use of his advice and assistance in carrying out our new program."

Both President Roosevelt and Administrator Hopkins expressed appreciation of Colonel Westbrook's service to the Works Progress Administration and his interest in aiding those who work on farms to gain land ownership.

Colonel Westbrook was born on a farm in Central Texas where his grandfather had broken virgin prairie land. He was operating this farm after the World War, when, in 1920, farmers of the county chose him as manager of their new cooperative marketing organization. Seven years later he was drafted to head Central Texas business men and farmers in establishing pro-
cessing plants for farm products. In 1930 he reorganized the cotton cooperative association in Texas and later served as Texas representative of the American Cotton Cooperative Association.

After two terms in the Texas legislature he became Administrator of relief for Texas in 1933 and built the first of the Relief Administration's rural industrial communities. He also established 19 beef canning plants which were used as models for national activities.

Colonel Westbrook came to Washington in February, 1934, as Assistant Administrator of Federal Emergency Relief. He developed the division for rural rehabilitation, stranded families, and drought relief. Later he was appointed Assistant Administrator of the Works Progress Administration.

Colonel Westbrook said:

"My personal affairs have had little attention for the past three and a half years and I need to give more time to them. As stated in my letter to Mr. Hopkins, however, I am going to do what I can as a private citizen to make land available to those workers in both industry and agriculture who do not get enough work to enable them to live properly. With land there must always be a home. The combination of land and home provides the most satisfactory security known and makes possible the development of the soundest kind of individual family economy. Nothing else could be as appealing to me as contributing to such a situation."

(Deferred are the letters of President Roosevelt, Administrator Hopkins and Colonel Westbrook.)
THE WHITE HOUSE

June 19, 1936

Dear Lawrence:

I want you to know how greatly I appreciate all the fine things you have done for tenant farmers, farm laborers, and share croppers, and the thousands of rural farmers that drifted into cities. The rural rehabilitation program which you developed, marked the beginning, I believe, of a new attitude on the part of the government towards persons dispossessed of land or those who never had an opportunity to be related to it in a manner which should give them better economic security. I shall follow closely your continued efforts on behalf of these people. I hope that you will keep me informed from time to time of your activities and shall look forward to seeing you again early in August.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt

Colonel Lawrence Westbrook,
Assistant Administrator,
Works Progress Administration,
Washington, D. C.
June 19, 1936

Dear Lawrence:

I regret that it has become necessary for you to sever your administrative connection, and with great reluctance I accept your resignation.

I have, of course, known for sometime of your desire not only to return to your personal affairs, but to actively engage in a nation-wide effort to promote the interests of under-privileged farmers, tenant farmers, and farm laborers throughout the country. The rural rehabilitation program which you initiated and carried out here with such enthusiasm and marked success will form the basis of some of the things you hope to see accomplished.

I am particularly anxious that you not disassociate yourself from this Administration, and I am ever so happy that you can accept an appointment as chairman of our advisory board.

You well know, of course, that you carry with you the good wishes not only of myself, but the entire staff of this organization throughout the Nation.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Harry L. Hopkins

Administrator.

Colonel Lawrence Westbrook,
Assistant Administrator,
Works Progress Administration
Washington, D. C.
June 19, 1936

Hon. Harry L. Hopkins, Administrator
Works Progress Administration
1734 New York Avenue
Washington, D.C.

My dear Harry:

In accordance with the understanding reached with you some time ago, I am submitting my resignation as Assistant Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, effective July 1st.

In addition to the necessity for devoting more time to personal affairs, I am, as you know deeply interested in the development of a means for making ownership of land possible for those who work on it. I refer not only to share-croppers and farm laborers, but also to those now living in cities and towns for whom industry and business do not provide sufficient work to permit them to live decently. I feel that in an unofficial capacity I can, for the time being, work more effectively in this connection.

I want you to know that, in relinquishing my administrative duties with the Works Progress Administration, my interest in its continued success is in no way abated, and that my services in an advisory capacity will always be at your command.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Lawrence Westbrook