For Immediate Release  
June 23, 1936.

Hopkins Answers New Jersey Critic of Relief Survey.

New Jersey's experiment with local administration of direct relief, which a survey by the Works Progress Administration revealed as a failure in many cases, was studied under strict instructions to avoid color or prejudice in reports, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins said today in reply to inquiries by J. V. Moran, President of the New Jersey Sales Tax Repeal Association, Inc.

No person formerly connected with the New Jersey Emergency Relief Administration was permitted to supervise or influence the report, which pointed to higher standards of relief under state management, Mr. Hopkins explained.

Mr. Moran, in a letter to Mr. Hopkins, which was released to the press, said New Jersey citizens "are wondering if it is true, as reported here, that this survey was compiled under the hostile supervision of persons formerly connected with the dissolved New Jersey Emergency Relief Administration"; whether it is "clear and impartial" or "really subtle propaganda seeking to discredit the whole idea of municipal relief control."

Administrator Hopkins' letter, in reply, follows:
June 20, 1936

Mr. J. V. Moran, President
New Jersey Sales Tax Repeal Association, Inc.
Broadway-Stevens Building
Camden, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Moran:

The survey to which you refer in your letter of June seventeenth was not made under the supervision of any person formerly connected with the New Jersey State Emergency Relief Administration. It was directed by an experienced and highly competent member of the staff of our Division of Social Research, a man who has been engaged in making social studies for many years. His assistant supervisors are also, without exception, trained research workers sent to New Jersey from the Washington office; none of them has ever been connected with the New Jersey E.R.A. in any capacity. A substantial proportion of the workers used in interviewing cases was provided by local overseers of the poor who are now distributing relief in your state.

The study was planned with the advice and assistance of research experts connected with several of the agencies concerned with the administration of relief in New Jersey. The 1,200 cases interviewed were selected at random from all cases receiving April E.R.A. grants, and both the interviewers and the survey supervisors received strict instructions to report the facts exactly as they existed, without color or prejudice.

The survey was undertaken with only one objective: to get the facts regarding the present New Jersey relief situation. As issued to the press, the report clearly stated that a number of communities were found in which relief is being distributed on the basis of reasonable standards. The study has proved beyond question, however, that other communities in New Jersey are following relief policies which are resulting in acute privation and distress to many unfortunate persons. Since you may not have had an opportunity to see a complete preliminary statement of our findings, I am enclosing a copy.

When the question at issue is one of human suffering, I propose to present the facts to the public, whether or not they conflict with any theory of relief administration which you may hold.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Harry L. Hopkins

Harry L. Hopkins
Administrator

Enclosure