For immediate release, Wednesday morning, July 1, 1936.

Hopkins Raises Minimum Wage Rates in Southern States.

Minimum wage rates on work projects were raised today with the transfer of all states in Region IV to Region III of the Works Progress Administration, Deputy Administrator Aubrey Williams announces.

The lowest wage rate paid on any projects previous to July 1 was $19 a month in certain rural areas or communities of less than 5,000 population in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. With the elimination of Region IV and transfer of these States to Region III, the lowest rate will be $21 a month.

Administrative orders to all State Administrators from Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, now engaged in meeting the emergency created by drought in the Midwest, have provided that wages in any locality shall be not less than the prevailing rate, as determined locally. This was in line with the provisions of the Act appropriating additional funds for work during the fiscal year beginning July 1, when the latest administrative order increasing minimum wage rates becomes effective.

Other States in Region III, which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Virginia, Kentucky (exclusive of Campbell and Kenton Counties) and Texas (exclusive of 36 counties) previously were transferred from Region IV.