For Release in Afternoon Newspapers
Tuesday, July 14, 1936.

Note to Editors:

The following item was airmailed from Pierre, South Dakota, to Washington for distribution:

Pierre, South Dakota.--Farmers, ranchers and sheepmen of drought-damaged South Dakota have gone to work together for the first time. Rivalry has been wiped out with their crops and herds, and all have joined with the Works Progress Administration in a double-edged battle: to prepare for future droughts by conserving water, and to keep their families from starving.

Dams are being built in every county of the state. Small stock dams are scattered over the range country, while larger lakes will be formed in the farming country. Human needs as well depend on the water supply received from new artificial lakes being built by the WPA.

The WPA, in an effort to give employment to several thousand stricken farmers and ranchers and at the same time provide for water conservation, expects to build a dam in each township. Already the federal government has built 580 dams and potential lakes in South Dakota. The largest dam being built by the WPA forms Richmond Lake near Aberdeen. When filled it will cover 1,010 acres and will probably be the state's largest artificial lake. Another large lake is being built near Redfield, covering 400 acres.

Farmers are being paid extra for their teams and tractors. In many instances the horses have been too weak to work.