Williams Cancels Trip to Dakota Drought Areas.

Pressure of official duties in Washington caused Aubrey Williams, Deputy Works Progress Administrator, late today to cancel his tour of inspection of the drought areas in North and South Dakota.

Mr. Williams was to have departed from Washington during the afternoon by plane for Bismarck, N. D., to attend a conference of Federal and State drought officials Wednesday.

Howard O. Hunter, Assistant Works Progress Administrator in charge of field operations in the Middle West, will represent the WPA at the conference. Mr. Hunter's headquarters are in Chicago.

Other WPA drought developments during the day included:

(1) A statement by Administrator Harry L. Hopkins on the effects of the drought and on the WPA program in the western and southern states. The Administrator asserted that "the program is now moving without a hitch." (See release No. 4-1228.)

(2) State Works Progress Administrators in the northern Great Plains area reported to Mr. Hunter that rainfall has come too late to save crops of small farmers and homesteaders. Appeals for aid are also received from citizens in Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas.
(3) Malcolm Miller, WPA field representative in charge of drought operations in the southern states, held a conference at Columbia with South Carolina state officials.

(4) The President allocated $3,000,000 to the Works Progress Administration to continue its nation-wide soil erosion, flood control, and forestation program. The 12 officially designated drought states received $966,738, the remainder going to 29 other states. (See release No. 4-1231.)

In reporting to Mr. Hunter that rains in the western area failed to save the crops of the small farmers, State Works Progress Administrators stated that many of these farms, however, may produce some late pasturage for livestock.

Cool weather has temporarily "allayed drought hysteria," Joseph E. Parker, Works Progress Administrator for Montana, advised, "but unless these rains are followed quickly and frequently by important additional moisture they will have no material effect on the final number of persons we will have to care for, because crops already are fatally injured."

Spotty rainfall, varying from one-tenth of an inch to an inch, "may provide some late range and pasture, but will not help drought-stricken dry farmers," Will G. Metz, State Works Progress Administrator, wired from Cheyenne, Wyo. Small grains were destroyed before the rains came, he explained, and grasshoppers, still infesting this area, are expected to cause heavy damage to any new growth of pasturage.

Some relief for livestock was indicated for the Dakotas, where calves and lambs had been dying as a result of the excessive heat. The
rainfall was especially welcome, it was indicated, in section of South Dakota where M. A. Kennedy, State Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, reported a serious water shortage that was becoming more acute daily. Even the movement of livestock over any great distance to railways had become dangerous in this area.

Appeals were coming in from arid counties in Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas as the effect of the drought became more severe farther south.

Crop damage ranging from 75 to 80 per cent was reported in Benton, Washington, Madison, Crawford, Sebastian, Franklin and Logan Counties of Arkansas by the County Judges and agricultural agents. Families in need of immediate relief were estimated at 15,000 to 20,000 with a 66 per cent rainfall deficiency this year.