Arrangements to speed the drought relief program in North and South Dakota, the two States hardest hit, were completed by Howard O. Hunter, Assistant Works Progress Administrator in charge of drought area operations, at a meeting with State and Works Progress Administration officials at Bismarck, N. D. Wednesday.

"The President has given the Works Progress Administration full authority to deal with this emergency," Mr. Hunter said, "and we are prepared to meet it. The Resettlement Administration and other agencies will cooperate fully. We are prepared to handle every demand, except for the purchase of cattle. That problem will be worked out by the proper agencies."

Immediate progress on all water conservation projects was the chief feature of the new program under emergency allotments, but Mr. Hunter emphasized that whatever steps were necessary would be taken to keep the supply of jobs on public improvements equal to the demands where farmers, by the tens of thousands, are now destitute.

"Human needs come first," Mr. Hunter asserted, "and we will leave nothing undone to clear the way for this relief within the next 24 hours. There is no human experience more agonizing than to be without water. We expect to
derive long-range as well as emergency benefits from this program, which will reduce the drought hazards in this area."

Governor Walter Welford of North Dakota and Governor Tom Berry of South Dakota participated in the conference at the North Dakota capitol.

Others meeting with Mr. Hunter included State Works Progress Administrators Thomas H. Moodie, of North Dakota, and M.A. Kennedy of South Dakota; Judge A.M. Christianson of the North Dakota Welfare Board; Dr. John A. Kingsbury, special representative of Works Progress Administrator Harry L. Hopkins; Victor Christgau, State Works Progress Administrator for Minnesota; Howard Drew, Regional Field Representative of the Works Progress Administration; George Field, chief regional engineer of the Works Progress Administration; Martin Uhlmann and Raymond S. Olson, regional examiners; Miss Alice Youngman, regional social worker; Linus C. Glotzbach, general field representative from St. Paul, Minnesota; and John Kennedy and Paul S. Bliss, Bismarck, all of the Works Progress Administration.

Rexford G. Tugwell, chief of the Resettlement Administration, is expected to arrive in Bismarck tonight for a further conference, intended to speed up his phase of the general program.

Mr. Hunter and Mr. Tugwell were expected to confer with State officials tonight and tomorrow morning, before returning to their headquarters. Mr. Hunter will direct operations from Chicago and Mr. Tugwell will return to Washington, it was indicated in Bismarck late today.