Williams Announces Works Progress Administration Raises Drought Quotas in Great Plains States to 93,500.

Deputy Administrator Aubrey Williams announced today, following a conference with Assistant Administrator Howard O. Hunter in charge of drought operations, that employment quotas for the ten drought-stricken states in the Great Plains has been raised from 89,000 to 93,500.

The quotas are:

- Montana: 6,000
- Colorado: 4,000
- Wyoming: 2,500
- Minnesota: 6,000
- Kentucky: 5,000
- Missouri: 5,000
- Kansas: 5,000
- Nebraska: 5,000
- Iowa: 5,000
- North Dakota: 25,000
- S. Dakota: 25,000

Total: 93,500

Mr. Hunter reported more than 40,000 farmers now at work, and added that practically all relief so far extended to drought-stricken farmers had been through the Works Progress Administration and that the Works Progress Administration is now prepared to handle the entire drought relief program.

Mr. Hunter stressed that farmers would be put to work as fast as they are certified for relief by the proper Governmental agencies.
Mr. Hunter reported he had set up a special office at Bismarck, North Dakota, in charge of Howard Drew, field representative, for the purpose of expediting employment of certified needy farmers.

Meantime, Mr. Williams was advised that the Works Progress Administration has started shipments of water via tank cars into Central and Northern Missouri in order to save livestock. The shipments are being made out of Kansas City and in cooperation with the State Emergency Relief Administration.

In addition, the Works Progress Administration has established 15 pumping projects in Cass, Bates, and Vernon Counties, Missouri, where water shortages are most pronounced. The pumping stations furnish drinking water to farm families and livestock where supplies are exhausted.

Mathew S. Murray, Missouri Administrator, said assignment of drought victims in the states, 37 "emergency" counties would be in full swing by Thursday in an effort to fill the 5,000 drought jobs.

Meantime, Thomas H. Moodie, North Dakota Works Progress Administrator, holds the record for the employment of drought victims, but he reported to Mr. Williams today that he had declined when asked to operate the government of Sioux County as a Federal project.

"We have put nearly 17,000 destitute men to work as a result of this drought - more than in any other state," Mr. Moodie explained, "but we will not run Sioux or any other county."

Here, where the descendants of Sitting Bull still tell of the heroic fights of their old chief, wild game has vanished, crops have failed and dwellers of the parched prairie almost without exception look to the Federal Government for support.
The Works Progress Administration has launched a water conservation program in Sioux County, as in every other county in the drought area of the Dakotas, intended to restore the productivity of the land while providing a security income for destitute farmers. Many others are employed on the construction of "feeder" roads, supplementing the main highway system. A large and increasing proportion of the county's population has been forced this year to depend on such employment or grants from the Resettlement Administration.

"It is a condition that cannot be dismissed lightly," Administrator Moodie reported. "Where local governments cannot even pay their own officials, they certainly cannot provide adequately for the direct relief of unemployables, with which they are charged. There is no simple and complete answer to all of these questions, but I believe the year 1936, thanks to the program now under way, will be remembered as a turning point in our state history - the beginning of a long range program to develop our natural resources and conserve our water for such emergencies as this.

"Some of the requests we receive are much more easily dismissed. For example, we were asked recently if we could not employ an aviator who was out of funds. He wanted to teach drought victims - which includes most of our population - how to fly."