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## THE WORKS PROGRAM

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--Works Progress Administration--

For Immediate Release  
 Wednesday, September 9, 1936.

Gill Defines WPA Policy Relative to Workers Accepting Private Employment.

Replying to requests from civic organizations and cotton planters in the deep South to shut down Works Progress Administration projects to alleviate a reported cotton pickers' shortage, Acting Administrator Corrington Gill said today that WPA workers are expected to accept available jobs in private employment, whether of a temporary or permanent nature, when they are qualified to do the work and when such work is at a standard or going-rate of wages.

"This applies," Mr. Gill explained, "to agricultural employment such as cotton-picking, and when it is definitely shown that there is a shortage of labor for such employment in a community, the need for WPA employment in that community necessarily lessens and therefore the reason for operating WPA projects ceases.

"It has always been the policy of the Works Progress Administration to give workers reasonable opportunity to accept temporary employment because this often results in permanent work. We have also given them definite assurance that WPA work will be open to them upon completion of such jobs.

"However, a worker is not expected to accept private employment unless it is a full-time job, paying standard or going-rate of wages or when such work would be in conflict with established union relationships."

In conclusion, Mr. Gill asserted that "the Works Progress Administration is not an employment exchange nor a placement service, nor will it be a party to arbitrarily forcing workers to accept sub-standard wages."

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