THE WORKS PROGRAM
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Works Progress Administration---

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, September 9, 1936.


Billing to requests from civic organizations and cotton planters in the

deep South to shut down Works Progress Administration projects to alleviate a re-
ported 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 re-
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."