Five WPA Employees in Tennessee Ordered Dismissed For Political Activities.

Corrington Gill, Acting Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, announced today that he had requested Col. Harry S. Berry, Tennessee State Works Progress Administrator, to discharge the following employees in W.P.A. District No. 2 at Cookeville, Tennessee, for their participation in the solicitation of political contributions which occurred in the Cookeville office just prior to the recent Democratic primary campaign in the State of Tennessee:

- R. D. Fisher, Assistant District Director
- Howard C. Vaden, Compensation Officer
- Edward H. Watson, Receiving Officer
- Henry J. Ray, Assistant Supervisor, Division of Operations
- Garland G. Stanton, Timekeeper

Mr. Gill pointed out in his letter to Col. Berry, requesting the dismissal of these employees, that in soliciting political contributions from their fellow employees they were guilty of violating the instructions contained in W.P.A. General Letter No. 8, issued by Mr. Hopkins to all State W.P.A. Administrators under date of March 13, 1936, which prohibits the solicitation of political contributions by W.P.A. employees.

"General Letter No. 8," said Mr. Gill, "further assures all W.P.A. employees that it is unnecessary for them to contribute to any political party or to support any candidate of any political organization, and it further states that no employee's job will be in jeopardy because of his failure to make a political contribution, or because of his failure to support any candidate of any political organization."

When General Letter No. 8 was distributed to W.P.A. State Administrators in March, 1936, each State Administrator was instructed to post a copy of it in every District Office and to deliver a copy to every project foreman. Col. Berry has assured Mr. Gill that these instructions were followed scrupulously in the State of Tennessee at the time they were received, and the solicitation occurred in spite of the notification of these instructions.