For Immediate Release
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Cotton Pickers Speed Trend of WPA Workers to Private Payrolls.

Continuance of the trend from Federal relief rolls to private payrolls is shown in a report received today by Harry L. Hopkins, Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, from Nels Anderson, Director of Labor Relations for WPA, who is in Louisiana studying farm problems.

"Cotton pickers in Louisiana are leaving WPA rolls voluntarily to harvest the best crop in five years," Mr. Anderson reported. "The same condition is true in the rice areas throughout the southern section of the State. In New Orleans and its metropolitan area, an average of 75 WPA workers leave WPA projects daily for private employment."

The national trend, Mr. Hopkins added, was indicated by a recent survey of 13 representative cities showing a steady rise in the proportion of former urban relief cases in which private employment is now supporting the household. In line with this showing, he noted, the New Orleans office of the Department of Labor reported a 4.3 per cent increase in industrial employment during August over July.

Cotton pickers are receiving from $.60 to $1.25 per 100 pounds, with the average about $.80, Mr. Anderson reported. The average for the past five years has ranged from $.50 to $.65, he added.

"Better pay and the improved crop which permits pickers a greater poundage is causing workers to flock to the cotton fields," Mr. Anderson explained. "Some Works Progress Administration projects have been curtailed following transfer of workers to private payrolls, but no projects have been closed arbitrarily in the State."