Hopkins Refuses Request From New Jersey Republican Campaign Committee.

To protect workers from exploitation, either commercial or political, Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, announced today, the request of the New Jersey Republican Campaign Committee for the names of workers and the amount of their pay has been refused.

Mr. Hopkins emphasized that complete statistics concerning Works Progress Administration operations, including the number and total salaries of employees, are available to the public at all times but that such demands as were made by the Republican Campaign Committee in New Jersey "are nearly always made for the purpose of solicitation and coercion."

His letter to Walter E. Edge, chairman of the New Jersey Republican Campaign Committee, follows:

"This will acknowledge your letter to me of October 15th presented in my absence to Mr. Corrington Gill, Assistant Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, by your representative, Mr. Joseph C. McGarraghy and will confirm the statements made to Mr. McGarraghy by Mr. Gill.

"This administration is and always has been willing to make available to any person or group complete statistics concerning its operations, including the number and total salaries of administrative and non-administrative employees, broken down into any reasonable classifications which may be desired. It is obvious, however, that the object of your letter is to secure the names and salaries of individual workers. We absolutely refuse to give out the individual names, salaries or addresses of our workers for commercial or political purposes. My experience indicates that such demands are nearly always made for the purpose of solicitation and coercion.

"Let me repeat that the American public is entitled to and will receive full facts and figures concerning the operations of the Works Progress Administration. We insist, however, on protecting our workers, as individuals, from commercial and political exploitation."

For Immediate Release, Friday, October 16, 1936.