

THE WORKS PROGRAM

--Works Progress Administration--

For immediate release,
October 21, 1936.

Hopkins Replies to Arthur M. Curtis on Missouri Charges.

Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, today issued a statement replying to allegations made by Arthur M. Curtis, Assistant to the Chairman of the Republican National Committee, that there is a \$5,000,000 shortage in Missouri relief funds.

The statement is as follows:

I see that charges have been made by Arthur M. Curtis, Assistant to the Chairman of the Republican National Committee, to the effect that \$5,000,000 or more of drought relief funds granted by the Federal Government to the State of Missouri prior to June 30, 1935, are unaccounted for, and that one Edwin E. Jones was unable to locate any record of the disposition of these funds in an audit made by him.

Concerning this charge of a \$5,000,000 shortage in Missouri, the records of the Missouri Relief Commission are perfectly clear as to the status of any relief funds granted to the state by the Federal Government. The audit made by Mr. Jones included only the records of the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation and Mr. Jones stated in the audit report over his signature that he did not audit the drought relief accounts.

-2-

The facts are that \$6,398,181 was granted to the State of Missouri for drought relief purposes, including both work and direct relief in drought areas, as well as for the buying of feed for cattle. These drought relief accounts, which were not audited by Jones, were audited by competent accountants of both the Federal Government and the State of Missouri and found to be correct and all funds satisfactorily accounted for.

These charges are made by Arthur M. Curtis, Assistant Chairman of the National Republican Committee, who is the same Curtis who made charges about individuals of the WPA in Missouri, which charges in every single case were proven false by complete investigation. He is also the same Curtis who, with the use of funds of the Republican National Committee, employed a farmer and hired some cows to parade up and down a WPA sidewalk in Arcadia for the benefit of a Republican newsreel.

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