Dr. John A. Kingsbury Resigns from WPA to Enter Campaign.

Dr. John A. Kingsbury, veteran leader in social service work, today resigned as Administrative Consultant to the Works Progress Administration to enter the campaign for re-election of President Roosevelt.

Inactive in politics since 1912, when he participated in organization of the Progressive party, Dr. Kingsbury said he now believes it the duty of every progressive to assist in assuring "continuance of the administration which has made such forward strides in establishing social justice." His decision, he said, was prompted by a letter from Amos Pinchot to Secretary Ickes, adding "it is amazing and painful to see the Pinchots, Henry Allen, and most of all William Allen White, supporting the candidate of wealth and special privilege."

Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, in accepting Dr. Kingsbury's resignation, expressed appreciation of the tribute paid to the Works Program by his Administrative Consultant, who for 14 years was secretary and director of the Milbank Foundation after serving as Commissioner of Public Welfare in New York City, as a leader in revision of the State's health laws and as Director of Relief for the American Red Cross in France during the World War.
Commenting on Dr. Kingsbury's challenge to former progressives, Mr. Hopkins said: "President Roosevelt is the real bulwark against the reactionary forces threatening democracy and social security."

Dr. Kingsbury's letter of resignation follows:

"Dear Mr. Hopkins:

"In order that I may be free to take part in the campaign for the re-election of President Roosevelt, I am resigning my position as Administrative Consultant to the Works Progress Administration, to take effect at your earliest convenience.

"The several assignments which you have given me have enabled me to become acquainted with WPA projects and personnel in nearly every state in the Union. The quality of the projects, their permanent benefit to the communities throughout the Nation, the high character of the directing personnel, and the incalculable value to the morale of the millions kept employed, has aroused my enthusiasm to such a pitch that I feel no stone should be left unturned to insure the continuance of the administration which has made such forward strides in establishing social justice.

"When I read the letter of Amos Pinchot to Secretary Ickes in the New York Times last Monday, I decided it was time for every progressive in the country who favors the re-election of Roosevelt, to line up with the La Follettes, Senator Norris, Grace Abbott, Frank Walsh, Paul Kellogg, and other leaders still loyal to the principles of social justice which Theodore Roosevelt envisaged in 1912, and which Franklin Roosevelt is rapidly translating into action.

"It is quite understandable when such men as Bainbridge Colby and Frank Knox line up under the banner of Big Business, but it is amazing and painful to see the Pinchots, Henry Allen, and most of all William Allen White, supporting the candidate of wealth and special privilege against the candidate of the plain
"Paraphrasing Amos Pinchot's statement, the truth is that the many sincere and liberal-minded people who voted for Theodore Roosevelt in 1912 and for Franklin Roosevelt in 1932, are bound to believe that a radical change has taken place in the thinking of Mr. Pinchot and the few other former progressives whom he has followed into the Landon camp.

"I have taken no part in politics since the Bull Moose days when as a follower of Theodore Roosevelt I was active in the organization of the Progressive Party. As you know I had no intention of participating in the present campaign, but I now feel impelled to do everything in my power to make known what I have seen of the great success of this program which you have had the vision to plan and the courage to execute.

"A President who puts human values first, who is at present our only defense against the reactionary forces threatening our democratic liberties, inspires me to take an active part once more. Therefore, I am resigning in order to be free to participate in this campaign."

In reply, Mr. Hopkins wrote:

"Dear John:

"I appreciate your strong indorsement of the projects and personnel of the Works Progress Administration and I quite understand your desire to testify publicly to the success of our program.

"Your counsel, based upon thirty years of experience in dealing with major problems of both public and private relief, has been invaluable to me. Your judgment of the value of the Works Progress Administration to the families of the millions employed, and to the thousands of communities throughout the land, will, I know, command the respect of people throughout the entire country, who are familiar with your record as an outstanding leader of social work in America:

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"Naturally, I am glad to have you bring to the people the record of this Administration's success in meeting the human needs of the nation during the past three and one-half years. Every true progressive must agree that President Roosevelt is the real bulwark against the reactionary forces threatening democracy and social security."

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