WPA To Make 725,000 Christmas Toys for Needy Children.

Toys from scraps in Works Progress Administration sewing rooms and carpenter shops are being made by some 30,000 workers many of whom are temporarily assigned to this type of work, and will number about 725,000 by Christmas when they will be given to underprivileged children, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins announced today. Since distribution will be made only to children whose parents could not buy toys for them, the project does not compete with private industry, he explained. Wages received by approximately 2,300,000 breadwinners on WPA projects enable them to buy a few toys for children of their own families.

Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Works Progress Administrator in charge of Women's and Professional Projects, reports that in most of the States, WPA laborers are making toys. The projects are sponsored by local welfare or relief agencies or the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation.

Materials used on toy-making projects are scraps and findings, but the finished products are described as attractive and modern. Seamstresses use the latest patterns in making cloth dolls, or animals from left-over pieces of dress material. Carpenters and cabinet makers use scraps of wood or donated wooden boxes to make streamlined transportation toys or modern dollhouse furniture. They also renovate used toys which are donated.

Toy-making activities in the States as reported by the Division of Women's and Professional Projects are as follows:
Alabama--Approximately 800 WPA workers employed making wooden toys, soft toys and games; 300,000 to be completed for Christmas distribution through the State Department of Public Welfare.

California--Has machine shop to make parts for mechanical toys with broken springs, etc.; also doll hospitals. WPA trucks collect broken toys, from tops to tricycles; when mended they are like new. Making soft toys in the sewing rooms. Professional costume designer employed on one project plans native European costumes for some of the dolls.

Colorado--Making 5,000 soft toys for distribution throughout the State. Colorado firemen repairing toys.

Connecticut--Making stuffed dolls and animals.

District of Columbia--WPA workers assisting the Department of Playgrounds in repairing toys for Christmas distribution.

Florida--Twenty-two women workers employed in making toys. Project at Key West where men cut out pieces for women to sandpaper, paint and assemble.

Georgia--Making toy furniture, dolls and stuffed furniture.

Indiana--Sewing projects employ 120 in making soft toys. On 62 recreation projects, workers are making toys of wood, metal and rubber. Materials contributed locally. Merchants have donated boxes, paint and upholstering materials to make toy furniture. Women workers stay after hours and cut patterns to make toys at home for their own children.

Kentucky--Training Work Centers instruct in making stuffed toys. 3,000 toys to be completed by Christmas. Two hundred fifty workers on recreation projects making cut-out toys from prune boxes and repairing donated toys--will have 6,000 to distribute.
Louisiana—Will make and repair 3,500 toys. Cooperating with American Legion, Boy Scouts and other organizations. Sewing projects to make soft toys from now until Christmas.

Maryland—Small groups on sewing projects making "Black Sambo", "Punch", Dutch dolls, clowns, dogs, rabbits, pigs and other animals. Toys will be released to the Commodity Distributors or County Welfare Boards.

Massachusetts—Making toys in Adult Education craft classes; 9,000 toys to be repaired.

Minnesota—One hundred one workers will make and repair a total of 16,600 dolls and toys for Christmas. Expert doll repair work is carried on in a project at St. Paul. Cloth bodies are recovered and missing appendages replaced. Heads and faces are carefully repainted. The project boasts one curling iron which is used to transform scraggly hair into delicate curls. Outside agencies dress the dolls. More than a thousand sleds have been donated to the St. Paul toy-mending project.

Mississippi—Eight hundred forty-seven persons employed making toys, doll furniture, stuffed dolls, inner tube animals, corn shuck dolls, to total 29,750 by Christmas. One hundred one workers repairing approximately 7,500 toys. Will distribute toys from community Christmas trees being planned through cooperation of Federal Music Project and Recreation Division. Parents help in selecting suitable toys for the children.

Missouri—Will produce 75,000 toys by Christmas, with 11,684 women working in sewing rooms permitted to work six hours per day from November 1 until December 15 making toys. Seventy-two workers employed in toy repair. Gifts distributed through organizations sponsoring Christmas trees or baskets. Cooperating with St. Louis Board of Religious organizations making and repairing toys for distribution through the City Relief Administration.
New Hampshire—Making stuffed dolls and animals. Children of the women WPA workers in Manchester's largest sewing room will receive 500 of these toys made on the Manchester project.

North Carolina—One thousand five hundred persons making toys and 500 repairing old ones. Will have 25,000 for distribution through the Department of Public Welfare.

North Dakota—Recreation Projects and sewing rooms making and repairing toys; 26,500 to be distributed.

Ohio—Six hundred WPA workers making 20,000 cloth and wooden toys and 150 workers repairing 15,000.

Rhode Island—Sewing rooms furnishing scraps and patterns to National Youth Administration toy makers.

Tennessee—Two hundred thirty-six workers making cloth and wooden toys. Some toy repair also.

Texas—More than 100 men and women, most of them past 50 years of age or physically handicapped, have been given temporary employment on toy projects. Twelve thousand toys will be ready for Christmas distribution.

Virginia—Eight hundred sixty persons employed in toy making and repairing. Will complete 21,500 toys by Christmas, to be distributed through Surplus Commodities Division.

Washington—Sewing rooms making 6,900 cloth toys; 12 bales of cotton used. Boys in CCC camps cutting Christmas trees for distribution to needy families referred to WPA through State Certifying Agency. Recreation Division making 10,000 veneer toys for children over eight years of age.

West Virginia—Making 1,200 stuffed toys.

Wisconsin—Specializing in educational toys and dolls.