Resignation of Assistant Administrator Holt Announced

Resignation of Thad Holt, Assistant Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, was announced today by Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, effective January 15. Mr. Holt resigned to enter private business in Alabama.

After four years of experience in directing relief activities in Alabama and the Southeast, Mr. Holt came to Washington to accept the appointment as Assistant Administrator in charge of certification and intake of relief cases January 15, 1936.

Mr. Holt was Southeastern Regional Representative of the President's Emergency Committee for Employment in 1931, serving under Col. Arthur Woods and succeeding Frank Bane, now Executive Director of the Social Security Board. When the President's Organization for Unemployment Relief was formed in 1932, he was named Southeastern Regional Representative under Walter Gifford. The following winter, 1932 to 1933, he became Southeastern Field Representative for the Emergency Relief Division of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation with supervision over eight States.

At the request of the Governor, Mr. Holt became the first Director of the Alabama Relief Administration and continued in this capacity until that organization formally closed its operations January 9, 1936. Under his direction, Alabama was the first State to take all able bodied men and women from relief rolls and put them to work. It was also the first State to put
the Works Progress Administration's program into effect and to complete a WPA project. He also conducted the WPA operations in Alabama with the lowest administrative cost in the nation.

Mr. Holt was born in Sumter County, Alabama, and received his primary education in Birmingham. His high school education was in Denver, Colo., and his college degree, A.B. magnum cum laude, was awarded by Colorado College in 1920. He was awarded membership in Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year and is a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Returning to Birmingham in 1920, Mr. Holt became advertising and sales manager of an oil company. Two years later he was instrumental in arranging the first delivery of air mail from the South to New York, accompanying the pilot on the first flight. In 1928 he organized the Alabama Industrial Board, which made the first survey of the industrial resources of the State.

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