



THE WORKS PROGRAM

--Works Progress Administration--

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WPA Employing 2,350 in Flood Control Work With Thousands in Reserve.

Employment of 2,350 project workers of the Works Progress Administration in combatting floods in Missouri and Indiana was announced today by Administrator Harry L. Hopkins. Thousands of additional men were said to be available in these and other States, if needed, to reinforce levees and evacuate residents and livestock of the menaced areas.

Representatives of the United States District Engineers office at Memphis, Tenn., now directing operations in southeastern Missouri with the aid of Works Progress Administration forces and four companies of Missouri National Guard, said there was no indication of serious danger to Mississippi River levees. They attributed this largely to WPA work in strengthening these levees between East St. Louis and Memphis during the last 18 months.

Harry Easley, WPA Deputy Administrator of Missouri, reported all projects in the affected area closed to permit the workers to join in emergency flood measures. In Dunklin county, 1,250 WPA workers were reinforcing levees along a 27-mile front of the St. Francis river under supervision of U. S. Engineers, who brought material and equipment from Memphis. Two hundred fifty WPA workers in Butler county were employed in evacuating residents and livestock along the

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Black river at Poplar Bluff and in working on the levees. The east side of Poplar Bluff was reported flooded as water rose to within 12 inches of the top of the levee. Pemiscot county was the third in Missouri to close all WPA projects and an additional 350 men were at work here and in the other two counties on a special flood control project begun at the request of Army Engineers.

Additional aid to flood-stricken Missouri counties was made possible as surplus commodities were shipped by the WPA, in cooperation with the State Relief Commission. The American Red Cross Chapter at St. Louis also was assisting in distribution of food and clothing.

Five hundred WPA project workers were employed on emergency flood relief in Indiana, Wayne Coy, State Administrator, reported today. He added that this number probably will be doubled later in the week as the flood crest moves southward along White River and the Wabash toward the Ohio.

White River, at Indianapolis, reached its 1913 flood stage yesterday morning, Mr. Coy said, but there were no drownings and practically no property loss was reported, in contrast to damage amounting to millions of dollars and many deaths during the flood 24 years ago. Mr. Coy said the extensive flood control program of the Works Progress Administration during the last two years was responsible for this saving. Levees were being reinforced and endangered residents, with their livestock, evacuated from the shores of the Wabash in southwestern Indiana as the flood crest, now approaching the swollen Ohio, passed southward.

In both Kentucky and Illinois, WPA officials were holding men and equipment ready for duty.

George H. Goodman, Kentucky WPA Administrator, said trucks, boats and men would be ready if needed along the Ohio river. He had notified local and National Guard officials that District WPA officials were prepared to put men to work whenever necessary. Earlier work on levees by the Works Progress Administration along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers has lessened the danger of serious damage, he added.

In Illinois, Charles E. Miner, Deputy Administrator of WPA, likewise had notified district WPA directors to be prepared for emergency work, although the crest is not expected to reach lower Illinois cities along the Wabash and Ohio rivers before Thursday. Flood stage, 40 feet, was reported at Golconda, Ill., on the Ohio today with a crest of 47 feet expected Thursday.

Emergency flood relief work of the Works Progress Administration is carried out under presidential authorization given last February, in anticipation of the Spring floods of 1936 when more than \$18,000,000 was made available for use in the event of such emergencies, Mr. Hopkins explained. Since then extensive improvements in levees and other flood control structures have been completed.

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