THE WORKS PROGRAM

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WPA Forces Increase in Midwest Flood Area

Transfer of 300 project workers of the Works Progress Administration to emergency flood duty in Fayette county, Illinois, following five breaks in the Kaskaskia River levee below Vandalia last night, brought the total of WPA workers combating rising water in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys to 2,650, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins announced today.

Workers in the lowlands south of Vandalia were on day and night shifts, while additional WPA forces were held in readiness at Mt. Carmel, Illinois, on the Wabash river and at Centralia, on a tributary of the Kaskaskia in southern Illinois, officials reported.

Along the St. Francis river in southeastern Missouri, 1,250 WPA workers were reinforcing 27 miles of levee, while 600 additional workers were aiding in flood prevention work in Dunklin, Butler and Pemiscot counties of Missouri. Indiana had assigned 500 WPA workers to flood duty along White river and the lower Wabash, with 500 more ready for duty if needed.

WPA Administrators in Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania also were preparing to meet any emergency as the Ohio river and its tributaries passed the flood stage.