THE WORKS PROGRAM

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WPA Workers Aid 7,000 Homeless in Flood Area.

With more than 7,000 families homeless as a result of floods in six States, over 4,000 Works Progress Administration workers, NYA youths and CCC enrollees are engaged in rescue work and in efforts to prevent further flood damage, it was announced today by Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator. Reports from Howard O. Hunter, regional WPA representative in charge of the States affected, reveal that the number of homeless will increase as the crest of the flood passes down the Ohio and its tributaries to the Mississippi at Cairo, Illinois.

The major flood zone can be outlined on a map by tracing a triangle with points at Portsmouth, Ohio; Vincennes, Indiana; and Cairo, Illinois. Also included in the flood area is southeastern Missouri, along the St. Francis and Black Rivers. Most of the WPA workers are in these two areas, with approximate numbers by States as follows:

Illinois, 300; Kentucky, 300; Indiana, 1700; Missouri, 1900. Complete figures from Ohio are not available.

In many areas throughout the flood States, WPA flood control projects have averted damage, although breaches in unimproved river levees have necessitated
removal of workers on those projects to more serious zones. In all States in the path of flood waters, the Works Progress Administrations are prepared to give immediate aid in emergency work.

Reports from Nashville, Tenn., state that 1,000 families have been compelled to leave the valley of the Cumberland River, which is expected to reach a flood stage of 50 feet at the Tennessee capital on Friday or Saturday.

The Ohio river and its main tributaries were all well above flood stages from Portsmouth, Ohio, to Cairo, Illinois. Rain fell over most of the area again last night, although "clear and colder" weather was forecast today by government meteorologists. They predicted, however, that the river would continue above flood stage for three or four weeks below Louisville, Kentucky.

Despite feverish efforts of hundreds of emergency WPA workers to check the rushing waters with sandbags and bales of straw, new levee breaks were reported along both the Wabash and White rivers in Knox, and Gibson counties, Indiana, and along the St. Francis in Dunklin county, Missouri. In these areas, levee strengthening efforts were turned to rescue work and hundreds of farm families were removed to higher ground.

The Red Cross took charge of relief work from its disaster headquarters at Evansville, Indiana, and clothing from WPA sewing rooms and Federal surplus commodities were being shipped into some areas to relieve suffering. In southern Indiana, NYA youths were enlisted in the emergency to aid CCC, and Works Progress Administration workers who were exhausted from long hours of grilling labor to check the waters.

Assistant WPA Administrator Hunter said: "Reinforcements added in Indiana, Illinois and Missouri bring the total now engaged in the emergency to nearly 4200, of which 2000 were in southeastern Missouri and 1500 in southern Indiana."
A levee break on the St. Francis River in Kennett, Missouri, nearly cost the lives of two WPA supervisors, who were rescued only after heroic efforts on the part of fellow workers.

Harry Easley, Deputy Works Progress Administrator for Missouri, announced that work already done on levees at Kennett would keep water out of that city, but that all surrounding land would be flooded as a result of the break. "Today will in all probability be the last work necessary along the St. Francis river," he said, "as the break at Kennett will give relief to the lower part of Dunklin county."