Flood Relief Forces of WPA Doubled As Danger Spreads

Numerous levee breaks along the Ohio river and its tributaries, with increased danger along the Mississippi, brought redoubled forces of the Works Progress Administration into action today as approximately 8,000 project workers turned to rescue and relief tasks.

Indiana reported the largest number of WPA men at work on flood relief today, raising its total from 1,500 to 3,500 over night.

Missouri had more than 2,000 at work, as an additional crew responded to calls from the district office of U. S. Army Engineers at Memphis to aid in strengthening a 400-foot stretch of weakened levee north of New Madrid, Mo., on the Mississippi, while others were busy along the St. Francis and Black rivers.

Illinois launched a state-wide flood control project of the Works Progress Administration today with headquarters in Harrisburg, 68 miles northeast of Cairo, to direct patrol, evacuation and relief measures from Mt. Carmel on the Wabash river to Cairo on the Ohio. One thousand men were at work today and additional thousands were expected to join them as waters continued to rise.

Five hundred WPA workers were employed in flood relief measures in Kentucky, with crews operating in Ashland, Augusta, Newport, Dayton, Louisville, Covington, Ludlow and Uniontown on the Ohio and Catlettsburg on the Big Sandy river.
Reports this morning indicated approximately 500 were at work in West Virginia and an equal number in Ohio.

Approximately 200 men were at work in the Huntington, W. Va., area, where the flood stage was expected to rise two feet above that reached last spring. Similar conditions were reported about 40 miles up the Ohio river, where Point Pleasant is inundated. At Parkersburg, where the crest was believed to have passed, additional rain brought a further rise and increasing danger was reported as far north as Wheeling.

Pennsylvania, watching the renewed rise of waters in the Pittsburgh district, prepared for emergency action but reported no serious damage to date. Two hundred men were requested for bridge and levee work at Bridgeport today while additional forces were standing by at Pittsburgh, McKeesport, Sharpsburg and Johnstown.

Meanwhile preparatory work was under way in Southern States along the Mississippi. Project workers of WPA were ready for action in Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, as tributaries began to overflow roads at many points. Red river in southern Arkansas and the St. Francis river, farther north, were the chief causes of concern in that State, WPA officials reported. Highway No. 16, near Alexandria, was shut off, but only minor damage was reported in Louisiana. In Mississippi, the Pearl, Leaf, Bouie, Coldwater and Tallahatchie rivers were said to have reached dangerous levels.