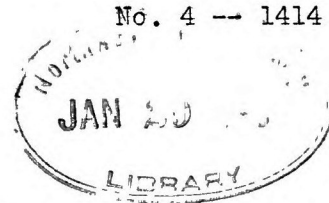

--Works Progress Administration--



For Release to Morning Newspapers,
Tuesday, January 26, 1937.

WPA Forces Fighting Flood in Ten States.

With approximately 45,000 project workers on the flood front in ten States, the Works Progress Administration is employing all available manpower and materials "around the clock" in an unrelenting battle at all danger points, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins announced tonight.

The five Midwestern States where the situation appeared most critical--Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri--had an estimated 32,000 WPA workers on the job tonight, though failure of communication lines made an accurate check on some cities impossible.

Arkansas threw a force of 10,000 WPA men and women employees against the flood in 12 northeastern counties, setting up refugee camps for 15,000 homeless families. Women workers today made available 5,000 bed sacks for distribution by the Red Cross.

In West Virginia, 2,000 WPA workers were busy on day and night shifts and had evacuated more than 4,000 families, or 16,000 persons, from the danger zone. Smaller forces of WPA workers were on flood duty in three other States--400 in Tennessee, 300 in Mississippi and 40 in Freeport, Pa.

In southern Illinois, following complete evacuation of Shawneetown, approximately 2,500 WPA workers who have been busy strengthening levees in that area were being shifted to points farther South, in and above Cairo on the Ohio river, where results of dynamiting on the "fuse-plug" levee along the Mississippi were anxiously awaited.

At Cairo tonight, 500 WPA workers under supervision of Col. Eugene Reybold, U. S. Army Engineers, were assigned to placing 275,000 sandbags atop the 60-foot levee, to provide an additional three feet of elevation as the flood waters reached a stage of 58.62 feet at 6 p.m.

Increasing concern was reported at several points in West Virginia, as all communications with Point Pleasant failed and the water continued to rise at other cities, State WPA officials said. At Huntington, where conditions were described as "the most acute", 974 WPA workers, including a number of women, had answered 4,000 calls for assistance and had evacuated 750 families from the flooded zone. Seven hundred families had been moved from flooded homes at South Wheeling and Wheeling Island; approximately 500 had been evacuated from the Parkersburg area and 300 families had been aided in finding refuge in Wayne County. Point Pleasant and other cities previously had reported large numbers evacuated. Organization for sanitation control, in cooperation with local health authorities, was reported complete and WPA women workers throughout the State were busy making supplies for flood victims. Others were assisting in commodity transport while carpenters from WPA rolls were placed at the disposal of communities needing boats.

First report of emergency flood work in Mississippi by WPA workers came today when 300 men were assigned to strengthening levees along the Tallahatchie and Coldwater rivers in Quitman county.

State WPA Administrators throughout the flood zone were working in close cooperation with State Red Cross officials, Administrator Hopkins explained, to effect complete coordination of the efforts of these agencies.

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