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WPA Reports Rehabilitation Beginning in Upper Ohio Flood Zone.

While added forces of the Works Progress Administration were being mobilized for work under direction of U.S. Army Engineers from Cairo, Ill., south along the Mississippi, WPA rescue crews were turning to rehabilitation measures and sanitation projects in the Upper Ohio valley under Public Health authorities, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins announced following reports late Wednesday from all States in the flood zone.

"Adequate man power is available from WPA rolls," Administrator Hopkins said, "and all Federal agencies are cooperating fully to meet conditions as they develop."

Approximately 55,000 WPA workers were employed in battling the flood today, Mr. Hopkins reported.

Even while emergency work continued along the upper reaches of the Ohio, F.W. McCullough, WPA Administrator for West Virginia, ordered mobilization of every available project worker for rehabilitation measures in the 10 counties where large areas are inundated. With 7,629 WPA workers in these counties, removal of debris, pumping of basements and various sanitary measures already were underway. Constant threat of severe cold prompted officials to all possible speed in making buildings habitable as rapidly as the water recedes, it was explained. Meanwhile, WPA workers were manning boats delivering food to 1,000 families daily at Wheeling and similar emergency activities
were continuing in other cities. More than 8,000 garments have been produced by 143 WPA sewing rooms in the State, in addition to hundreds of comforts and other articles for refugees. U.S. Public Health Service officials were directing WPA workers on sanitation projects.

Indiana continued to set up a sanitary program wherever needed in its southern counties, the WPA workers cooperating with the Red Cross and health authorities, as evacuation of menaced areas was being completed. Four WPA representatives were sent into each county of the Indiana flood zone by Administrator Wayne Coy to complete a check on all refugees still needing care and to inspect the water supply.

Bruce Uthus, Assistant Field Representative in charge of WPA flood work at Cairo and surrounding territory, reported that WPA laborers, bearing the brunt of manual labor, had been working as much as 40 hours without relief, while thousands of women were making clothes, bedding, sandbags and bandages. "We are now organized to meet any emergency," he reported, "in cooperation with the other Federal agencies and the American Red Cross."

As similar reports continued to come in from other States, Administrator Hopkins summed up the part his organization is playing briefly, saying:

"We will do a big mop up job, following the river right on down."