



THE WORKS PROGRAM

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--Works Progress Administration--

For Immediate Release
Thursday, January 28, 1937.

Hopkins Summarizes Flood Activities.

Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, today issued the following summary of WPA activities in the flood areas of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers on the basis of reports from field headquarters made to him this morning:

ARKANSAS--Headquarters set up at West Memphis to direct work of strengthening levees north and south from this point; 1,500 WPA workers now employed on Mississippi levees and additional men available when requested by Army Engineers. Situation in St. Francis and White River basins under control with 4,000 men working. This number will be reduced as need for additional men on Mississippi develops. Plans completed for evacuation of river counties if necessary. WPA will assist Army in this task with men and equipment. WPA cooperating with U. S. Public Health Service and Red Cross in caring for refugees and safeguarding public health. Some 600 sewing room workers engaged in making mattress covers, sandbags, clothing and bandages.

ILLINOIS--Mound City 15 feet under water; 3,000 residents, 500 WPA workers and 175 CCC boys evacuated. At Cairo, 2,000 WPA men and 450 CCC boys working on levee strengthening. More than 15,000 WPA workers engaged in levee work, sanitation work, relief and rehabilitation of refugees in Southern Illinois. Several thousand WPA women workers making bed coverings, clothing, bandages, etc., for use of Red Cross.

TENNESSEE--WPA labor has raised the levee at Tiptonville four feet and immediate danger of a break at that point has been averted, according to

Col. Harry S. Berry, State Administrator. Some 2,800 WPA men are engaged on levee strengthening in the vicinity of Memphis and points north. An additional 200 WPA workers are assisting in the care of refugees. About 5,000 women are at work in sewing rooms making clothing, bedding, etc., which is turned over to the Red Cross and Tennessee Welfare Commission on requisition.

KENTUCKY--More than 200,000 homeless in Louisville. The city is without water or power. Transportation facilities demoralized but one rail line is operating to the southeast. WPA workers engaged in sanitation work and cooperating with Red Cross in care of refugees. Some 20,000 WPA workers engaged in flood work throughout the State, with 2,100 in Louisville. The Louisville roll will increase as voluntary workers return to normal tasks.

Reports from Paducah reveal ample supplies of food and commodities but most of city is under water with homeless evacuated to Mayfield. Jeffersonville is under water as are Hickman and Fulton. New Albany, Ind., is reported four-fifths under water.

WEST VIRGINIA--There are 56,000 homeless in the State with 100,000 people affected by the flood. WPA has 2,000 workers engaged in sanitation and clean-up work. There are 28,000 homeless in Huntington where 640 WPA workers are doing emergency work of various kinds in addition to constructing an emergency highway which will connect that city with state highways. About 6,000 refugees have been moved from Huntington, with Charleston housing 1,500 and that number will be increased by 600 today.

At Wheeling, 500 WPA workers are now cleaning streets and buildings. There are 14,000 homeless in the city.

In Parkersburg, 400 WPA workers are engaged in cleaning the city of debris and other rehabilitation work.

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