WPA Women Workers Concentrate on Emergency Flood Relief Projects.

With WPA sewing projects working at top speed, pouring all available supplies and clothing into the flooded areas, the workers on WPA non-construction projects are employing every resource at their command to hold want and suffering at a minimum, Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator in charge of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects, announced today.

WPA workers on nursing, public health and housekeeping aid projects also are rendering invaluable assistance in the flooded areas of the country. Many of these WPA workers began to help flood sufferers in the afflicted sections along the Ohio before it was generally realized there was any real menace in the rising waters of the river's tributaries to the Mississippi. Eighteen nurses from the WPA nursing project in Minnesota have been sent to Southern Illinois.

In some sections where the WPA sewing rooms are under water, the women workers are still sewing day and night, using homes as centers. In many cases women on sewing projects have offered to donate one or two days' time without pay to making garments in this emergency. On January 26 alone, 500,000 garments were released to the flood States.

On one day, three carloads of clothing made on WPA projects and received in Indianapolis, Indiana, from other States were shipped to Louisville,
Kentucky. The shipment contained from 125,000 to 150,000 items, including one car of leather jackets. Trucks were reported to be rolling into Indiana from Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan, and that equitable distribution of all these goods was being made between Indiana and other flood suffering States.

From Minnesota approximately 935 woolen and cotton blankets, 350 pillows and 700 sheets were shipped to Louisville in one day. A single consignment from Nebraska to Marion, Illinois, contained 1,000 blankets made on WPA sewing projects.

Twenty workers are tanning cow hides on a WPA project at Williston, North Dakota, which will be made into coats for release to the flood victims.

The State Director of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects of Tennessee has reported the release to the Red Cross of 1800 overalls, 1800 towels, 1800 pajamas, and 2400 dresses made on WPA sewing projects in the city of Knoxville alone. The Red Cross received from WPA sewing projects in Nashville more than 2,500 pieces of bed clothing, 3,626 women's, 930 men's and 2,105 children's garments. Approximately 5,000 women's dresses and 5,000 men's shirts have been delivered to the Red Cross from the WPA sewing project in Memphis.

All available surplus goods are being used for flood sufferers in the State of Kentucky. WPA projects of this Division are at the service of flood authorities on a twenty-four-hour basis. WPA work rooms are being used as hospitals, refugee, and soup kitchens.

In Anna, Union County, Illinois, WPA women workers are making strips of unbleached muslin to partition off bunks into booths for use by the men and women in all the refugee camps opened up in that locality. Here WPA women workers are also renovating old clothing for the refugees as fast as it is brought in by more fortunate members of the community. Every church and vacant building and practically all the homes in the city of Anna are filled with refugees, who have been forced from their own homes.
WPA cooks from the school lunch projects have been assigned in many of the flooded areas to the preparation of food for the sufferers. WPA housekeeping aides have been detailed to serve meals and assist in caring for those who need assistance. WPA nurses are being taxed to the limit of their capacities in their care of the sick and suffering.

In some of the flooded areas, WPA nurses and housekeeping aides are devoting practically their entire time to the treatment of pneumonia cases resulting from the disaster. From Indiana comes the report that 30 housekeeping aides are stationed at the armory in Evansville, feeding workers and refugees. Two clerks are serving the other refuge stations.

When refugees were brought into the armory at New Albany, Indiana, they were registered as to family name and the number of members. This was done in order to check any individuals who might be lost. WPA women workers from the housekeeping aid project and the sewing rooms were organized to give needed assistance. The refugees were given a bath. Those who needed it received clothing. Those who required medical attention were taken immediately to the Emergency Hospital. Altogether approximately 500 refugees have been taken care of at the armory.

In Cincinnati, Ohio, approximately 900 persons connected with the Division of Women's and Professional Projects are devoting their entire efforts to the relief of flood sufferers. The State Director reports that as a result of WPA efficiency all food and clothing needs are being met for the present.