SULLIVAN APPOINTED TO SUCCEED HURLEY AS CONNECTICUT WPA ADMINISTRATOR

Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, today announced the resignation of Robert A. Hurley, Connecticut WPA Administrator, and the appointment of Vincent J. Sullivan, Bridgeport, Deputy Administrator under Mr. Hurley, as his successor.

Mr. Hurley resigned to become the head of the new State Department of Public Works. He had served as WPA Administrator in Connecticut since July 31, 1936, previously having been State Director of the Division of Operations for WPA. He came to the State WPA headquarters in July, 1935, to assume direction of flood rehabilitation activities after having been District Director in the Bridgeport office. After attending Lehigh University, 1914-1917, he served in the Navy during the World War. Subsequently he engaged in road, bridge and power house construction.

In his letter of resignation, Mr. Hurley said, in part:

"My knowledge of employment conditions in my territory prompts me to express the hope that you will be successful in your desire to obtain the full appropriation which the President has requested of Congress for the continuation of the Works Progress Administration for the coming year. An arbitrary reduction in the Works Progress Administration program would, I am sure, cause widespread suffering and a perceptible slowing down of recovery, as well as place a burden on the states and municipalities which they would find difficult to bear. I know that all those who are familiar with relief conditions throughout the country will join with you in your effort to extend aid to those in distress through the medium of work relief, which not only provides employment for needy persons, but permanent and lasting improvements to those localities participating in the program."

Accepting his resignation, Mr. Hopkins wrote:

"I regret exceedingly that it is necessary for the Works Progress Administration to lose your services which have been of outstanding value to this Administration and to the people of Connecticut. Your expression of continued interest in our problem is appreciated. It is most gratifying to know that the people of the State of Connecticut are to continue to benefit from your services to the State.

"I wish to assure you of our confidence that you will be successful in your new undertaking and again say that I accept your resignation only with the greatest regret."

For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 6, 1937.