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Williams Announces Ruling on WPA Arts Projects Reduction.

Ruling on requests from the Federal Arts Projects in New York City, Aubrey Williams, Deputy Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, announced today that the order providing for reduction in their rolls stands unchanged and another appeals board, with power to reinstate persons dropped when in need, will not be established.

Formal answer to the requests came in a statement from Mr. Williams to Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator in Charge of these projects. The text follows:

"It is my understanding that the requests made by the New York City Four Arts project groups are:

1. That the order providing for a reduction in the number of persons employed on this project be rescinded.

2. That another Appeals Board be established with power to reinstate persons dropped when in need.

"I regret to inform you that it is not possible for us to grant either of these requests. In regard to the first one, it is impossible for us to rescind this order without being guilty of discrimination against other persons on other projects in the WPA. This would mean laying off people now on other projects where similarly large proportionate reductions have already been ordered. This would be manifestly unfair. In regard to the request for another Appeals Board, there is an Appeals Board now existing in New York City for the purpose of hearing any and all cases wherein discrimination is charged. This Board is authorized to handle all cases of discrimination for any reason whatever. If they are in need of any assistance we are prepared to entertain a request for such and to grant it if such need for additional service exists. Therefore, this second request is likewise denied.

"We hope that nothing will happen to prevent the continuance of these projects on an efficient and equitable basis. The record of their achievement is a very fine one and one of which we are very proud. We feel that they have made a distinct contribution to American culture and we believe their continuance is a legitimate function of government."