For Release to Morning Newspapers,
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Hopkins Links Political Freedom Orders To Pay Checks Of All WPA Workers

Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, today wrote a letter which will be received by every WPA worker when he collects his pay check emphasizing the absolute political freedom of every person on the rolls of this agency.

"No one will lose his job because of his vote in any election or his failure to contribute to any campaign funds," Administrator Hopkins wrote, underlining these words. "This has always been an absolute rule of WPA," he added, "and it is my responsibility and yours to see that there are no exceptions. What's more, I want you to let me know if anybody tries to tell you anything different."

Sufficient copies of the letter have been ordered so that each of the nearly 2,600,000 project workers and the supervisory and administrative employes will receive this message with the next payroll check distributed by the Treasury State Disbursing offices.

The text of the letter follows:

"It has been my desire that everyone connected with the Works Progress Administration should know and understand the rules under which we work. This is especially true of any question involving personal rights. "

"For this reason, I want to repeat once more our rules about elections so that there can be absolutely no misunderstanding. Every person who works
for the Works Progress Administration, whatever his job, has the right to vote in any election for any candidate he chooses. Moreover, no WPA worker is required to contribute to any political party or any campaign fund in order to hold his job. No supervisor or administrative person may attempt to influence the vote of any worker or solicit contributions to campaign funds from the people who work under him. Anyone who uses his position with the WPA in any way to influence the votes of others by threat or intimidation will be dismissed.

"No one will lose his WPA job because of his vote in any election or his failure to contribute to any campaign fund. This always has been an absolute rule of the WPA, and it is my responsibility and yours to see that there are no exceptions. What's more, I want you to let me know if anybody tries to tell you anything different.

"This is a big program and we are all responsible for seeing that it works. I think the country knows and appreciates the work which has been done. Obviously, only by continuing to do a good job for the public can we expect continued public approval. Personally, I am proud of the fine things which WPA workers all over the country have built and done. New wealth has been created and the life of the country has been enriched. Your personal opinions and your politics are nobody's business but your own."

In a supplementary letter to all State WPA Administrators, advising them of plans to bring this message to the attention of every worker, Administrator Hopkins wrote:

"Arrangements have been made to print a sufficient number of copies of the attached communication for distribution to every WPA project worker, as well as to all supervisory and administrative employees."
"Arrangements have been made whereby Treasury State Disbursing offices will distribute a copy of this letter with each payroll check.

"Printed copies of the attached letter will be sent direct to the Treasury State Disbursing Office. You will please assist the Treasury State Disbursing Office in any way that is necessary in order to expedite distribution of copies of the letter with the next payroll check to each WPA worker.

"The communication to all WPA workers is intended to emphasize the established regulations of the Works Progress Administration as set forth in the Handbook of Procedures and in General Letters. General Letter No. 8, dated March 13, 1936, remains in effect and you are again directed to post a copy of this letter in each local office and on each work project."