For immediate release
Saturday, May 28, 1938.

DETROIT LABOR LEADER CHARGES SENATOR VANDENBERG WITH MISUSE OF TELEGRAM REQUESTING WPA ASSISTANCE

Charges that Senator Vandenberg had "distorted" the meaning of a telegram sent him regarding the relief situation in Michigan and had used it as "an attack against the entire WPA program", were made today by William B. Taylor, director of welfare, United Auto Workers of America, in a communication addressed to Works Progress Administrator Harry L. Hopkins.

Taylor wired Administrator Hopkins from Detroit today that the UAWA "is strongly in favor of the continuation and extension of the WPA". He had only requested Senator Vandenberg, he said, to attempt to secure a special grant of WPA funds for direct relief in Michigan, where destitution is particularly acute among unemployed automobile workers.

Senator Vandenberg on Thursday, the day he received Taylor's request, read the telegram on the floor of the Senate, and in the course of his explanatory remarks declared it showed the necessity of direct, as opposed to work, relief as the only satisfactory formula for relieving conditions in such cities as Detroit.

Mr. Taylor's telegram to Administrator Hopkins is quoted in full below:

"Senator Vandenberg has distorted the meaning of my telegram to him requesting the use of WPA funds for relief purposes in the Michigan relief crisis. He has used my telegram as the basis of an attack against the entire WPA program. This is directly contrary to the letter and spirit of our program. The International Union UAWA is strongly in favor of the continuation and extension of the WPA. This is particularly necessary now when the automobile manufacturers are displaying a complete inability to employ Michigan workers. Only an enlarged WPA program with trade union wages can to any appreciable extent solve the present problem of Michigan's unemployed. We are asking for a grant of WPA funds for direct relief in Michigan only to avert the danger of facing in Michigan the starvation now prevalent in Chicago and Cleveland."

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