For Immediate Release
Thursday, July 14, 1938

HOPKINS GIVES FURTHER WARNING AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Supervisory and administrative employees of the Works Progress Administration were given additional warning today against political activity in connection with their jobs.

Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, in a letter to all state administrators, set forth that under the provisions of the current Relief Appropriation Act legal barriers had been erected to prevent such employees running for elective office "in any primary, general or special election", and from serving as campaign managers or assistants for other candidates.

It was further stated that no person employed by WPA in an administrative or supervisory capacity could simultaneously hold an elective office requiring his absence from WPA during regular working hours or in which the salary is more than $200 a year.

The effect of the order, he explained, is simply to give legal status to a practise which has been observed in the WPA from the beginning, but which previously had been covered only under general regulations.

The letter follows:

"The Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1938 provides that the funds appropriated in that Act shall not be used to pay the salary or expenses of any person in a supervisory or administrative position who is a candidate for any State, district, county or municipal office (such office requiring full
time of such person and to which office a salary or per diem attaches), in any primary, general or special election, or who is serving as a campaign manager or assistant thereto for any such candidate.

"It is the policy of the Works Progress Administration that this regulation shall also be applicable to candidates for Federal offices, and to campaign managers or assistants thereto for any such candidates.

"Furthermore, it is the policy of the Works Progress Administration that no such person while holding an elective office, the duties of which would necessitate being absent from a WPA position during regular WPA working hours, or to which a salary in excess of $200 per year is attached, shall be employed.

"Those regulations apply both to field, district and local administrative staffs, and to supervisory personnel on projects, but do not apply to other project workers."