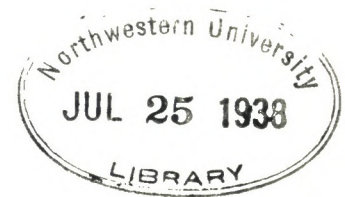


THE WORKS PROGRAM

--Works Progress Administration--



For Immediate Release,
Thursday, July 21, 1938.

HOPKINS ANNOUNCES INCREASE IN SOUTHERN JOB QUOTAS

The Works Progress Administration is acting immediately to help meet the situation recently described by the President as the Nation's Economic Problem No. 1 by supplementing inadequate incomes with work in the rural South, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins announced today.

Orders have been issued, Mr. Hopkins disclosed, to eleven State WPA Administrators in the South to increase job quotas immediately in the rural areas where crops have been laid by and the harvest has not yet begun. When the crop gathering season arrives, the workers will be released until the harvest is completed and then reassigned.

Mr. Hopkins said that he expected thousands of these newly assigned workers to be at work by next week. Sufficient work projects already are approved and in the hands of the State Administrators, he said, to absorb the additional workers. These projects, he explained, are of a character that will improve country life and develop and conserve natural resources.

"The income of the South needs to be raised now," Mr. Hopkins said. "One way to help raise the income of the region as a whole is to get wages into the hands of those who need to spend it. The normal and American way for a man to meet the needs of his family and himself is through work.

"Supplementing inadequate earnings of farmers, share croppers, tenant

farmers and farm laborers in Southern rural areas during the period when farm labor is not needed," he said, "is one way of righting the economic unbalance described by the President as constituting the Nation's No. 1 economic problem. We must eliminate all factors which continue to retard the recovery of the Nation. Many agricultural workers do not have the safeguards which have been thrown around other workers by means of unemployment insurance."

He said that as the need develops in other sections of the country, the same procedure will be followed.

"Extension of the Works Program in rural sections," Mr. Hopkins continued, "will keep at home many unemployed or partially employed workers in country districts who would otherwise go to cities in a vain search of jobs. This migration is bad not only because of the added unemployment burdens imposed upon cities, but also because it frequently means disruption of family ties and wholesome rural associations."

Mr. Hopkins made it clear that these new workers, like all those on the WPA rolls, will be available for private employment during periods when they are needed. He pointed out that agricultural work is necessarily seasonal, and that the income of large numbers of agricultural workers, particularly in the South, is such that it is necessary to supplement it by a few months' work each year in order to provide even the most elemental necessities of life.

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