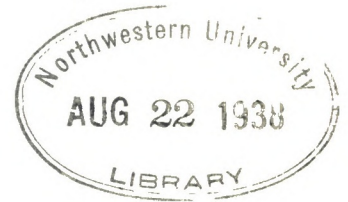


T H E   W O R K S   P R O G R A M

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--Works Progress Administration--



For Release to Morning Newspapers  
Friday, August 5, 1938.

WPA WORKERS EXEMPT FROM SECURITY WAGES DECLINE; UNSKILLED GROUP INCREASES

Marked decrease in the number of WPA employes exempt from security earnings schedules and a substantial rise in the proportion of unskilled workers on WPA rolls have made possible further regional equalization in the graduated wage rates without increasing costs of the program above the level last fall, Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, announced today. Wage rates were raised recently throughout Southern States, where the lowest scales prevailed.

Wage classification reports show that in June 97.3 per cent of all project employes were paid security wages, which provide varying monthly earnings for unskilled, intermediate, skilled, and professional and technical work. The remainder, or only 2.7 per cent, were essential project personnel not available at the rates of pay provided within the limits of the security earnings schedule. WPA originally allowed 10 per cent of its personnel in the latter classification and in November, 1936, was employing 7.4 per cent at wages above the security level. This percentage had dropped to 3.5 last November and the authorized limit has been set at 5 per cent. The June, 1938, percentage of exempt personnel is the lowest in the three years of WPA operations.

Unskilled work, for which the lowest rates of pay are established, employed 72.9 per cent of all those on WPA projects in June, an increase from 64.7 per cent last November. The proportion of workers in other classifications decreased to approximately the same level as in November, 1936, when WPA employment was almost as high as in June, 1938.

Mr. Hopkins pointed out that the reduction in proportion of project workers exempt from the security earnings schedule had continued despite the fact that total WPA employment was increased by 1,250,000 persons between November, 1937, and June of this year.

The proportion of WPA workers in each of the security wage classifications and the proportion of exempted workers in November, 1936, November 1937 and June 1938 are shown below.

	November <u>1936</u>	November <u>1937</u>	June <u>1938</u>
Total project workers	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Security wage workers	92.6	96.5	97.3
Unskilled	67.6	64.7	72.9
Intermediate	10.5	12.8	11.2
Skilled	11.0	14.0	10.1
Professional and technical	3.5	5.0	3.1
Non-security workers	7.4	3.5	2.7

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