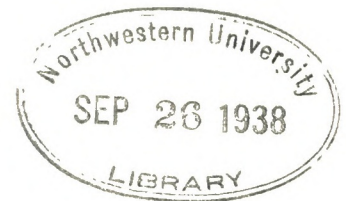


THE WORKS PROGRAM

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--Works Progress Administration--



For Release to Morning Newspapers,  
Friday, September 2, 1938.

## DIES ASKED WHY NO FEDERAL THEATRE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CALLED TO TESTIFY

Hallie Flanagan, Director of the Federal Theatre Project, today called attention to inaccurate and misleading charges concerning the conduct of the project and to the fact that the Dies House Committee has not called any official of the project as a witness in its investigation of un-American activities.

In a letter to Rep. Martin Dies, Chairman of the Committee, the Federal Theatre Director pointed out that she had offered to testify when the first accusations were made against the Federal Theatre Project and had advised the Committee that all officials connected with the project were available as witnesses.

The letter follows:

"In the New York Press of September 1, I again read an accusation made by Mr. Thomas of your Committee concerning the administration of the Federal Theatre Project. May I call to your attention the fact that on August 5 when I read the first of such statements, I wrote immediately to your Committee, saying that I would hold myself in readiness to testify. I further stated that the National Policy Board of the Federal Theatre Project would be in session during August and that directors of the Federal Theatre Projects all over the United States would be available to assist your Committee.

"In the course of the month since I wrote to you no person concerned with the direction of the Federal Theatre Project has been called to testify.

"As an example of the inaccurate and misleading statements made concerning the project, I wish to cite the charges attributed to Congressman Thomas of your Committee in newspapers of September 1. Regulations duly issued pursuant to law prohibit payment for any time not actually spent at work on a project, therefore we could not pay project employes for time spent in Washington as witnesses. As evidence of the fact that we had no desire to penalize them for testifying, as Mr. Thomas implies, we had arranged that they could make up the time lost on the project as a result of their testimony. This is the regular procedure in all such cases."

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