Aubrey Williams, Acting Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, turned over today to the Senate Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures the results of an investigation he ordered following charges by Senator James J. Davis, Pennsylvania candidate for re-election. In his letter to the Senatorial Committee, Mr. Williams declared that there was "not a scintilla of truth" in any of the charges made by Senator Davis.

Some of the charges, such as the "theft of a street railway by a WPA foreman," were branded as "utterly ridiculous." Mr. Williams reported was in detail, citing the charge and the facts found to be true in each case.

"We have made a careful investigation of every charge reported by the press as having been submitted by Senator Davis," Mr. Williams said.

"We found numerous charges involving persons in no way connected with the WPA and over whom we have no control, but we did not find a single charge against any WPA employee that could be substantiated. Sworn testimony and documented evidence establishes beyond question that no employe of the WPA referred to in these charges has been involved in any political coercion."

The report submitted to the Senatorial Committee follows:

Charge No. 1: "Men requested to pay $100, it is charged, included: Fred Johnson, Lloyd Hagey and Ken KohleLich, of Trucksville; Rex Vosbelg, Orange; Truman Oscher, of Courtdale; Frank Grontkoski and Harry Jakes, of Plymouth; Peter Secarlo and Clem Zeunceko, of Luzerne; John Daniels, of Kingston; James Briteia, Peter Morgan, Louis Macdon, Rubeen Switzeagle, Toney De Nardo, Anthony Traglia and Joseph Borkise, of Pittston; Edward Wanalsita, of Avoca, and Michael Hronka, of Swoyerville.

"I am enclosing postal cards which are being received by men operating trucks on the WPA. When they appear at WPA headquarters pursuant to these cards, the sum of $100 is demanded from each operator of a truck."

The facts are that no WPA truck owner or driver has received a notice of any kind from WPA headquarters resulting in political solicitation of funds. Each person named - except Fred Johnson, Peter Secarlo, Clem Zeunceko, James Briteia and Peter Morgan, whose trucks have never worked on a WPA project in Luzerne County and Anthony Tragalia, who could not be reached for a statement -
has been interviewed and their signed and witnessed statements conclusively established that they received no postal card from the Works Progress Administration; that no person connected with the Works Progress Administration has ever requested them to make a political contribution of any kind; that a few of the truck owners received a notice from a political organization, and that upon reporting, pursuant to the notice, they were requested by persons not in the employ of the Works Progress Administration to make a voluntary political contribution; that no contributions were made by them, and that all of the truck-owners, including the ones who received the notice, are still working with their trucks on projects of the Works Progress Administration. The Branch Office Manager for Area No. 2 states under oath that no employee of the Works Progress Administration under his supervision has mailed postal cards to truck-owners requesting them to report to WPA headquarters or any other place for the purpose of soliciting funds from them; that he has never handed over any lists of truck-owners to any person, and that those charged with soliciting contributions have no connection whatsoever with the Works Progress Administration.

Charge No. 2: "Within the last three weeks a representative of the Democratic party came to WPA headquarters in Wilkes-Barre and had all of the employees engaged in preparing the names and addresses of everyone on WPA projects and on relief and delivered this list to the chairman of the Democratic party in the Liberty Bank Building in Wilkes-Barre. Ninety-three of the office force of the WPA were engaged in making this list."

The facts are that not a single WPA employee at the Wilkes-Barre office has been engaged in the preparation of a list of WPA workers for any political purpose. The Branch Office Manager of the Works Progress Administration at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and the Division Supervisors have executed sworn affidavits establishing that no such list has been compiled during the past few weeks by any employee under their supervision during the past three weeks, or at any time during their incumbency in office. Each and every employee investigators found working at the WPA office in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, a total of 125, testifies to the same effect and has signed a witnessed statement.
Charge No. 3: "A very common practice and a very reprehensible one is this - the Democratic leaders compel the Republican workers on WPA projects to change their registration 'or else.' I am enclosing herewith a very few names and addresses of those who have been so approached. In addition to compelling them to change their registration before they can secure employment on WPA, trucks on WPA time are carrying these men from their communities to the Court House in Wilkes-Barre in order to register. ** *

"Some of those who were approached to change their registration are:
Elmer Keer, Alderson; Edward Gary and wife; Fred Fox, Wilkes-Barre;
George Jones, Jack Roberts, Elias Reese, Arthur L. Poor, Kenneth Barber;
Thomas Bird, Plymouth; Glen Jones, West Nanticoke; Thomas Murray, Mr. and Mrs.
Jake Rowl, Kingston; Howard Ross, Salem Township; Harriet Schimmelbuch,
Plymouth; Ray Killian, Salem Township; William Eckert, Wesley Lamoreau,
Harold Hobbitt, Claude Gelightley, Lottie Sargent, Plymouth, Pa."

Payroll records of the Works Progress Administration have been care-
fully examined which conclusively establish that, with the exceptions of Glen
Jones, Arthur Poor, George Jones and James Roberts (the only Roberts appearing
on the payrolls of the Works Progress Administration), none of the persons
named is in the employ of the Works Progress Administration. Each of the
persons employed by the Works Progress Administration has been interviewed,
and signed witnessed statements executed by them disclose that they have not
been at any time coerced by any person connected with the Works Progress
Administration to change their registrations, that they have not changed
their registrations, and that they are still employed with the Works Prog-
ress Administration.

Charge Number 4: "...He (Senator Davis) also gave a memorandum
covering a meeting of W.A. foremen, timekeepers and engineers at Plymouth,
Pa. at which Jobey Bielovicz, Democratic chairman of the 5th Legislative
District, was reported as demanding that Republicans be changed to Democratic
registrants and that the vote be turned out or 'I'll have every damn man fired
off the job they hold.'"

The facts are that Joseph Bialagowicz is not in the employ of the
Works Progress Administration and has no connection whatsoever therewith.
Harry J. Williams, the branch manager, at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, states
under oath that he has received no request from Mr. Bialagowicz for the dismis-
sal or appointment of any WPA workers. The Works Progress Administration has
no power to control the activities of persons who are not in its employ.

Charge No. 5: Killian concluded his charges by asserting that one WPA
foreman "stole a street railway with the aid of WPA labor, sold it for junk
and pocketed the receipts of the sale."

The facts are that the Works Progress Administration has only two
projects in Luzerne County involving the removal of railway or street-car
tracks. One of these was located in a borough of West Hazleton and the
borough arranged for the disposal of the tracks; the other was in a borough
of Duryea where a similar agreement existed between the borough, the Penn-
sylvania Department of Highways and the Railway Company. The Works Progress
Administration had nothing to do with the disposition of the rails, ties,
fittings or any other materials removed. There is no record of any such
theft.

These facts are attested to by a sworn affidavit executed by Daniel H.
Mehl, Supervisor of Operations, Works Progress Administration at Wilkes-
Barre, Pennsylvania.

Charge No. 6: "Truck loads, actually thousands of men and boys, are
taken to asserted projects, where there is absolutely nothing for them to do," said Davis. "No tools of any kind for them to work with. They are taken back
to a wooded section and spend the day playing cards, shooting craps and the
like... Many are school boys, who report for work and then return to school."

The facts are that each project operated by the Works Progress Admin-
istration is sponsored by a public agency and that the sponsoring agency sup-
plies the work sheets, plans of operation and specifications. Each project is
examined and given approval by the local, State and Federal Administration,
preventing the possibility of projects which are fictitious in nature. All
necessary tools for workers of this Administration have been obtained. No
worker has been employed by this Administration under the age of 18 and if
the relief agency refers persons under that age for employment they are re-
jected.

These facts are established by the sworn testimony of Daniel R. Mehl,
Supervisor of Division of Operation, and Howard E. Decky, Supervisor of Divi-
sion of Employment, both from the Wilkes-Barre area.

Charge No. 7: Sen. Davis wrote: "As a matter of record, the testimony
is history to me. Periodically since last January I have been forwarding to
Harry L. Hopkins, WPA Administrator, letters from WPA workers and truck owners
alleging the very conditions now complained of."

The Works Progress Administration has made a thorough search of its
files in Washington, D.C., concerning complaints by truck owners transmitted
for attention by Senator Davis. On February 1, 1938, Senator Davis trans-
mitted a complaint by Charles C. Vittello and on May 30, 1938, he forwarded
a complaint by Mrs. Margaret Graham; these are the only truck complaints
received from Senator Davis. Both cases involved requests that the complainant's trucks be hired on projects of this Administration and were forwarded to the U. S. Treasury Department, Procurement Division for disposition, as that agency procures all equipment needed by the WPA on its projects.

Charge No. 8: Paul F. Schoch charged that he was ordered to report to a State Garage Inspector, who requested a political contribution; that he failed to make the contribution; that his truck was released from work; and that trucks were hired to replace his. Paul Laub charges similar irregularity.

The facts are that the area office at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, had been exceeding the equipment allowance of $7.00 per month per worker. On August 25, 1938, the Branch Office Manager was directed to discontinue the practice by a communication from the Deputy Administrator, a portion of which stated:

"You are directed to immediately plan your operations so that during the month of September, and until further notice from this office, you will not exceed this established rate."

Consequently, on September 14, 1938, the Supervisor of Operations ordered the release of trucks owned by Paul F. Schoch, Paul A. Laub, and John W. Weaver. No trucks have been hired to replace the trucks released. The remaining men on the project have had their trucks in continuous operation. There is no evidence that anyone connected with the WPA requested these men to make a political contribution or to report to anyone regarding such contribution.

Charge No. 9: It is charged that Dennis J. Dugan, an employee of the Works Progress Administration, attended a meeting at Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania, on March 16, 1938, at which he stated he would fire any Works Progress Administration worker who did not support Thomas Kennedy.

The facts are that Dennis J. Dugan did attend the meeting in question; but that he informed the audience that he would not stand for any coercion in the Works Progress Administration, and the offenders would be fired. The persons presiding at the meeting and numerous persons attending the meeting have verified the above facts under oath.
Charge No. 10: "The affidavits charging that Democratic registration was necessary to get Works Progress Administration employment in Carbon County, Pennsylvania, were turned over to the Senate Campaign Investigation Committee by Senator James J. Davis today.

"They were added to the already bulging file of allegations of widespread corruption received by the committee and which, Senator Davis charges, goes on with the knowledge of WPA Administrator Harry L. Hopkins.

"The affidavits were made by Frank Larizzo and John Dolinsky, both of Nesquehoning, who swore that they were asked by Harold Cass, an employee of the State Employment Office, to change their registration from Republican to Democratic or their applications would not be acted upon."

The affidavits submitted by these men stated that they were applying for work on the Weissport bridge.

The facts are that the Weissport Bridge Project is not a project of the Works Progress Administration and that the Pennsylvania State Employment Office has no connection with the Works Progress Administration. This Administration has no jurisdiction over the matter.