For Immediate Release,
Tuesday, October 25, 1938

HOPKINS REAFFIRMS ABSOLUTE POLITICAL FREEDOM OF WPA WORKERS

Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, today issued an order to all State WPA Administrators reaffirming the absolute political freedom of all WPA workers to vote as they please. The State Administrators were ordered to post copies of the letter at the site of every WPA project and at all administrative offices of the organization.

More than 7,000 copies were issued to WPA officials for immediate distribution to project sites.

The text follows:

"So that there can be absolutely no misunderstanding of WPA rules about elections and voting franchise, these regulations are restated as follows:

"1. Every person who works for the Works Progress Administration, whatever his job, has a right to vote in any election for any candidate he chooses.

"All project employees of the Works Progress Administration and supervisory and administrative employees shall be entitled to exercise their voting franchise in the same manner as other citizens.

"2. No WPA worker is required to contribute to any political party or any campaign fund in order to hold his job.

"3. No supervisor or administrative person may attempt to influence the vote of any worker or solicit contributions for campaign funds from the people who work under him. Anyone who uses his position with the Works Progress Administration in any way to influence the votes of others by threat or intimidation will be dismissed."
"4. No one will lose his WPA job because of his vote in any election or his failure to contribute to any campaign fund. This always has been the absolute rule of the Works Progress Administration.

"5. When the hours during which polling places are open or any other conditions prevent employees from freely exercising their voting privileges, scheduled hours of work may be adjusted to provide the necessary time for this purpose.

"6. Employees shall not be paid for time allowed during which to vote, but they shall be permitted through a rescheduling of working hours to work their full quota of hours during the payroll month for which the time off is granted. Discrimination in granting this privilege will not be tolerated.

"The above stated rules apply to all administrative, supervisory and project employees of the Works Progress Administration and to employees on projects of other Federal Agencies which are financed with funds appropriated to the Works Progress Administration.

"In order that these rules shall be known by all WPA employees and by other persons, the State Works Progress Administrators should reproduce this General Letter in sufficient quantities to post or otherwise make available copies at the site of every project and at all administrative offices within the state."