Aubrey Williams, Acting Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, today announced that charges of political activity among WPA employees in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, had been found untrue. The investigation by WPA, however, revealed two instances of improper political activity not mentioned in the charges made by Kenneth F. Kressler, Chairman of the Northampton Republican County Committee, Mr. Williams said, and as a result four WPA employes have been discharged.

Mr. Williams submitted a report of the WPA investigation to Senator Morris Sheppard, Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures, which had received copies of the Kressler charges. He also asked the Sheppard Committee to provide WPA with all evidence of political coercion found by the Committee's previous investigation, "so that speedy administrative action may be taken where our regulations have not been followed, or the public right where unfounded charges have been made for partisan purposes during a political campaign."

His letter to Senator Sheppard follows:
"Mr. Kenneth F. Kressler, Chairman of the Northampton Republican County Committee, Pennsylvania, has transmitted to
this Administration charges of political activity of employees of the Works Progress Administration in Area 3, Bethlehem,
Pennsylvania. Mr. Kressler indicated that he had referred the matter to your Committee for investigation.

"An immediate investigation of these charges was ordered by me, and I am pleased to report to your Committee the results of
this investigation.

"Mr. Kressler charged that on October 6, 7, and 8, 1938, approximately 1000 WPA and State Highway employees were brought to
the Northampton County Courthouse and forced to register Democratic. The facts are that the workers were all employees of the Pennsylvania State Highway Department; that none of these workers were in the employ of this Administration; and that no employee of the Works Progress Administration in Area 3, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was forced, intimidated, or even requested to change his political affiliation from Republican to Democratic. These facts are sub-
stantiated by witnessed statements executed by ninety General Foremen employed by this Administration in Northampton County, Pennsylvania; by witnessed statements executed by seventy-five timekeepers; by witnessed statements executed by fifty truck drivers in said County; and by sworn affidavits executed by the Branch Office Manager, Supervisor of Division of Operations, Supervisor of Division of Finance, and three Project Engineers.

"The investigation conducted by this Administration disclosed, however, that in two instances employees of the Works Progress Administration were permitted by General Foremen to take a leave of absence for the purpose of registering at the County Courthouse; that the employees were credited for full time by project timekeepers; and that the employees were transported to the County Courthouse in private cars. These infractions of the regulations of this Administration can not be sanctioned; accordingly, the two General Foremen, Morris Brewer and Charles H. Chamberlain, and the two timekeepers, Harold J. Kuehner and Paul V. Novak, the employees found guilty of the violations, have been discharged.

"Mr. Kressler also charged that workers at the Easton Sewing Project were forced to change their registrations from Republican to Democratic. The investigation conducted by this Administration disclosed clearly that there was no truth in this charge. Sworn affidavits executed by the supervisory personnel in charge of the project and signed statements executed by the 183 workers on the project establish that no worker was forced in any manner to change his or her registration.

"Investigators interviewed Mr. Kressler; he gave them the names of several persons who he said were in the employ of the Works Progress Administration and who had been engaging in political activity. Investigation disclosed that Ralph Roehborough has never been in the employ of this Administration; that one Yonick was an
employee of the Pennsylvania State Highway Department; and that
Ray Pearson, a WPA timekeeper, did not engage in the activity alleged.

"Every effort has been made and will continue to be made by
this Administration to assist your Committee in the investigation of
any charges involving political intimidation of WPA workers. We
believe that it is only fair to the millions of families who depend
on this program for their livelihood not only that they should be
free from fear of intimidation, but also that their livelihood should
not be jeopardized by a belief on the part of the public that the
program on which they depend is being corrupted for political purposes.
Naturally, your Committee performs a necessary and invaluable service
to them as well as to the public when facts are rapidly ascertained
and made available to us for administrative action. On the other
hand, there appears to me a real danger, to which I am sure you would
not lend your support, that inconclusive evidence released without
an opportunity for a hearing by those accused can be seized upon by
those who oppose this program for personal and partisan reasons.

"It is for this reason that I would appreciate your
sending us all available evidence of political intimidation of
WPA workers by WPA personnel so that speedy administrative action
may be taken where our regulations have not been followed, or the
public set right where unfounded charges have been made for
partisan purposes during a political campaign."