CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION REACHES MILLION BY JANUARY 1, WPA ANNOUNCES

More than 4,000,000 persons will share in the distribution of winter clothing now under way by the Works Progress Administration as a result of its $15,750,000 purchase of manufacturers' excess inventories, Corrington Gill, Assistant Administrator, said today.

Already, more than 1,000,000 coats, suits and dresses have been distributed to destitute families, most of whom have been unable to buy new clothes for years, and additional shipments are being made from central warehouses in New York and Chicago at the rate of nearly 100,000 garments per day. Distribution is being made in cooperation with state and local welfare bodies and is confined exclusively to those in need of clothing but who are unable to buy through the regular channels.

"Last summer employment in our great clothing manufacturing industry was at one of the lowest points on record largely because of a surplus of finished goods which it could not sell," Mr. Gill said. "Credits were tied up in these surpluses, and many plants were shut down. Unemployment among clothing workers was at the highest level in years.

"On the other hand, we knew that millions of people all over the country were so shabbily clothed that not only was their morale shaken but they were in danger of acute suffering and illness during the cold winter
months. Millions of people on relief, or the borderline of relief, have not been able to buy new clothes for years.

"The government's action in buying the surplus from the manufacturers and turning it over to the people who need clothing has helped to solve the problems of both. The clothing industry rehired tens of thousands of the workers it had laid off, and now several million of our most destitute people are getting the first adequate clothing they have had in years."

All of the garments are new and have been thoroughly inspected for quality by expert clothing handlers. The purchases were made for WPA by the Procurement Division of the Treasury.

The clothing is being distributed in each state through the WPA in cooperation with state and local welfare bodies. Persons to receive the clothing are designated by local welfare officials from the most destitute families on their rolls. In every case, the recipient must satisfy the authorities that he is unable to buy needed clothing through the usual retail channels and that he will not sell or barter the clothing given him.

Distribution machinery had been set up in nearly all states by the first of December and shipments began from central warehouses in New York and Chicago.Nearly 2,500,000 garments had been shipped from the two central warehouses by December 20.

Most of the clothing is of heavy or medium weight, principally for winter wear. There are suits and overcoats in men's and boys' sizes; women's and girls' coats, suits, dresses and blouses; children's and infants' coats, suits and snowsuits, and a large number of miscellaneous items such as raincoats.
sweaters, windbreaks, jackets, mackinaws, etc., for men, women and children.

Total purchases included 3,385,000 units of men's and boys' wear, and 3,055,000 units of women's and children's wear. Average prices paid for men's clothing varied from an average of $2.12 per unit for raincoats to $9.84 for suits. The average unit price of two- and three-piece suits for women was $4.52, and for dresses, $1.78. The purchases were distributed among 1,453 different manufacturers in 32 states.