WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

For Immediate Release
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WPA ISSUES REGULATIONS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Regulations defining illegal political activity by employees of the Works Progress Administration and outlining methods of enforcement were issued today to all State WPA Administrators by Colonel F. C. Harrington, Federal Administrator. The instructions are based upon provisions of the joint resolution adopted by Congress appropriating WPA funds for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

All cases involving possible felonies—such as promises of jobs or other benefits as a reward for political activity, penalizing workers for political reasons, race, creed or color and solicitation of funds from relief workers—are to be forwarded to the Washington office. The WPA Division of Investigation will be responsible for investigation of all such complaints. Its findings will then be available as a basis of prosecution by the Department of Justice. A maximum fine of $1,000 and imprisonment for one year, or both, is provided as the penalty for such violations.

Provisions of the joint resolution prohibiting administrative or supervisory employees of WPA from engaging in political campaigns, for which the penalty is dismissal, are interpreted as applying to:

"...Persons paid on administrative, general project supervisory or project payrolls, who have actual supervision over any other employee or employees or who are in such positions that by reason thereof they may exercise authority or influence over other employees irrespective of whether they have actual supervision over the work of any employees."
Continuing, the Administrator's instructions provide:

"Any person in an administrative or supervisory capacity who violates the provisions of section 4(a) shall be subject to immediate discharge and thereafter such person shall not be eligible for any employment which is compensated from funds appropriated to the Works Progress Administration. Where alleged violations of section 4(a) of Public Resolution Number 1 are investigated by the State Administrator, a copy of the report of each administrative investigation together with a report on the administrative action taken as a result of the findings of each investigation, shall be forwarded to the Deputy Administrator, Works Progress Administration, Washington, D.C., immediately upon completion of the inquiry.

"To carry out rules and regulations relating to political activity and to effect compliance with the provisions of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1938 and of Public Resolution Number 1, 76th Congress, no person employed by the Works Progress Administration in an administrative or supervisory capacity, as defined above, shall be retained in such employment if:

(1) Such person is a candidate for any Federal, state, district, county or municipal office in any primary, general or special election or who is serving as a campaign manager or assistant thereto for any such candidate.

(2) Such person is holding an elective office the duties of which would necessitate being absent from a WPA position during regular working hours or to which a salary in excess of $200 per year is attached, provided that under no circumstances shall such person hold any public office through which such person would be involved in political management or political campaigns.

(3) Such person is a member of a party committee or organization, the duties of which are concerned with political management or political campaigns."
The policy of the Works Progress Administration concerning the exercise of the voting franchise by WPA employees remains as follows:

Every citizen who works for the Works Progress Administration, whatever his job, has a right to vote in any election, for any candidate he chooses. 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. Employees shall not be paid for time allowed during which to vote, but they shall be permitted insofar as practicable through a rescheduling of working hours to work their full quota of hours during the payroll month for which the time off is granted.

The regulations prescribed by this General Letter shall be effective immediately and State Administrators are directed to take such action as may be required to effect compliance with these provisions. In order that these regulations shall be known by all WPA employees and by other persons, the State Works Progress Administrators shall arrange to have copies posted on bulletin boards at the site of every project and at all administrative offices throughout the state."