For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 18, 1939

WPA ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES BELOW FEDERAL AVERAGE, SURVEY SHOWS

Completion of a survey of all administrative employees of the Works Progress Administration earning more than $100 a month shows the average annual salary to be $1,581, Colonel F. C. Harrington, Administrator, announced today.

This is $290 less than the average annual salary for all Federal employees, as shown by reports of the Civil Service Commission based on payrolls December 31, 1938.

The special airmail canvass of all state and regional administrative units of WPA, covering the titles and salaries of approximately 30,000 persons, also showed that only 22 per cent of these receive $2,000 or more annually from WPA, whereas 42 per cent of all persons in the Federal service are in the "$2,000 and above" salary grades.

"These figures," Colonel Harrington said, "seem to refute certain critics who have held that WPA was 'wasting the taxpayers' money in fancy salaries.'

"The entire administrative cost of WPA is but 3.4 per cent of its total budget and has not been above 4.1 per cent in the last twelve months. On that basis, it is one of the most economically administered agencies of the Federal government, and would certainly compare favorably..."
with any private enterprise operating on a comparable scale.

"There has been a constant effort to improve not only the economy but also the efficiency in the administration of this program. Practically the entire personnel of the Washington office has been classified in accordance with the Classification Act of 1923. This was done with the assistance of the Civil Service Commission. Plans for a similar classification of employees in the field are now being shaped."

Colonel Harrington pointed out that the overhead costs of the Federally administered WPA program had proved to be from one-half to one-fourth of those of the earlier FERA, which operated on a basis of grants-in-aid to the states. From May, 1934, through December, 1935, he said, the FERA had an average administrative payroll of approximately 150,000 persons per month and expended from 10 to 16 percent of its funds in administrative costs. WPA, on the contrary, since the beginning of 1936, has employed an average of less than 33,000 administrative workers per month and its administrative costs have averaged 3.8 percent of total expenditures.

"Experience has shown quite conclusively," he said, "that the costs of a Federally administered program such as WPA are considerably lower, both in personnel requirements and total expenditures, than many local programs receiving grants-in-aid from the Federal government."
These lower costs result both from differences in administrative problems of the two types of programs and the fact that under a system of grants to the states it is impossible to take advantage of many economies available to a more centralized program."

Colonel Harrington said that not only were WPA salaries substantially lower, on the average, than those of other Federal agencies, but that salary increases to WPA administrative employees had been barred by administrative order since last July 25 except in clear cases of promotion and change in duties, or on special authorization of the Administrator where no changes in duties were involved. Not more than 25 or 30 such increases have been specially authorized throughout the entire administrative organization in that time, he added. None has been granted in the Washington office.

A table showing the percentage of WPA administrative employees and all Federal employees in the various salary grades is attached.
PERCENTAGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES
IN VARIOUS SALARY GRADES,
ENTIRE FEDERAL SERVICE
AND
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Salary</th>
<th>Entire Federal Service (A)</th>
<th>Works Progress Administration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under $1000</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1000 to $1499</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1500 to $1799</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1800 to $1999</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2000 and over</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$2000 to $2199 24.0 6.1
$2200 to $2499 6.7 6.1
$2500 to $2999 5.8 3.8
$3000 to $3499 2.3 2.9
$3500 to $3999 1.3 1.6
$4000 to $4499 0.5 0.6
$4500 to $4999 0.5 0.5
$5000 to $5299 0.5 0.3
$6000 to $6999 0.2 0.2
$7000 and over 0.2 0.1

Average Annual Salary $1,871 $1,581

(A) Source: Press release of Civil Service Commission dated April 2, 1939, as of December 31, 1938.